

Camrose Way Housegroup

13th September 2023

Incomparable: The God who is like no other

Question 1: How do you imagine God?

Isaiah 40

12. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?
13. Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counsellor?
14. Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?
15. Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.
16. Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.
17. Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.
18. With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him?
19. As for an idol, a metalworker casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it.
20. A person too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot; they look for a skilled worker to set up an idol that will not topple.

21. Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
22. He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
23. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
24. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.
25. 'To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?' says the Holy One.
26. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.
27. Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God'?
28. Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no-one can fathom.
29. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
30. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

31. but 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.

Question 2: What impression of the size of God do we get from Isaiah 40 (v12-17, 22-24)

Question 3: What was the people's complaint in verse 27.

Question 4: How do these pictures of God's power answer that complaint?

Question 5: When are we tempted to feel "my way is hidden from the Lord" (v27). How should this picture of God's power help?

Question 6: How can we use these images to help (1) ourselves and (2) others remember the incomparable power of God?

Isaiah 42

24. Who handed Jacob over to become loot, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned? For they would not follow his ways; they did not obey his law.
25. So he poured out on them his burning anger, the violence of war. It enveloped them in flames, yet they did not understand; it consumed them, but they did not take it to heart.

Isaiah 43 – Israel's only Saviour

1. But now, this is what the Lord says – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.
3. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead.
4. Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.
5. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.
6. I will say to the north, "Give them up!" and to the south, "Do not hold them back." Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth –
7. everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'
8. Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf.
9. All the nations gather together and the peoples assemble. Which of their gods foretold this and proclaimed to us the former things? Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right, so that others may hear and say, 'It is true.'
10. 'You are my witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.
11. I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no saviour.
12. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed – I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'that I am God.
13. Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No-one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?'

Question 7: What seems to be the cause of the people's fear in this chapter?

Question 8: How many ways does God describe his relationship with his people in v1-7?

Question 9: What is it that makes God's salvation distinct from any other "gods"? v9-12

Question 10: Where might we be tempted to fear the future?

Question 11: How does the promise in 43:2 affect our fears?

Question 12: How do we remind ourselves and others of the greatness of God, and how God thinks of us individually? How does Christ come into this?