

Isaiah 40:18-31

“God Sees You”

Isaiah has been insisting we get a grip on the greatness of God. Take time to “Behold” Him. To meditate *upon* Him, think *about* Him. He’s brought into focus for us His omnipotent unmatched power, His omniscient unrivaled wisdom. Yet He’s rich in mercy, leads & feeds the sheep of His hand tenderly. He doesn’t despise the weak but draws us near to His heart whereby He comforts us gently/lovingly. Look back at Vs 13.

Vs 13-14

You get the idea, don’t you? * There is no one equal to our God! There are none like Him, none who are beside Him. – He didn’t consult w/*me* when He created the heavens & the earth! He didn’t ask *my* advice when it came to establishing the boundaries of the sea or when He decided to suspend the earth on nothing! He didn’t seek my counsel when it came to the course of Divine intervention into the affairs of man (solving the sin dilemma) creating a way by which we might be saved! I’ve *never* (though I’ve tried, we spoke about that) directed the Spirit of the Lord. Never have I counseled Him, taught Him, instructed Him, shown Him the path of justice (what the right thing is to do in a given situation). I’ve never imparted knowledge unto God or shown Him the way of understanding...

Oh, how it should well up in our hearts. Think about it. Does it really surprise you? Is it a shock that it would ring out through the writings of the apostle Paul? The awe & wonder of it all... *“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?’”*¹ Ladies & gentlemen, if this truly took root in our heart, if it got a proper grip on us, we couldn’t stop ourselves from falling on our faces & worshiping God w/all that we are!!! *

All the military might of every nation is as nothing before Him. They are counted by Him as *less* than nothing & worthless.

Vs 18-20

So after this extensive effort to help us understand the might, the majesty as well as the tender mercy & intimacy of our God, Isaiah says, “To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?” Family, I want you to be grounded in the fact that we just don’t know a whole lot about God. What we do know of Him is limited to what He’s chosen to reveal of Himself to us through His word.

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ro 11:33-34). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& I'm of the persuasion that of all that there is to know about Him, He's hasn't told us very much. In fact, I believe that eternity may not be enough time (counter intuitive statement, I know) to learn all that there is to know of our God. & Truth be told, of what God *has* revealed, we can't even comprehend all of *that!* (Everywhere at 1 time, 3 in 1...)

Now Isaiah brings into focus for us the absurdity of idolatry. Trying to form or fashion a likeness of your god that you might bow before it, render worship to it. The reality (however) is that idols are representations created/crafted by man. Regardless of how ornate, how incredible the craftsmanship, the value of the materials, you cannot capture the essence of God. – He says, “What are you gonna do, get a workman to mold it, a goldsmith to overlay it w/gold?” Is that how you're going to represent God?

* Do you honestly think you're going to capture the worthiness, the holiness, the glory & the wonder of who God is through the craft of some man's hands? That's what the pagan nations around them were doing? It's what many pagan nations in the world still do to this day! Yet we read in the book of Exodus, “*Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?*”²

It's impossible to compare our God to the “gods of the nations”. To try & capture His image, His essence through something man has formed or fashioned. But people do this, even to this day. They will bow & pray before a carved or molded image of Jesus on a cross. Or people will think that some kind of relic contains power. Yet when the apostle Paul was addressing the men of Athens at the Areopagus he said, “*we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.*”³ There is nothing that man can conceive or create that would in any way be able to capture the glory & majesty of God!

It's interesting, isn't it? The Bible teaches that God has created man in *His likeness*, after *His* image. But then man turns around, forsakes the true & living God & fashions a god after *his own* image & after *his own* likeness. You have eyes, nose, a mouth. Hands & feet. & So man will fashion his gods w/eyes, nose, mouth, hands, feet... But it goes beyond that. Man has sinful appetites, therefore (conveniently enough) the gods of men, revel & delight, in fact are *worshipped* through sinful activities. So, you have all these pagan gods who approve every kind of sin that man can fathom. Because man needs approval to justify his actions.

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ex 15:11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ac 17:29). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

So, he fashions a god who approves *of*, is worshiped *through* his perversion or his wickedness or his greediness, his debauchery or lewdness. *

But the folly, the foolishness of idolatry. Leave Isaiah 40, turn w/me to Psalm 115 (Vs1-8).

