THE MESSIAH’S REIGN OF HOPE

Isaiah 40:1–31

Key Verse: 40:31

1. To what experience of God’s people do verses 1 and 2 refer? (cf. 39:6,7; Jer25:1–11) How might this experience have affected them? What did God want to say to them now? (1,2) How would these words give them hope? How did the coming of Jesus ultimately fulfill this prophecy? (53:6; Ac13:38,39)
2. How would God intervene to save his people? (3,4) What is involved in constructing this “highway,” and of what is this a metaphor? How was this prophecy ultimately fulfilled? (Lk3:2–6) How was God’s glory revealed? (5; cf. Jn1:14; 12:41) Why do we all need to “see” this glory?
3. What is the next thing God said to his people, and why is this so important? (6–8) What imagery does he use to describe the two sides of his character? (9–11) How should we respond to this God?
4. What rhetorical questions are asked, and what do they teach us? (12–14) In contrast, what does this show about “the nations”? (15–17) What other comparison is made? (18–20) What innate knowledge do all people have, and how does it put earthly rulers in perspective? (21–24) How else does Isaiah help us understand God? (25,26)
5. What do some people think, and what makes them so? (27) Who is God and what does he do for us? (28,29; cf. 2Co12:9) Without God, what happens to us? (30) Read verse 31. What does it mean to “wait for the LORD”? (8:17; 25:9; 30:18; cf. Ps25:5; La3:25,26) What happens when we do? (31b) What message does this have for us at Christmas?