



LIVING A LIFE THAT ROCKS!

The Source Of Abundance



Jim Porterfield

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Isaiah 40;

John 10:10

Living a Life that Rocks!

❖ **John 10:10**

John 10:10 (HCSB)

A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy.

I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance.

Living a Life that Rocks!

- 1. The Source of Abundance**
- 2. In a Position to Receive**
- 3. On Wings of Faith**
- 4. Ready to Run**
- 5. Footsteps to Follow**
- 6. Standing Strong**

Living a Life that Rocks!

The Source of Abundance

John 10:10; Isaiah 40

Isaiah 40 is a song of comfort sung to God's people in a time of distress.

¹ *"Comfort, comfort My people," says your God.*

² *"Speak tenderly to [the heart of] Jerusalem,*

Isaiah 40:9b-14

⁹ ... "Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with strength, and His power establishes His rule.
His reward is with Him, and His gifts accompany Him.

¹¹ He protects His flock like a shepherd;
He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them in the fold of His garment.
He gently leads those that are nursing.

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens
with the span of his hand?

Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure
or weighed the mountains in a balance
and the hills in the scales?

¹³ Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or who gave Him His counsel?

¹⁴ Who did He consult with? Who gave Him understanding and taught Him the paths of justice?
Who taught Him knowledge and showed Him the way of understanding?

Isaiah 40:18

¹⁸ Who will you compare God with? ...

Isaiah 40:21-24

²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
Have you not considered the foundations of the earth?

²² God is enthroned above the circle of the earth;
its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like thin cloth and
spreads them out like a tent to live in.

²³ He reduces princes to nothing and makes judges of the earth irrational.

²⁴ They are barely planted, barely sown, their stem hardly takes root in the ground
when He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind carries them away like stubble.

Isaiah 40:27-30

²⁷ Jacob, why do you say, and Israel, why do you assert: "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my
claim is ignored by my God"?

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole
earth. He never grows faint or weary; there is no limit to His understanding.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Youths may faint and grow weary, and young men stumble and fall,

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ but those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength;
 they will soar on wings like eagles;
 they will run and not grow weary;
 they will walk and not faint.

THE GOSPEL OF SUPERMAN

"The Gospel of Superman" by Stephen Skelton -
 Jerry Siegel, the writer, and Joe Shuster the illustrator were Jewish immigrants. They originally created the story of Superman based on the story of Moses in scripture. But almost immediately, superman morphed into a Christ figure as additional writers added more and more characteristics from the gospels. Today, no other figure in literature other than C.S. Lewis's Aslan more closely resembles Christ in his character and purpose than does Superman, Kal El, Clark Kent.

THE AMERICAN JESUS

Zack Hunt

... I didn't see a Jesus-type character in the movie, but I did see the type of character most of us want Jesus to be.

Superman is the American Jesus.

He's the quintessential American hero who leaps over every obstacle, ignoring international boundaries to fly in to beat up the bad guy and save the day....while doing no small amount of damage along the way.....which he's apparently not responsible for.

He's the incarnation of the big, strong, good looking, take no prisoners archetype we idolize in America and which so many of us wish we could be.

He's also nothing like the real Jesus.

Superman flies in at the speed of sound, flashy red cape in tow.	The real Jesus comes in humble and meek, riding on a donkey.
Superman is invincible.	The real Jesus was pierced for our transgression and crushed for our iniquities
Superman kills his enemies or at least beats them to a bloody pulp.	When it came time for the real Jesus to confront his enemies and save the day, he died for them.

If anything, Jesus was the anti-Superman.

...
 In a lot of ways, we're just like Jesus' Jewish audience in the gospels. We're looking for someone else, something else – something bigger, better, stronger.

Jesus was a poor outcast, but we recast him as a conquering king,

...
 Don't get me wrong. There's a lot of times I wish Jesus was a lot more like Superman and would come flying in to save the day every time I need him too.

But Jesus is no man of steel. He's a man of the cross....

Zack Hunt

Jim Porterfield: Remember that when Jesus was on Earth, he was in "Clark Kent" mode - and even then he was no pacifist push-over. With a homemade whip he was able to send multitudes running in the temple market place (**John 2**). He said of himself in **Matt. 10:34** and **Luke 12:49**, "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." ... Jesus was, is, and always will be the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and Captain of angel armies.

Collateral damage? In the buildup to Armageddon 1/3rd of earth's population is wiped out (**Rev 9**), mountains crumble, kingdoms fall...

