



Isaiah was written about seven centuries before Christ, warning the people of Israel that they were on a path leading to God’s judgment. But judgment isn’t the end of the story. There is also comfort in the promise that God will have compassion, and ultimately rescue His people through His Servant. Isaiah also offers us the opportunity to ask the questions: What path are WE on? What is the way forward?

**Week Seven:** BEHOLD YOUR GOD

**Text:** Isaiah 40

When we stop respecting God, we start experiencing chaos and judgement. As Isaiah predicts in detail what that chaos and judgement will look like in Israel’s future, he pauses to give comfort who will suffer as a result. When we suffer, we too can be comforted by the knowledge that God is fully committed to rescue His people, He is fully capable of restoring us, and that He invites us to wait with Him as He works out His plan to exchange our weakness for His strength.

**Discussion Questions:** *The following are based on the “My Application” Questions found in the bulletin this week. Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.*

- Summarize the events of 2 Kings 25:1-21. If you were in Jerusalem when the Babylonians conquered it, what feelings might you have about God? Has there been a time that you DID feel that way?
- What does God tell the people in Isaiah 40:1-2; 10-11 to let them know He cares? Would these words be a comfort to you in these circumstances? Why or why not?
- Look at God’s description of Himself in Isaiah 40:12-28. What grabs your imagination the most?
- Read Isaiah 40:29-31. Tim explained that “hope in the Lord” could be translated “wait with the Lord.” How does this thought impact you?
- What is God’s promise when you “hope in the Lord”? Describe a time when you have experienced His strength in waiting.

### **Application:**

The main obstacle to receiving comfort from God is that we've slipped into our own version of idolatry. That is to say, we set our desires and aspirations (for love or prestige, for example) as our gods. Then we devote our time and effort to serving the representations of those gods. (Promotions, new cars, or "likes" on Facebook.)

God's purpose to rescue and restore us and to work out HIS plan for our lives will often entail toppling our idols.

- What do you think your "idol" is?
- How can you begin replacing your idolatry with the worship of God?

### **Prayer Time:**

- Identify an area of your life where you must put your hope in God.
- Imagine ***Waiting With God*** in the midst of that difficulty.
- As you are waiting, listen to his words of comfort to you:
  - "I am fully committed to rescue you."
  - "I am full capable of restoring you."
  - "I invite you to wait with me while I work out my plan in this situation."
  - "While you are waiting, exchange your weakness for my strength."

### **Memory Verse:**

*"but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint."*

Isaiah 40:31