



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“He’s Looking at You. Lean Into Him..”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Is 40:27-31; Isaiah 40:1-26

Isaiah 40 closes with some of the most familiar and comforting words in all of Scripture. For many of us, verse 31 is etched into our memory—*“those who wait on the Lord..”*—sometimes even set to music. But these verses aren’t sentimental; they’re deeply pastoral. They are God’s answer to a very real, very painful question that rises up in every generation: *“Lord, where are You right now?”* This chapter is not abstract theology—it is comfort spoken into weariness, exile, pressure, and the long in-between.

What makes this passage so powerful is its timing. At the end of Isaiah 39, God announces that judgment and exile are coming. And immediately after, Isaiah 40 opens with, *“Comfort, comfort My people”* (Isa. 40:1). God does not leave His people alone in the tension. He speaks comfort to carry them through. And as this chapter unfolds, the Lord keeps saying one thing in different ways: *Look. Behold. Lift up your eyes.* Because when we stop looking at Him, we start believing that He’s stopped looking at us.

1. LIFT UP YOUR EYES—HE HASN’T LOST TRACK OF YOU

Isaiah says, *“Lift up your eyes on high, and see! Who created these?”* (Isa. 40:26). God invites His people to look upward—not to worship the stars, but to recognize the One who made them. He brings out the heavenly host by number and calls each one by name. Not one is missing. What you cannot count, He has already counted. What you cannot name, He has already named. And if He has not lost track of a single star, then He has not lost track of you.

This is why Isaiah echoes both Deuteronomy and Genesis. Moses warned Israel not to look at the stars and worship them (Deut. 4:19), while God invited Abraham to look at the stars as a reminder of promise (Gen. 15:5). The same heavens can either distract us from God or draw us back to Him. The difference is whether we recognize *who* stands behind them. And Isaiah is saying, *“If the Creator knows the stars by name, then He knows your name. Your way is not hidden from Him.”*

2. WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING GOD DOESN’T SEE?

The LORD addresses His people directly: *“Why do you say, O Jacob... ‘My way is hidden from ADONAI, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my God?’”* (Isa. 40:27). The language here is ongoing—*why do you keep saying this?* This isn’t rebellion; it’s weariness talking. These are covenant people, beloved people, asking an honest question in the middle of pressure: *“Lord, where are You in this moment?”*

The word “hidden” here is striking. Isaiah used the same word earlier to describe those who intentionally tried to hide their plans from God (Isa. 29:15)—and God saw them anyway. So the implication is clear: if God sees those who don’t want to be seen, then He surely sees those crying out to be seen. The issue isn’t that God doesn’t see; it’s that His timing doesn’t always match our expectations. One question is theological—*“Does God see?”*—and the

other is experiential—“*Why hasn’t He acted yet?*” And God answers both by reminding them of who He is.

3. WAIT FOR ADONAI—EXCHANGE YOUR STRENGTH FOR HIS

Isaiah responds, “*Have you not known? Have you not heard? ADONAI is the eternal God... He does not grow tired or weary*” (Isa. 40:28). God is not overcome by inner exhaustion or external pressure. He does not run out of strength, and He does not need to pause His purposes. His understanding is unsearchable—not because He is distant, but because He is eternal while we are bound to time.

Then comes the promise: “*He gives strength to the weary*” (Isa. 40:29). This is not something God occasionally does—it is part of who He is. Even the strongest among us will eventually wear down. Youths grow weary. Chosen ones stumble. But “*those who wait for ADONAI will renew their strength*” (Isa. 40:31). The word translated “renew” here means “exchange.” This is not self-improvement; it is dependence. When we lean into Him, His strength replaces ours. Suddenly, we’re not surviving—we’re soaring. Not because life got easier, but because the source of our strength changed.

CONCLUSION

So the question today is not whether God sees you. The question is whether you’re still looking at Him. Have you been trying to carry the weight in your own strength? Have you been leaning on nations, people, systems, or even yourself? The Lord says, “*Look at Me.*” He has never taken His eyes off your way. But maybe, in the pressure, you’ve taken your eyes off His. Today, lean into Him. Exchange your weariness for His strength. Wait—not with crossed fingers, but with expectation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does it look like in your life to “lift up your eyes” when you feel overwhelmed?
2. Where do you most often look for strength when you’re weary?
3. How does knowing that God names the stars reshape how you see your own value?
4. What’s the difference between waiting on God and passively doing nothing?
5. Where might God be inviting you to exchange your strength for His right now?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkenu, Our Father, Our King, You see us. You have never taken Your eyes off our way, even when we’ve felt unseen, overlooked, or forgotten. Forgive us for leaning on our own strength and trusting what feels stable instead of trusting You. Teach us to wait on You—not with fear, but with expectation. We choose to exchange our weariness for Your strength, our striving for Your rest. Help us to lift our eyes again and behold our God. We lean into You now.

B’Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.