

GREATEST CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE-08

ISAIAH, CHAPTER 40

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Isaiah 40:1-5,9.**

“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. [2] “Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the LORD’S hand Double for all her sins.” [3] A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. [4] “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; [5] Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ... [9] Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift *it* up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

B. Isaiah 40 is one of the Bible’s most powerful chapters. It tells us of some of the attributes of God in human terms which will allow us to better comprehend Him.

D. Too many times our image of God is too small. This lesson will expand your concept of Jehovah God.

1. God has incomprehensible power.
2. God has incomparable wisdom.
3. God has in-conquerable dominance over the nations.
4. God has incredible might to strengthen His people.

II. GOD HAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE POWER.

A. Scripture texts: Isaiah 40:12,18-20,22,25,26.

B. Isaiah 40:12. A span is the distance between the thumb and little finger.

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?

C. Isaiah 40:18-20 says that man cannot make an adequate image of God.

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.

D. Isaiah 40:22 says God is above the circular earth, and to Him man is as powerful as a grasshopper. Our dwelling is temporary.

It is He who sits above the vault 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.

E. Isaiah 40:25,26 says there is none equal to God, for He has counted the stars and knows them all (none is missing).

“To whom then will you liken Me That I should 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.

III. GOD HAS INCOMPARABLE WISDOM.

A. Scripture texts: Isa. 40:13,14; 23,27; 28.

B. Isaiah 40:13,14. Who taught God to make Him so smart? He is the originator of knowledge and justice.

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?

C. Isaiah 40:23,27 says that God knows everything and will repay.

He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. [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"?

D. Isaiah 40:28 says God never gets tired and it is impossible to fathom His understanding.

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.

IV. GOD HAS IN-CONQUERABLE DOMINANCE OVER THE NATIONS.

- A. Scripture texts: Isaiah 40:15-17,21,24.
- B. Isaiah 40:15 says that this drop is like a bucket that overflows and one goes over the edges it is no burden to Him.
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.
- C. Isaiah 40:16,17 says all of the trees and beasts could not make a big enough sacrifice to please God. The nations are therefore meaningless to Him (comparing power).
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.
- D. Isaiah 40:21 says we have no excuse either by word of mouth, the written word of God, or the creation itself; they all speak of God.
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?
- E. Isaiah 40:24 says there is no real root in human judgment and wisdom, it cannot compare to God's. 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.

V. GOD HAS INCREDIBLE MIGHT TO STRENGTHEN HIS PEOPLE.

- A. Scripture text: Isaiah 40:29,30,31.
- B. Isaiah 40:29,30 says it is those who trust (wait) on the Lord that will be blessed by Him (remember the beatitudes).
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,
- C. Isaiah 40:31 says when we trust in God, we shall become like Him.
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.

VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Isaiah 40 quotations in the NT:
 - 1. Isaiah 40:3-5... Mt. 3:3; Mk. 1:3; Lk. 3:4-6; Jn. 1:23.
 - 2. Isaiah 40:6-8... 1Pet. 1:24,25.
 - 3. Isaiah 40:13... Rom. 11:34; 1Cor. 2:16.
- B. We have seen that God:
 - 1. Has incomprehensible power.
 - 2. Has incomparable wisdom.
 - 3. Has in-conquerable dominance over the nations.
 - 4. Has incredible might to strengthen His people.
- C. There is none like God, He is in a class, position, and category by Himself.
- D. Because of the great power that God has and is, we are without excuse (Rom. 1:20).