

**Sure, God Knows All of the Stars by Name
But Can I Trust God to Keep His Promises?
Isaiah 40:12 – 31**

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As we examined, last time together, the first 11 verses of chapter 40 are a recommissioning of Isaiah as prophet. He is once again before the divine council, just as in chapter 6. We also find that he was a witness to the divine council calling and commissioning of John the Baptist. The forerunner for Messiah. As part of that commissioning, we also see a commissioning for Jerusalem to be the point of origin for the good news (gospel) of the Messiah that will spread across the entire planet.

The end of the meeting comes with the beginning of a description of just who this Messiah truly is.

For Isaiah, for Judah, and for us, is this a God who can do this? Can Messiah truly do as promised in verses 10 and 11? “The idea is to lead those addressed to put aside their doubts and give their assent to faith in Yahveh as the all-powerful creator. The strategy is to lead by means of a series of rhetorical questions, starting out from what is assumed to be common ground.” (Blenkinsopp 2008, 190)

This is also something Isaiah needs to set firmly in his mind as well. Remember, he said his prophecies were from the Lord, but he has also recently prophesied that the Kings of Judah would wind up being eunuchs in the service of Babylon. Yes, he has just been recommissioned and he has witnessed the commissioning of the forerunner of Messiah. He knows this is indeed all to take place. But what about his previous prophecies? He is to change his tone; does that change what he has already said; “if the days of the monarchy are numbered—all deported to Babylon and the males of the royal family eunuchs—what about the great royal promises which have been the substance of the prophet’s ministry to date (e.g. 9:1–6; 11:1–16)? Plainly Isaiah must either tear up his earlier prophecies or else seek further truth regarding the future.” (Motyer 1999, 274)

We forget that the Prophets were human and had the same kind of questions we would have if placed into a similar circumstance. God knows that and part of the reason for the response coming from God is to help Isaiah.

The Lord understands this, not only for Isaiah but also for the people of Judah and for us as well. The promises made, are guaranteed promises. How firm are they? They are “guaranteed by the nature of the Lord who, as Creator (40:12–31), rules the whole creation and cannot forget his people (40:25–31)

and, as Lord of history (41:1–7), directs the whole historical process, raising up the world’s rulers (41:1–4), and exposing the world’s idolatries (41:5–7); finally, matching the three voices (40:3–11), there are three pictures of consolation (41:8–20).” (Motyer 1999, 274)

Starting in verse 12 we are going to read a series of rhetorical questions that come from the Lord. These are like the questions the Lord asked Job after the back and forth he had with his various counselors. Job 38:1–3 “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.” (ESV)

In both cases, the tone is to prove a point. God is God.

Isaiah 40:12–17

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.” (NASB95)

In these series of questions, we encounter the attributes of YAHWEH. “The attributes of God present a theme so vast and complex and so beyond the range of finite faculties that any attempt to classify them must be only approximate as to accuracy or completeness. So, also, the attributes are so interrelated and interdependent that the exact placing of some of them is difficult if not wholly impossible.” (Chafer 1993, 189)

By “attribute” is meant some characteristic that can be attributed to God’s nature—an essential trait of God. Other terms for attribute are “property,” “perfection,” or “name.” (Geisler 2003, 17)

What attributes can we see in these rhetorical questions coming from God? Quite a few actually. God begins by outlining a simple fact that we need to hear in the 21st century, God is the creator. His decision and actions to create the heavens and the earth reveals multiple attributes.

Isaiah 40:12

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales?” (NASB95)

This is what we call an anthropomorphism in the Bible. This is when the Bible speaks “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 the Father 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.” (Guzik 2000, Is 40:12)

We are introduced to a construction project that is envisioned by, planned by, and implemented by God. Anyone who has ever been involved in construction knows the vast amount of planning it takes to do a large project.

The project being referred to here is the creation of the universe. The heavens, with all the heavenly host. The observable universe to include the creation of space / time. He also created a home for His planned creation of mankind, a place where He and His creation could live together.

As we read this and contemplate what it means in relation to YAHWEH, we also realize His unspoken desire to contemplate all of who He is – His attributes as it relates to Him being the creator. How glorious is this one who thought of us and made us in His image.

