



Week 2: Isaiah 40:12-26

GOD'S UNIQUENESS, MY STILLNESS!

In this middle portion of Isaiah 40, the Lord through Isaiah employs rhetorical questions to underscore His unparalleled sovereignty. By highlighting his dominion over both the natural world and human affairs, the Lord emphasizes his incomparable nature. Truly, there is no one like our God!

THE SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 40:12-26

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

¹³ Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?

¹⁴ Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

¹⁶ Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

¹⁹ An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains.

²⁰ He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told 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 like a tent to dwell in;

²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been somewhere that made you feel incredibly small in comparison? What was it?
2. What's something you used to worry about a lot, but now realize wasn't as big of a deal as you thought? How did your perspective change?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Glance back over Isaiah 40:1-11 from last week to refresh your memory of where we have been. In your own words what did this section of Isaiah's prophecy relate?
4. Isaiah 1:12-26 employs a series of rhetorical questions meant to teach us. How many questions can you identify in this passage? Quickly scan over Job 40:6-41:11. Do you see any similarities with this passage in either form or content?
5. As God builds a case for his incomparable greatness, Isaiah's prophecy frequently pits the Lord against contenders for our admiration and worship. Using the chart below describe in general categories what those other contenders are. Where possible use the words from the text itself. In the third column, make an effort to jot down some modern-day examples.

VERSE	COMPETITOR(S) FOR GOD'S GREATNESS	MODERN DAY EXAMPLES
15-17		
19-20		
22-23		
26		

6. In verses 13 and 14, Isaiah uses three similar words to describe a dimension of God's character. What are these words? How does understanding this aspect of God's nature bring peace and stability to your life? How do we go about leaning into this characteristic?
7. There are two specific pronouns in today's reading that have tricky referents. Studying the surrounding context determine what each pronoun refers to.

"they" (v24)

"these" (v26)

8. How can we reconcile the language concerning the nations in verse 17 with passages like Genesis 12:3 and Matthew 28:18-20, which emphasize God's loving care for all nations?
9. In what ways can recognizing God's uniqueness contribute to a sense of peace and tranquility in our lives? Does it raise other emotions within you?
10. Have you ever experienced fear or anxiety regarding world leaders or nations? How does today's passage offer solace and encourage surrender of these fears?
11. If these verses were the only verses we had in the Bible, what would they teach us about God specifically?