



God is Incomparable

Isaiah 40:12-31

By Daniel J. Denk

Primary Questions: These are the core questions we will ask in this study of [Isaiah 40:12-31](#):

- Who is God?
- What is God like?
- How do we apply these truths to influence the way we think about God and understand our world?
- How will we respond in appropriate worship?

Background note: Read [Isaiah 40:12-31](#). The historical context to this passage is one that envisions Israel already in exile, with God speaking words of comfort and assurance that he will deliver them. The earlier part of the chapter is familiar to us as the promise of the forerunner of Messiah (John the Baptist) and the general promise of redemption. Look at [verses 1-11](#) to note the tender tone that sets the stage for this chapter.

1. How might these words about the majesty and sovereignty of God offer comfort to Israel in exile? Where do people today turn to find comfort when life is hard?
2. With a series of five rapid-fire rhetorical questions (vv. 12-14), the prophet drives home the point of God's incomparable majesty. Examine closely the poetic language to grasp what specific claims he is making regarding the Lord's unique power and knowledge.
3. As you continue reading vv. 15-17, notice the strong contrasting statements that are made to paint a picture of the immensity of God. How would you state the main point of these verses in your own words?
4. Isaiah drives home the futility of trusting in idols (vv. 18-20) in contrast to trusting in the all-powerful Creator God (vv. 21-24). The surrounding nations may turn to idols, but Israel is called to trust in God alone.
 - How is God described in these verses?
 - How does this move us to trust in him alone in the face of fear, insecurities, and the uncertainties of life?
 - Where do people in our society turn for security? That is, what are the idols of our day?
5. God is peerless; he is without equal (v. 25). What images are used to support this claim (v. 26)? What feelings and thoughts come to your mind when you look up at the sky on a star-filled night and consider the starry host? The more we learn about the immensity of the universe, with its myriad galaxies and clusters of galaxies, the greater is our appreciation that God "calls forth each of the stars by name."

6. The complaint of Jacob and Israel is a familiar one (v. 27). How might this complaint be stated today? What is at the heart of this complaint?
7. What is the response to the complaint (vv. 28-31)? What do we learn about who God is? What is the promise given to the faithful?
8. We have seen many ways of describing the Incomparable God. Try to list the main aspects. Are there any new thoughts here for you? Which of these truths about God is the most difficult to comprehend and believe? Are there particular declarations about God in this section that bring you needed comfort and reassurance?

Offer prayers of worship to God for his incomparable nature and qualities.