

ISAIAH 40

All Poetry

(This chapter expresses the jubilant feeling of all Israel after being saved from the King of Assyria – In the overall structure of the Book of Isaiah we see a change beginning in Chapter 40. A general tone of Covenantal Malediction can be felt in chapters 1-39 with some exceptions. Beginning in chapters 40-66 we see an emphasis on Covenantal Benediction. ABI Pg. 176)

Verse 1

Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people, saith your God,

Verse 2

Speak ye comfortably (kindly) to Jerusalem.

(and)

Cry unto her, that her warfare (hard service) is accomplished,
Cry unto her, that her iniquity is pardoned, for she hath
received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Verse 3

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(In the literary form of the Hittite and Assyrian Suzerain-Vassal Treaties: 1. The Lord/Suzerain leaves his kingdom in control of a Son/Vassal 2. The Son/Vassal rebels against the Suzerain, Heaven and Earth witness the rebellion, and curses and punishments ensue 3. The Vassal's debt is repaid and/or the Vassal serves his term of punishment 4. The Suzerain returns with blessings and rejoicing. Apocalyptic Book of Isaiah, Pg. 176 - Another voice – emissary – comes before the Lord/Suzerain to announce his coming.)

Verse 4

Every valley shall be exalted,
(and) Every mountain and hill shall be made low.

(and)

The crooked shall be made straight,
(and) The rough places shall be made plain (smooth).

Verse 5

(And)

The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
(and) All flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

(Anciently, the gods (idols) would come in procession throughout a city, like in a parade, and servants would prepare the roads for smooth travel – taking stones away etc. Here the Lord is preparing his people taking away Stumbling Blocks, Falsehoods, Impure Doctrines etc.)

Verse 6

(and)

(A) voice said, "Cry", (announce it)
(I) said, "What shall I cry?"

(and)

All flesh is grass,
All the goodness thereof (at its best) is as the flower of the field.

Verse 7

(Though) the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it, the grass withereth,

Verse 8

(Though) the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it, the flower fadeth.

A Grass withereth; the flower fadeth,
B But, the word of our God shall stand for ever!

Verse 9 O, Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain,
O, Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength.

Lift it up [\(thy voice\)](#); be not afraid.
Say unto the cities of Judah, *"Behold your God!"*

Verse 10 (Behold) The Lord God will come with strong hand,
(and) His arm shall rule for him.

(Behold) His reward is with him,
(and) His work before him.

Verse 11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
He shall gather the lambs with his arm.
He shall carry his flock in his bosom,
(and) He shall gently lead those of his flock that are with young.

Verse 12 (and) Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand?
(and) Who hath meted out heaven with the span [\(of his fingers\)?](#)
(and) Who hath comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure?
(and) Who hath weighed the mountains in scales?
(and) Who hath weighed the hills in a balance?

[\(The Lord's Omniscience - In Knowing His Creations\)](#)

Verse 13 (or) Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord?
Who, being his counselor, hath taught him?

Verse 14 (and) With whom took he council?
(and) Who instructed him?
(and) Who taught him in the path of judgment?
(and) Who taught him knowledge?
(and) Who shewed to him the way of understanding?

[\(The Lord's Omniscience - In Knowing His Plan for His Creations\)](#)

Verse 15 (Behold) The nations are as a drop of a bucket,
(and) The nations are counted as the small dust of the balance,
(Behold) He taketh up the isles as a very little thing,

Verse 16 (And) Lebanon is not sufficient to burn,
Nor [\(all\)](#) the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering,

Verse 17 (and) All nations before him are as nothing,
(and) They are counted to him less than nothing,
(and) They are counted to him vanity. [\(Null/Void\)](#)

[\(The Lord's Omnipotence - As Ruler of Nations\)](#)

- Verse 18 (or) To whom then will ye liken God?
What likeness will ye compare unto him?

(See Job 38 and 39 – Creation – Power of God – Same Imagery)
- Verse 19 (and) The workmen melteth a graven image,
The goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.
- Verse 7 of Chapter 41 (This verse seems to belong here - Per Avraham Gileadi) The carpenter encourage^(th) the goldsmith,
He that smootheth with the hammer encourage^(th) him that sm⁽ⁱ⁾te^(th) the anvil.

