

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever!" (Isaiah 40:8)

Some of you "old guys" might remember, back in the 60's when then President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced his "great society" program in America to take care of all the needy people of our land! (It actually never came about as envisioned and promised, as it turned out!) It was sort of like the "Make America great again" allusion one of our presidents in recent times has been espousing!

The kingdom of Judah during the time of Isaiah was anything but a "great society"! And the outlook was dismal as well! And that was the condition of things as we last completed our study of Isaiah 39 before the summer break! You'll remember Isaiah's words to King Hezekiah from the Lord, that, "Behold, the days are coming when all that is in our house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left, says the Lord"!

And it's with those disheartening words that we completed our study of the first 39 chapters of the book of Isaiah!

But as we resumed our study last night, the first thing we hear, in Isaiah 40:1, is a message of hope! "Comfort, O comfort My people, says your God!"

Why should they feel comfort when they were in captivity in Babylon, at a time when they were without a king and an army, when they were weak and helpless before the nations around them? Because their God, and our God--the God of all creation--was in charge of what was happening in their world (as He is in our world!), and He had, and has, a plan for the ages! As revealed in His Word!

Wiersbe wrote that "when our outlook is bleak, we need an uplook"!

Isaiah 40:26 says: "Lift up your eyes on high and see who created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, and calls them all by name; and because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing!" Wow!

Help is on the way! Isaiah prophesies (in verses 3-5) that "a voice is calling to clear the way of the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God...Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together..." (We know something here, from New Testament Scripture, that Isaiah couldn't have foreseen--that this was a prophecy about the coming of John the Baptist but, more importantly, about both the first and second advents of Christ! And hope for the world!)

And speaking of voices, we also hear from Isaiah (according to Wiersbe) about the voice of pardon (in verse 2), the voice of providence (in verses 3-5), the voice of promise (in verses 6-8), and the voice of peace (in verses 9-11)!

Bottom line? God is greater than our circumstances!

We need not fear!

God is greater than all the nations which (according to verse 15) are "like of drop in bucket" compared with God!

And His Word is trustworthy--and everlasting!

Which brings us back to our memory verse: "All flesh is as grass...The grass withers, the flower fades; but the Word of our God stands forever!" (And that's "a keeper," men!

It's because of His Word that we're meeting together, as MOBsters, to study it and share it together!

Have a great week, men!

Lowell