

Set Free Through the Proclamation of God's Greatness

Isaiah 40:12–31

1. *The LORD is greater than the universe He has created*

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?

2. *The LORD is greater than any counsellor or teacher*

13 Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counsellor?

- 1) He needs no counsellor
- 2) He needs no one to teach Him the path of justice

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?

3. *The LORD is greater than all the nations of the earth*

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.

- 1) Their existence is as a tiny drop in a large bucket
- 2) Their forests and animals are not enough to make a sacrifice worthy of God
- 3) Their significance is worthless, less than nothing before God

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.

4. *The LORD is greater than all the images and false gods*

18 With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him?

- 1) The idols and false gods are made by man
 - The skilled craftsman uses metal, gold and silver
 - The skilled craftsman uses non-rotting wood for the poor

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.

- 2) The people are questioned about their false worship
- Why do they not know?
 - Have they not heard the truth, that God alone is the Creator?

5. *The LORD is greater than all the people of the earth*

- 1) He is enthroned above the earth
- 2) He created and uses the heavens like a tent
- 3) He removes the rulers and judges of this earth
- Makes them useless
 - Blasts them with the fury of His breath:
Causes them to wither away

6. *The LORD is greater than any being in the entire universe*

- 1) He alone is the “Holy One”
- 2) He alone created all the heavens
- He makes the starry host shine
 - He calls all the stars by name
 - He keeps the stars in place

7. *The LORD is more powerful than any trial or temptation*

- 1) The complaint:
God is far away, unconcerned
- 2) The answer of God
- He is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth
 - He never faints or becomes weary

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 the rulers of this world to nothing.

24 No sooner they are planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner 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.

- He strengthens the weary and weak

- He renews the strength of those who hope in the LORD: Strengthens them with far more strength than even young men have

29 He gives strength to the weary and increase the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and the 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 shall walk and not faint.