Isaiah 40:12 “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales?” (NASB95)

Attributes of God

God is the creator

- Omnipotence (Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (ESV))
- Sovereignty (Jeremiah 10:12-13 “It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.” (ESV))
- Pure actuality (Colossians 1:17 “He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him.” (NET))
 - God existed prior to and independently of anything else. All other things that exist depend on Him, while He depends on nothing else for His existence. (Geisler 2003, 31)
- Omniscience (Matthew 6:8 “Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (NET))
- Omnipresent (Psalm 139: 7 – 12 “Where can I flee from your spirit? Or where will I run from your presence? If I rise to heaven, there you are! If I lay down with the dead, there you are! If I take wings with the dawn and settle down on the western horizon your hand will guide me there, too, while your right hand keeps a firm grip on me. If I say, “Darkness will surely conceal me, and the light around me will become night,” even darkness isn’t dark to you, darkness and light are the same to you.” (ISV))
 - *God is omnipresent according to His being and not merely according to His operation. That is to say, He is essentially or substantially, not only dynamically, omnipresent...Second, although God is wholly present throughout all things, He is yet distinct from all things...Third, this presence of God throughout the whole of space is not by local diffusion, multiplication, or distribution. Being wholly spirit, God is not subject to the laws of matter such as extension and displacement. He cannot be divided or separated such that one part of His being is here and not there, and another part there and not here.*
 - *The whole of His being is always everywhere, no less nor more here than there, or there than here...Finally, whereas the presence of a body in a place of space excludes the simultaneous and in all ways identical presence of another body in the same place of space, such is not true of the Divine Being. God is, in the whole of His being, where everything else is (including matter). Substance or matter is in no way displaced or spatially excluded by the presence of God. To put it bluntly, when God created all things out of nothing, He did not have to “move out of the way” to make room for the world. He is where it is. (Storms 2006)*

- Wise (Job 12:13 “With God is wisdom and strength; counsel and understanding belongs to him.” (ISV)
 - It follows that God’s omniscience enables Him to be wise; that is, it is the necessary condition for omnibenevolence (God’s being all-good or all-loving). What is more, His omnibenevolence assures that He will choose the best means to the best ends. Finally, His omnipotence enables Him to achieve His ends by the means He chooses. (Geisler 2003, 215)

Why can we be confident that God will achieve all that He has said through Isaiah and all that He has yet to say through Isaiah, because He is the creator and all that that means.

He is Also

- Love
- Immanence
- Transcendence
- Perfection
- Holiness
- Justice
- Truthfulness

And there is still more, but what we see is that because God starts with creation, all the aspects of who He is come into play, and because of that, He is wholly reliable.

By these things we learn that God is recognized in everything that is born or created as being within them and also outside of them, at once transcendent and immanent, surrounding all and infusing all. Hilary of Poitiers (Wilken, Christman and Hollerich 2007, 276)

Isaiah 40:13–14

“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?” (NASB95)

Because God is the creator and He made everything, once we understand and apprehend all the attributes of God that are encompassed in that one 6-day long act, everything begins to make sense.

In the created universe the wisdom and judgment of God are displayed. Creation required knowledge, but no one taught God this knowledge, for no creature possesses such knowledge. (Young 1972, 46)

I really like the way Dr McGee puts this thought of God asking who it is that would provide Him wisdom and guidance. “Someone has asked the rather facetious question, “What is it that you have seen that God has never seen?” The answer is very simple. God has never seen His equal. I see mine every day.” (McGee 1997, 286)

In Babylonian mythology, the creator god Marduk could not proceed with creation without consulting ‘Ea, the all-wise’, but the Lord works with unaided wisdom. In both Babylonian and Canaanite creation stories the creator must overcome opposing forces before the way opens for the work of creation. To the contrary, the Old Testament not only tells the story of creation in a way that demands a monotheistic doctrine of God (Gn. 1) but also uses the concept of creation to point to the fact of only one God (Ps. 96:5). In verse 12 the Creator was alone in the work of creation; here he is alone also in the wisdom needed for the work. (J. A. Motyer 1996, 303)

This is also an indictment of the fallen ones. They are created beings who created nothing. Satan never claims to create anything, he just wants to usurp what has already been made and pervert it (Genesis 6:1 – 4). YAHWEH made clear to Job who the creator is in a similar discussion.

