

## “God Renews” - Isaiah 40:18-31

Ask - “What makes you tired and requires you to get some rest??”

Background - Starting in chapter 40 the scope of Isaiah’s prophecy changes. Instead of focusing on the present Assyrian threat to Hezekiah and Judah, now Isaiah prophecies about the future years of Babylonian exile (which was still about 120 years away).

“The Weakness of Idols” - Isaiah 40:18-20

(v18) Answer both of the questions posed in this verse. Read and discuss Exodus 20:4. Why are images of God forbidden as articles of worship?

(v19) How are idols made? By whom? Is an idol created or the Creator? What does this reveal?

(v20) While the rich had idols covered in precious metal, describe the poor man’s idol. What are some idols that people worship today other than God?

WHILE IN CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON, THE EXILES WOULD BE EXPOSED TO ALL SORTS OF IDOLATRY. ISAIAH FOREWARNS THEM THAT THESE IDOLS ARE WORTHLESS NO MATTER HOW ELABORATE THEY MIGHT BE.

“The Greatness of God” - Isaiah 40:21-26

(v21-22) What do the people of God not know or understand? What have they forgotten? How is God described in these verses? What does he do? What does this verse reveal about the shape of the earth more than 200 years before the Greeks first proposed it?

(v23-24) How do these verses describe God’s dealings with the nations, kings, and rulers? Can you provide some examples?

(v25-26) Answer the question posed in verse 25. What astrological body does verse 26 use to demonstrate God’s greatness? How so?

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE EARTH AND ITS INHABITANTS, OVER THE RULERS AND KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH, AND EVEN OVER THE HEAVENS. HE HAS NO EQUAL.

“He Will Give You Strength” - Isaiah 40:27-31

(v27) What will the future Israelites in exile accuse God of doing? Were some questioning God even during Isaiah’s lifetime? Explain.

(v28) What characteristics of God are highlighted in this verse. If God doesn't get tired or weary, explain Genesis 2:1-3. Is this a contradiction?

(v29-31) What does God do for those who are tired and weary? Take a few moments to recite, repeat, and memorize Isaiah 40:31.

GOD WOULD NOT FORGET HIS CHILDREN - IN THIS INSTANCE THE BABYLONIAN EXILES. WHEN WE WAIT UPON THE LORD, HE GIVES US STRENGTH AND VITALITY TO ENDURE.

Application - Everybody worships something and anything can become an idol. Do you worship money, popularity, beauty, or even yourself? Or do you worship the one true and living God who reigns over all creation - the God of the Bible? He alone is worthy of worship and He alone gives strength to those who wait faithfully upon Him. Who do you worship?