

That before they call, I will answer --

God Has Your Solution Before Your Problem Ever Existed

He is a “before God.”

Isaiah 65:24,

“24 “It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

Hebrews 4:3 b,

“ ----They shall not enter My rest,” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.”

As human beings on this earth, believers or non-believers, we can all experience some sort of “captivity” or bondage. It may be worry about an important issue in your life. It may be finding it impossible to deal with certain circumstances

Just to let us know about His unlimited power, God spoke Isaiah Chapter 40, among others, to Israel that He would release them from captivity in Babylon even before they were taken captive [according to some commentaries]. See **endnote last page** ¹. Recall that in Revelation 18 Mystery Babylon is the World system that keeps the souls of men in captivity.

Isaiah 40:1-31,

The promise to Israel to release them.

“1 “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God.

2 “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD’S hand Double for all her sins.”

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

The next few verses emphasize that we are not able to get ourselves free.

6 The voice said, “Cry out!” And he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh *is* grass, And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people *are* grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

Then God shows His omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscient

9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift *it* up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong *hand*, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward *is* with Him, And His work before Him.

11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, *And* gently lead those who are with young.

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or *as* His counselor has taught Him?

14 With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

15 Behold, the nations *are* as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.

16 And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering.

17 All nations before Him *are* as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

Man made solutions do not work!

19 The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains.

20 Whoever *is* too impoverished for *such* a contribution Chooses a tree *that* will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image *that* will not totter.

No one like Him!

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

24 Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

25 “To whom then will you liken Me, Or *to whom* shall I be equal?” says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: “My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God”?

Here is the promise. Notice it is only for the weak, for those who have no might or strength. In other words, it is for those of us who are broken and know that there is nothing that we can do to solve our desperate issues.

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

What do eagles in a storm? Eagles can sense that a storm is coming from far away, even before a human eye can see it. When the eagle senses the storm, he finds the highest nearby mountain or hill. Then he faces the storm, raises his wings, and places them in a locked position so that they become much like airplane wings. When the early wind of the storm hits the eagle, his wings carries him up higher and higher until he is way above the storm just soaring, without effort, looking down upon the storm.

When we are lifted up in the storm, we experience the presence of God and His working in a much greater way.

Here is the summary.

1. God sees that we will be overtaken with some sort of “captivity.” What are you overtaken with at this time? What causes you to worry when you first wake up in the morning?

2. God emphasizes that we would be unable to get free by our efforts.

3. He lets us know even our worldly idols cannot help.

4. For several verses He emphasizes that nothing is impossible for Him. He shows His supernatural abilities. But He gives the conditions of believing even when it looks impossible and when we feel like we have waited too long.

5. Are you willing to **wait** on His action? Can you believe His promise? Talk to Him about your worries and bondages. Miracles will occur if you are willing to believe. You will be lifted up close to Jesus in the storm like the eagle. His solution is waiting for you.

6. **The Cross!** All of this is ours because He bore all of our captivities, worries and bondages on the Cross. Imagine, the God who describes Himself in Isaiah 40 is also the One who in Isaiah 53 tells us:

Isaiah 53:4-8,

“4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.”

Hang on to the promise like Abraham.

Romans 4:17-21,

“17 (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

What to do while you are waiting.

Solomon had spent years building the Temple. The priests brought the Ark into the Holy of Holies, the musicians began to play their instruments, but God’s presence was not manifested. As 2 Chronicles 5:13, 14 says, when the people began to praise God His presence was manifested to the extent that the glory became so strong that the priests could no longer minister.

2 Chronicles 5:13, 14,

“13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, *saying*: “*For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,*” that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.”

Let us take this promise and description of the Lord in Isaiah 40 and begin to praise Him.

Endnote

^{i i} (MacArthur Study Bible Notes (ESV)) *Isa. 40:1–66:24* The prophecies of chs. 1–39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah’s ministry (739 b.c. until c. 686 b.c.). The prophecies of chs. 40–66 address Judah **as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity (39:5–7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605–586 b.c.**

Isa. 40:1–48:22 This section looks at the hope and comfort of a blessed future subsequent to God’s judgment in the forthcoming Babylonian captivity.

Isa. 40:1–2 Comfort, comfort. The prophecy addressed God’s prophets, instructing them to emphasize the theme of comfort to a captive people in a foreign land many miles from their home city of Jerusalem. God has good plans for great blessing to Israel in the future because they are his covenant people, who are never to be permanently cast away (cf. Rom. 11:2).