

SALEM HEIGHTS

# THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

HOPE IS THE EAGER ANTICIPATION AND CONFIDENT EXPECTATION  
OF A FUTURE GUARANTEED BY GOD.

Isaiah 40 is a profound message of hope given to a weary and overwhelmed people. It is quoted by every New Testament author - it is found in all four Gospels - and always has the same intent ... God is faithful, He keeps his word, so you can rest! Warren Weirsbe summed up this chapter by saying, "Look to others and you'll be distressed, look to yourself and you'll be depressed, look to God and you'll be blessed."

Take extra time with the final question and answer in verse 27... it is as if it was written to beleaguered believers in 2021. Many are asking, "God, why does it seem that everything that we hold dear is in jeopardy - are you even listening to us?!?" He had an answer for them then, and He has an answer for us now. — Pastor Justin

## Isaiah 40:9-31

<sup>9</sup>Go up on a high mountain, Zion, messenger of good news, Raise your voice forcefully, Jerusalem, messenger of good news; Raise *it* up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His compensation is with Him, and His reward before Him. <sup>11</sup>Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry *them* in the fold of His robe; He will gently lead the nursing ewes. <sup>12</sup>Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and measured the heavens with a span, and calculated the dust of the earth with a measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in a pair of scales? <sup>13</sup>Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him?

<sup>14</sup>With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding? And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, and informed Him of the way of understanding?

<sup>15</sup>Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. <sup>16</sup>Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, nor its

animals enough for a burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before Him, they are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. <sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? <sup>19</sup> As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, a goldsmith plates it with gold, and a silversmith *fashions* chains of silver. <sup>20</sup> He who is too impoverished for *such* an offering selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman to prepare an idol that will not totter. <sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup> 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 live in. <sup>23</sup> *It is* He who reduces rulers to nothing, who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. <sup>24</sup> Scarcely have they been planted, scarcely have they been sown, scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, but He merely blows on them, and they wither, and the storm carries them away like stubble. <sup>25</sup> “To whom then will you compare Me that I would be *his* equal?” says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Raise your eyes on high and see who has created these *stars*, The One who brings out their multitude by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His* power, not one *of them* is missing. <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, Jacob, and you assert, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”? <sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary, and to *the one who* lacks might He increases power. <sup>30</sup> Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, <sup>31</sup> Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

1. What do you see about hope in this passage?
2. What does it teach us about God?
3. What does it teach us about man?
4. What should we do in light of this passage?