

## CHAPTER 40

**C**OMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

3 ¶ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of

the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

9 ¶ O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

12 ¶ Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* his counsellor hath taught him?

14 With whom took he counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

15 Behold, the nations *are* as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

16 And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.

17 All nations before him *are* as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

18 ¶ To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

20 He that *is* so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree *that* will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, *that* shall not be moved.

21 Have ye not known? have ye

not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 *It is* he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

24 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these *things*, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that *he is* strong in power; not one faileth.

27. Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

28 ¶ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

## CHAPTER 41

**K**EEP silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew *their* strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment.

2 Who raised up the righteous *man* from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made *him* rule over kings? he gave *them* as the dust to his sword, *and* as driven stubble to his bow.

3 He pursued them, *and* passed safely; *even* by the way *that* he had not gone with his feet.

4 Who hath wrought and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I *am* he.

5 The isles saw *it*, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came.

6 They helped every one his neighbour; and *every one* said to his brother, Be of good courage.

7 So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, *and* he that smootheneth *with* the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It *is* ready for the sodering: and he fastened it with nails, *that* it should not be moved.

8 But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

9 *Thou* whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou *art* my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.

10 ¶ Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be

ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

12 Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, *even* them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.

13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, *and* ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

15 Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat *them* small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.

16 Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

17 *When* the poor and needy seek water, and *there is* none, *and* their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the

wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, *and* the pine, and the box tree together:

20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

21. Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong *reasons*, saith the King of Jacob.

22 Let them bring *them* forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they *be*, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

23 Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye *are* gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold *it* together.

24 Behold, ye *are* of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination *is he that* chooseth you.

25 I have raised up *one* from the north, and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon

princes as *upon* mortar, and as the potter treadeth clay.

26 Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and beforetime, that we may say, *He is* righteous? yea, *there is* none that sheweth, yea, *there is* none that declareth, yea, *there is* none that heareth your words.

27 The first *shall say* to Zion, Behold, behold them: and I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings.

28 For I beheld, and *there was* no man; even among them, and *there was* no counsellor, that, when I asked of them, could answer a word.

29 Behold, they *are* all vanity; their works *are* nothing: their molten images *are* wind and confusion.

## CHAPTER 42

**B**EHOLD my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

4 He shall not fail nor be dis-

couraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

5 ¶ Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

8 I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

10 Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

11 Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up *their voice*, the

villages *that* Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

12 Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.

13. The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

14 I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, *and* refrained myself: *now* will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.

15 I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools.

16 And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

17 ¶ They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye *are* our gods.

18. Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.

19 Who *is* blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? who *is* blind as *he that is* perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?

20 Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.

21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable.

22 But this *is* a people robbed and spoiled; *they are* all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.

23 Who among you will give ear to this? *who* will hearken and hear for the time to come?

24 Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law.

25 Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid *it* not to heart.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapters 40—66 are often called the New Testament section of this book. Its 27 chapters are similar to the 27 books of the New Testament. It begins by speaking of the ministry of John the Baptist (chapter 40:3,4) and its emphasis is on Christ and salvation. At the very heart of this section is chapter 53, which is the greatest Old Testament prediction of Christ's death on the cross. Chapters 40—66 emphasize a note of comfort and redemption for God's people. It was written to encourage the Jewish remnant that they would be delivered from Babylonian captivity after their 70 years of exile. It covers the period after the Babylonian captivity, and Isaiah wrote this amazing prophecy more than 150 years before the remnant would need it for encouragement.

Chapter 40 contrasts the greatness of God with the feebleness of man (verses 6-8), and also His greatness is contrasted with the weakness of idols (verses 18-20).

In chapter 41 we see the greatness of God's purpose. Jehovah is not simply the God of the Jews; He is the controller of the nations. Notice that God used the heathen King Cyrus to conquer Babylon and enable the Jews to return to their land. God's ways are not our ways and are not always understandable to us, but He has a purpose in everything. We should simply trust Him explicitly to do His work in His way.

The greatness of God's pardon is seen in chapter 42. In verses 1-9 we are introduced to Jesus Christ. We see His first coming in humility and grace; His second coming in power and judgment. Of course, between these two events we have the present age in which we live. God had permitted the Jews to be captured and exiled to chasten them for their sins, but it would not last forever. He would come in judgment and destroy Babylon (verses 10-17), using Cyrus as His tool.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not" (Proverbs 1:10).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 17 (found on page 9).

## BIRTHDAY TODAY

VIVIAN YANCY

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1790

### THE COAST GUARD WAS ESTABLISHED.

Pray for the men in the coast guard today. Pray for God's blessings and leadership to rest upon their lives.

1735

### THE GREAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS TRIAL.

Thank God for this freedom and for the many hours of pleasure brought by the newspapers.

1792

### THE BIRTHDAY OF PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

Today is the birthday of P.B. Shelley, the English poet. While in Rome you may see the house where Shelley and Keats lived.

### READ A CHAPTER IN PROVERBS TODAY.

I am presently enjoying a study in the Book of Proverbs. No book in the Bible does as much to strengthen character as does Proverbs. Pick out one chapter in Proverbs today and read it. List the things that God reminds you of that would improve your Christian life.

## ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1891

**DEATH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON WILLIAMS** (41), Blackpool, England.

1897

**HENRY A RUCKER APPOINTED COLLECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE** for Georgia

1953

**MOVEMENT OF BLACK FAMILIES INTO TRUMBULL PARK HOUSING PROJECT IN CHICAGO** triggered virtually continuous riot which lasted more than three years and required assignment of more than one thousand policemen to keep order.

1964

**BODIES OF THREE CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS DISCOVERED** on farm near Philadelphia, Mississippi. Three young men, two white and one black, had been missing since June 21. FBI said they were murdered on night of their disappearance by segregationists. Eighteen whites, including several police officers, were charged with conspiracy to deprive the victims of their civil rights.

1931

**DR. DANIEL H. WILLIAMS, PIONEER IN SURGERY, DIED.**

---

# A Christian Life . . .

## JOHN FRANKLYN NORRIS (1877-1952)

**Fundamental Baptist pastor.** J. Frank Norris was born in Dadeville, Alabama. He was graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He was ordained to the ministry in 1899 and soon after began his long, stormy career by serving as editor of *The Baptist Standard*, the official voice of Texas Baptists. He aided Dr. B.H. Carroll in the founding of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1909 he accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth and remained there until his death. In 1935 he also accepted the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, and held joint pastorates of these two great churches separated geographically 1,300 miles for 15 years. During those years, the combined attendance of both churches, under the leadership of one pastor, constituted the world's largest Sunday School.

A master pulpiteer, Dr. Norris was a fierce opponent of communism, liberalism, and evolution, and was acclaimed to be one of the twentieth century's outstanding leaders of Bible fundamentalism.

In 1939, with the aid of Dr. Louis Entzminger, he organized the Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, an institution which excelled in the training of young preachers in the building of large Sunday Schools and churches. Many of the graduates of this school have built some of the largest churches in America. A friend of world leaders, compassionate soul-winner, and Bible expositor, Dr. Norris died in Keystone, Florida, on August 20, 1952, and was buried in Fort Worth, Texas, on Saturday, August 24, 1952.





# The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

**MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:**

**DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS HARD AND DIFFICULT"**

(Assignment 17)

Please review these verses today. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

( ) Proverbs 13:15

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

( ) Proverbs 3:17

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

( ) Matthew 11:30

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

( ) Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

( ) Isaiah 41:11

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.