

ISAIAH 40

Who is like our God?

What comes to your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.

▶ A.W.Tozer

Saul 1051

David 1011

Solomon 971

Kingdom divides 931

Israel - 722

Judah -

586



HISTORICAL SETTING:

The Assyrian kingdom had become the most powerful nation on earth.

Tiglath-pileser had conquered all of northern Syria by 740 (date of Uzziah's death)

Assyria, under Shalmaneser, moved against Israel (725) and after a three-year siege, took the capital of Samaria (722) and carried the people into captivity.

Assyrian kings:


Tiglath-pileser III (Pul) (745-727) 1 Chron 5:26

Shalmaneser V (727-722) 2 Kings 18:9

Sargon II (722-705) Isaiah 20:1

Sennacherib (705-681) Isaiah 36:1

Esar-haddon (680-668) Isaiah 37:38



The southern kingdom of Judah had escaped when the Assyrians destroyed the Northern Kingdom, but then, some years later, the Assyrian king Sennacherib invaded the southern kingdom, conquered its cities and surrounded Jerusalem, threatening to destroy it (2 Kings 19).



God intervened and destroyed the entire Assyrian army in one night (Isaiah 37:36).

Sennacherib had to return home without an army. This weakening of the Assyrian power eventually led to their overthrow at the hands of the Babylonians.


But the Babylonians will also invade the southern kingdom of Judah. Isaiah writes to warn them, that if they do not return to the Lord from their sinful practices of idolatry and other sins, that the Babylonians would destroy them, just as the Assyrians had destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel.

Hezekiah, 13th king of Judah, ruled c. 716–686.

His reign was marked by his significant religious reforms. After King David, Hezekiah was the best king of Judah.

He witnessed the destruction of the northern Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians under Sargon II in c. 722 BC and later faced the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem by King Sennacherib in 701 BC.






Hezekiah prayed and the Lord performed a great miracle -- He destroyed the Assyrian army which had surrounded Jerusalem – 185,000 soldiers died in one night (2 Kings 19:35).

Later, when the Babylonians were coming to power, Hezekiah forgot to trust the Lord and trusted in his wealth instead.

So Isaiah gave him this warning:




`Behold, the days are coming when all that *is* in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD.

Isaiah 39:6

Isaiah 39:7

'And they shall take away *some* of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'




Isa 39:8 So Hezekiah said to
Isaiah, "The word of the LORD
which you have spoken is good!"
For he said, "At least there will be
peace and truth in my days."



Isaiah gives a prophecy of the coming Babylonian captivity.

He also gives assurance that God is not finished with Israel, but will keep all His promises to them.



The promises will not only provide comfort to believers during the Babylonian captivity, but also to people during the time of Christ, and in the future to Jewish believers in the Tribulation.




The Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.


Daniel 4:17, 25, 32,; 5:21

DESIGN OF THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

To exhort the people to place their trust in YHWH for their deliverance by predicting and historically demonstrating the judgment which falls on those who do not trust in YHWH and the blessing which comes to those who do trust in Him.



Isaiah 40:27 Why do you say, O
Jacob, and speak, O Israel: "My way
is hidden from the LORD, and my just
claim is passed over by my God "?



They have no perception of God in His greatness nor of His strategy for the ages. They have underestimated Him and judged Him by the moment of their own experience.

Instead they should judge Him rather by infinity; that is His dimension. He set the stars in space; He created the distances they require for their existence. These dwarf all ordinary concepts of human comparison.

There is no God like our God. He is infinite in His being, infinite in His power, infinite in His knowledge, infinite in His holiness, and also infinite in His love for His people.

How can anyone ever doubt that God knows, He cares, He can help. But people begin to doubt God and then look to other gods to solve their problems.

In one of the most eloquent, the most amazing passages in all the Bible, God answers our deepest questions.

Isaiah chapter 40.

