

The background features a central diamond shape with a fine grid pattern. This diamond is set against a larger, multi-colored background of overlapping geometric shapes like triangles and rectangles in shades of green, yellow, orange, and red. The overall effect is a vibrant, abstract composition.

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

Isa. 40:18-20

*“The Power of the Creator!”*

Isa. 40:18 To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

20 He that *is* so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree *that* will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, *that* shall not be moved.

Our theme this year is...

VISION                      20/20  
HIS VISION.              OUR FOCUS.

During the last couple of months, we have been observing situations where men and women in the Scriptures faced unforeseeable circumstances and walked by faith as they encountered them. A few weeks ago we shifted our focus to begin a new series...

**BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!**

Two weeks ago, we began looking at Isaiah, chapter 40, which is packed full with wonderful truth about the greatness and power of God. We began in Isa. 40:10-11, with “**Behold**, the *Lord will return!*” We focused upon...

## I. THE DEPICTION OF GOD’S POWER AND COMPASSION

40:10-11

A. Seeing the Promise of the Lord’s Advent, 40:10a

“**Behold**, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him...”

B. Seeing the Presentation of the Lord’s

Acknowledgement, 40:10b “...**behold**, his reward *is with him*, and his work before him.”

C. Seeing the Provision of the Lord’s Assurance, 40:11

Last week we considered Isa. 40:12-17:

## II. THE DECLARATION OF GOD'S POWER OVER CREATION, 40:12-17

- A. The Perspective of God's Power over Creation,  
40:12-14
- B. The Prominence of God's Power over All Citizens,  
40:15-17

This morning we consider Isa. 40:18-20, and...

### III. THE DISPLAY OF GOD'S POWER OVER CONTEMPT, 40:18-20

#### A. The Standard of Worship Declared, 40:18

Isa. 40:18 **To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?**

- Jesus' life declared a likeness to His Father:

2 Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of **Christ, who is the image of God**, should shine unto them.

Col. 1:15 **Who is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of every creature:

- The Lord Jesus also declared His life was in the likeness of men.

Phil. 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and **was made in the likeness of men**:

- The Lord Jesus was born of a virgin in order to die for our sins, identifying with us.
- In His humanity, the Lord Jesus Christ experienced the challenges of mankind, understands our situations, having empathy for us, yet He was without sin.

Heb. 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be **touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**



## B. The Subversion of Worship Displayed, 40:19-20

Isa. 40:19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

20 He that *is* so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree *that* will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, *that* shall not be moved.

- Various methods of idol-making, but the same result:
  - “The workman” = graven image
  - “the goldsmith” = idol with gold and silver
  - “so impoverished” = a tree *that* will not rot → graven image
- The idols are a reflection of their creators:

Psa. 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, **but unto thy name give glory**, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth's sake.

2 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where *is* now their God?

3 But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

4 Their idols *are* silver and gold, **the work of men's hands**.

5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:

6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:

7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

8 **They that make them are like unto them**; *so is every one that trusteth in them.*

- Isaiah was moved by the Holy Spirit to describe the stupidity of idolaters.

Isa. 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I *am* the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is no God*.**

7 And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.

8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it*? ye *are* even my witnesses. **Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is no God***; I know not *any*.

9 **They that make a graven image *are all of them vanity***; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they *are* their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed

10 Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image *that* is profitable for nothing?

11 **Behold**, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they *are* of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; *yet* they shall fear, *and* they shall be ashamed together.

12 The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.

13 The carpenter stretcheth out *his* rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and **maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man;** that it may remain in the house.

14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish *it*.

15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for **he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth *it*, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth *it*; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.**

16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth *himself*, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:

17 And **the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it**, and saith, Deliver me; for thou *art* my god.

18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; *and* their hearts, that they cannot understand.



19 And none considereth in his heart, neither *is there* knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten *it*: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?

20 He feedeth on ashes: **a deceived heart** hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, *Is there* not a lie in my right hand?

21 Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for **thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.**

- The development of idolatry began with the Liar of Gen. 3:5 – “...ye shall be as gods...”
- A common challenge for mankind is to resist becoming a god unto ourselves, whether it be in a physical form or a mental deification of self.
- The message to Israel, over and over, was the danger of idolatry.

1 Chron. 16:26 For **all the gods of the people are idols**: but the LORD made the heavens.

2 Chron. 24:18 And **they left the house of the LORD God** of their fathers, and **served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.**

- The New Testament contains similar warnings against idolatry:

Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry:**

1 Jn. 5:21 Little children, **keep yourselves from idols.**  
Amen.

1 Cor. 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **flee from idolatry.**

- Any form of idolatry is a subversion of true worship:

Jn. 4:22 **Ye worship ye know not what:** we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must **worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

- Idolatry is an affront to the Creator, a contempt for Him and His glory, and must be resolved through repentance:

1 Thess. 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how **ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;**

- When we consider the greatness of the Creator, we confront the weakness of mankind.

- Any “god” – be it an idol outwardly seen, or inwardly devised of self – is an offense to the Creator who demands and deserves the place of preeminence in our hearts.

1 Pet. 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

## Conclusion

Worship the Creator as the only true God!

We should never make any god, even ourselves, as a focus of worship.

We must worship God in spirit and in truth.

Jas. 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain,  
The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**

Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness.

10 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**