They say of the welding, "It is good",
(Although they) fasten it with nails, that it should not be moved.
- Verse 20 He that is impoverished, that he hath no oblation, chooseth a tree that will not rot,
He that is impoverished, seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved. (deteriorate)

(Pathetic attempts of men to create gods and be creators: See Jeremiah 10: 2-10. Even the poor try to make something fine out of wood for their idol and hire a specialized woodworker. Once an idol was crafted, it was nailed or anchored to a base, to keep it from tipping over. No one wanted to be embarrassed in a parade to have their idol tip over. Ironically, this only emphasized its powerlessness. Judg. 6: 25-31 – UI Pg. 346)
- Verse 21 *Have ye not known?*
Have ye not heard?

Hath it not been told you from the beginning?
Have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- Verse 22 It is he (the Lord) that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers,
It is he (the Lord) that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.

(Some read that Isaiah knew the earth was a round sphere "circle of the earth" even before Galileo's time – Again, God's Omnipotence – See Conception of Earth and Heaven Below)
- Verse 23 It is he (The Lord) that bringeth the princes to nothing,
It is he (The Lord) that maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.
- Verse 24 (Yea) (When) scarcely they be planted,
(When) scarcely they be sown,
(and) (When hardly) their stock shall take root in the earth.

(and) **He shall blow upon them:**

(and) They shall wither,
(and) The whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

Verse 25 “To whom then will ye liken me?”
“To whom then shall I be equal?”, saith the Holy One.

Verse 26 Lift up your eyes on high and behold,
Who hath created these things? [\(Stars, Celestial bodies, etc.\)](#)

Who bringeth out their host by **number**?
Who calleth them all by **names**?

(and) By the greatness of his might, not one faileth,
By his strong power, not one faileth.

[\(Not one is unaccounted for – or ceases to act according to God’s direction - The “Naming” and “Numbering” of things: God Knows All, Matt. 10:28-31, Psalms 147: 3-5\)](#)

Verse 27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, “My way is hid from the Lord, and
my judgment (cause) is passed over from my God?”
Why speakest thou, O Israel, “My way is hid from the Lord, and
my judgment (cause) is passed over from my God?”

[A Verse 28](#)
[\(non-weariness\)](#) *Hast thou not known?*
Hast thou not heard?

**The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the Ends of
the Earth:**

Fainteth not, neither is weary,
There is no searching of his understanding.

[B Verse 29](#)
[\(weariness\)](#) (and) He giveth power to the faint,
He giveth, to them that have no might, increased strength.

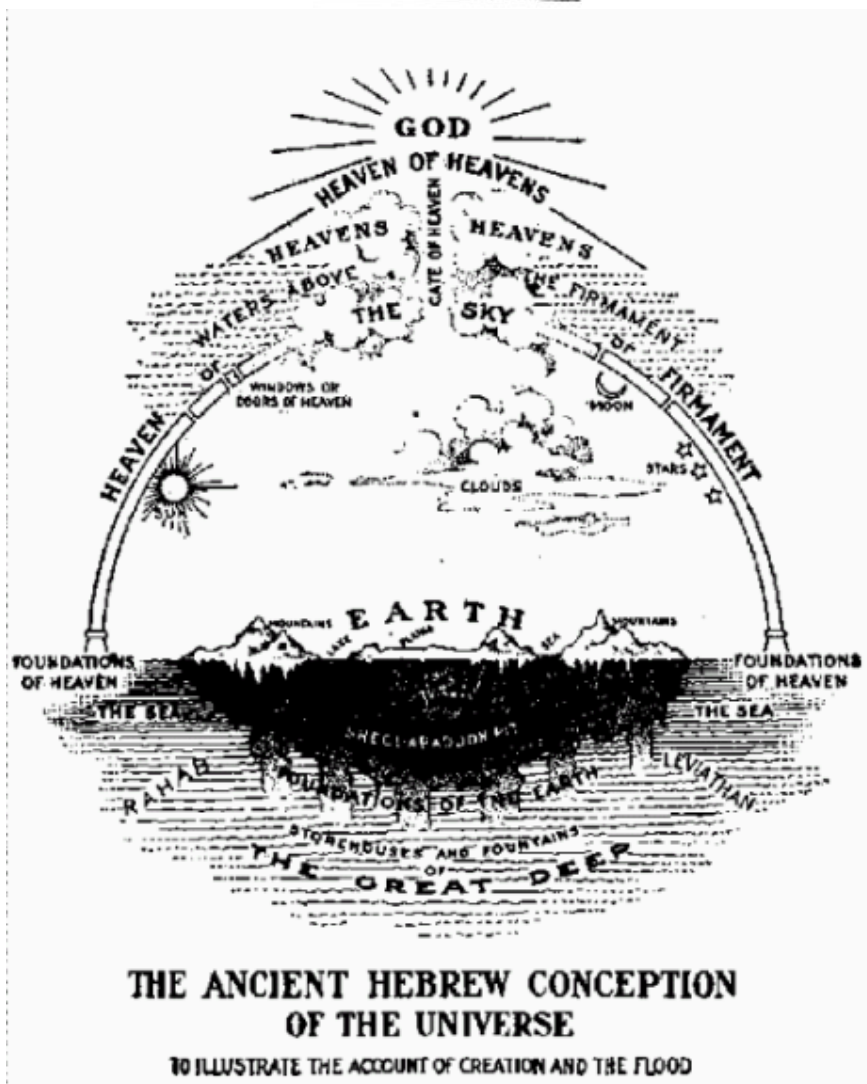
[B Verse 30](#) (Even the)
[\(weariness\)](#) (and) Young men shall (may) faint,
Young men shall (may) utterly fall.

