

1  **BEHOLD YOUR GOD**

Isaiah 40:9-14

2  **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!" 10 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. 11 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.*

3  **Isaiah 40:12-14**

► *12 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? 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him? 14 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?*

4  **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

► *It has been said that "the proper study of mankind is man." I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God's elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father. There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity.*

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5  **Spurgeon (2)**

► *Other subjects we can grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-content, and go our way with the thought, "Behold I am wise." But when we come to this master science, finding that our plumbline cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought that vain man would be wise, but he is like a wild ass's colt; and with solemn excl No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind, than thoughts of God....But while the subject humbles the mind, it also expands it. He who often thinks of God, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe...*

6  **Spurgeon (3)**

► *The most excellent study for expanding the soul, is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity. And, while humbling and expanding, this subject is eminently consolatory. Oh, there is, in contemplating Christ, a balm for every wound; in musing on the Father, there is a quietus for every grief; and in the influence of the Holy Ghost, there is a balsam for every sore.*

7  **Spurgeon (4)**

► *Would you lose your sorrow? Would you drown your cares? Then go, plunge yourself in the Godhead's deepest sea; be lost in his immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the*

*subject of the Godhead. It is to that subject that I invite you this morning.*

## 8 **Isaiah 40**

- Another Plunge
- One of the great chapters in the Bible that reveal our God to us.
- Last week the sermon was from Isaiah 40:1-9 – GOD'S ETERNAL WORD OF COMFORT
- Verse 1 started out, *"Comfort, yes comfort My people!" says your God."*
- As young Spurgeon made clear, nothing can give comfort to a Christian like a deeper knowledge of God.
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## 9 **1. AN INVITATION TO BEHOLD YOUR GOD,**

- v. 9: *"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!"*
- Spread the word – *You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain*
- Focus on God – *Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"*
  - Change the focus to today
  - Change the focus to the cities of America
- The message

## 10 **Behold the Returning LORD**

- v. 10: *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.*
- Double *Behold*
- For Judah – They had not focused but forsaken Yahweh
- For us today
- For Christians today -- 2 Chronicles 7:14: *"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

## 11 **The Lord Shall Come**

- For Judah
  - Still waiting for their Messiah
  - He is still protecting & providing for Judah
  - Return from exile
- Wars of modern Israel
  - 1948 War of Independence
  - The Sinai Campaign (1956)
  - Six Day War (June, 1967)
  - Yom Kippur War (October 1973)

## 12 **For Christians Today**

- Titus 2:13 - *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*
- Acts 1:10-11: *As He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

13  **Behold He will come in Power**

- ▀ V. 10: *Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him*
- ▀ Both these parallel phrases emphasize the power with which God will come.

14  **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**

- ▀ *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

15  **He Comes to Reward His faithful people**

- ▀ V. 10: *His reward is with Him*
- ▀ Revelation 22:12: *And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to ever one according to his work.*
- ▀ 1 Peter 5:4: *When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away*

16  **BEHOLD OUR GOD IS LIKE A SHEPHERD**

- ▀ v. 11 – *“He will feed His flock like a shepherd”*
- ▀ Another aspect of our God to behold is *His loving care as a shepherd*. The first thing a shepherd must do for his sheep is feed them, and the LORD feeds us like a shepherd feeds his flock.

17  **Sheep must be directed to the good pasture**

- ▀ Spurgeon: *“No creature has less power to take care of itself than the sheep; even the tiny ant with its foresight can provide for the evil day, but the poor creature must be tended by men or else perish.”*
- ▀ God loves to identify Himself with a shepherd. Many of the greatest men of the Bible were shepherds, and their character as shepherds points to Jesus Christ.

18  **V. 11 – “ He will gather the lambs with His arm”**

- ▀ Our LORD shows special care for the lambs. The youngest, the weakest, the helpless are not despised – they are given special care by the LORD who first actively gathers them, then, He will *“carry them in His bosom.”* He doesn’t throw the weak lambs over his shoulder, as a shepherd might carry a sheep. Instead, He lovingly cradles them in His bosom, close to His heart. That is both a safe place and a tender loving place.

19  **The Shepherd’s Care for the Sheep**

- ▀ Spurgeon: *“To carry is kindness, but to carry in the bosom is loving-kindness. The shoulders are for power, and the back for force, but the bosom is the seat of love.”*
- ▀ *“And gently lead those who are with young”* – The shepherd carries a rod and a staff, and knows how to use them, but He also knows how to gently lead those who are with young. He knows when to be gentle, and when more severe guidance should be used.

20  **JESUS SHEPHERD TITLES**

- ▀ Jesus the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-15) He is good in His care and sacrifice for the flock.
- ▀ Jesus the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20). He is great in His glorious triumph over every enemy.
- ▀ Jesus the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4) He is the Chief over all His people in His return. At His

return, Jesus also exercises another aspect of His role as Shepherd: He divides the sheep from the goats -Matthew 25:31-33

#### 21 4. BEHOLD THE GOD OVER ALL CREATION

- V. 12: *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 measured the waters in the hollow of His hand:* Another aspect of our God to behold is His authority over all creation. Our God is so great, and so dominant over all creation, that He has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand and has measured heaven with a span.

#### 22 2. BEHOLD THE GOD OVER ALL CREATION

- This is another example of what we call anthropomorphism – speaking of God in human terms so we can partially understand who He is and what He does. God is not a being with the body of a giant, so large that all the waters of the earth could be cupped in His hand, or so large that the universe could be measured by the span of His hand. The Bible tells us that God is spirit, so He does not have a body as we know it (John 4:24). But we understand exactly what the LORD tells us through the prophet Isaiah – God is so great, so dominant over all creation that we should stand in awe of His power and glory.

#### 23 3. BEHOLD THE GOD OVER ALL CREATION

- V. 12 -- *And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure:* It isn't just about size; it's also about knowledge, wisdom and intelligence. God is so great in His wisdom and intelligence that He calculated the dust of the earth in a measure. God knows exactly how many grains of dust there are on the earth. Even if a person knew the number of hairs on their head (as God knows, according to Luke 12:7), they could never calculate the dust in their own house – much less the dust of the earth!

#### 24 BEHOLD THE GOD OF ALL WISDOM

- VV 13-14 – *“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?
- V. 13 -- *Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him:* Another aspect of God to behold is His great wisdom. He has the raw intelligence to know how much dust there is in the earth, and how heavy the mountains and the hills are. But more than that, God has the wisdom to use that knowledge.

#### 25 Our Infinitely Wise God

- God is so wise, that no one has directed the Spirit of the LORD; no one as His counselor has taught Him.
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- V. 13: *“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD”:* In Romans 11:34, Paul quotes this verse from the Septuagint: *“For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?”*
- With whom did He take counsel: God needs no counsel, no instruction, no teacher, and no one to show Him the way of understanding.