

“Worth the Wait”

Isaiah 40:12-31

Context: Isaiah turns to God and calls for the Jewish exiles to take comfort in His promise to deliver them from their captivity in Babylon back to their homeland. The time period seems to be during Cyrus’ reign (cp Isaiah 44:28-45:2). Cyrus, an instrument of God, opens up the opportunity for the return by ending the exile. The Jewish people remain demoralized from the burden of their current afflictions, the prospect of a hard journey home, and the remote hope of living in a restored Jerusalem. Their disheartenment is caught in the pivotal verse that questions God’s apparent disregard for them (cf. Isaiah 40:27). The burdens of return and discouragement serve as a “real symbol” for a deeper spiritual reality of the remnant’s wait for deliverance from this fallen world, the perils of sin during their wait, and their far-off hope for a home in New Jerusalem. These strands of thought are woven into Isaiah’s theme of comfort in Chapters 40-66. **Life Principle:** God’s strength revealed in God’s timing will prove the weight of God’s worth (cf. Isaiah 40:31).

1. Measuring the worth of God – Isaiah 40:12-26

God contrasts the measure of His worth over against: (1) the creation, (2) the nations, (3) the idols, and (4) the mighty. Creation, which the Israelite perceives as vast, is contrasted with trivial tools used for making it. The questions surrounding its Maker beg for one answer alone, God. What the Israelite perceives as political might are represented as inconsequential as dust when weighed over against YHWH. What the Israelite fathomed as spiritually dominant, is as stable as the hands that construct it. Who the Israelite considered as supremely authoritative, is as an insect to God who has created and sustains the place where the insect survives and beyond.

2. Measuring the wait – Isaiah 40:28-31

At question is acknowledgement and obedience to the teaching about God that Israel has received from the time of Abraham’s calling. The Maker of all certainly can control all. There is no weariness in God, as is found in the strongest of humanity. Misgivings come from human projections of their own traits onto God. In contrast, those who would find fortification in God’s power must bring their doubts under submission to the teaching of His word. The sojourner finds God’s strength to finish the journey by acting with eager expectation that God will fulfill His word as promised.

Study questions:

- Scripture sometimes uses questions to reveal the theme of a section. As a **Bible study method**, determine which question found in Isaiah 40:12-31 reveals the theme of the section. What is the connection of the thoughts found in Isaiah 1-11, 12-26, and 28-31 with the question of Isaiah 40:27? How might these thoughts serve as an answer should times of misgivings come about God’s willingness or capacity to deliver you from burdens that arise in your life?
- Isaiah 40:29 repeats a sub-theme of Isaiah about that which makes ‘weary’ and that which invigorates (cp. Isaiah 1:14; 28:12; 29:8; 30:15, 32:2; 43:22; 46:1; 50:4). In these passages, what wearies and what invigorates? Have you ever been wearied by physical thirst, heat, or weight? How about emotional or spiritual thirst, heat, or weight?
- Isaiah 40:12ff reveals that God sovereignly created and sustains all materiality (see footnotes 6 ‘**On God** in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at www.gracepointfellowship.org). How is this opinion different from the opinion of the Darwinian Naturalist? Please see <http://www.discovery.org/scripts%20/viewDB/index.php?command=view&id=138> for a dense explanation.

Transformation exercise:

Meditate on Isaiah 40:12 and memorize Isaiah 40:31. Take a sacred walk and consider God’s faithful sustenance of the creation around you. Recall the times God has proven Himself faithful in His sustenance of you. Pray that you might be sensitive to those weary around you who need to hear His comfort from your lips.