

BOOK OF ISAIAH

Outline

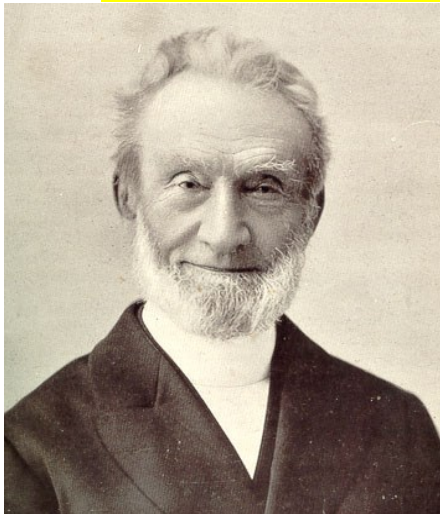
Chapter 40

Question: Do you know where Phil Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" gets his famous "Happy, Happy, Happy," saying?

READ ON FOR THE ANSWER:

George Muller was a Prussian (German), born in 1805. He was a Christian evangelist with many endeavors, but is probably **best known for building orphanages in Bristol, England**, beginning in 1836 with the use of his home as the first orphanage. Later, he began building the **Ashley Down Orphanages** and during his lifetime **cared for over 10,000 children**. He is **credited for having NEVER asked for any financial assistance in building or providing for these orphanages, instead, relying upon the power of prayer and His God to build the structures and provide for the daily needs of the children, which included extensive Bible study for the children**. It is recorded that, more than once, he and the children would bow their heads and pray, thanking God for a meal when there was **no food on the table**. Inevitably, there would come a knock at the door and some unexplainable circumstance would have occurred which provided food for the children--such as, on one occasion, a baker just happened to show up with leftover items while at the same time a milk truck broke down in front of the orphanage. On another occasion, after Muller and the children prayed at the empty table, there was a knock at the door--people were holding an abundance of food, leftovers from a nearby wedding. The following is Muller's statement as to **why he was successful and happy:**

*"I believe that the one chief reason that I have been kept in happy useful service is that I have been a **LOVER OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**. It has been my habit to **read the Bible through FOUR TIMES A YEAR**; in a prayerful spirit, to apply it to my heart, and practice what I find there. I have been for sixty-nine years a happy man; **HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY.**"*



1. **CHAPTER 40** In the previous chapter God had told Isaiah that, although Jerusalem would **not** fall to the Assyrians, she will, because of continued rebellion against God, eventually **fall to the future Babylonian Empire**. This chapter seems to be pointing to a brighter future for God's people, **after** their Babylonian captivity and is **predictive of the coming of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom upon this Earth**--that time predicted by Daniel when the stone not made with human hands falls from Heaven and crushes the existing world kingdoms. Christ's Kingdom on Earth **BEGAN** with the Church Age on the Day of Pentecost.

Verses 1-2 "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that **her warfare is accomplished** that her **iniquity is pardoned...**"

Isaiah, speaking for God, is saying a day is coming in which God's people would be **COMFORTED**. The people of Judah were comforted when, after 70 years of captivity in Babylon, they would be allowed to return to their promised land, **HOWEVER**, the greater significance in this scripture is that **GOD is COMFORTER-IN-CHIEF** for all those who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior! He is **"THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT."** (II Corinthians 1:3)

Question: Can you fill in the blanks? Jesus said,

"But the _____, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26, tell story about WJDR Radio)

and again Jesus said,

"But when the _____ is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me... (John 15:26)

and again Jesus said,

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the _____ will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. (John 16:7)

In the Isaiah passage, the Hebrew word "**COMFORT**" also means to "**BREATHE STRONGLY**," as well as the usual meanings we associate with "comfort." In the New Testament Greek, the word Jesus used is "**PARAKLETOS**," which means "**ADVOCATE**," or "**one called alongside to help**," or "**HELPMEET**," (like Eve, as **Adam's helpmeet**) if you will. This "**ADVOCATE**" meaning is as a **LEGAL ADVOCATE** who **PLEADS BEFORE THE JUDGE**. The Holy Spirit acts on Earth on our behalf as the Lord Jesus Christ acts as **ADVOCATE before the Father, THE JUDGE, in Heaven**:

"And if any man sin, we have an **ADVOCATE** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the **PROPITIATION (means "mercy seat")** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2)

