

3e God Beyond Compare

Read Isaiah 40:12-31



A. W. Tozer wrote: "*The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of him.*" We all have unworthy thoughts about God—especially during times of stress or difficulty. Does God care? Has he given up on me? Can he really help me out of this mess?

"Your God is too small!" Isaiah tells us. In this passage he challenges our puny thoughts, overwhelming us with the majesty, wisdom, grace and power of our incomparable God.

1. There are many times for all of us when God seems distant or uncaring. How do you respond when God feels far away?

2. Read Isaiah 40:12-31. What do the vivid images of God in Isaiah 40:12 emphasize?

3. Even small problems can seem overwhelming while we are experiencing them. How can God's portrait in Isaiah 40:12 encourage us at such times?

4. What aspect of God's character is stressed in Isaiah 40:13-14?

5. When are you most likely to tell God how to run the universe—especially when it relates to your life?

6. Why in Isaiah 40:15-17 does Isaiah start talking about the insignificance of nations in comparison to God?

7. Why is an idol a pitiful substitute for God (Isaiah 40:18-20)?

At what point do people or things become substitutes for God?

8. People with authority and power (political leaders, supervisors, teachers) can exert significant control over our lives. Why can we trust God to overrule the world's rulers (Isaiah 40:21-24)?

9. Traveling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second), it would take 137,000 years to reach the nearest galaxy. How does this help us feel the impact of Isaiah 40:26?

10. Why do you think God challenges us to compare him to counselors, nations, idols, princes and rulers?

11. Israel complained that God seemed distant and uncaring (Isaiah 40:27). How does Isaiah 40:12-26 answer this charge?

Also consider:

- Deuteronomy 4:7
- Jeremiah 23:23-24
- Matthew 10:30; Luke 12:7
- Acts 17:28

12. What even richer encouragement does God give us when we feel weary and without strength (Isaiah 40:28-31)?