

Isaiah Chapter 40

An example of multi-layering of Scripture by comparing their various aspects

C M White

v. 1.3 2015, 2018, 2021

There are a number of Exoduses in the Bible, including:

- Abraham leaving Babylon
- Israel leaving Egypt
- Judah leaving Babylon
- A Christian exiting this world and sin spiritually, undertaking a journey toward the Kingdom which is fully entered into at the resurrection

This chart compares basic concepts of a personal/spiritual exodus with the prophesied second Exodus of Israel at the time of the Messiah and even the first resurrection. So, you can read through this chapter and apply it to yourself or spiritually; you can read it again and you will notice the second exodus meaning; read it again and you will see references to the resurrection. You should also read Isaiah chapters 51 and 35 which throw further light on this chapter. The Bible is indeed a fascinating and complex book!

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.</p> <p>² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare¹ is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,</p>	<p>Christians must repent of sin and flee Babylon.</p>	<p>A future exodus similar those from Egypt and Judah leaving Babylon, Israel will awaken to her identity and be brought out</p>	<p>The resurrection occurs about the same time that the Second Exodus occurs.</p>	

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.</p>		<p>of end-time Assyria and Babylon (Rev 18:4). They will be comforted after the greatest hiding that a nation will ever receive.</p> <p>Because of its birthright status among the nations and privileges, Israel's punishment during the coming Great Tribulation (Jacob's Trouble) is going to be immense.</p>	<p>This will be the final stage of Christian's exiting this world – this Babylon.</p>	
<p>3 A voice cries:² "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.</p>	<p>Christians have heard the Gospel and participate in the spreading of the Good News and Warning Message. The spreading of the Gospel by the Churches of God and its people today is a forerunner of this coming Gospel pronouncement.</p>	<p>Possibly the two witnesses helping to wake Israel to her identity. Encouraging them to hold fast and to wait for the Messiah to deliver them.</p> <p>Also, Christians in captivity with Israel undertake a witness to Israel, helping to open their eyes to their identity and their soon-coming salvation.</p>		
<p>4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.</p>	<p>God will exalt the humble and bring to naught the haughty</p>	<p>The nations will be smashed and humbled, enabling Israel to be liberated and to become world leaders</p>	<p>The Day of the Lord will include mammoth earthquakes</p>	
<p>5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,</p>	<p>We experience God's presence and intervention in our life</p>	<p>Israel will see His salvation and literally see their Saviour. The entire world will witness His</p>	<p>Christians will finally see their Saviour at His coming – in His full glory!</p>	

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” The Word of God Stands Forever</p>		<p>coming</p>		
<p>6 A voice says, “Cry!” And I said,³ “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty⁴ is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. The Greatness of God</p>	<p>This seems to suggest that the Message will include a component that mankind is like a vapour that soon passes away. But God and his utterances – His Commandments and Way of Life last forever!</p>	<p>The nations will be destroyed by God but Israel will survive</p>	<p>We are flesh, but will be made eternal spirit by the power of God</p>	
<p>9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;⁵ lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;⁶ lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”</p>	<p>The end-time Gospel message proclaimed, including just prior to and into the Tribulation (by those Christians in captivity apparently)</p>	<p>After hearing the Good News of the Messiah’s deliverance of Israel, Israel awakens to her calling and destiny. Signs in Heaven heralds God’s intervention on behalf of Israel and also to save the world</p>	<p>The ultimate good news: there will be relief at last from one’s trials in this life – upon entry into His Kingdom</p>	

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.</p>	<p>God rewards us in small ways in this life, for faithfulness</p>	<p>Israel will be greatly blessed and receive double – the birthright of the nations</p>	<p>God will reward Christians at the resurrection with positions, crowns, new names etc</p>	
<p>11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.</p>	<p>God will care for His church over the centuries</p>	<p>He will tend to Israel as their Shepherd</p>	<p>In the resurrection the great Shepherd will take us into His arms and hug us warmly</p>	<p>Cp Ps 23 NB: “He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.” (NLT)</p>
<p>12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured⁷ the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his</p>	<p>God is immeasurable in the way He works with the Church and Christians. He is immeasurable in greatness</p>	<p>God is immeasurable in the way He works with Israel. He is immeasurable in greatness</p>	<p>God is immeasurable in the way He works with us. He is immeasurable in greatness – we will find out much more and witness His greatness in the resurrection</p>	<p>Job 38:4-9</p>