* David, (like Isaiah) is exposing the foolishness of worshipping anything, anyone short of the True & Living God. He speaks here of a truth that the word of God expresses again & again & that is this. We become like our (g)God. We don't *become* gods, but we become *like* God. This is one reason why it's so critical that we worship the True God.

If not, your (g)od may have eyes, but it can't see. Ears, it can't hear, a mouth, it can't speak. Hands, it can't handle. & Those who worship them (trust them) are like them. Blind to the things of God, deaf to the voice of God, unable to walk w/God (you get the idea)...

Of course, the plus side to that is that if you worship the true God, (rather than some false god of your imagination), then you become like *Him*. You'll have a heart for holiness, for righteousness, you'll be merciful, gracious, full of love & compassion. You'll speak the truth & stand firm for what's right, be an individual of integrity, who is slow to anger & quick to forgive. Of course, none of these things happen overnight & they develop at different rates in our lives because we're different people w/different areas that need greater attention. But this is why it's so important that our heart is set on the Lord. That we have no other gods before Him, that we worship only Him & Him only shall we serve. *

Perhaps you're thinking, "No problem pastor. I've never bowed before an idol & in all honesty little trinkets like that kinda creep me out!" Listen, this doesn't simply apply to trinkets of gold, stone or wood in the fashion & form of a being. We worship all kinds of things. People worship money, they worship power, they worship fame, they worship sex, they bow at the altar of substance abuse. If you don't humble yourself & bow before the True & Living God then you're forced to bow before some kind of idol or object of worship that's false, unworthy of honor & power & blessing, worship & praise. Man is compelled to worship; it's written into the fabric of who we are. It's not a question of *if* we will worship, it's only what or *who* we will worship.

How many of you remember the account of Jacob working for Laban? Laban was always ripping him off & it finally came to pass (after years & years) Jacob had had enough. He decided to pack up his family & leave... Of course, Laban pursued him & eventually overtook him. When he began to rail on Jacob, one of his chief complaints was that he accused Jacob of stealing his gods! (Rachel had, but Jacob didn't know that).

But think about how that sounds! What kind of god can be stolen? – Some of you may have that kind of god here today. You might leave the church & your god has been stolen off the lot! 😊 But notice. Here Isaiah even gives these “gods” various classes. If you’re rich, you have an expensive god, if you’re poor, or you’re going through a rough patch financially, you have a cheap god! You go grab a piece of cedar or something, try to have it fashioned from that... 😊 Come let us *reason* together says the Lord, the absurdity of idolatry.

If you have to form/fashion or create your god, it’s no god. If you have to create a base so it won’t fall over, it’s no god. If you have to support it, it certainly can’t support you. If it depends on your care for it, you certainly can’t depend on *it* to care for you!

Vs 21-26

Isaiah hits the same question from 4 different angles in Vs 26 alone! In our modern colloquialism we’d say it like this, “Hello! Is anyone home? How can you *not know these things*?” He’s chiding them for losing sight of what he considers to be basic/common knowledge! He’s essentially saying, “I can’t believe you don’t know this! Open your eyes! It’s so plain, so obvious! The creativity, enormity, complexity, variety & majesty of creation. It *screams* bearing witness to a marvelous Creator!” David said the same thing in Ps 19. He said, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.”*⁴

Paul picked up on this principle & put it this way, *“because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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,”*⁵ The glory of creation testifies to the greatness of our Creator...

He’s not *a part* of creation (like gold/silver or something precious to man in that way) He’s beyond it, sets *above* it. He stretches out the heavens like a curtain... We have to admit, Isaiah’s argument/amazement is well placed! – * It’s difficult to fathom how anyone can look at the glory, the design so *evident* in creation & fail to understand that there *must* be a great/glorious *Designer* behind it all!