Isaiah 40

- ▶ **Divided into 2 parts**

1. **40:1-11**

2. **40:12-31**

- **Each part is divided into 3 sections**

Part 1: Isaiah 40:1-11: comfort after a message of judgment

- a. Comfort from prophecy of a future kingdom (vv. 1-5)
- b. Comfort from the eternal Word of God (vv. 6-8)
- c. Comfort from proclaiming the Word (vv. 9-11)

Part 1: Isaiah 40:1-11

Section 1: Isa 40:1-5: God tells Isaiah to comfort the people by telling them of the glorious future God has planned for them in the kingdom.

Isaiah 40:1

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God.

The command to comfort is repeated, showing intensity. God keeps on saying this. How can people be comforted when disaster has just been announced? By knowing the covenant promises of God.

Isaiah 40:1-2

"Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins."

Cf., Isaiah 61:7

Isaiah 40:3

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the LORD; Make
straight in the desert a highway for our
God.

Isaiah 40:4

⁴ Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

Isaiah 40:5

⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see *it* together; For the
mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Part 1, Section 2: Isaiah 40:6-8:

Comfort from the eternal Word of God.

Man is transitory. Men will come and men will go, but the Word of the Lord endures forever.

God has a plan and it will be fulfilled.

Isaiah 40:6

6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?"

"All flesh *is* grass, And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field.

Isaiah 40:7-8

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
because the breath of the LORD blows
upon it; surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but
the word of our God stands forever."


Part 1, Section 3: Isaiah 40:9-11

Comfort from proclaiming the Word (vv. 9-11)


In Isa 40:9-11: he tells them that they ought to be proclaiming to the world this mighty God and the marvelous plan He has for His people.

Isa 40:9-11

O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift *it* up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"



¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD shall come
with a strong *hand*, And His arm shall
rule for Him; Behold, His reward *is* with
Him, And His work before Him.




¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, *And* gently lead those who are with young.



WHO IS LIKE OUR GOD?

Part 2. Isaiah 40:12-31

- a. No one is like our God! (vv. 12-19)
- b. No one is like our God! (vv. 20-26)
- c. Application (vv. 27-31)



The first two sections in part 2 are parallel to each other, both proclaiming one central truth: there is no one like our God.

The third section gives us the application: we have absolutely no excuse for complaint, for our God has made perfect provision for every situation in life.

Part 2: Section 1: Isaiah 40:12-20


Who is like our God?

Three portraits

- 1. Omnipotent Creator verse 12**
- 2. Omniscient Lord verses 13-14**
- 3. Sovereign over all verses 15-17**

Portrait #1 – Isaiah 40:12

- ▶ **Our God is the omnipotent creator.**
- ▶ Omnipotent = all powerful



▶ Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

(Isa 40:12)

Note the three verbs in verse 12:

He measured

He calculated

He weighed



**He measured the
waters in the hollow
of His hand**



He measured heaven with a span



He
calculated
the dust of
the earth in a
measure



He weighed the
mountains in
scales

and the hills in
a balance



Portrait #2 – Isaiah 40:13-14

He is the Omniscient Lord

- ▶ Omniscient = all knowing

Portrait #2 – Isaiah 40:13-14:

Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or *as* His counselor has taught Him? ¹⁴ With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?



▶ Note the verbs here:

▶ Who has **directed**, who has **taught**,

▶ who has **counseled**, who has **instructed**,

▶ who has **taught** and **showed** Him

Portrait #3 – Isaiah 40:15-17

He is the Sovereign over all.

Sovereign = supreme ruler;
not subject to any other authority.

Portrait #3 – verses 15-17

¹⁵ Behold, the nations *are* as a drop in a bucket,
And are counted as the small dust on the scales;
Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.

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

¹⁷ All nations before Him *are* as nothing, And
they are counted by Him less than nothing and
worthless.

Note the descriptions:

drop in a bucket	dust
a very little thing	insufficient
nothing	less than nothing
worthless	

A drop from a
bucket



Counted as the
small dust on
the scales.

Isaiah 40:15



Isaiah 40:16

And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn,
nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt
offering.

Forests of Lebanon





Isaiah 40:17

All nations before Him *are* as nothing,
and they are counted by Him less than
nothing and worthless.

Psalm 33:10

- ▶ The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.

