



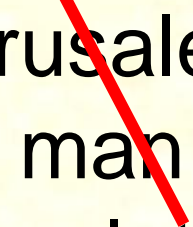
God Is Great,
God Is Good

Isaiah 40

Isaiah: Bible in miniature

1. Sixty-six chapters
2. Two parts: 39 + 27 chapters
3. Theme of 1-39: condemnation
4. Theme of 40-66: consolation

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel . . . – Luke 2:25



Isaiah 40:1-2

Word of doom
39:5-7

Word of Comfort
to the heart, 40:1

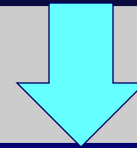
- My people...your God (Ex.19:5-6)
- Judgment for one nation...consolation for whole world
- Her warfare is ended. Ro.8:37
- Her iniquity is pardoned.
- Double: fold over / in half; each matches; exact correspondence between sin and payment

I. Preparation For Coming Of Lord, 3-11

Is.40:3, preparation

- 30 day journey through desert from Babylon to Judea
- The highway
 - Remove hills
 - Fill valleys
 - Straighten curves
 - Clear obstacles

John:
one man
road crew



LORD, God
(deity)
Mk.1

Is.40:3, preparation

- OT: "A voice cries:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD . . .'"

– Emphasis on where to prepare

- NT: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness . . ."

