

## Behold, our God! Isaiah 40

Judah, the southern tribes of Israel, was at a crucial time in her history. The northern tribes had chosen to wander away from and received captivity as discipline. Judah later followed in her footsteps. She needed comfort, forgiveness and a fresh voice of vision (Isaiah 40:1-5).

*What should the voice call out?*

**“Here is your God!”** Fresh revelation of God provides ongoing revelation in humility in the context of the Word of God that stands forever (Isaiah 40:6-8). Stand on a high mountain and shout out that *“Here is your God!”* (9).

*It’s the same message we need today, fresh revelation of God, to expand our grasp of the first essential question.*

From the mountain top, Isaiah shouts two characteristics of the Lord. God’s people then...and now...always need these two to comfort us in trials. Isaiah then amplifies on the **first** one.

- **Behold!** The Lord will come with might as the **Ruler**, ready for action, 10a.
- **Behold!** The Lord will come care as a **Shepherd**, taking us in His arms with gentle tenderness 10b-11.

*How mighty is this Ruler who is also a gentle Shepherd?*

Isaiah compares God to the greatest and most powerful aspects of creation, people and idols. Isaiah then says, **“Who can compare with God?”** No takers! Nothing and no one can compare with God. How wonderful to walk confidently in the Reality of *“Him who is from the beginning!”* And also how necessary!

1. **God is greater than creation** (12).
2. **God is greater than every wise man** (13-15a).
3. **God is greater than every nation** (15b-17).
4. **God is greater than every idol we falsely trust** (18-20).
5. **God is greater than every important person** (21-24).
6. **God is greater than all the stars** (27-28).

Now, 40:29-31 has been Isaiah’s target since verse 1 when he began with the **comfort** that God’s people desperately need. The Bible is no abstract discourse about God. The Bible is about a God who fashioned humanity so He could connect intimately with us.

*Are you in need of comfort or care today? Are you up against it?*

When life slaps us around like a hockey puck, we need assurance of at least two aspects of God’s marvelous character. Each is ultimately **not fully** knowable yet provides security in trials. He is *“Him who is from the beginning.”* We must be certain that **God is able**, ready for action to help as **Ruler**. And that **God is willing**, like a gentle, tender **Shepherd** who cares deeply.

*At least these two must become unshakeable anchors.*

God is the mighty **Ruler** and the tender **Shepherd**. Because our God is the mighty Ruler over all, He **has** strength, might and power enough to **gives** strength, might and power to those who humbly acknowledge they desperately need Him. Because the Lord is our tender **Shepherd**, He cares. *God’s part and our part.* Isaiah first carefully catalogs God’s part. Then He brings this home with our part. *See God as He is* and fully rest in His powerful Shephard arms in full trust.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak (Isaiah 40:29).

Even the young folk in their prime stumble and fall and drop out. Yet those who confess that we are weary and weak now have access to strength beyond ourselves. Humble asking brings us into partnership with the Spirit to **exchange** our *limited* strength for His *unlimited*. You “*will gain new strength*” because you connect with the all-powerful One. James 4:6 informs us that God...

...gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

- *Are you in a time of **crisis** that’s pulling you down into the muck?* God **must** oppose us if we hang onto our prideful thoughts that we can work it out on our own. But if we see ourselves accurately (the meaning of “humble”), we spread our eagle’s **wings** and soar.
- *Are you in a long-running season where you are at the end of your rope?* Then tap into His resources. Keep **running** and when you get tired, draw “*more*” from Him.
- *Are you faithfully walking out the daily responsibilities of each day?* Then **walk** and don’t be weary of doing good.

See God accurately. God’s provision as strong *Ruler* and gentle *Shepherd* are just right for the specific season you are now in.

*Use this short summary of Isaiah 40 to soak in this powerful chapter until you believe it!*

In the midst of everyday life, master these short concepts until you make them your own. Then they will hold you in their strong grip when the winds and waves of life crash into your life.

If you are in a season where you relate with Isaiah 40, take time each day to soak in this great chapter. Make it your own for now and a “deep well” of refreshing for the future.