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?</p>				
<p>15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.</p>	<p>The spiritual Caananites/gentiles are puny to God</p>	<p>He will crush the gentile nations as He rescues Israel. They are nothing to Him</p>	<p>The gentile nations and demons are as nothing for Him to deal with</p>	<p>Ps 96:5</p>
<p>16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.</p>	<p>The spiritual Canaanites (tares etc) will be smashed</p>	<p>The Canaanites will be smashed</p>	<p>The spiritual Canaanites (false brethren) and demons will be smashed</p>	
<p>17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.</p>	<p>The spiritual gentiles are puny to God</p>	<p>He will crush the gentile nations as He rescues Israel. They are nothing to Him</p>	<p>The gentile nations and demons are as nothing for Him to deal with</p>	<p>Rom 8</p>
<p>18 To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with</p>	<p>God will bring down those – no matter what position or power they have – if they hurt any of His children or the Church of</p>	<p>God will bring down those – no matter what position or power they have – if they hurt Israel</p>	<p>God will bring down Satan and the demons – they have hurt His children and the Church of God</p>	<p>Cp Ps 40:5; Job 38</p>

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>him?</p> <p>19 An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains.</p> <p>20 He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood⁸ that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.</p> <p>21 Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?</p> <p>22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;</p> <p>23 who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.</p>	<p>God</p>			

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.</p> <p>25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.</p>	<p>We humans are as nothing</p>	<p>God will bring down those – no matter what position or power they have – if they hurt any of His children or the Church of God</p>	<p>We are as nothing, but will be something in the resurrection</p>	
<p>26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.</p>	<p>God is our Saviour Who delivers us from trials and sins</p>	<p>God will deliver Israel from captivity</p>	<p>God will deliver us from this world and our corrupt bodies</p>	<p>ICor 15:50-54</p>
<p>27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?</p>	<p>Many in the Churches of God think that He has forgotten them. But upon repentance He will revive the Church and its Work.</p>	<p>Israel thinks that God has forgotten them. But God reminds them that all is according to His timing. From the prophecies we know that after national awakening</p>	<p>God will not forget us in the grave – He will resurrect us to life eternal!</p>	

Isaiah 40	Spiritual	Second Exodus	Resurrection	Comment/Other Scriptures
<p>28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.</p>		and consequence repentance, He will rise up and rescue Israel from gentile captivity.		
<p>29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;</p>	We are energised by the Spirit to good works and using our spiritual gifts to bless God and others	Israelites will revive and rejoice as they see God’s intervention in world affairs begin to happen	In the resurrection, we will be spirit and unable to tire or weaken	Rev 7:17 Ezek 37:1-14
<p>31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.</p>	Spiritually He gives us strength to continue in His way	Patiently waiting for deliverance, God will strengthen Israel in Tribulation and lead them into the Promised Land	Once resurrected, Christians will ascend to be with Christ, aided by angels. They will never tire or grow old	Rev 3:8; Ps 18:29; 71:9; 103:5; Zech 4:6; 12:8; Hag 2:4

Of this chapter, Watt’s wrote:

“Yahweh's advent 'in strength' inaugurates the deliverance of his people from bondage among the nations (40:10ff; 51:9ff; 52:10ff). As he had dried up the sea of old (51:9ff) so Yahweh will accompany them through the waters and the fire (43:1-3(-7)), leading the glorious procession (40:10f; 42:16; 49:10; 52:12), and being both front and rear guard in the cloud and in the fire (52:12, cf. Ex. 13:21f; 14:19f). Yahweh will again

shepherd his people (40:11; cf. Ex. 15:13; Pss. 77:21; 78:52), providing food and water (49:9f; cf.48:21) in a miraculous transformation of the wilderness (43:19f; 49:9ff and Ex. 17:2-7; Num. 20:8)." (R E Watts, "Consolation or Confrontation? Isaiah 40-55 and the Delay of the New Exodus", pp. 33-34 quoted in H Gandhi, "The Exodus as a :Paradigm of Salvation in Scripture: An Intertextual Study of the Second Exodus Motif", The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA, Dec 2015, p. 9. The entire paper by Gandhi is worth a read).

History Research Projects

GPO Box 864, Sydney, Australia 2001

www.originofnations.org

www.friendsofsabbath.org

No limitation is placed upon reproduction of this document except that it must be reproduced in its entirety without modification or deletions. The publisher's name and address, copyright notice and this message must be included. It may be freely distributed but must be distributed without charge to the recipient.