

Isaiah 40

- ¹ Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
- ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
- ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
- ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
- ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

2nd Corinthians 4

- ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.
- ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.
- ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
- ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

Luke 1

- ⁶⁷ John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
- ⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
- ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
- ⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
- ⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
- ⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”
⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to
Israel.