Job 38:4–7 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you possess understanding! Who set its measurements—if you know— or who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its bases set, or who laid its cornerstone— when the morning stars sang in chorus, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (NET)

In ages past the divine sons of God watched as Yahweh created the world (Job 38:7–8). Yahweh then announced to his council his intention to create humans who would be his imagers, a status his divine sons also shared (Gen 1:26–27). We were designed to be embodied reflections of God. (Heiser 2015, 377)

God is the one who made the decisions. It may sound like He was looking for feedback from the divine council, but that was not the case.

Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth.”” (NET)

We are imagers of God because we are human. “Humankind was created as God’s image. If we think of imaging as a verb or function, that translation makes sense. We are created to image God, to be his imagers. It is what we are by definition. The image is not an ability we have, but a status. We are God’s representatives on earth. To be human is to image God.” (Heiser 2015, 42-43)

Imaging begins at conception (Psalm 139:13 – 16).

The right answer then, to the follow-on questions in verses 13 and 14 is – no one. God is creator in every extent of the word and in all that it means. A Jew would know that is the right answer, not all would follow YAHWEH because of that being the right answer, but they would know it.

Today, because we are now smarter than God and have more knowledge than He does, the majority no longer even believe He is the creator. “Forty percent of U.S. adults ascribe to a strictly creationist view of human origins, believing that God created them in their present form within roughly the past 10,000 years.” (Brenan 2019)

Isaiah 40:14

“With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?” (NASB95)

The answer to the questions in verse 13 was clearly – no one. Unlike all of us, God has no beginning and no end. He is eternal. We aren’t.

To drive that point home, God asks the question that boils down to essentially, where did God go to school?

Did God have to go to law school to learn justice and understanding? Hardly. God is Holy, He is righteous. Justice, when talking about God “is God acting and speaking in conformity with who he is. To say that God is just is to say that he acts and speaks consistently with whatever his righteous nature requires.” (Storms 2006)

God does not change, He is immutable. “God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a human being, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not make it happen?” (Numbers 23:19, NET)

Divine justice is exhibited in the fact that righteous laws are given to men, that these laws are sustained by proper sanctions, and that these laws are given an impartial execution. No favoritism is ever indulged, though infinite favor is extended to those who come under the righteous provisions for salvation made possible through Christ’s sacrifice for sin. On this it may be remarked, that at no point is divine justice more observable than in the plan of redemption. What is done on the divine side for lost men through Christ’s sacrifice, is wrought in perfect justice—such justice, indeed, as is consonant with infinite holiness.

Justice demands that the penalty, having fallen upon Another and that benefit having been embraced as the ground of hope by the offender, shall not fall again upon the offender. Holiness dictates that there shall be no leniency toward evil on the part of God. It is true that He considers our frame and remembers that we are dust; but God never condones sin. God is not said to be merciful or kind when He justifies the one who believes on Christ; He is said to be just (Rom. 3:26). To the same end, when forgiving and cleansing the Christian who confesses his sin, God is said to be faithful and just (1 John 1:9; cf. 1 Cor. 11:31, 32). (Chafer 1993, 204)

When we accept the free gift that is offered through the achievement of Jesus Christ on the cross, we are changed. To achieve holiness, it becomes part of our new DNA.

Romans 8:1–4 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in union with the Messiah Jesus. For the Spirit’s law of life in the Messiah Jesus has set me free from the Law of sin and death. For what the Law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did. By sending his own Son in the form of humanity, he condemned sin by being incarnate, so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not live according to human nature but according to the Spirit.” (ISV)

2 Peter 1:2–4

Because of that, His justice becomes the focus again. His holiness and absolute perfection requires those who are around Him to reflect the same. Because of Jesus, we are made perfect. “May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.” (NLT)

Isaiah 40:15–17

“Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.” (NASB95)

Leading up to chapter 40, Isaiah has been encouraging Judah to not ally themselves with any nation at all. This was a stumbling block for more than just King Hezekiah. They could not, or would not which is a more appropriate statement, listen to God. So Judah aligned themselves with the nations, or as the prophet called, aligned themselves with the world system of unbelief.

We see here in verse 15 the true attitude of the creator God to the nations on earth. When Jesus Christ is ruling and reigning as King here on earth, we can see a bit of how He will conduct foreign affairs with the many nations on this planet. He will not hold them in any esteem at all. They come and worship the King or they suffer the consequences of disobedience to Him.