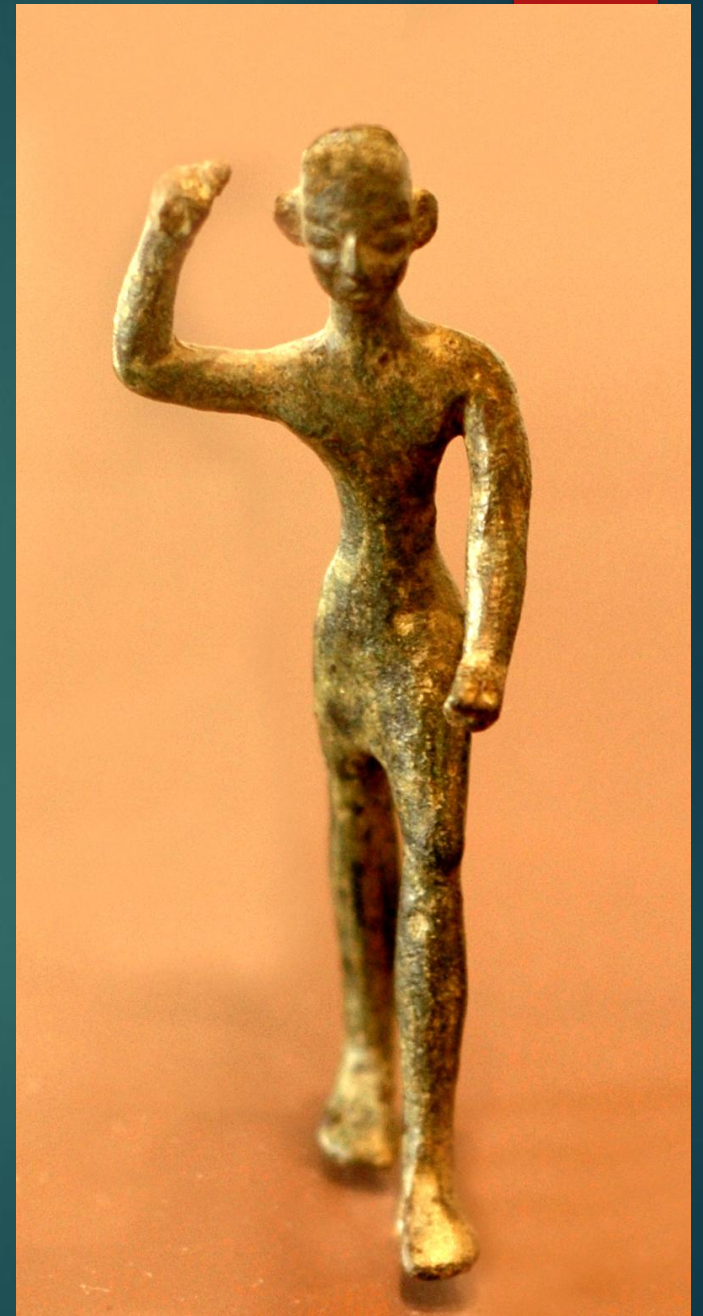
Our God is incomparable – Isaiah 40:18-20

18 To whom then will you liken
God? Or what likeness will you
compare to Him?

Isaiah 40:19-20

¹⁹ The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains.

²⁰ Whoever *is* too impoverished for *such* a contribution Chooses a tree *that* will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image *that* will not totter.



**Part 2: section 2: verses 21-26.
(Parallel to verses 12-20)**

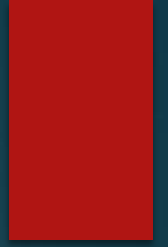
Who is like our God?

No one!


Three facts about God known from the beginning (Isaiah 40:21-26)

- ▶ Fact #1: Our God sovereignly rules over His creation.
- ▶ Fact #2: He rules sovereignly over earthly rulers, over the powers on this earth.
- ▶ Fact #3: our sovereign God knows the universe intimately and sustains it.

(Isaiah 40:21) 4 questions



- ▶ Have you not known?
- ▶ Have you not heard?
- ▶ Has it not been told you from the beginning?
- ▶ Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?



