

SERMON NOTES

Title: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Text: Isaiah 40
Subject: Persecution
Date: 11/09/08

Introduction:

Isaiah 40:1-26

Body:

I. Chapter 40 looks far into the future of Judah and responds to their suffering in Babylonian captivity.

A. “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”

B. The people of God have always and will always be in need of a comforter in this earthly life.

1. We need comfort because we share in the afflictions of the flesh.

2. We need comfort because of the torment of our own sinful nature.

3. We need comfort because wherever the people of God are true to their testimony, they will be persecuted.

2 Tim. 3:12-13 (NIV)

II. Our comfort comes from the Lord our God!

A. Just as with Judah in Babylon, our hard service is almost at an end. (2)

B. God has prepared a way for us, a “*highway for our God.*” (3)

C. “*All men are like grass.*” (6)

D. Be comforted O people of God for “*Here is your God!” (9)*

E. Our God saves His own!

-----Read 27-31-----

Conclusion:

A. What should our response be to the growing persecution of the world.

1. We must be informed, unpleasant as it is we must know what is happening to our family.

2. We must pray for those who are suffering and for those who cause them to suffer, just like Jesus did.

3. We must be proactive to use our influence and our resources to defend and relieve those who suffer.

4. We must teach our children that safety is neither in a physical location nor in financial position, but only in Jesus Christ our Lord
5. As Martin Luther the great reformer wrote in that great hymn of the faith,

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God:

“Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still; His Kingdom is forever”