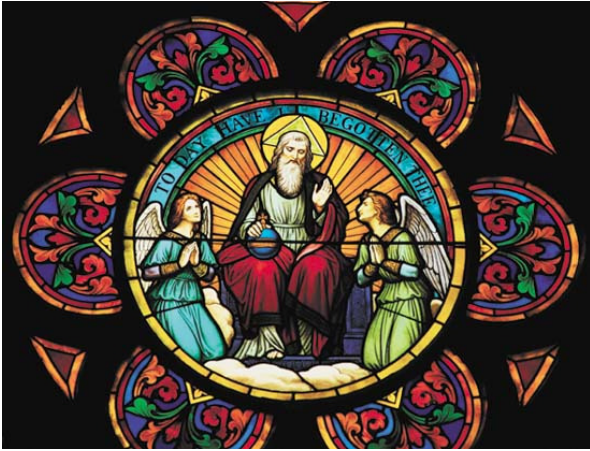


### 3a. Theology Proper – Knowing God

**Read Isaiah 40:9-31**



In this chapter Isaiah writes as though Judah's captivity in Babylon is almost over. His comforting words present a dramatic portrait of God.

1. What are some common opinions about what God is like?

2. Read Isaiah 40:9-14. God's people, even in the Old Testament, have a desire to tell the world about him (Isaiah 40:9). What is the *good news*

about God (Isaiah 40:10-11)?

3. How do Isaiah's questions encourage us to trust God (Isaiah 40:12-14)?

4. Read Isaiah 40:15-24. What comfort is there for Israel as they are held captive by the superpower Babylon (Isaiah 40:15-17)?

5. What comfort do you receive from knowing God has power over the nations?

6. How do the idols of the rich and poor compare with the reality of God's power (Isaiah 40:18-24)?

7. What kind of idols do we worship in our culture?

8. Why does worshiping idols often seem preferable to knowing the living God?

9. Read Isaiah 40:25-31. Some people view God as an uninvolved Creator who stands at a distance to watch his world. What does Isaiah 40:26 reveal about God's involvement?

10. Judah complains that God doesn't know what is happening to her (Isaiah 40:27). When have you been tempted to lament that God was unconcerned about your struggles?

11. What hope does Isaiah offer us during such struggles (Isaiah 40:28-31)?

12. Those who know God look to him for help. Describe a time when the Lord renewed your strength or enabled you to soar on wings like an eagle.

### **Section Glossary**

**Elohim** – Plural God. A Hebrew term consisting of the word Eloah (אלוה) with a plural suffix. (Genesis 1:1 [the third word in the Scriptures]; 14:18-20, 22; 17:7; 6:18; 9:15; 50:24; Deuteronomy 5:23; 8:15; 1 Kings 8:23; Psalm 68:7; Isaiah 40:1; 45:18; 54:5; Jeremiah 31:3; 32:27)