For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Romans 1:20

3 facts about God, known from the beginning (Isaiah 40:21-26)

Fact #1: Our God sovereignly rules over His creation.

Isaiah 40:22

*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.*




He 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.



Fact #2: He also rules sovereignly over earthly rulers, over the powers on this earth.

Isaiah 40:23-24

He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.




"Is not this great Babylon, that **I** have built for a royal dwelling by **my** mighty power and for the honor of **my** majesty?" (Dan 4:30).



While the word *was still* in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven:

"King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken:
the kingdom has departed from you!
(Dan 4:31).



And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that **the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.**"
(Dan 4:32).

Isaiah 40:23:

He brings the princes to nothing; He
makes the judges of the earth useless.

Isaiah 40:23:

He brings the princes to nothing; He
makes the judges of the earth **useless**.

Isaiah 40:24

Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.



Isaiah 40:25

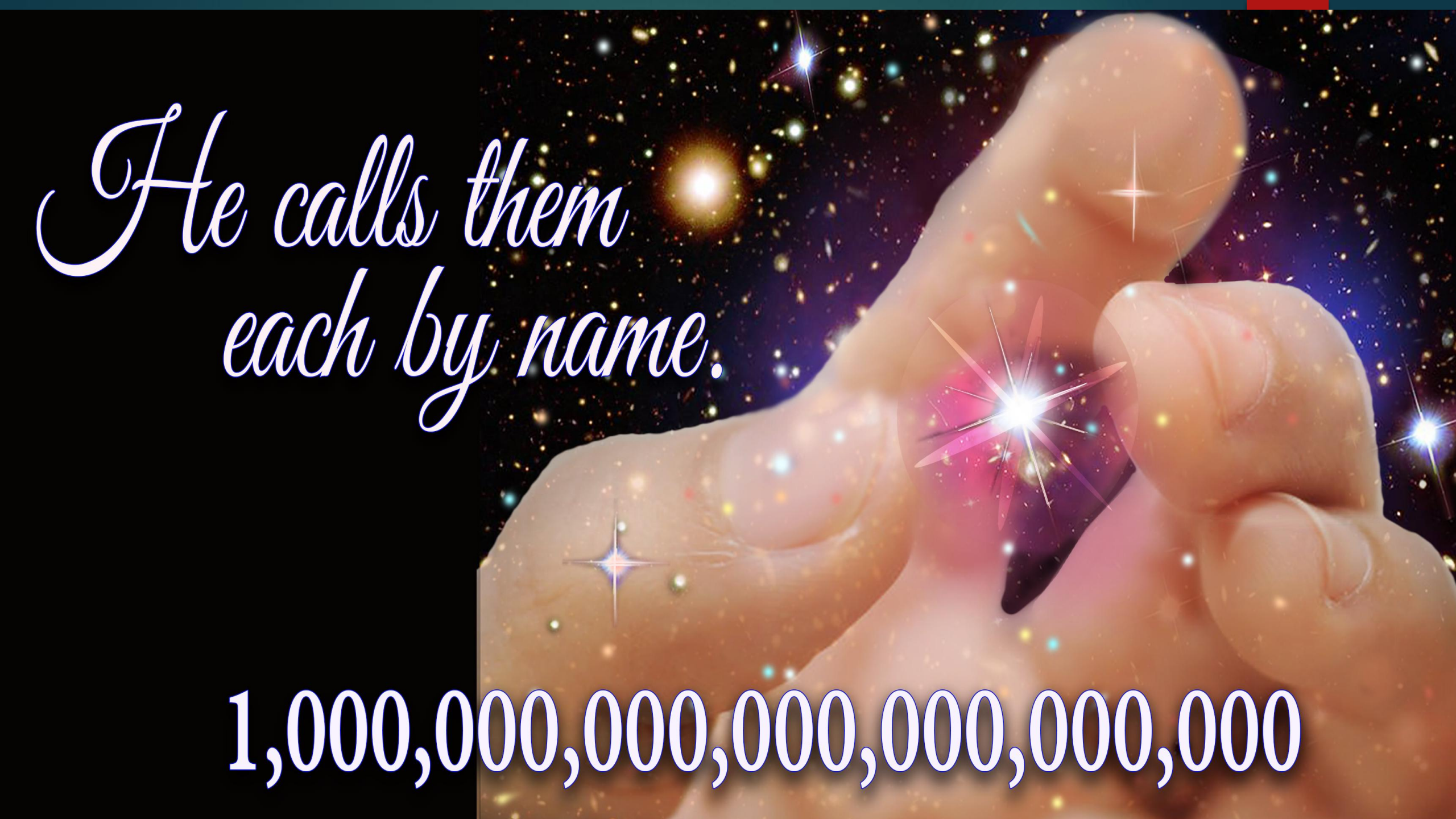
To whom then will you liken Me, Or *to whom* shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.



