

Series: Christ in the Old Testament

# Isaiah 40:1-8

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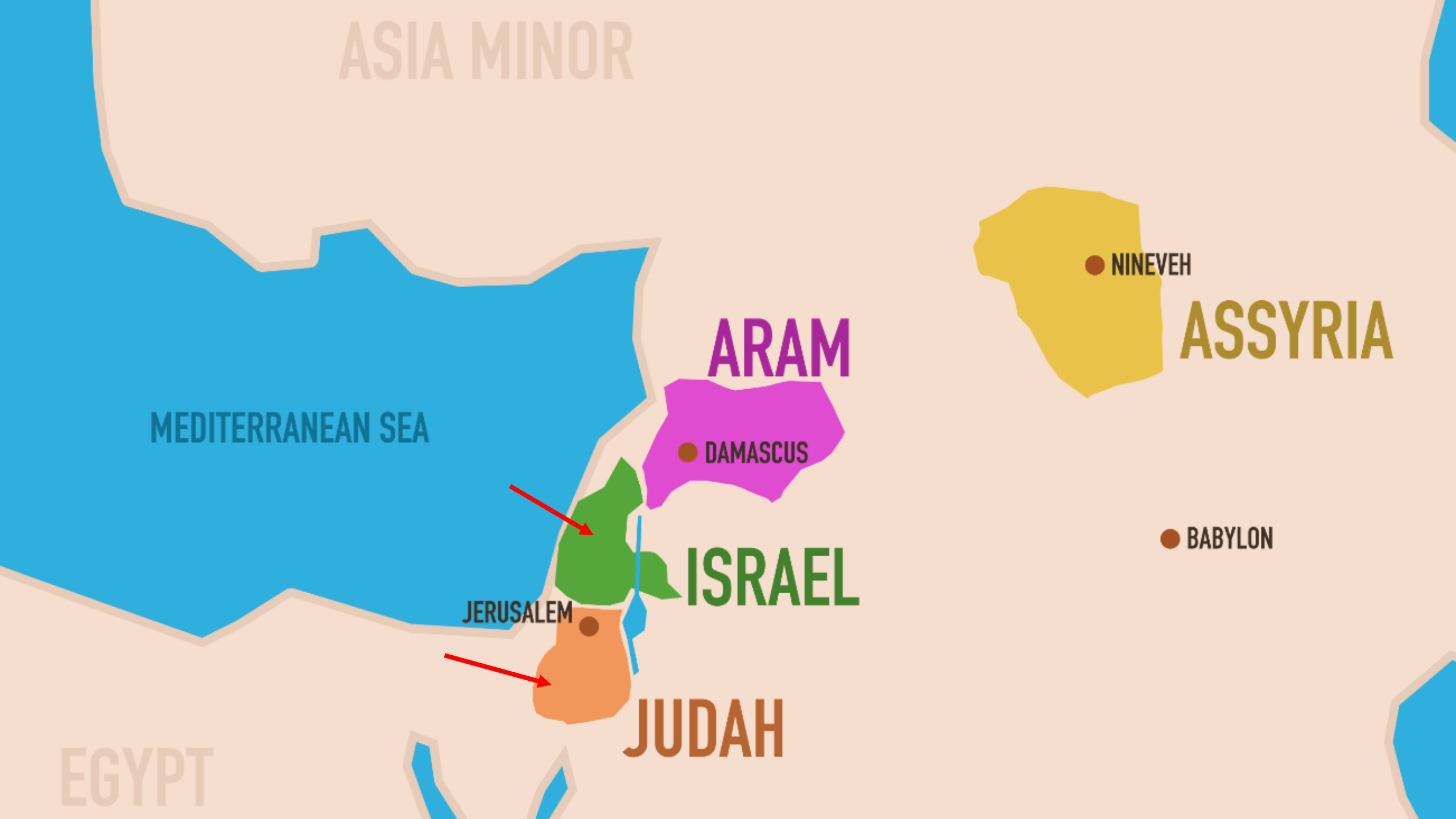
Christ—The True *Comfort* for the Afflicted

FAITH BUILDERS

# Theme of Isaiah

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Despite Israel's repeated rebellion and covenant unfaithfulness to God, which rightly invites His judgment, the Lord remains faithful to His covenant promise and will ultimately redeem His people through the promised Messiah.



ASIA MINOR

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ARAM

DAMASCUS

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM

JUDAH

NINEVEH

ASSYRIA

BABYLON

EGYPT

# God's covenant people in the OT

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- Israel, but not *all* of Israel (Rom. 9:6b-8)
- God's *true* people were (and are) always the *believing remnant*.
- Physical descent from Abraham brought covenant privileges, but it never guaranteed salvation.
- The defining mark of a true child of Abraham was faith in God's promise, ultimately centred on the coming Messiah (Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 22:18).
- NT validates: children of Abraham are those who share Abraham's faith. (Gen. 15:6; Hab. 2:4; Rom. 4:11-12; Gal. 3).

# Context

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Isaiah contains divine pronouncements of *judgment* and *hope* (1:4-6,20 but c.f. 1:18-19).

## Context of Isaiah 40

- Chs. 1–39: Largely judgment against Judah and the nations
- King Ahaz: misplaced trust in human strength
- King Hezekiah: trusts God but ultimately fails
- Result: Exile to Babylon announced (39:5–7)
- Pressing question: Has God forsaken His people?

# Message of Isaiah 40:1-8

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God's trustworthy word promises comfort to those afflicted by the weight and consequences of their sin, assuring them forgiveness and deliverance, in the Person of Jesus the Messiah.

# Outline

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**I. A Call to Comfort God's people (vv. 1–2)**

**II. A Call to Prepare the Way for YHWH (vv. 3–5)**

**III. A Call to Contrast God's Eternal Word to the Frailty of Man  
(vv. 6–8)**

## I. A Call to Comfort God's people (vv. 1–2)

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A. Isaiah issues a call to comfort God's afflicted people (vv. 1-2a)

B. There are **three** grounds for the message of comfort (v. 2b-d):

i. God's intended period of chastisement has ended

ii. The penalty for sin had been paid

iii. God's people have received a double portion of divine favour

## II. A Call to Prepare the Way for YHWH (vv. 3–5)

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- A. There must be spiritual preparation for YHWH's arrival (vv. 3-4)
- B. The glory of YHWH is revealed in Christ's coming (v. 5a-b)
- C. This promise is certain and authoritative as it is God's word (v. 5c)

### III. A Call to Contrast God's Eternal Word to the Frailty of Man (vv. 6–8)

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A. Man is frail and his words and his loyalty fade like the flower  
(vv. 6-8a)

B. In contrast—God and His Word is eternal and reliable (v. 8b)

# Message of Isaiah 40:1-8

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God's trustworthy word promises comfort to those afflicted by the weight and consequences of their sin, assuring them forgiveness and deliverance, in the Person of Jesus the Messiah.

## Truths to Reflect on:

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1. God is simultaneously just and compassionate, in His Son, apart from whom you are under God's wrath. (Exod. 34:6-7; John 3:36)

## Truths to Reflect on:

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2. God is supremely sovereign over all things. So His Word never fails.

*Q. Do you truly live as though God is sovereign? What anxieties, fears, or circumstances reveal a struggle to trust His rule and His promises?*

3. God remains faithful to His people even through their failures and afflictions.

*Q. Have you been tempted to doubt God's goodness when life is painful or confusing? Are you interpreting your circumstances through God's character, or God's character through your circumstances?*