Zechariah 14:16–19

“In the end, the enemies of Jerusalem who survive the plague will go up to Jerusalem each year to worship the King, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, and to celebrate the Festival of Shelters. Any nation in the world that refuses to come to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, will have no rain. If the people of Egypt refuse to attend the festival, the LORD will punish them with the same plague that he sends on the other nations who refuse to go. Egypt and the other nations will all be punished if they don’t go to celebrate the Festival of Shelters.” (NLT)

To the creator of the universe, “he says that all nations and peoples are nothing when compared with God; for, by simply breathing on them, he will scatter like small dust all the inhabitants of the earth.” (Calvin and Pringle 2010, 220)

The glory of a nation is put on display every year. The intent of this is to show why that nation is powerful and should be considered by all other nations on the planet. Patriotic displays and parades mean nothing to the Lord. They encourage a type of idolatry where we begin to revere the symbols of a nation as equal to or greater than our loyalty to the Lord.

Ephesians 2:19–22

“So then you are no longer foreigners and noncitizens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household, because you have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (NET)

We follow the King, yes we give honor to the government and pray for them, but when the government crosses the line, we follow the King.

1 Timothy 2:1–4

“First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people, even for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. Such prayer for all is good and welcomed before God our Savior, since he wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (NET)

Isaiah 40:16

“Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.” (NASB95)

The glory of the creator, when compared to the nations, the nations are nothing. As an example, the Lord says if you used all of the wood in Lebanon and all of the animals in Lebanon as an offering, it is still nothing. “Yahweh, the God of Israel, is so high and exalted above man that man is in no way able to present unto Him a sacrifice or offering worthy of Him.” (Young 1972, 49)

There is nothing we can do to make ourselves acceptable to God. He would have to do this for us. “This is the death-knell to all ‘do-it-yourself’ systems of salvation. Over every human effort to move God, to meet his demands, satisfy his requirements, manoeuvre him to our advantage and climb into his ‘good books’, Isaiah simply writes, ‘Not enough.’” (J. A. Motyer 1999, 279)

Isaiah 40:17

“All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.” (NASB95)

So much for the United Nations. Even if they all come together they are as nothing before Him. This is not an assessment of man’s value to God. Humanity was created by God in His image and His intent was for us to have fellowship with Him in Eden along with those members of the heavenly host that He also created. But standing in front of God, the creator “humankind’s collective strength is nothing; ‘they are to be reckoned in comparison to him as non-entity’. He alone possesses life; of themselves they do not.

Less than nothing is the 'formless' of Genesis 1:2, meaning 'lacking evident purpose and meaning': 'compared to him they are to be reckoned as pointless.' (J. A. Motyer 1999, 279-280)

John 3:16–18

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (ESV)

We are in an asymmetrical relationship that was pursued by and provided for by God, not the other way around.

Considering the glory of the creator when compared to all else, what do you think?

Isaiah 40:18–20

“To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter.” (NASB95)

YAHWEH has made it very clear to His people that because He is unique, that there is no likeness that can be manufactured to represent Him. An image is limiting at the end of the day. We only covered a few of the attributes of God, which one do you highlight?

Exodus 20:3–6

“You shall have no other gods except me. You shall make for yourself no idol or likeness of anything in the heavens above and in the land below and in the waters under the land. You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, repaying the sin of the fathers upon the children unto the third and the fourth generation to those who hate me, and showing mercy to thousands for those who love me and keep my commandments.” (Lexham Press 2020, Ex 20:3-6)

God is multidimensional in His personality and attributes and as such, cannot and will not allow Himself to be limited by anyone to a single slice or view of who He is. He is not a golden calf, He is God.

If God's transcendence is the most fundamental truth of OT theology, its immediate corollary is the next most fundamental: one cannot make an image of God. Any likeness (demût) of him that we contingent creatures attempt will of necessity be wrong. Furthermore, it plays directly into the hands of our passionate desire to make God controllable by making him part of our cosmos. (Oswalt 1998, 62-63)

Job 26:6–10

“Sheol is naked before God and Abaddon has no clothes. he spreads out the north over empty space, suspending the earth over nothing. He restricts the waters within clouds and the clouds don't burst open under them. He has enclosed the face of the full moon and spread his clouds over it. He has delimited a boundary over the surface of the oceans as a limit between light and darkness.” (ISV)

God is incomparable. Anything that is created to represent Him is inadequate. The Lord points out just how crazy it is for someone who worships idols. The rich have a rich god, the poor a poor god.