And about those enemies of His? The Armageddon valley runs bridle deep in the blood of them in the final battle (**Rev 14:20**).

With one puff from His mouth He will blow Satan into the deepest corner of hell.

When Jesus shows up in His fullness he'll make Superman look like a gnat! ...

ZackHunt: So where does the cross fit into all of that?

Jim Porterfield: In "Man of Steel" there is a moment when Clark is being threatened and mocked while he sits with his back against the fence. As the scene closes it is made obvious that, despite the fact that he did not fight back, he had more than sufficient strength to protect himself. He chose not to for the sake of a greater good. In **Matthew 26:53** Jesus assures Peter that, if Christ chose to do so, he could have had more than 12 legions (>72,000) angels at his defense. He chose not to for a greater good -- yours.

Admittedly, there are limits to how "the Man of Steel" can represent Christ. The Man of Steel was born of Kryptonian parents. Jesus was born of Father God and a Virgin. The Man of Steel never really had to die to save the world from annihilation ... Jesus did, and then He rose to life again.

Clark Kent & Jesus Christ

For a fair comparison, we'd need to compare Jesus on his 1st trip to earth with Clark Kent

From another realm.....	Creator of all realms
Special Birth.....	Virgin Birth
True Strength Hidden.....	True Strength Hidden
Doesn't stand out	Ditto
Gentle with the weak.....	Gentle with the weak
Not a weakling	Not a weakling
Somewhat controversial	Very controversial
Here for a purpose.....	Here on purpose
Willing to die for us.....	Dies for us

Superman and the King of Kings

In His fullness, Jesus more than compares with the "Man of Steel"

“Man of Steel” & “King of Kings”

Nearly Invincible Totally Invincible
 Super-human Strength..... Source of Strength
 Gentle with the weak.....Gentle with the weak
 Deadly against evil Deadly against evil
 Rejected at first.....Rejected at first
 Revered finally Revered finally
 Lives to protect us..... Lives to give us Life
 Will eventually die Lives forever

GOD is KING

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with strength, and His power establishes His rule. His reward is with Him, and His gifts accompany Him.

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand? Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in the scales?

¹³ Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or who gave Him His counsel?

¹⁴ Who did He consult with? Who gave Him understanding and taught Him the paths of justice? Who taught Him knowledge and showed Him the way of understanding?

¹⁸ Who will you compare God with? ...

²² God is enthroned above the circle of the earth; its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like thin cloth and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

²³ He reduces princes to nothing and makes judges of the earth irrational. ²⁴ They are barely planted, barely sown, their stem hardly takes root in the ground when He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind carries them away like stubble.

- ❖ Strong
- ❖ Ruler
- ❖ Creator
- ❖ All Knowing
- ❖ Incomparable
- ❖ Enthroned
- ❖ In Charge

GOD is SHEPHERD

¹¹ He protects His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them in the fold of His garment. He gently leads those that are nursing.

- ❖ Personally Involved
- ❖ He Protects
- ❖ He Embraces
- ❖ He is Gentle
- ❖ He Leads
- ❖ He Feeds
- ❖ He Shelters
- ❖ He Provides

So What?

How do God's attributes affect me?

Romans 8:35, 37-39

³⁵ *Who can separate us from the love of Christ?*

Can affliction or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, hostile powers, ³⁹ height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!*

GOD ...

- ❖ Is Strong enough to save you
- ❖ Is close enough to hear you
- ❖ Has vision enough to see your needs
- ❖ Has wisdom enough to know your thoughts
- ❖ Has love enough to mend your heart

GOD ...

- ❖ He has abundance enough to provide all your needs
- ❖ He has power enough to protect you from harm
- ❖ He has healing enough to cure your disease
- ❖ He has vision enough to direct your path

So What?

- ❖ What difference does your view of God make?

The Answer – Isaiah 40:31

³¹ **but those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength;
they will soar on wings like eagles;**

they will run and not grow weary;
they will walk and not faint.

When you know God's power, it will ...

- ❖ Renew your strength
- ❖ Give you faith to fly
- ❖ Strengthen your resolve
- ❖ Set your direction
- ❖ Fill you with hope
- ❖ Calm your fears

Symbols of Hope

❖ **Krypton's**

The symbol on Superman's chest is not an "S," it is the Kryptonian symbol for hope.

❖ **Heaven's**

We have a symbol of hope as well... It's the cross and the empty tomb. Our hope is in Christ Jesus.

Is the god whom you serve big enough to give you a life that you would describe as abundant, a Life that Rocks? Jesus is.

Closing