Sermon: **Israel, why do you complain that the Lord doesn’t know your troubles or care if you suffer injustice?** (Isaiah 40.27)

Hands up if you understand how emails work? Or how heavy aeroplanes stay in the air? Not knowing these things does not stop us sending emails or flying. Same is true of God.

Traditionally Israel thought that the God had called them from Egypt to the Promised Land and was their God alone. That when enemies threatened that was because they had defaulted on the Covenant and that by turning back to God he would defeat their enemies, since God would want to and was great enough to do so.

This might be like how we see God – God is ours alone, can make us successful, and problems will go away if we pray hard enough.

TEXT written in Exile, when all was questioned. Isaiah shows a need to rethink – this is what any crisis does.

The Covenant with God is not about God making us successful, as individuals or as a church, it is not about taking the nasty experiences of life from us.

God does not promise an easy life, free from trouble, but a life worth living, where troubles shared and overcome or if not then endured.

Waitangi Day – Treaty is a Covenantal relationship, not promising an easy life, but a shared experience, where difficulties are overcome, or if not then endured.

Promises – not worth anything if are not kept, but worth everything if they are kept.

More so when the one promising wants to and can keep them. God wants to and can!

Any time of transition can be traumatic – but God is with us!

May God’s Spirit be with us through all our times of transition.