**Fact #3: our sovereign God
intimately knows the universe and
sustains it.**

Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one is missing.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a bright, multi-pointed pink star. The background is a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, distant stars. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the thumb and index finger holding the star. The star has a bright white center and radiating pink and purple points. The overall scene is illuminated with a soft, warm light, creating a magical and celestial atmosphere.

*He calls them
each by name.*

1,000,000,000,000,000,000



**By the greatness of His might and the strength
of *His* power not one is missing.**

Part 2, Section 3 – Isaiah 40:27-31

- ▶ **Application of the chapter:**
- ▶ **God will supply everything we need under every circumstance of life.**

Isaiah 40:27

Complaints

Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak,
O Israel: "My way is hidden from the
LORD, And my just claim is passed
over by my God "?

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Questions repeated from verse 21

- ▶ Have you not known?
- ▶ Have you not heard?

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD, The
Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither
faints nor is weary. His understanding is
unsearchable.

Isaiah 40:28

▶ THE EVERLASTING GOD

- ▶ Our God is eternal
- ▶ Our God is the omnipotent Creator
- ▶ Our God is the sovereign Lord



THE LORD, יהוה!

YAHWEH – the self existent one, the self-sustaining one, the covenant keeping God.



▶ **THE CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE
EARTH,**



▶ **NEITHER FAINTS NOR IS WEARY.**

▶ Our God is omnipotent




▶ **HIS UNDERSTANDING IS
UNSEARCHABLE**

▶ The LORD is omniscient.

Isaiah 40:29

He gives power to the weak, And to
those who have no might **He**
increases strength.



And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Cor 12:9

Isaiah 40:30

Even the youths shall faint and be
weary, And the young men shall
utterly fall

Isaiah 40:31


But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew *their* strength;

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength

- ▶ Waiting on the Lord implies dependence on God and a willingness to allow him to decide the terms. They who wait on the Lord will be able to overcome natural drawbacks, endure with energy to spare, and keep on living without being overcome.
- ▶ Whatever God gives you to face will never be too great. 1 Corinthians 10:13.



No temptation [testing] has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted [tested] beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

1 Cor 10:13

**But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew *their* strength**

The Hebrew verb translated “*renew*” suggests an exchange of strength -- our inadequate strength for His abundant strength.

Isaiah 40:31

**They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.**

PROMISES

as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:3)

God makes promises

- ▶ Look for the rationale behind the promise.
- ▶ A promise is no better than the one who makes it.
- ▶ The character of God stands behind every promise

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Psalms 55:22

Cast your burden on the LORD,
And He shall sustain you; He
shall never permit the righteous
to be moved.

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You. ⁴ Trust in
the LORD forever, For in YAH, the
LORD, *is everlasting strength.*

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:37

in all these things we are more than
conquerors through Him who loved
US.

Romans 8:38-39

- ▶ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 37:4-5

- ▶ Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires
of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way
to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And
He shall bring *it* to pass.

1 Peter 5:7


Casting all your cares on Him for
He cares for you.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, **for He who promised *is* faithful.**

- 
- ▶ You need to know the One who has promised.
 - ▶ Who is like our God?
 - ▶ **No one!**

-- End --

