

December 17, 2017

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (The Third Advent Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Lift Up Your Voice with a Shout"

— See, the Sovereign Lord! —

Text: Isaiah 40:9~11

**40:9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"**

**40:10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.**

**40:11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.**

### Introduction

- The Book of Isaiah records the glorious message of God who intervenes in human history. We see His Master Plan there. Today's text (Chapter 40) begins with amazing call of God. These two verses commonly refer to the message of the latter half of the Book (Verses 40~66).

**40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.**

**40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.**

- The Lord spoke three reasons as below—

① Her hard service has been completed : It means the time of trials and hardship of Jerusalem.

② Her sin has been paid for : It means that *the sacrifice* was offered to pay for iniquities and God was pleased with it.

③ The Lord's hand paid *double* for all her sins :

The term *double* does not literally mean twice. Rather, it means *in full measure*. It means that the Israelites had been completely judged for their sins and now they were completely blessed.

- The content of the message above is greater than the restoration from the Babylonian Captivity. The Israelites have been given great hope.
- Let's study the content of God's Master Plan from today's text. The key word of the text is *see*, which encourages us to be aware and pay attention to what is happening around us. Then, what does God tell us *to see*? Let's study the following three points.

### Main Points

#### 1. See the God who is the Lord of Presence.

**40:9 Say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"**

What is God like that the Scripture says, **"Here is your God!"?**

- 1) The message was spoken to the Israelites. God had revealed Himself in

their history. God had set up an unilateral covenant with Abraham their father and had given *the promise of eternal grace*.

- He also set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt through Moses. He led

them to Canaan (a land flowing with milk and honey) the promised land. He is God who revealed His authority and Master Plan through prophets from generation to generation.

- It means that He was present and always at work in their history. He had achieved these things through *His Word*.

## 2) God's Word ⇒ Isaiah Chapter 40

**“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” Isaiah 40:8**

Living things in this world are always changing. Everything changes. Our word changes. Even if we make a promise, we can easily break it. We are human beings.

- However, God never changes. And the Bible, the Words of God, never changes. Therefore, we can trust in Him, and we can trust in His prophecies. These prophecies teach us what God is like and reveal His nature. The birth of Jesus the Messiah testifies to this truth.
- The birth of Jesus is a historical fact. The life of Jesus and His crucifixion are undisputed. However, many people don't believe these facts. The Israelites, God's people, didn't believe either. Why? They could only understand this truth by the light of the Holy Spirit.

**“No one can say, “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:3**

- We are able to understand God who is present by *the work of God*. The Bible is the basis of our faith and trust. Let's trust in the Words of the Bible that never change.
- What does God tell us to *see*?

## 2. See the God Who is the Almighty.

- Isaiah the prophet prophesied that the Messiah (the Savior) would be born in around BC 8. My friends, prophecy is to foretell what will happen in the future according to God's authority.

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

**Isaiah 9:6**

- The center word of the Scripture is *child*. The *child* is a special one according the following three points.

### 1) The Birth of the Child

**9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

- **The child** was born to us. It means that the purpose of His birth was clearly decided. On top of that, **the child** was said to be a boy. And, the boy was said to be given for us. The verse above prophesied these three points.
- **The child's** name reveals strange characteristics as the following.

### 2) The Name of the Child

The name was prophesied. ⇒ Its name reveals his purpose.

#### ① Wonderful Counselor

A *counselor* or a *secretary* helped a king of an absolute monarchy at that time.

**Proverbs 24:6 “Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.”**

- However, **the child** was called the Counselor even though He had authority and He also was King. It means that He was a King who didn't need a counselor. He was to be a really special person.

### ② **Mighty God**

It was very strange that **the child** was God Himself. Besides, it was said that He was the mighty God. It was revelation from God.

### ③ **Everlasting Father**

*Everlasting* refers to the whole span of time from the present time to the foundation of the kingdom of the last day.

Father refers to the guardian of the Israelites. **The child** is the One who has mercy like father rather than father himself.

### ④ **Prince of Peace**

Peace is *shalom* (Hebrews) that means health, peace and soundness. It means perfection. When *shalom* is perfectly built between man and God, *shalom* is built between him or her and another people. The personal life is also filled with *shalom*.