[A Verse 31](#)
[\(non-weariness\)](#) **But, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their
strength:**

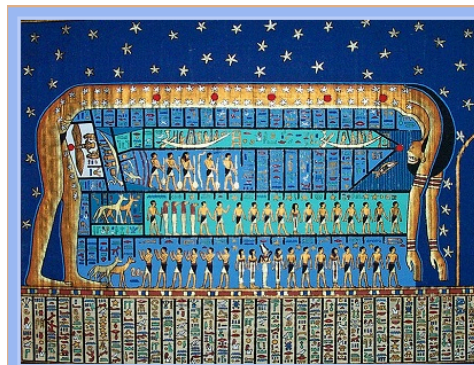
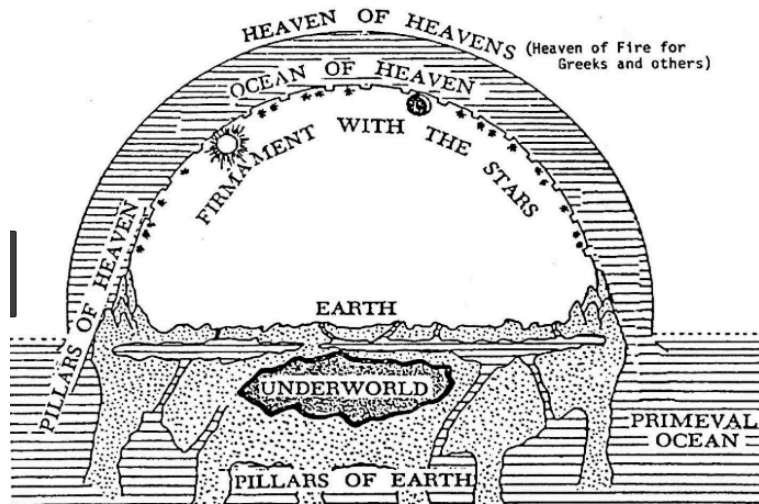
(and) They shall mount up with wings as eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk, and not faint.

[\(See similar examples of this type of Hebrew Expression – Is. 49:15-16, Is. 51: 6, 8\)](#)

("The non-weariness of those who ascend is alluded to as being of the same character as the non-weariness of God. Isaiah here uses language that comes as close to describing human potential for a glorious immortality as any Hebrew terms." Bro. Gileadi, TLSOI pg. 27)



Other Conceptions of the Universe in Ancient Times: Greek, Egyptian, etc.



Nut was the Egyptian sky goddess. She was depicted as a giant woman who was supporting the sky with her back. Her body was blue and covered by stars. Ancient documents describe how each evening, the Sun entered the mouth of Nut and passing through her body was born each morning out of her womb.

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