

# Seeing God 6 – The God who never gives up on his people

Speaker: Pete Clayton

Scripture: Isaiah Chapter 40

On Sunday we continued our series in Isaiah. Chapter 40 signifies the start of a new section in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah chapters 1 – 39 are known as the 'book of judgement'. Isaiah chapters 40 – 66 are known as the 'book of comfort / hope'. At this point the people of Judah are in exile in Babylon. Isaiah is writing from the perspective of this being reality, but we know he died 100 years or more before this happened. Therefore, he is writing from a post-exile perspective (post 586 BC) as a prophetic voice into the future before these events occurred.

Q1. On Sunday Pete spoke about sometimes feeling like giving up. Have you ever felt like giving up on a hobby / activity but persevered anyway? Were you pleased you persevered? Why? (*this should be fairly light-hearted as an intro – perhaps give an example yourself first.*)

## God never gives up on his people (us!)

Read Isaiah 40v1-8. In the context of 39 chapters of judgement this response from God seems surprising.

Q1. Who or what is it pointing towards? (i.e. John the Baptist / Jesus etc.)

Read one of the new testament accounts of John the Baptist (Matt 3v3, Mark 1v2-3, Luke 3v4-6, John 1v23).

Q2. What do these show you about Isaiah's prophecy? (he was speaking on multiple levels – and ultimately more about Jesus than Babylon in this instance)

Q3. What does this tell you about God's commitment to HIS people?

Q4. How does this affect the way you view God? (i.e. he never gives up on you)

Q5. Are there any areas you feel 'let down' by God or people?

## His people (us) should never give up on Him

Read Isaiah 40v11. Although we didn't touch on this verse on Sunday – this verse reinforces the picture of God as a shepherd who never gives up on his people. If time in pairs each look and summarise a different shepherd reference in scripture – Psalm 23, John 10v11-14, Hebrews 13v20, 1 Peter 5v4. Scripture frequently points to a shepherd who deeply cares for his people.

Q6. How does this help you in your faith to not give up on God?

Q7. Read v28-31. In what areas of your life do you need God to renew you with his strength today?

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Close in prayer for one another. For a deep renewal of his strength.