



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE ISAIAH 40:12-17

LESSON: WHO IS LIKE GOD? — November 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 40:1-11

¹The book of Isaiah makes a dramatic switch of emphasis at this point from judgment to restoration and deliverance. When Isaiah wrote these prophecies of restoration, Judah still had over 100 years of difficulty ahead and would be forced into 70 years of Babylonian captivity. However, instead dwelling upon this judgment, Isaiah comforts them. The people saw failure and sin, and needed encouragement. Four voices are heard:

1. The voice of Pardon (vv. 1–2). The nation had sinned greatly against the Lord, but they were His people, and He loved them and would not forsake them. He spoke Comfort!
2. The voice of Providence (vv. 3–5). Isaiah calls out to the people to “*Prepare for the way of the Lord*” (v. 3) and His glory (v. 5). The wilderness (v. 3) is a picture of life’s trials.
3. The voice of Promise (vv. 6–8). People are like grass and flowers that wither; God never fails but endures forever. Israel can depend on God’s promises.
4. The voice of Peace (vv. 9–11). Shout loud God is coming (v. 9). God’s arm is a mighty arm for the battle (v. 10), but it is also a loving arm for carrying His weary lambs (v. 11).

LESSON:

I. ISAIAH 40:12-14

40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?— God's greatness, might, and power in Creation is shown and it is very different from anything that exists. God Himself knows all things, and when His children don't line up with what He has told them, He has to remind them. This is their reminder. God speaks through the Prophet Isaiah about Creation because Judah and Israel had apparently forgotten who was in control. There are ten “WHO” questions asked here, without answers:

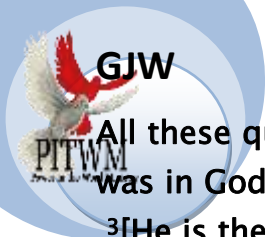
1. Who, ²‘measured the waters’ and ‘decided how much water to put into the seas, lakes and rivers?’
2. Who, ‘marked out the heavens’ and ‘decided how big the skies should be?’
3. Who, ‘put the dust into a barrel’ and ‘decided how much solid ground there should be?’
4. Who, ‘weighed the mountains’ and ‘decided how big they should be?’
5. Who, ‘weighed the hills’ and ‘decided how big they should be?’

¹ <https://www.family-times.net/commentary/comfort-of-restoration-isaiah-40-1/>

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/isaiah34-40-gc-lbw.htm>

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All these questions came rapidly without answers. Nothing exists by an accident. Everything was in God's plan! If you ask yourself these 5 questions, the answer will always be GOD!

³[He is the God] who has [done these things].

1. [He] measured the waters in [one of] His hand[s].
2. [He] marked out the heavens with a width of His hand.
3. [He] put the dust of the earth into a barrel.
4. [He] weighed the mountains on the scales (machine to weigh things).
5. [He weighed] the hills in a balance (another machine to weigh things).

Therefore, ⁴No human being can measure the seas in the cup (center) of his hand. But God can. No human being can measure the sky by the width of his hand. But God can. No human being can put all the dust of the earth into a box. But God can. No human being can weigh mountains or even hills. But God can.

40:13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?—

Again another "WHO" question:

6. Who, 'directed the Spirit of the Lord' or 'gave Him instruction as His counselor?'

[There is nobody] who has [done these things].

- [Nobody] understood the mind of the LORD.
- [Nobody] told Him what to do as God's adviser.

Nobody can understand the mind of the Lord. No human being can teach God anything.

40:14 With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?— Again

another set of "WHO" questions:

7. Who, 'took counsel and instructed Him?'
8. Who, 'taught Him in the path of judgment?'
9. Who, 'taught Him knowledge?'
10. Who, 'showed Him the way of understanding?'

- [Nobody] told [God] what to do when, nor did the LORD take counsel or instruction.
- [Nobody] taught Him the proper way to do things.
- [Nobody] taught him knowledge.
- [Nobody] showed Him the way to understand things.

God did not gain His knowledge from any human being. No human being taught God wisdom in how to live rightly. No human being helped Him to understand any or everything.

II. ISAIAH 40:15-17

40:15 Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of

³ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/isaiah34-40-gc-lbw.htm>

⁴ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/isaiah40-48-lbw-nh.htm>

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the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. Certainly, the nations are like a tiny amount [of water] in a bucket. They are like small bits of dust on the scales (machine to weigh things). And to God, great nations weigh no more than a little dust.

40:16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. Even the vast forests trees in Lebanon are not sufficient enough to make fuel for God's altar fire. Neither are there enough animals to burn on the altars as a worthwhile gift [to satisfy God].

40:17 All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. All the nations are like nothing in front of [the LORD]. He considers them to be without any value. Isaiah is saying that [They seem] less than nothing]. Don't trifle with or be more than what you think you are with God, the Creator!

SUMMARY:

The greatness of God shows His transcendent glory that surpasses all human comprehension. It shows God's greatness, might, and power in Creation and He did not need anyone to help Him. God Himself knows all things, and this is His reminder to His children asking who is like God. So, God speaks through the Prophet Isaiah about Creation: 1. Who measured the waters? 2. Who marked out the heaven? 3. Who comprehended the dust of the earth? 4. Who weighed the mountains in scales? 5. Who weighed the hills in a balance? 6. Who 'directed the Spirit of the Lord' or 'gave Him instruction? 7. Who 'took counsel and instructed Him?' 8. Who 'taught Him in the path of judgment?' 9. Who 'taught Him knowledge?' 10. Who 'showed Him the way of understanding?' (40:12-14).

These next statements about the nations don't need a response for certainly, they are like a tiny amount of water in a bucket; like small bits of dust on the scales, and, their great weigh is no more than a little dust to God. Even the vast forests trees in Lebanon are not sufficient enough to make fuel for God's altar fire, and not enough animals to burn on the altars as a worthwhile gift to satisfy God. God is still showing that His ways are inscrutable and beyond human understanding. We must come to God with a childlike faith, not demanding to understand everything. All the nations are like nothing in front of Him. He considers them to be without any value. God says through Isaiah that they seem less than nothing. Don't trifle with or be more than what you are with God, the Creator! In other words, God is completely self-sufficient, And He does not depend upon anyone else (40:15-17).

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