

GA: Glory of ☉—How does one describe the indescribable? Only w/☉'s help.

SI: **Isa 40** is one of the greatest chapters in the Bible (635).

ORT: How so? It accounts for the proclamation of the glory of ☉ for the salvation of dying sinners. ☉ is indescribably great—whether sinful humanity recognizes it or not. 40:5 & the glory of the LORD will appear, & all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

CXT: **40:1-31**. Out of the cloud of judgment (**1-39**) into the light of ☉'s grace (**40-66**). Book of Consolation (**40-66**). Theology Proper (**40-48**), Soteriology (**49-57**), Eschatology (**49-57**). About 150 yrs. before **39:6-7** *Look, the days are coming when everything in your palace & all that your ancestors have stored up until today will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left, says the LORD. Some of your descendants—who come from you, whom you father—will be taken away, & they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon* (586BC), Isaiah speaks in **40** as if it is over.

CIT: Isaiah comforts the people of ☉ by telling them they will soon return to their homeland—they have found forgiveness.

CIS: True proclamation of ☉'s majestic glory provides comfort & strength for the sinner.

PNP: 3 facets of ☉'s majestic glory.

1st Facet— **The proclaimed glory of ☉ comforts sinners with forgiveness.**

- The comfort: an eternal word saves dying sinners.

40 “Comfort, comfort My people,” says your ☉. **2** “Speak tenderly **to the heart** to Jerusalem, & announce to her that her time of **sin is a burden** hard service is over, **sin incurs a penalty** her iniquity has been pardoned, & she has received from the LORD’s hand double **ample grace** for all her sins **sin’s punishment is great, but never as great as it deserves**”

- The central message of the Xian faith: Here is your ☉!”

3 **Voice of providence** **A voice** of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our ☉ in the desert. **4** Every valley will be lifted up, & every mountain & hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth & the rough places, a plain. **5** & the glory of the LORD will appear, & all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. **6** **Voice of assurance** **A voice** was saying, “Cry out!” Another said, “What should I cry out?” “All humanity is grass, & all its goodness is like the flower of the field. **7** The grass withers, the flowers fade when the breath of the LORD blows on them; indeed, the people are grass. **8** The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our ☉ remains forever.” **9** **Voice of hope** Zion, herald of good news, go up on a high mountain. Jerusalem, herald of good news, raise your voice loudly. Raise it, do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, “**Here is your ☉!**”

- The stunning range of ☉: omnipotent gentleness!

10 See **Behold**, the Lord ☉ comes w/strength, & His power establishes His rule. His wages are w/Him, & His reward accompanies Him. **11** He protects His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms & carries them in the fold of His garment. He gently leads those that are nursing.

Trans: Sovereignty/power dominate. Series of questions ☉/Isaiah ask remind us of ☉’s interaction w/Job. Like Job, ☉’s people must learn that the LORD is worthy of praise because His majesty/power guarantee His goodness/mercy.

2nd Facet— **The immeasurable glory of ☉ dwarfs the cosmos & the nations.**

- The **immensity of** ☉ dwarfs the cosmos.

12 **Who** has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand or marked off the heavens w/the span of His hand? **Who** has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains on a balance & the hills on the scales?

- The *inscrutable wisdom of* ☉ humbles humanity.

13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or who gave Him counsel? **14** Who did He consult? Who gave Him understanding & taught Him the paths of justice? Who taught Him knowledge & showed Him the way of understanding?

- The *infinite power of* ☉ towers over the nations.

15 Look **Behold**, the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are considered as a speck of dust on the scales; He lifts up the islands like fine dust.

- What can we possibly offer such a ☉?

16 Lebanon's cedars are not enough for fuel, or its animals enough for a burnt offering. **17** All the nations are as nothing before Him; they are considered by Him as empty nothingness.

- ☉ *exposes* the wretched folly of idolatry.

18 W/whom will you compare ☉? What likeness will you set up for comparison w/Him? **19** An idol?—something that a smelter casts & a metalworker plates w/gold & makes silver chains for? **20** A poor person contributes wood for a pedestal that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not fall over.

- ☉ *is actively sovereign* over earth & heaven.

21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not considered the foundations of the earth? **22** ☉ is enthroned above the circle **chug** of the earth; its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like thin cloth & spreads them out like a tent to live in. **23** He reduces princes to nothing & makes judges of the earth like a wasteland. **24** They are barely planted, barely sown, their stem hardly takes root in the ground when He blows on them & they wither, & a whirlwind carries them away like stubble. **25** "To whom will you compare Me, or who is My equal?" asks the Holy One. **26** *Look up & see!* Who created these? He brings out the stars by number; He calls all of them by name. Because of His great power & strength, not one of them is missing.

Trans: David Hume, Scottish skeptic, defended his skepticism *Were a stranger to drop suddenly into this world, I would show him a specimen of its ills, a hospital full of diseases, a prison crowded w/malefactors & debtors, a field strewn w/carcasses, a fleet floundering in the ocean, a nation languishing*

under tyranny, famine, or pestilence. Honestly, I don't see how you can possibly square [that] w/an ultimate purpose of love.

3rd Facet—The limitless glory of Θ strengthens the weary.

- Θ *never forgets* His people.

27 Jacob, why do you say, & Israel, why do you assert, “My way is hidden from the LORD, & my claim is ignored by my Θ ”?

- Θ *strengthens* His people.

28 **D**o you not know? **H**ave you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting Θ , the Creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to His understanding. **29** He gives strength to the faint & strengthens the powerless. **30** Youths may become faint & weary, & young men stumble & fall, **31** but those who trust in the LORD will renew **exchange** their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run & not become weary, they will walk & not faint.

CEP: **H**ow Big Is Your Θ ?

- 1) **E**xpect the need for daily strengthening of your faith—only as you listen to Θ 's message & His messengers proclaim *Here is your* Θ ! will you run & not become weary, walk & not faint.
- 2) **U**nderstand “ Θ is the gospel!” The staggering majesty of Θ described in **40** is the treasure you will be gazing at & reveling in heaven forever. How rich you are to have this Θ as your eternal inheritance!
- 3) **S**ee the greater Θ appears to us, the smaller our afflictions will seem.
- 4) **D**on't forget your frailty. You are like grass & all your glory is like the flowers of the field. Don't be dismayed at the ravages of aging—mind's diminished powers, face's fading beauty, body's decreased powers. Set your hope fully on the grace given at **JX**'s return.
- 5) **S**eek to embrace the range of the person of Θ in **40**: His terrifying immensity/power & His astonishing gentleness to His weak sheep.
- 6) Nothing is more important for the contemporary church than recovering the transcendence of Θ & His absolute power as Creator & Lord of history. **A**llow **40** to expand your thoughts about Θ & His power & which will save you from trying to domesticate Him.

G: **C**entral application of **40** is to trust in **X**, the Redeemer, whose blood alone can atone for our sins. **Isa 40:9** As a herald of good news, I say to you, “**Here is your** Θ !”