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 19:1–4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁵ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ro 1:19–20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

It always blows my mind, how there can be a disconnect in people's minds when it comes to this simple principle. There is nothing, no vehicle, no article of clothing, no home, business, trinket, electronic device, pair of shoes... nothing that doesn't testify of design which necessitates a designer. **How simple is a shirt? Yet not one shirt anywhere on this planet just happened to "evolve" out of some kind of material & someone just stumbled upon it. Every shirt (of the billions of shirts) was designed & created.**

But somehow people genuinely believe that something as infinitely more complex as the human body (the way the eye works, the nervous system, reproductive system, cardiovascular system etc.) just happened by random chance & we got here through a process of natural selection. **Not true for your phone, your computer, your car, your shoes or anything else you can think of... only true for the single most complex thing on the planet... living beings. Now, there are no transitional forms & it's not happening today so... evidently everything eventually just contented themselves as a species & decided being a fish is fine now or whatever... Do you see how ludicrous this is, if you reject the truth you have to accept the lie.**

The truth is that this universe & every aspect of it, didn't evolve but was carefully, meticulously & intentionally created by our Creator. It's a biblical doctrine. If you don't believe it, you don't believe your bible! * "In the beginning God *created* the heavens & the earth." John said it this way, ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."***⁶ Paul put it like this, ***"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."***⁷

"He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless." It's not only inanimate creation that God resides over. He's over every power of man on the earth! When someone is in power, it's easy for them to be (we say) "full of themselves", think more highly of themselves than they ought. Isaiah says, "They're nothing before God. He blows on them & they wither away..." Of all the judges who have ever lived, all the king's princes that have been in power, how many can you name? God raises a man up & sets a man down. They're nothing apart from His allowance...

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Jn 1:1-3). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Col 1:16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Btw, we should see that God is warning us here, not place too much stock in political leaders, judges, supreme court nominees... As if your hope will be realized in this person or that person. It's not going to happen. There's no perfect politician. Things will falter & flounder until Jesus reigns over all the earth.

W/regard to Vs 26, we spoke in our previous section of scripture about the vastness of the heavens. The countless billions upon billions of stars & how that God not only knows the exact number of them, He has a name for each one of them. & Believe me when I tell you that if God knows the name of each & every star, He knows your name as well... He knows exactly who you are. In Jn Ch 10 Jesus says that He knows His sheep & calls them by name & leads them out... & * The same God who numbers & names the stars can help you & heal your broken heart (Ps 147:3-4).

The question is this. To what, or to whom are you going to turn for help in your time of need? When you have a problem, when you're in trouble, who or what do you run to? People turn to all kinds of things, they run from their problems, find a pathway of escape so they don't have to face reality. People escape into movies, into games, into books or some kind of entertainment, they party, or drown their woes in alcohol.

Or perhaps as it pertains to advice, who do you look to? It's funny how we like to treat things like that. If you're looking for a divorce (simply because you're unsatisfied w/your spouse), you probably won't go to people who share w/you the truth of God's word. You'll find people who tell you what you want to hear & say, "I knew it, that's what I thought to!" I know people who are into philosophy, they're always quoting to me some (what they consider to be) some deep seated perspective on life & living. But it always seems to be from some secular source, why not go to the wisdom of the word of God? Why place your trust in the words of some frail, finite human like yourself when you could trust in the Word of the Omnipotent, Omniscient Eternal Creator!

Vs 27-28

Are you following the flow here? After all this time spent establishing the greatness & glory of God, now he applies it so that we understand that God is not removed from His creation in the sense that He's uncaring or inconsiderate, but rather He *sees you* & He desires to impart hope & help to you.

Why do you say... & speak in this way, "My way is hidden from the Lord, & my just claim is passed over by my God"? What's the take home here?

* There is no detail of your life that's hidden *from* God, & no part of it that's neglected *by* God. – How common it is for people to think that God doesn't see them, that they've been "passed over" *by* Him. That is, they think they're getting away w/their sin. Man has a tendency to interpret the patience of God for the *approval* of God, or worse yet, the *ignorance* of God. Either God doesn't *know*, or God doesn't *care*.

It's interesting when you read through the book of Rev Ch's 2-3. A couple of things surface (outside of all the individual details surrounding each church). 1 Is that Jesus says to each of them is "I know..." The idea being, "I know the good, the bad & the ugly of your life. I know 'this' is what it looks like outwardly, but 'this' is what's happening in your life in reality." The Lord knows the "secret sins", the hidden shame of our lives. The next thing He says to every church is, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches..." Again, the idea is this, "I see *specifically* what's happening in your life, now you need to hear Me, respond appropriately in repentance." Don't mistake the patience of God for the approval or ignorance of God. He's aware of the details, the otherwise hidden aspects of our lives. * – Now, you can come *here*, that I can show up *here* & no one is the wiser pertaining to the struggles that are in our midst. Be it w/drinking, or pornography, the way we speak or talk when we're in our home's privacy. But listen, "Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You."⁸ Simply put? There's no where we can hide from the sight of God!

