



Partners in Creation

Seeking Comfort in Hard Times: Making Art About What Matters

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*Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam asher kid'shanu
b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu la'asok b'divrei Torah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has made our lives holy with Your mitzvot, and commanded us to engage with the words of Torah.

Isaiah Chapter 40

Nahamu, nahamu ami - Comfort, oh comfort My people, Says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and declare to her that her term of service is over, that her iniquity is expiated; For she has received at the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice rings out: "Clear in the desert a road for the LORD! Level in the wilderness a highway for our God! Let every valley be raised, every hill and mount made low. Let the rugged ground become level and the ridges become a plain. The Presence of the LORD shall appear, and all flesh, as one, shall behold— For Adonai has spoken."

...Ascend a lofty mountain, O herald of joy to Zion; Raise your voice with power, O herald of joy to Jerusalem— Raise it, have no fear; Announce to the cities of Judah: Behold your God!

...Like a shepherd God pastures the flock: God gathers the lambs in God's arms and carries them in God's bosom; Gently God drives the mother sheep.

God gives strength to the weary, fresh vigor to the spent. Youths may grow faint and weary, and young ones stumble and fall; But they who trust in the LORD shall renew their strength. **As eagles grow new plumes: they shall run and not grow weary, they shall march and not grow faint.** (vss. 1-5; 9, 11, 29-31)

What images Isaiah does use to portray God here?

What is the relationship between comfort and joy? Comfort and strength?

Why were the people in need of comfort? Why are we?