- These titles are really suitable for **the child**.  
The strange One does strange things as below—

## 3) **The Work of the Child**

**9:7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end, He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.**

- The terms, "his government" and "peace" are repeatedly recorded here. The Scripture records that **the child** will reign on **David's throne** and over His kingdom with **justice and righteousness**. Now let's think a little about the Israelites. It was very difficult to accept an ideal kingdom for those who lived real lives. They need *faith* to accept the future things because they have to look at them from the present time.
- It is impossible to accept it without God's help. Isaiah said, "**The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.**" The term **zeal** (*qinah* in Hebrews) originally means *jealousy*. The zeal of the Lord represents God's passion to judge. And **the zeal of the Lord** also accomplishes salvation, which is impossible to accomplish through human efforts.

\* This is the reason that Isaiah the prophet told us to **see the child**.

Now, what does God tell us to see?

## 3. **See the God Who is Compassion and Love.**

### 1) **Prophecies and Fulfillment**

**40:11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.**

- Isaiah records that God is *the shepherd* who leads His redeemed people. *The redeemed people* means people who are bought back to God. However, they were not bought back by paying money like slaves and property. God paid with the shed blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God. (The secret of God's redemption was already revealed in Chapter 35.)

- Psalm 23

23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

23:3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

- The expected time has come and Jesus came to this world and His redemption on the cross was accomplished.

**The Gospel According to John**

10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lay down his life for the sheep."

10:28 "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

## 2. Reward and Recompense

40:10 See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

- *Reward* and *recompense* are synonymous words. The Bible teaches that *reward* and *recompense* are given according to our work.

① *Reward* and *recompense* for labor

**Luke 10:7 (You) stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.**

② *Reward* and *recompense* also mean restitution.

**Exodus 22:14 If a man borrows an animal from his neighbor and it is injured or dies while the owner is not present, he must make restitution.**

- It means **to take responsibility**.

Normally, we must take our responsibility for our sins. God has completed our *restitution* through Jesus the Son of God. God Himself made *restitution*.

Isaiah prophesied as below—

**53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was cursed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him.**

- \* What an amazing thing! The coming and birth of Jesus were restitution for our iniquities which we had to pay.

## 3) How should we respond?

**Matthew**

11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

⇒ It means to respond God with simple and faithful hearts, whom

Isaiah pointed at, "See!".

**{Illustration} Fork in the Road**

- **Two American boys were going to a place where underage kids were not allowed to play. When they were walking past a church they saw a big sign that said, "The wage of sin is death."**
- **One boy said, "Hey, let's go back. That sign says, "The wage of sin is death." If we do bad things it might be like the word on that signboard."**

- **But the other boy said, “What? We are almost there. We can’t blow this chance. Come on, you are chicken-hearted. You don’t have to be scared of those words. Let’s go!”**
- **However, the first boy wouldn’t follow him and said, “I won’t go.” The other boy said, “Do what you want. I’m leaving.” Two boys left each other and went their own way. The boy who went back home prayed and repented before God in his room, “My God, please forgive me for what I have done.” Since then, the boy studied hard and his faith in God grew.  
He became a good man and later became the President of the United States. His name was S.G. Cleveland.**
- **What had happened to the other boy? He kept going his chosen way of pleasure and finally was indicted in a murder case. One day, the news of Cleveland’s presidency made headlines around the United States. An extra edition announcing his presidency was brought to a convict in a dark jail who was sentenced to death and waiting execution. As he read about his childhood friend, the prisoner remembered his words, “The wage of sin is death.”**
- **His one small step of mistake in his young days resulted in an irrevocable consequence.**

\* My dear friends. Christmas is just around the corner. Let’s trust in the Word of God with simple and faithful heart. Isaiah cried out, “See, the Lord!” and he prophesied.

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Lift Up Your Voice with a Shout”  
— See, the Sovereign Lord! —

- God spoke to the Israelites who were hopeless through Isaiah the prophet. In Isaiah 40:1, God said, “Comfort, comfort my people”. (God’s prophesy) Then, the God sent the Messiah (the Savior) on Christmas Day. God foretold about Messiah by the Old Testament through Isaiah. He is a really great God. Isaiah told us the following three points of “See”.
  1. *See* the God who is the Lord of presence.
  2. *See* the God who is the Almighty.
  3. *See* the God who is the Lord of compassion and love.

\* My friends, what do we see now?  
Do we see *Jesus* who came for our *redemption*?  
Do we see *Jesus* who came to make *recompense* on our behalf?

\* God bless you!