

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

VI. Isaiah’s Divine *Prophecies* of Consolation for **Israel** (40:1-48:22)

A. The *Pronouncement* of Judah’s time of Comfort (40:1-11)

B. The *Proclamation* of the Greatness of God (40:12-31)

1. The Immensity of God (40:12)

¹² **Who** has measured the waters in the *hollow* of His hand,
And marked off the heavens by the span,

And **calculated** the dust of the earth by the measure,
And weighed the mountains in a balance
And the hills in a pair of scales?

2. The Omniscience of God (40:13-14)

¹³ **Who** has directed the Spirit of the LORD,
or as His counselor has *informed Him*?

¹⁴ With *whom* did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding?

And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge
and informed Him of the way of understanding?

3. The Inferiority of Man (40:15-17)

¹⁵ Behold, the **nations** are like a drop from a bucket,
and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
Behold, He *lifts up* the islands like fine dust.

¹⁶ Even **Lebanon** is not enough to *burn*,
Nor its beasts enough for a *burnt offering*.

¹⁷ **All** the **nations** are as *nothing* before Him,
they are regarded by Him as *less than nothing* and *meaningless*.

4. The Futility of *Idolatry* (40:18-20)

¹⁸ To *whom* then will you liken God?
or *what likeness* will you compare with Him?

¹⁹ As for the **idol**, a **craftsman casts it**,
a **goldsmith plates it with gold**,
and a **silversmith fashions chains of silver**.

²⁰ **He** who is too **impoverished** for *such* an **offering**
selects a **tree** that does **not rot**;

He **seeks out** for himself a **skillful craftsman**
to **prepare an idol** that will **not totter**.

5. The **Preeminence** of **God** (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 understood** from the **foundations** of the **earth**?

²² It is **He** who **sits above** the **circle** of the **earth**,
and its **inhabitants** are like **grasshoppers**,

Who stretches out the **heavens** like a **curtain**
and **spreads them out** like a **tent** to **dwell in**.

²³ **He it is** who **reduces rulers** to **nothing**,
Who makes the **judges** of the **earth meaningless**.

²⁴ **Scarcely** have they been **planted**,
Scarcely have they been **sown**,

Scarcely has their **stock taken root** in the **earth**,
But **He merely blows** on **them**, and they **wither**,
and the **storm carries** them away like **stubble**.

6. The **Omnipotence** of **God** (40:25-26)

²⁵ “To **whom** then will you **liken Me**
that I would be **his equal**?” says the **Holy One**.

²⁶ **Lift up** your eyes **on high**
and **see who** has **created** these **stars**,

The **One** who **leads forth** their host by **number**,
He calls them all by **name**;

Because of the **greatness of His might** and the **strength of His power**,
Not one of *them* is **missing**.

7. The **Perception** of **God** and **Provision** of **His strength** (40:27-31)

²⁷ **Why** do you say, **O Jacob**, and **assert, O Israel**,
“**My way** is **hidden** from the **LORD**,
and the **justice** due me **escapes** the **notice** of **my God**”?

²⁸ Do you **not know**? Have you **not heard**?

The **Everlasting God**, the **LORD**, the **Creator** of the **ends** of the **earth**
Does **not** become **weary** or **tired**.
His understanding is **inscrutable**.

²⁹ He **gives strength** to the **weary**,
and to *him who lacks might* He **increases power**.

³⁰ Though **youths** grow **weary** and **tired**,
and **vigorous young men** **stumble** badly,

³¹ Yet **those** who **wait** for **the LORD**
will **gain new strength**;

they will **mount up** with wings like **eagles**,
they will **run** and **not get tired**,
they will **walk** and **not become weary**.

Message Summary—Challenge

The **fool** has **said** in **his heart**, “There is **no God**.”
(Psalm 14:1)

That being said, we have just a few questions
for the *Wise* and *Powerful* in this world:

1. **Who** do you know that is so **immense** that they can **measure** the **waters** (**all waters**) in the **hollow** of **His hand**, and **measure** the **heavens** by the **span** of **His hand** (40:12a)?
Who do you know that can **calculate** by **measure** the **dust** of the **earth**, or **weigh** the **mountains**, and the **hills** by **scales** (40:12b)?
2. **Who** among you has **directed** the **Spirit of the LORD** as to what **He** **should do**, or has been **His “guidance counselor.”** With **whom** did **God consult** to gain a better **understanding** of a matter (40:13-14a)?
Who **taught God**, the **righteous Judge** of **all the earth** (Gen. 18:25, Ps. 98:9), the **way of justice** (40:14b)?
Who among those **created by God** can **teach** the **One** who **created *them* knowledge**, and the way of **understanding** (40:14c-d)?
3. **Who** among **men**, or what has **man** developed or “**created**” that can **compare** with the **greatness** of the **eternal God**? **What** or **who** have men **lifted up**, or “**idolized**,” that can be **likened** to the **Person** and **Power** of our **Incomparable God** and **Creator** (40:18-26)?

Whose greatness has been declared for **us** to **understand** and **know** from the **beginning**, from the **foundations** of the **earth** (40:21)

Who sits above the **circle** of the **earth** (40:22a)

Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, spreading them like a tent to dwell in (40:22b)

Who reduces rulers to nothing, and makes the judges of the earth meaningless (40:23)

Who has created the stars—*leading* their host by number, *calling them* all by name (40:26)

Personal Application

***That* being said, a few questions for Believers too**

1. ***Do you* think your way is “hidden” from God, and *do you* think that He will *not* bring about the justice that is due to you (40:27)?**

He shall *bring forth* your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday (Psalm 37:6).

2. ***Do you* not know that the “Everlasting God” does *not* become weary or tired regarding *our* pain and weaknesses (40:28a)?**
3. ***Do you* realize that because He is the infinite God, *His* understanding of matters will be beyond *our* ability to understand (40:28b)?**

His understanding is inscrutable (40:28b).

4. ***Do you* not know that God gives strength to the *weary*? That *those* who “wait for the LORD,” and trust Him will “gain new strength (40:29a, 31a)?”**

For this reason I (Paul) **bow my knees** before the **Father**, from whom every **family** in **heaven** and on **earth** derives **its name**, that **He** would **grant you**, according to the **riches** of **His glory**, to be **strengthened** with **power** through **His Spirit** in the **inner man**.. (Ephesians 3:14-16)