

COMFORT IN COVENANT WITH THE CREATOR

Isaiah 40:1-31

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I. The Preface

II. The Passage (Isaiah 40)

A. Passing Life (1-8)

B. Protected Lambs (9-14)

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It is important to note that God is the object of the hope or waiting.

The word wait or hope comes from Hebrew verb *kawah* (קָוָה), meaning to “tarry, wait, hope.”¹ Hope/Wait is biblically defined and expressed as follows:²

1. Hope is an underlying belief in a continuity based on a strong belief in God and in his being active in history, even against all odds.

2. Hope is expressed when humans are particularly aware of their finiteness and God’s infiniteness (Ps. 39:4-7).
3. Hope is linked to our human need to draw on God’s resources, especially when confronted with the challenges in life.
4. Hope is rooted in the numerous promises of God.
5. Hope is lived out by obedience to God.

III. The Points

Feelings

Facts

Faithfulness

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY GROUP REFLECTION

ICEBREAKER: If you could change one thing about your personality overnight what would it be? (If you need help answering just ask those around you 😊).

1. Have you ever felt like the people in Isaiah 40:27, feeling as though God was not near to you or that He did not hear your cries for help? Share. How do you think God feels about our doubts or questions?
2. Think about the prayers God has answered in your life. Which of these answered prayers did you wait the longest before receiving a response from God? Was waiting hard for you? Did waiting have any lasting affects on your prayer life or Christian walk in general?
3. What does the passage we studied say about waiting? What are its benefits? Why is waiting hard for us today? What are you waiting for right now?
4. In 40:27, Isaiah reminds the people of their identity as Jacob and Israel, which is a reminder they are covenant people. They are the people God promised Himself to in a unique way. What is significant about this reminder given the historical context of where the people are located? Where are the people? What is happening to them? How does a reminder of the covenant minister to them? Likewise, who are we as Christians? What is the covenant that we are a part of today?(hint: Luke 22:20, 1 Cor 11:25, Heb 7:22, 12:23-24). How does our covenant encourage us through the hard times of this life?
5. How is God described in the passage we studied? And how is man described in the passage? Discuss. *Close in prayer meditating on these characteristics of God.*

¹ Daniel Schibler, “7747 hmq”, *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*, Willem A. VanGemeren (ed.), Vol. 5, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997, p. 892.

² See Schibler p. 894 (this is an adaptation of his longer list).