

A dramatic scene from a nativity play. In the center, a bright, glowing light emanates from a point, possibly the manger, illuminating the scene. Several figures in period clothing are visible: a man in a blue robe on the left, a man in a brown robe kneeling in the foreground, and a man in a brown robe standing on the right. The background shows a stable interior with wooden beams and a horse. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and joy.

GOOD NEWS
of
GREAT JOY

Luke 2:10

“Do not be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”



Isaiah 39:5-7

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of Armies: ⁶ ‘Look, the days are coming when everything in your palace and all that your predecessors have stored up until today will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says the LORD. ⁷ ‘Some of your descendants—who come from you, whom you father—will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’ ”



Isaiah 40:1-2

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God.

² “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and announce to her that her time of hard service is over, her iniquity has been pardoned, and she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.”



MAIN IDEA

**The good news man desperately needs is simple:
God is coming. And the coming of God means hope
because of His infinite greatness and His
incomparable grace.**

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice of one crying out:

Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.

⁴ Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places, a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken...



Isaiah 40:9

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 God!"



Isaiah 40:10, 12

See, the Lord GOD comes with strength, and his power establishes his rule. His wages are with him, and his reward accompanies him...

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand? Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains on a balance and the hills on the scales?



Isaiah 40:21-26

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 God is enthroned above the circle of the earth; its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like thin cloth and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

²³ He reduces princes to nothing and 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 and they wither, and 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 and see! Who created these? He brings out the stars by number; he calls all of them by name.

Because of his great power and strength, not one of them is missing.



Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth.

He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to his understanding.



Luke 2:9

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.



Isaiah 40:29-31

He gives strength to the faint and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Youths may become faint and weary, and young men stumble and fall, ³¹ but those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.



Isaiah 40:11

**He protects his flock like a shepherd;
he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in
the fold of his garment.**

He gently leads those that are nursing.



The God who is great enough to save His people is also gracious, and He desires to save. The eternal one who is perfect in strength and wisdom and power and glory, is also tender toward His sheep.



Luke 2:10-12

“...I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹ Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”



Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