HALLELUJAH!!! Jesus Christ is the **ONE MAN "DREAM TEAM" LEGAL DEFENSE** in **HEAVEN** for us **AND FOR THE WHOLE WORLD**. We need to let the whole world know, that without any money, they can have a **LAWYER in HEAVEN** Who has **NEVER lost a case before the JUDGE of all the Earth!** **WHAT JESUS DID FOR US ON THE CROSS IS ETERNALLY, LEGALLY BINDING IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH, IN THIS WORLD AND THE WORLD TO COME, AD INFINITUM!!!**

***Time for all good Baptists to SHOUT, JUMP A PEW, and SWING FROM A CHANDELIER HERE!!! Of course, your church may not have a chandelier. When it came up for a vote in one church, it was voted down because one elderly member said their church (1) wasn't big enough for a chandelier, (2) it cost too much, and (3), most importantly, nobody in the congregation knew how to play one, so they would need to make do with the piano they had! :-)**

Additionally, and concerning that **definition of comfort as being "BREATHE STRONGLY,"** do you remember when we discussed how Jesus, in a post resurrection appearance and just prior to the Day of Pentecost, **BREATHED** on the disciples and told them to **"Receive ye the Holy Ghost...?"** (John 20:22) That was--as only the Giver of Life *can* do--the **DIVINE RECOVERY** of the very **BREATH** of God that was **BREATHED** into **ADAM** in **Genesis** which made Adam a living soul.

**I don't know about you, but all of this is VERY COMFORTING TO ME!!! :-)*

Verses 3-5, 9 "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. 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**: 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...say unto the cities of Judah, **BEHOLD YOUR GOD!**"

WOW! Isaiah, under the Divine unction, **PROPHESIED** plainly about the **ministry of John the Baptist in the New Testament**, who **PREPARED THE WAY** for the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. **John the Baptist** was a symbol of **THE LAW**, which was our **SCHOOLMASTER**, to **LEAD** us to **Jesus Christ**, Who is the **SPIRIT OF THE LAW**, which makes us **ALIVE** unto **GOD**, because the **SPIRIT** can **PENETRATE** the **HEARTS** of mankind--which is **WHERE** the problem lies!!! **John the Baptist** preached **REPENTANCE** in the **WILDERNESS**, **prior** to Jesus' arrival on the scene. **THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW OF MOSES WAS TO IDENTIFY SIN--TO LEAD US TO REPENTANCE.** Just as John the Baptist **PRECEDED** Jesus the Savior, **REPENTANCE** (KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW) **must PRECEDE SALVATION.** **How can a sinner repent if he/she doesn't know they've broken any laws?** When the Hebrews wandered in unbelief for 40 years after escaping Egypt, the Bible states that **they wandered in the WILDERNESS OF SIN.** This **WORLD** is a **WILDERNESS** of **SIN!** It is a **DESERT--a DRY PLACE** in need of the **LIVING WATERS** of **Jesus Christ.** John the Baptist, as a symbol for **THE LAW**, **fulfilled this passage in Isaiah in LAYING THE WAY** for the **MESSIAH.** (see John 19-23) **Jesus Christ** is **THAT HIGHWAY, THE WAY.** Everything in us, personally, our **"LOW"** places, our **"VALLEYS,"** our place of the human condition of **FALLENNESS**, Jesus came to **RAISE UP**, for us to be seated with Him in Heavenly places. Likewise, everything in us, that is **HIGH-MINDED, HAUGHTY, a HIGH PLACE** in ourselves where we **"WORSHIP"** anything **BUT** the **TRUE** and **LIVING GOD**, Jesus will **BRING IT LOW--He will BRING IT DOWN, FOR OUR SAKES!** We have **"CROOKED"** places in us. He can **"STRAIGHTEN"** us out! We, in our **fallenness**, have **"ROUGH"** edges. He can **"SMOOTH"** those out, too! This prophecy, dealing with John

the Baptist, tells us that when Jesus arrives in the New Testament, He will **REVEAL (UNVEIL) the GLORY OF GOD**. God had been **VEILED OFF** in the **OLD TESTAMENT** worship. Jesus came for **ALL FLESH** to see and for the **salvation of ALL FLESH**. The disciples, on the Mount of Transfiguration, saw a **LITERAL** depiction of His **UNVEILED GLORY**, when His garments became whiter than any fuller on earth could whiten.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, Isaiah makes sure the **IDENTITY of this ONE**. He says, **BEHOLD YOUR GOD**. John the Baptist said, "**BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.**" Jesus was God in the flesh, reconciling mankind unto Himself!

The prophet Isaiah is literally aflame and consumed with this unspeakable **REVELATION!** His understanding is **INCREDIBLE** and **INDISPUTABLE!**