We spoke a few minutes ago of things people turn to for escape. Do you realize that over 30% of all data transferred across the internet is pornography? Worldwide the porn industry generates about \$100 billion annually. (More than the MLB, NBA & NFL combined). That tells me that it's more than probable that there are those here today who have problems w/this vice.

Yet God is merciful, He gives us room to repent. But people will interpret God's patience for God's approval. He must be ok w/it.

Or on the other side of the coin, we can (perhaps) not think that God's not aware of it. We think, "My way is hidden from the Lord." It's not.

Or perhaps this isn't you at all. You're not thinking your way is hidden from the Lord... You're leaning into this one, "My just claim is passed over by My God." We're hurting, we've been done wrong but we've done nothing wrong & we begin to feel like God has somehow overlooked us, forgotten us.

⁸ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Ps 139:12]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

We've somehow managed to believe in the infinite power of God & at the same time feel like He's unable to meet our personal needs. But everything that Isaiah has been preaching & proclaiming demonstrates the meticulous care of God's control, not the *absence* of it... He never faints, He doesn't grow weary, His understanding is unsearchable.

Vs 29-31

If these words aren't underlined in your bible, you need to make it so. God is not limited in time, in energy or in understanding.

& Since God *never* grows weary, He can give strength to any & all, as much as needed moment by moment & He'll never run out. Think of it like this. I can give you money, but not much, then I'm totally depleted. God isn't like that; He has an unending storehouse of strength. He can give & give & give & never grow weary.

But He has chosen to limit the imparting of His strength to a specific demographic, did you notice that? You have to "qualify" to share in His strength & in His power. & It's not through athletic prowess, academic achievement, or business accomplishments... If you're "self-sufficient" you'll receive no help from God. God gives power to... the *weak*. & To those who have *no might* He increases strength. (This is where you write it down so you can read it later, 2 Cor 12:7-10) **(Close)**

To trust in natural ability will only result in failure, "Even the youths shall faint & be weary, & the young men shall utterly fail." It's not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord... "Those who *wait upon the Lord* shall renew their strength." This word, "renew" speaks of an exchange. Taking off one garment & putting on another. We swap our weakness for His power, our lack for His strength. Yesterday's sufficiency for today's...

& Let me say this. * To "wait" upon the Lord isn't passivity. Sitting idly as though waiting at a bus stop. Think of a top tier restaurant, wait staff literally just beyond reach of your table. "Waiting" on your every need. They refill your glass after a couple of sips. A few crumbs hit the table, they lift your plate & clean off the area. They see a need, they meet a need, they're "waiting" on you. They're active, they're attentive.

Imagine never needing to express a need in a bulletin. Or send out a memo from the C.M. or wherever because everyone is "waiting on the Lord", serving Him through serving one another in love...

& I'm not suggesting that the church building is the only place you wait on the Lord. But you understand what I'm saying. We're here, let's serve the Lord in serving one another...

Now, I realize that some people are in a place where they need to heal, need to grow, need to root in a little bit, but most of us should be about serving one another in the name of J.C. Edifying one another, glorifying God.

It's as we do these kinds of things (serve the Lord, here, at work, at home...) that He increases our strength, renews our strength. That we might be about our Master's business, running the race to win, finishing well.

Prayer Points:

Father, what an incredible passage of scripture You've brought us to, & brought us through. What precious promises we have in Your word. We thank You that far from being disinterested & removed *from* us, You care *for* & add strength *to* us. Your grace is sufficient to Save us & Sustain us, & we give You praise.

Maybe you're in that place today. You need God's saving grace to come flooding into your life because you're w/out hope being w/out God in the world. God loves you, Christ died for you. Paid the penalty for your sin out of His great love for you. Turn from your sin, believe on Him today & be saved.