

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. 40:21-24

“The Power of the Creator!”

Isa. 40:21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard?
hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye
not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 *It is* **he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth,**
and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that
stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and
spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh
the judges of the earth as vanity.

24 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not
be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the
earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they
shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away
as stubble.

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. Several weeks ago we shifted our focus to begin a new series...

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

A few 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
- B. Seeing the Presentation of the Lord’s Acknowledgement, 40:10b
- C. Seeing the Provision of the Lord’s Assurance, 40:11

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

Last week we considered Isa. 40:18-20:

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

A. The Standard of Worship Declared, 40:18

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

This morning we consider Isa. 40:21-24, and...

IV. THE DISCERNMENT OF GOD'S POWER OVER THE COSMOS, 40:21-24

A. The Contemplation Stirred, 40:21

1. "Have ye not known?" → Wake up!
2. "Have ye not heard?" → Listen up!
3. "Hath it not been told you from the beginning?" → Grow up!

4. “Have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?” → Wise up!

- Mankind needs to stop and consider what they know about creation and the Creator.

B. The Creation Separation, 40:22

Isa. 40:22 *It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth*, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

1. The Revelation of Supremacy – “...he...sitteth upon the circle of the earth...stretcheth out the heavens...spreadeth them out...”

- The Bible reveals scientific truth before mankind discovers it – “the circle of the earth”

Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, *and* **hangeth the earth upon nothing.**

- Knowledge of the Creator and His creation is a refutation of evolutionary fantasy and rejection of God.

Psa. 33:6 **By the word of the LORD were the heavens made;** and all the host of them **by the breath of his mouth.**

2. The Relevance of Superiority – “...the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers...”

- The insignificance of mankind is easily understood when finite limitations are considered in comparison to the superiority and supremacy of the Creator!

Isa. 55:9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

C. The Controlling Sovereignty, 40:23-24

Isa. 40:23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

24 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

- The reality of expendability of earthly leaders is that God is in control.

Isa. 40:23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

Prov. 21:1 **The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.**

- The vulnerability of earthly leaders is exemplified in life's uncertainty:
 - Yea, they shall not be planted; → no possibilities
 - yea, they shall not be sown: → no progeny

- yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth:
→ no perpetuity
- and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. → no purpose
- Apart from the longsuffering mercy and grace of God, mankind has little hope for the future.
- The vulnerability of mankind, coupled with the uncertainty of life, should motivate everyone to approach life with a balanced perspective of priority:

Jas. 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 **Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow.** For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that ***ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.***

- Knowledge of mankind's weakness encourages the enlightened ones to delight in God's power.

V. THE DELIGHT IN GOD'S POWER VIA COMPARISON,
40:25-26

Isa. 40:25 **To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.**

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and **behold** who hath **created these *things***, that bringeth out their host by number: **he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that *he is* strong in power; not one faileth.**

A. Envision the Personal Perception of God, 40:25
“To whom then will ye liken me...”

Mt. 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of
Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying,
Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ...
15 He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**

B. Encourage the Personal Perspective of God,
40:26 “Lift up your eyes on high, **behold...**”

Mt. 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou
art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

❖ Our Creator made the stars, calls them by name, and knows each one of us.

❖ Focus “on high” and “behold!”

Col. 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

❖ Examine the personal perspective – be honest where the focus is!

Conclusion

Do you know Who God is?

We should never take for granted the privilege to know Him.

When facing challenging times, remember the Creator, and walk by faith in His power, love, and fellowship with Him.

1 Pet. 5:7 **Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

Heb. 13:5 “...for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**”