

July 8th, 2018
"The Everlasting God"
Isaiah 40:12-31

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

July 1 Psalms 90-95	July 5 Psalms 108-114
July 2 Psalms 96-102	July 6 Psalms 115-118
July 3 Psalms 103-105	July 7 Psalms 119:1-88
July 4 Psalms 106-107	July 8 Psalms 119:89-176

Lesson Introduction: *This week, we continue to consider the comfort God will bring His people after their captivity. Last week, we looked at how the Lord brings comfort through the fulfillment and certainty of His word. As we walk through our passage this week, may we marvel at our smallness in light of God's grandeur, and realize that our only hope for peace and comfort is resting in the very fact that we are weak, but He is strong. To that end, we will consider **the overwhelming grandeur of the Lord, and His strength in our weakness.***

Key Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:31

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The Lord is infinitely greater than all the powers of this world.**
- **The only true strength we have is in Him.**

Isaiah 40:12-31

12 *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?*

13 *Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord,
or what man shows him his counsel?*

14 *Whom did he consult,
and who made him understand?
Who taught him the path of justice,
and taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?*

15 *Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.*

16 *Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.*

17 *All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and
emptiness.*

18 *To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?*

19 *An idol! A craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.*

20 *He who is too impoverished for an offering
chooses wood that will not rot;
he seeks out a skillful craftsman
to set up an idol that will not move.*

21 *Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?*

22 *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 like a tent to dwell in;*

23 *who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.*

24 *Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.*

25 *To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.*

26 *Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?*

*He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name;
by the greatness of his might
and because he is strong in power,
not one is missing.*

27 *Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?*

28 *Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

*He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.*

29 *He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.*

30 *Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;*

31 *but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.*

Discussion 1: The Everlasting God (V. 12-28)

-What do **verses 12 and 26** tell us about the wealth and power of God?

-How do these verses speak to our weakness?

Note: Consider for a moment how long it might take you to empty a bathtub using only your hands. This passage tells us that God has, “**measured the waters in the hollow of His hand**” (V. 12). How small we feel when we stand on a beach, and look out into the ocean, yet the Lord holds all the waters of the earth in His hand! Or think of our greatest feats in space travel. The farthest we have traveled into space was when the Apollo 13 crew was on the far side of the moon. Traveling at that same speed, we would have to travel 114,078 years just to reach our nearest star (Davis, **Christ-Centered Exposition**). Yet in our passage today, we see that the Lord measures the heavens with just the span of His hand. Scientist believe there to be hundreds of billions of galaxies, each with billions of stars, and in V. 26 we see that the Lord knows each of them by name, and by His power they burn bright every night.

One of the things we should dwell on as we read verses about the Lord’s immense power in creation is the fact that, because He is the creator of all that we see (**Colossians 1:16**), that also makes Him the owner of all things. What do we have to offer the God who made all things by the word of His mouth!? C.S. Lewis would say it like this: “**Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense his own already ... It is like a small child going to its father and saying, 'Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.' It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction.**” May we be humbled greatly today as we consider the wealth and power of God in creation.

-What do **verses 13-14** tell us about the mind of the Lord? What do might we learn from these verses in terms of how we ought to interact with Him?

Note: **Verses 13-14** ask the question, “who teaches God?” So much of the reason people struggle to trust God is owing to the fact that we simply think we are wiser than Him. When we read of His plan to condemn sinners to eternal damnation, we ask, “how can He be

just.” When we consider that in His plan He would raise Pharaoh up, and harden his heart, in order that His name might be proclaimed in all the earth, we say, “**why does He still find fault? For who can resist His will?**” (**Romans 9 :17-21**). But our passage today makes clear, **God is the creator of the definition of righteousness and justice.** He is the one who decides what is just and right. As we approach Him daily, there should never be a demeanor of pride or arrogance. He cannot be taught by us, and we desperately need to be taught by Him. We must approach him in all humility and meekness and seek to gain His understanding.

-What do **verses 15-17, 23-24** tell us about God’s power over all the kingdoms of the earth? How might **verses 22, and 28** shape our overall thinking when it comes to hoping in man vs. God?

Note: Too often our hope lies in political power or military might. This passage teaches us that there is no nation that amounts to anything in God’s eyes (V. 17). The power of any mighty empire can be brought to nothing as quickly as a dandelion being blown on by a child (V. 23-24). Ultimately, the Lord “**sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers**” to Him (V. 22). May we never forget how small and insignificant our lives are in comparison to the grandeur of God. Our lives are vapor in the wind. We get tired just from a few hours of work. But the Lord never faints or grows weary, He never slumbers (**Psalms 121:4**), and He is the everlasting God.

Discussion 2: His strength in our weakness (V. 29-31)

-How are you tired and weary?

-Considering all these stunning realities about God, what might it look like for you to “**wait**” on Him?

Note: As we close out this lesson, consider the burdens of this life you are currently facing. Have tried to work your way out of debt to the God who owns everything? Have you placed your hope in man (the government, doctors, etc.)? Have you thought that you know better than God about a given situation? The final verses of this passage tell us simply to “**wait for the Lord.**” The only way will we rise above our problems in this life is to realize that it is the strength of the Lord alone that will sustain us. When we realize our weakness is when we begin to see the unfathomable strength of the Lord, and when we rest in Him, we soar like eagles above our momentary afflictions (**2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 2 Corinthians 12:9-11**).