Christmas 2023, Lesson 1: Hope

**“AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED”**

Isaiah 40:1–11

Key Verse: 40:5

1. As this chapter opens, where are the people of Judah now (39:5–7)? Imagine what this experience was like for them. Read God’s first message to them (1–2). How do these words reveal God’s grace?
2. Read God’s next message (3–5). What does “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD” mean (4)? Read verse 5 again. What is “the glory of the LORD”? How is it “revealed” in the coming of Jesus (Luke 2:12–14; 3:6)?
3. Read God’s third message (6–8). What does it mean that “all flesh” and “the people” are “grass” and like “the flower of the field”? In contrast, how is God’s word described (8b; cf. 1 Pet.1:24–25)? Why do we all need to hear this?
4. Read God’s fourth message (9–11). Who is the “herald of good news,” where should he go, how should he speak, and what is his message (9)? How is God described, and why (10)? How else is he described (11)? How does this point to the coming of Jesus?
5. What can we learn in this passage about God and his plan for his people? How are his words here a source of hope to us?