

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NLT)

Comfort for God's People

- 1 “Comfort, comfort my people,”
says your God.
- 2 “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.
Tell her that her sad days are gone
and her sins are pardoned.
Yes, the Lord has punished her twice over
for all her sins.”

- 3 Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting,
"Clear the way through the wilderness
for the Lord!
Make a straight highway through
the wasteland for our God!
- 4 Fill in the valleys,
and level the mountains and hills.
Straighten the curves,
and smooth out the rough places.
- 5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
The Lord has spoken!"

6 A voice said, “Shout!”

I asked, “What should I shout?”

“Shout that people are like the grass.

Their beauty fades as quickly
as the flowers in a field.

7 The grass withers and the flowers fade
beneath the breath of the Lord.

And so it is with people.

8 The grass withers and the flowers fade,
but the word of our God stands forever.”

- 9 O Zion, messenger of good news,
shout from the mountaintops!
Shout it louder, O Jerusalem.
Shout, and do not be afraid.
Tell the towns of Judah,
“Your God is coming!”
- 10 Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power.
He will rule with a powerful arm.
See, he brings his reward with him
as he comes.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd.
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
holding them close to his heart.
He will gently lead the mother sheep
with their young.