

The background is a complex, abstract geometric pattern. It features a central diamond shape with a fine grid texture. The colors transition from a pale yellow at the top to a vibrant orange and red at the bottom. The left side is dominated by green and blue geometric shapes, while the right side is filled with red and orange patterns. The overall effect is a dynamic, multi-colored composition.

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

Isa. 40:10-11

“Behold, the Lord will return!”

Isa. 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

During the last couple of months, we have been observing situations where men and women in the Scriptures faced unforeseeable circumstances and walked by faith as they encountered them. A couple of weeks ago we shifted our focus to begin a new series...

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

❖ A few weeks ago we began by looking at the Creator, and then “The Lamb of God.”

Last week, we observed Pilate's declaration to "behold the man." Isaiah, chapter 40, is packed full with wonderful truth about the greatness and power of God. This morning, we will view the prophet Isaiah's declaration to...

"Behold, the Lord will return!"

I. THE DEPICTION OF GOD'S POWER AND COMPASSION 40:10-11

Isa. 40:10 **Behold**, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: **behold**, his reward *is with him*, and his work before him.

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

❖ The 2nd Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ is the subject of our “behold” this morning.

Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and **he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**

12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God.**

14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and **he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

A. Seeing the Promise of the Lord's Advent, 40:10a

“Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him...”

❖ Isaiah prophesied the First and Second Advents of Christ:

The 1st Advent

Isa. 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; **Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Isa. 9:6 **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:** and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isa. 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; **a man of sorrows**, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely **he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:** yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities**: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; **we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: **he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

The 2nd Advent

Isa. 63:3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: **for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.**

The 1st and 2nd Advent

Isa. 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, **and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;**

❖ Just as surely that the 1st Advent occurred that night in Bethlehem, so will the 2nd Advent occur in the very near future.

❖ Such a promise should give us confidence to continue to *live by faith*, including days of the pandemic!

Heb. 10:35 **Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.**

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have **done the will of God**, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and **he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.**

38 Now **the just shall live by faith:** but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition;** but of them **that believe to the saving of the soul.**

B. Seeing the Presentation of the Lord's Acknowledgement, 40:10b "...**behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.**"

❖ We are to BEHOLD, that there is a future reward for faithful believers.

Rev. 22:12 And, **behold**, I come quickly; and my **reward is with me**, to give every man according as his work shall be.

- ❖ The reward is correlated to our faithfulness in “His work.” – v. 10b
- ❖ Believers are expected to engage in a ministry that is a work and labor of love.

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,** though we thus speak.

10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love,** which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do **shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:**

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

❖ Rewards follow the Judgment Seat of Christ.

1 Cor. 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward.**

2 Jn. 1:8 Look to yourselves, **that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.**

C. Seeing the Provision of the Lord's Assurance, 40:11

Isa. 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

- ❖ The Lord is our Provider – “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd...” (Psa. 23:1)
- ❖ The Lord is our Protector – “...he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom...” (Mt. 11:28-30)

❖ The Lord is our Pilot – “...*and* shall gently lead those that are with young.”

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;** and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

Summary

- ❖ Isaiah prophesied the 1st Advent and it happened.
- ❖ Isaiah prophesied the 2st Advent and it will happen.
- ❖ We are in between the 1st and 2nd Advent – what should we do?

Mark 13:32 **But of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man**, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

33 **Take ye heed, watch and pray**: for ye know not when the time is.

Jn. 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Luke 19:13n "...Occupy till I come."

- ❖ Believers are to walk by faith... 2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)
- ❖ Until the Rapture – "**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**"

Conclusion

2 Pet. 3:10 But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night**; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**