

The God Who Is

The God Beyond Compare

Isaiah 40:12-31

Background

Again we will be looking at a passage written by the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is one of the greatest prophets of God in the Old Testament. The book bearing his name was written to God's people (the Israelites) near 700 BC. The book of Isaiah is divided into two major sections (chapters 1-39 and chapters 40-66). Where the first section warns Israel of impending doom if they do not repent of their sins, the second section was written to console Israel in a time of (future) trials. The passage we'll be looking at kicks off the consolation section. Even though the specific application to the Israelites is in the past, you'll easily see how this passage, with its grand view of God, can renew us and give us perspective in troubling times today.

Read Isaiah 40:12-28

Write down what you learn about who God is from each group of verses.

v.12

vv.13-14

vv.15-17

vv.18-20

vv.21-22

vv.23-24

vv.25-26

v.28

Why do you think God challenges us to compare Him to counselors, nations, idols, princes and rulers?

Do you ever feel like v.27? How does the rest of this passage

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Isaiah 40:12-31

Now read vv.29-31

What does it mean to hope in the Lord?

What are other things we sometimes put our hope in? How do they compare to God?

What is promised to those who do hope in the Lord?

Verse 31 might be better translated, “But those who hope in the Lord will exchange their strength for His.” In light of this passage (learning about His mighty strength), how does that make you feel?

Questions for personal reflection:

1. Are you feeling tired and weary (v.30)? Ask God to help you determine if you are trying to live in your own strength, or if you need to exchange your strength for His!
2. What (or who) are you putting your hope in? How does it/do they compare to God? Do they promise you the same thing that God does in v.31?
3. Go back, look at the passage again, and reflect on all the different aspects of God we looked. What part of God’s character means the most to you? Meditate on that, and maybe even memorize one of the verses that talk about it.

Passages For Further Study:

Genesis 1
Job 38-41
Psalm 2
Matthew 11:28-30

“There is a God we want, and there is a God who is—and they are not the same God.

The turning point of our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is.”