

Part II, Lesson 4

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Do
You
Know?

Isaiah
40:21-31

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

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Do You Know?

We begin with a question today...actually four questions. Read Isaiah 40:21-24.

The writer here is building up to a great climax at the end of this chapter. He is a great poet using words to tell, as best he can, the glory and power of God. He uses the questions to get their attention. The questions are to point out what the reader should already know. The things that follow are things that had been known from the beginning of time...Adam and Eve knew them in the Garden of Eden. They are things that should have been understood from the time the world was created.

So, what is it that should have been common knowledge? God is above everything. Now when Isaiah wrote this, people thought that the earth was flat, and that the sky covered the earth like an umbrella. So Isaiah pictures God as sitting above the umbrella on His throne. When God looks down and sees people, they look like grasshoppers. In Isaiah's mind, that is how great God is...He is above everything.

We know that he was right, and that God is even greater than that. Actually, God is not only above us, He is beyond us. That means that not only is He great because He is high over the earth, He is great because He is over the universe...over everything we know anything about. Not only that, but He knows everything, hears and sees everything, lives in eternity not affected by time, and is eternal...that is, He cannot die. Now, that's beyond us.

Isaiah said that God created the heavens for us. All creation is for humans. The dome over earth is like a great circus tent in which humans live.

Then Isaiah says that God sees the rise of rulers. This may be a reference to the kings and other rulers of Babylon. God watches them as they take over their responsibilities. They appear to God as seed planted in the ground. They take on the job of ruling the people...like seeds sprouting roots and pushing up out of the earth. But as soon as they show themselves, the hot wind blows and they wilt. God has no more problem doing away with kings than the hot east wind blowing across the desert has in killing fragile plants.

The Hebrew slaves in Babylon had watched the powerful kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar wilt away and the Medes and Persians just walked in and took over.

Isaiah is telling his readers, and this was a sermon before it was written down, that God is greater than anything that the people know about. He is more powerful and more glorious than anyone or anything else.

Next we read a word directly from God Himself. Read Isaiah 40:25, 26. God asks, "To whom will you compare me?" This is a challenge. Can humans find anything that they can compare to God?

Who or what can possibly equal God? God says look up into a clear sky at night. Look at all the stars. Now, humans who would want to see a sky like Isaiah or one of his friends might see it would have to get out into the country where there are no city lights to dim the stars. What one sees at a time like that is stars

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that almost touch one another. Millions of stars. And, what you could see would be only a very small part of the universe. There are billions and billions of stars. And, God created every one. Not only that, Isaiah said that God knows each star by name.

Finally, Isaiah said that not only did God create them, and name them, He keeps them in place with His power. So not a single star is missing. Obviously, God counts and checks off the name of each falling star.

We come back to a question for Israel. Read Isaiah 40:27-31.

Isaiah quoted the people as complaining that God was not paying them any attention. And, Isaiah responded with the two questions with which we began this lesson, and in beautiful language painted a picture of hope.

First, he said that they needed to remember that God is not just here today and gone tomorrow. He is always here...everlasting.

Second, He is the one who brought everything into being...creator.

Third, He never gets tired...never grows weary.

Fourth, He is the source of strength for all of us...all powerful.

Isaiah reminded the people of the source of their hope. He said that even those who are young get tired. Older persons may get tired, even more quickly than children. However, even the strongest worker, even the best trained long-distance runner, and even a child after a nap get tired.

But, God said, through His prophet Isaiah, that everyone who has placed their hope (faith) in God, will find new strength. Let's be careful to understand here that Isaiah is talking about strength to be all God wants us to be. He is not promising new power for the runner or more awake time for the toddler. He is assuring us that we can face the difficulties of life with confidence if we hope, or place our faith, in God.

In that same way of seeing things, He promises that they will "soar like eagles, run forever, and walk and not pass out from the effort." Some call this the gift of "winged spirits." God will give the weary worker more strength to do His will. He will make trudging along in everyday work seem like soaring with eagles. He will take the boredom out of everyday tasks if we do the work in His name.

Do you want to soar like an eagle, trust God for the power. He has promised.

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

Page Three

Scripture Memory: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

Lesson Goal: To encourage the student to depend on God who is greater than anything or anyone.

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Do You Know?

Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. What is it that should have been common knowledge?
2. What does it mean when we say that God is “beyond us?”
3. What is God’s challenging question in verse 25?
4. God knows each star by _____ .
5. What are the four things that describe God in verses 28 and 29?
6. Do you want to _____ like an eagle, trust God for the _____.

Page Four

Scripture Memory: “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

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.