

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ, our Saviour,
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Isaiah 40

v.1 Comfort- (2 Cor 1:3-4 NKJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, {4} who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

v.2 warfare is ended- the New Testament tells us that we were at enmity with God

- received double or a duplicate - when land or house was mortgaged the paper was hung by the door and a copy kept by the lender, when debt was paid the duplicate copy was delivered and nailed above the other, covering the debt with the payment

- (1 John 2:1-2 NKJV) *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. {2} And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

v.3 We see this applied by the gospels to John the Baptist but it is for all of us as we prepare the way for Him in our lives-**crying in the wilderness**

- every valley- the low places- our depression, failure, grieves, sorrows

- mountain brought low- pride, arrogance, self reliance

- crooked place straight- sin, doing it our way

- rough places smooth- becoming like him

so that His Glory is revealed- *Behold the Lamb of God*

v.6 What shall I cry?- (*Isa 6:8 NKJV*) Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."- this is the message, Isaiah saw the glory, now he sees the grace

v.6-8 (*1 Pet 1:22-25 NKJV*) Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, {23} having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, {24} because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, {25} But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

v.9-10 The Lord is coming

- behold your God- Behold the Lamb, this is our message

v.11 Feed His flock - see *Psalms 23*

Come to verse 28

v. 28 Look at Who it is that we serve, Whose birth we celebrate

v.29-31 What makes us faint and weary?

- seeing the reality of a situation, we don't have the money or resources we thought we did * trying to escape the situation and failing * trials* want of faith * trusting in ourselves * heaviness of burdens

wait- with eager expectation, knowing the outcome- (*Rom 8:28 NKJV*) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

renew their strength- (*Psa 51:7-10 NKJV*) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. {8} Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. {9} Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. {10} Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Run and not be weary- run with endurance the race set before us, lest I have run the race in vain

Walk - make their way and not be faint