

## **Behold Your God** **Isaiah 40:9-17**

### ***I. The First Behold (v. 9-11)***

### ***II. Rhetorical Questions (v. 12-14)***

### ***III. The Second Behold (v. 15-17)***

#### ***I. The First Behold (v. 9-11)***

**Isaiah 40:9–11**     ***“O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”***

A. This First Behold is a two part image. In the first image we look over Isaiah’s shoulder and see our God as a triumphant conqueror.

***“Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.”***

The Lord is our Yahweh Elohim. He is the great and Awe inspiring conqueror. He comes with His strong arm. No one can stop Him. He will bring His reward with Him. Our God is Transcendent. He is Greater than all.

B. Image Two shows us Our God is imminent.

***“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”***

Although He greater far than we can imagine. He is at the very same time the loving shepherd of His sheep.

#### ***II. Rhetorical Questions (v. 12-14)***

**Isaiah 40:12–14**     ***“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?”***

A. After the first ***“behold,”*** Isaiah shows us how great our God is through rhetorical questions. Through the first set of questions, we are meant to see the picture of God using these measures.

***“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?”***

How big is God if he can measure oceans with the hollow of His hand? Etc.

B. The second set of rhetorical questions make us realize our infinite God is Omniscient or all-knowing.

***“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?”***

God knows everything. He forgets nothing. He establishes what is right and what is wrong. Nobody taught Him because there is no one greater than our eternal God.

### ***III. The Second Behold (v. 15-17)***

Isaiah 40:15–17 ***“Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.”***

A. The second ***“Behold,”*** is for all of us who look at the powers in our world and fear.

***“Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.”***

Two word pictures describe the insignificance of the great powers of whom Judah feared and of Yahweh’s incredible majesty.

B. The second word-picture is for them who do not understand how God condescends to bless His people.

***“And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.”***

This brings to mind all the times in Isaiah Yahweh rebukes Judah’s heartless sacrifices. Do you remember Psalm 50 8-10? ***“I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are continually before Me. I will not take a bull from your house, nor goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.”***

***What do we do with this?***

Isaiah 41:10 *“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”*

*How big is your God?*

**Hymn# 26 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God***