– Emphasis on where the voice cries

From Babylon To Judea

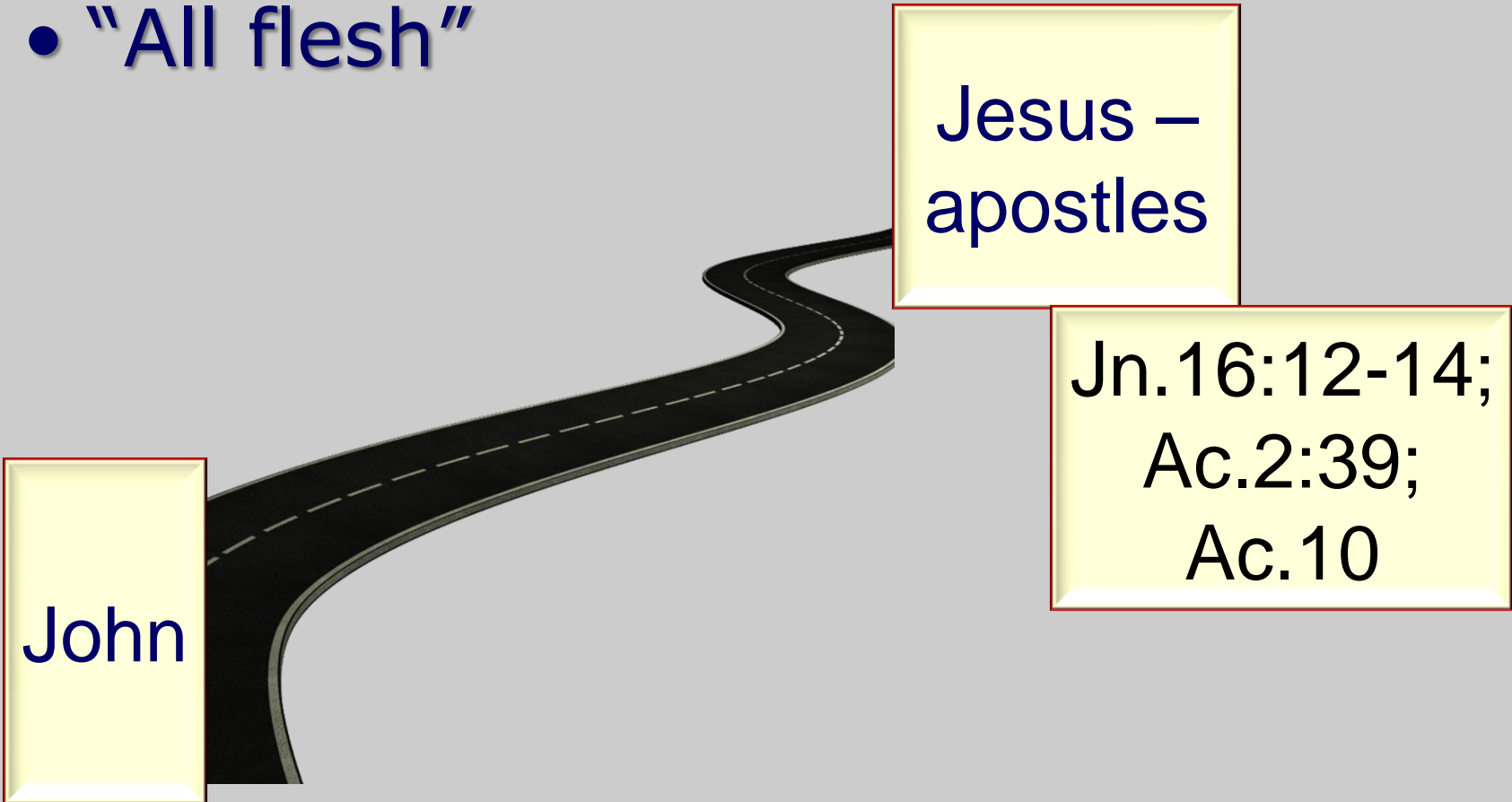


Is.40:4, problems

- Building a road is much similar to the way God prepares hearts
- Babylon (**Cyrus**) . . . Sin (**Christ**):
 - Expensive (Jn.14:6)
 - Presents variety of problems, challenges (Hb.5:8)
 - Requires expert engineer (Is.9:6)

Is.40:5, people

- His glory will be revealed to prepared hearts, without regard to nationality
- "All flesh"



Jesus –
apostles

Jn.16:12-14;
Ac.2:39;
Ac.10

John

Is.40:6-11, proclamation

- Frailty of man, 6-8: **All flesh is grass**:
Mt.6:30

– Don't worry about opponents.

“I, even I, am He who comforts you.
Who are you that you should be afraid
Of a man who will die...” – Is.51:12

- Permanence of God, His word, 8

Is.40:6-11, proclamation

- Frailty of man, 6-8 (grass)
 - Don't worry about opponents.
- Permanence of God, His word, 8
- Certainty of His message, 9a.
 - 1 Pt.1:22-25
- Subject of message, 9b-11: *Behold your God!*

Do I help people to behold God?

Is.40:6-11, proclamation

Behold your God!

- Strong hand, to reward His own, 10
- He comes as loving Shepherd, 11

Abel: slain shepherd

Jacob: working shepherd

Joseph: persecuted/exalted shepherd

Moses: called-out-from-Egypt shepherd

David: shepherd king

Is.40:6-11, proclamation

Behold your God!

- Shows special care for lambs – youngest, weakest
- Cradles them in His bosom, close to His heart

I. Preparation For Coming Of Lord, 1-11

II. Pertinent Lessons For People of Lord

1. Refuge, Isaiah 39:6-40:1

■ No refuge from God—only in God

■ Is.28:15 [16] 17. Hb.6:18

■ Comfort: God's forgiveness, 2
(52:7; Ro.10:15; Ac.10)

■ Almighty arms that sustain the
universe also gather lambs, 11

1. Refuge, Isaiah 39:6-40:1

2. God's word never dies, 40:6-8

“Remember the Alamo!”

- Written on perishable material
- Copied for hundreds of years
 - Did not diminish style, accuracy
 - More MSS than any ten pieces of classical literature combined
- Diocletian; Voltaire

1. Refuge, Isaiah 39:6-40:1

2. God's word never dies, 40:6-8

3. Focus on God, not self, 40:9

■ Our faith must come from Scripture,
not ourselves or other people

1. Refuge, Isaiah 39:6-40:1
2. God's word never dies, 40:6-8
3. Focus on God, not self, 40:9

4. Jesus, our Shepherd, 40:11

Not power alone, but also love to save

- **Good Shepherd**, Jn.10:11, sacrifices His life for flock
- **Great Shepherd**, Hb.13:20: triumphs over every enemy
- **Chief Shepherd**, 1 Pt.5:4: comes for His sheep