

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“For everything there is a season... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”  
– Ecclesiastes 3:1&4

### Field

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”6 A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” 10 See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. – Isaiah 40:1-11

### Thoughts

Isaiah chapter 40 is the beginning of what theologian’s call “second Isaiah.” While the first section of Isaiah precedes the Babylonian exile, this second part occurs after the people of Judah were sent into exile in Babylonia. After the Babylonian exile, the nation of Judah is crying out to God; the trauma they face was almost unimaginable. They were forced to leave their homes, abandon their traditions and communities, and even lose loved ones along the way. As we approach one year since the first Covid-19 case in the United States, I do not have to tell you that the pandemic has wrought a similar trauma on the lives of Americans across the country and people around the world. In this holiday season, our grief is magnified as we mourn the empty chairs at the dinner table, the family members we cannot gather with or hug, and the traditions that will have to take a year off. This year, we mourn as God’s people in exile mourned.

Theologians note, however, that the defining feature of “second Isaiah” is its words of comfort from God to those are suffering, and I think these words can provide comfort and hope for us today. As our flowers fade and our grass withers, Isaiah reminds us of God’s breath. I hope this passage provides a nudge towards hope as we approach the Christmas season. While an ardent faith may not bring back the dead or undo the grief from Covid-19, our faith in God and our preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ will help us weather the storm. Happy Monday: I send hope and prayers to all of you in this holiday season.

### Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to [cindyc@loppw.org](mailto:cindyc@loppw.org)  
All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at [www.loppw.org](http://www.loppw.org)

Many Blessings upon you,  
Kyle Minden