

Part II, Lesson 3

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Our
Incomparable
God

Isaiah
40:12-20

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 3

Our Incomparable God

In today's lesson, we will hear some of Isaiah's best words about God. He is pointing out that there is no one like God...NO ONE! Read Isaiah 40:12-20. Isaiah lists several questions to which the answer is always the same. The reader then and the reader now must answer: "No one but God," or "No One."

Add up all the water in the rivers, ponds, lakes, streams and oceans. Get it measured. Who measures all that in the palm of His hand? Well, no one but God.

Look from East to West. Use a telescope, even. If you want the heavens measured; if you want to know how far that is, God will measure it for you. He will stretch out His hand and tell you the distance, using His thumb and little finger. No one but God can do that.

Ask someone to fill a basket with all the dirt in the earth. It will take a really big basket. Who can do that? No one but God.

Find a scale big enough to weigh a mountain, or strong enough to weigh a hill. Now, pick it up and put it on the scale. What? Impossible? Well yes, or is it? God can do that.

Now it gets personal. The prophet asks, "O K, which of you is God's teacher? Who gives God advice? Who tells Him what to do? Who has God ever called and asked for guidance?" There is only one answer to those questions, No one...absolutely no one.

Isaiah asked, "To which law school did God go to learn about justice? To which internet site did God go to get all His knowledge? Who was God's guide on the path to wisdom and understanding?" Again, no human would speak up and say, "I did that for God." God didn't get any of His understanding of justice, immeasurable knowledge or infinite wisdom from anyone outside Himself.

So, we can draw a conclusion here: God doesn't need any help from anyone or anything to be who He is, or what He is, or how He is.

Some have called the words in this poem, verses 12-31, majestic. We might add grand and magnificent. It moves forward to a climax which we will study in our next lesson. Isaiah did what many good writers do. They consider their subject and are guided by the subject to write words that they might not have when inspired by another subject. In this case, Isaiah is inspired by God whom he had seen "high and exalted" sitting on a throne in the Temple. That was in chapter six, verse one.

He goes on with his description of the incomparable God. He is telling the people that there is nothing on earth with which one can compare God. It is important to know that at this time nations were judged by their armies as well as the amount of territory they held. At this point in time, Babylon was the super-power of the world. Babylon controlled most of the territory east and northeast of the Mediterranean Sea. People were in awe of the great Babylonian empire. Other nations were afraid of them.

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 3

Our Incomparable God

But Isaiah says that even the great nations don't raise the level of the water in the bucket. They weigh no more than a speck of dust on a scale. Actually, what he is saying is that these great nations amount to less than nothing.

Compared to the greatness of God, the creator of all things, these mighty nations, so feared by Judah, are less than nothing. If only the people could see it. God, who can measure all the water on earth, all the contents of the sky, even weigh the mountains, should be so much more feared and respected than the nations that hardly register on God's scale.

Considering His greatness, humans should offer up sacrifices of praise, and pleas for forgiveness. But how can that be done? There is not enough on earth to present a worthy sacrifice to God.

Isaiah said if you cut down all the great trees of the giant forests of Lebanon, there would not be enough wood to make an altar fire big enough. He said that if you could gather together all the animals and use them as sacrificial offerings there would not be enough.

What a predicament. God is willing for, in fact He wants His people to come to Him. He invites them to trust Him and follow His ways, but people are not willing.

And, finally, in verse seventeen, we see again from God's viewpoint. Add all the military power, all the treasures, all the kings and princes and all the people of these great nations and when God sees it, He sees a little more than nothing. They are of no value to Him at all.

Now, does that mean that God does not care about the people of the nations? Absolutely not! He cares a great deal. As a matter of fact, we know now that He cares so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and that someday He is going to make a new earth for all His children to live in.

What we need to see here is that any threat on earth, whether it is a great nation with great armies, or the weight of a mountain, is nothing to fear from God's point of view. Nothing is a threat to God. He not only made it all, He controls it all.

What a great comfort this should have been to Israel as they looked to the future. They might not have been the most powerful nation, and certainly weren't the largest, but with God as their guide and protector, they were safe from harm.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Page Three

Scripture Memory: "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?" Isaiah 40:12a

Lesson Goal: To give the student some understanding of the greatness and power of God.

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 3

Our Incomparable God

Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. What are the things that Isaiah said God measures?
2. O K, which of you is God's _____? Who gives God _____? Who _____ what to do? Who has God ever called and asked for _____?
3. God didn't get any of His understanding of _____, immeasurable _____ or infinite _____ from anyone outside Himself.
4. What is the conclusion we draw from the things above?
5. What two things does Isaiah say show the greatness of the nations before God?
6. Nothing is a threat to God. He not only _____ it all, He _____ it all.

Page Four

Scripture Memory: "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked of the heavens?" Isaiah 40:12a

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.