Isaiah 40:19–20

“As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter.” (NASB95)

Idols may look magnificent, venerable and mysterious, they may excite a sense of awe but there is nothing there except the materials—no ability but human ability, no innate resources but those of earth. (J. A. Motyer 1996, 305)

Isaiah 40:21–24

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. Scarcely have they been planted, Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble.” (NASB95)

Four questions are now asked by Isaiah to those that have been listening to this message. These rhetorical questions are directed to Judah.

Do you not know?
Have you not heard?

Will ye never have the sense and the honesty to understand that the great God who built the heavens and the earth cannot be like your images of wood and stone? (Cowles 1869, 314)

Or more for our day, will you never have the understanding to know that it is God who created everything? You cannot make Him into your mold of evolution and natural causes coupled with uniformitarianism.

The problem is simple, we should know the truth from what we see around us. Someone should have told us.

Paul echoed this in the book of Romans.

Romans 1:18–20

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” (ESV)

Has it not been told to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the world?

When man fell, various divisions took place. The first and basic division is between man who has revolted and God. All other divisions flow from that. We are separated from God by our guilt—true moral guilt. Hence we need to be justified upon the basis of the finished substitutionary work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet it is quite plain from the Scriptures and from general observation that the separations did not stop with the separation of man from God. For, secondly, man was separated from himself. This gives rise to the psychological problems of life. Thirdly, man was separated from other men, leading to the sociological problems of life. Fourthly, man was separated from nature. (Schaeffer 1982, 164)

The answer for Judah is the same answer as for us today, yes, we have been told but we choose to believe lies instead because we are enlightened.

As Paul pointed out in Romans, because of that willing and intentional ignorance, “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory

of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,” (Romans 1:21–24, ESV)

God is still completely God. Even though the questions being answered begin with creation, they move, just as the previous commentary from the Lord did, to the nations.

Isaiah 40:22–24 “It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. Scarcely have they been planted, Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble.” (NASB95)

The creator God also presides over the affairs of His creation. Just as He is the one who has made the material universe, He has not checked out. He is omnipresent. “It means that all of God is everywhere at once. As the indivisible Being, God does not have one part here and another part there, for He has no parts. God is present to but not part of creation. God is everywhere, but He is not any thing. He is at every point in space, but He is not spatial. He is at every point in space, but He is not of any point in space.” (Geisler 2003, 170)

So where is He? We are part of the plan. “The world has a right to look upon us and make a judgment. We are told by Jesus that as we love one another the world will judge, not only whether we are His disciples, but whether the Father sent the Son.” (Schaeffer 1982, 165)

John 13:34–35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (ESV)

Our task as NT believers is to reflect Jesus. We are imagers, and we are redeemed imagers to boot. Judah was to reflect YAHWEH to the world, and they had some success, but predominately they had failure. We have the truth, and it begins with a personal relationship with the creator of the universe through the person of Jesus Christ.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14, ESV)

Here in Isaiah 40, we see the whole picture. From God and then repeated by Isaiah. God is in control of creation, history and is fully aware of the brevity of life. He also wants personal relationship with each of us.

Isaiah 40:25–31

“To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.” (NASB95)

We cannot hide from Him. He is omnipresent and omniscient. We can trust the one who created everything, He made the stars and named them and keeps track of them. He can and does keep track of us.

For the Universe, the galaxies are our small representative volumes, and there are something like 10^{11} to 10^{12} stars in our Galaxy, and there are perhaps something like 10^{11} or 10^{12} galaxies.

With this simple calculation you get something like 10^{22} to 10^{24} stars in the Universe. This is only a rough number, as obviously not all galaxies are the same, just like on a beach the depth of sand will not be the same in different places. (The European Space Agency n.d.)

Many who read through the Bible on a regular basis come to 1 Chronicles 1 and want to jump to chapter 11. The genealogies are very detailed, and more than one scholar has asked the question as to why they are there at all. This actually is an example for us, how much detail do we really need? We are only given a synopsis of a whole group of people, but here is the truth in that. If God can keep track of all those folks and make sure we get a synopsis of what they did, you know He is doing the same with each of us.

As the creator, seeing just a few of His attributes, we understand how capable He truly is.

When He tells us that those who wait on Him "...Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."
We, like Judah, know that is truth.

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