

Isaiah 40:12-31**3-24-05***“Those who Wait on the Lord!”***1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Thank** - Reuben for Pulpit.
- 1.2. **Announce:** Communion tomorrow 7am.
 - 1.2.1. Easter Service 7:30am. (10:30 Cross-Walk)
- 1.3. **From last Week** – Zion has bidden us to climb the highest mountain w/in reach & announce the advent of the Savior-God.
 - 1.3.1. **He showed Himself both:** as powerful Judge(10) & as loving caring Shepherd(11).
- 1.4. **This week** – The **dominant theme** is the *awesome greatness* of God. And, the *complete inability* of His people to understand who He really is. [Incomprehensible yet knowable!]
 - 1.4.1. **See** vs.21,28 {Have you not known/heard?}
 - 1.4.1.1. The prophet Isaiah is not afraid to use **satire**. It is a dangerous weapon, but of course he wields the sword well.
 - 1.4.2. In ch.'s 40-48(9 ch.'s) there are **216 verses**, in which **115** speak of God's **greatness & power!**
 - 1.4.3. Again, we learned last week that there is **more to God's character than judgment...**He is full of **Mercy, Grace**, & He is eager to lavish His **love** on his people!
- 1.5. **Outline:** [1] **The God Who Created all Things** [2] **The God Who Reigns Over Us** [3] **The God Who Cares for Us.**
 - 1.5.1. If we only had this ½ a chapter on the subject of God, let's see all that we can learn about Him!

2. THE GOD WHO CREATED ALL THINGS! (12-20)

- 2.1. **He is Vast!** (12)
- 2.2. Time to regroup. Israel would be in Babylon & they would need this reminder of God's greatness.
 - 2.2.1. **Q:** Do you need that reminder tonight for your thorny situation you find yourself in?
- 2.3. **He has Perfect Knowledge!** (13,14)
 - 2.3.1. *Lean not on your own understanding!*
 - 2.3.2. **God IS greater** than the burden you bear & the challenge you face!

- 2.4. **He is Mighty over the Nations!** (15-17)
- 2.4.1. (Message Bible) “There aren’t enough trees in Lebanon nor enough animals in those vast forests to furnish adequate fuel and offerings for his worship.”
- 2.4.2. To God, Babylon **wasn’t** but a drop in a bucket to God (a bug in a windshield) & neither are they **today** (pray for the healing of Iraq).
- 2.5. **He is Difficult to Contrast!** (18-20)
- 2.5.1. Be astonished at the bridging of the great gulf between God and not God.
- 2.5.2. This picture is most ridiculous because it is framed by 2 paragraphs full of the Glory of the true God.
- 2.6. (20) **will not totter** –
- 2.6.1. **Q:** What was Gideon’s nickname, & where did he get it?
- 2.6.2. **Read** Judges 6:25-23. (emphasize vs.26,31)

3. **THE GOD WHO REIGNS OVER US!** (21-26)

- 3.1. **He has Infinite Power!** (21-24)
- 3.2. (22) The great novelist *Thomas Hardy* thought, “if God existed he was a **watchmaker** who had wound the world up, but was letting it run down.”
- 3.2.1. I would say, “if God was a **watchmaker** you would also find He was also the **watch repairman**. Who **watches over us** w/great **watchfulness**, from His **Watch Tower**. And He even has a **Watch Pawn Shop** in which he redeems **watches!**...so you better **watch it!**”
- 3.2.2. Isaiah knew better, he sees God still **on His throne**, that is, **in control!** (see 23)
- 3.3. **He has Infinite Power!** (25,26)
- 3.4. (26) **Lift up your eyes** – i.e. from earthly things, & look upwards to God.
- 3.4.1. **Don’t be like the centipede who was doing fine until someone asked him which of his one hundred legs came after which.** He'd never thought of that before. The more he thought about it, the more he couldn't remember, and then he found he couldn't walk at all. - - - **Lift up your eyes!**
- 3.4.2. Sir Isaac Newton, “This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being. This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all; and on account of his dominion he is wont to be called Lord God.”
- 3.4.3. **Q:** Wow! And if the **bottom side of heaven** is this beautiful, just think how wonderful the **other side** must be!

- 3.5. **He calls them by name** –Such a God can be trusted to know our deepest need.
- 3.5.1. The Milky Way numbers **100,000 million** stars, many of them brighter than the sun. Yet **one quasar** is 200 times as bright as the **entire** Milky Way galaxy!
- 3.5.1.1. Yet Look at **Gen.1:16** it's almost lost in the creation account.
And yet that was a huge feat!
- 3.6. **Not one is missing** – From a **poetic eye**, it sounds like a **vast flock** following the **Shepherd**, who calls each by name! (Meyer)
- 3.6.1. **Will not Jehovah do so much for us?** – He has a **name** for each, & He will **guard & guide** each!
- 3.6.2. **He loves us more than stars!**
- 3.6.3. **Q: Can God miss even one of your problems?**

4. **THE GOD WHO CARES FOR US! (27-31)**

- 4.1. **He Cares & Empowers! (27-31)**
- 4.1.1. Isaiah's **profound theology** ends with a **practical climax**, as all theology should!
- 4.2. (27) ☹️ **"God has lost track of me. He doesn't care what happens to me?"**
(Message)
- 4.3. (29) **Trust in the power of God!**
- 4.4. (Phillips Brooks) **Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks.**
- 4.4.1. (John Knox) **"Mark what has been the practice of the Devil from the beginning, most cruelly to rage against God's children, when God begins to show them his mercy. And therefore marvel not, dearly beloved, though this should happen to you. If Satan fume and roar against you, whether it be against your bodies by persecution, or inwardly in your consciences by a spiritual battle, do not be discouraged, as though you were less acceptable in God's presence, or that Satan might at any time prevail against you. No! ... I have good hope, and my prayer will likewise be, that you may be so strengthened, that the world and Satan himself may understand and perceive, that God is fighting your battle."**
- 4.4.2. **He is not too great to care, he is, however, too great to fail.**
- 4.5. (30,31) Remember what God spoke to Israel in Ex.19:4 **"You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself."**
- 4.5.1. **He does the same for us tonight Christian!**

- 4.5.2. There are **two tiny towns** in North Carolina, not very far apart. One is named **Trust** and the other **Luck**. In each case, the population is quite small. But, in fact, everybody lives in one or the other of these towns! We live by trust or we live by luck.
- 4.5.2.1. Our response should be to put our hope & trust in the Lord!
- 4.6. There are three stages of life.
- 4.6.1. You can be like an **eagle**, a **runner**, or a **pilgrim**.
- 4.6.2. Sometimes we **mount up with wings as an eagle** and fly. We're on top of the world.
- 4.6.3. **Q: How do Eagles mount up?...they soar!**
- 4.6.3.1. Stop flapping like a spastic duck! (*flying bowling pins*)
- 4.6.4. **Q: Where are you being asked to **soar w/vision?****
- 4.6.5. Sometimes we **run**, and we don't grow weary.
- 4.6.5.1. But is it just routine?
- 4.6.6. **Q: Where are you being asked to **run w/consistency?****
- 4.6.7. Sometimes it's all we can do to **walk** and not faint.
- 4.6.7.1. This can be the **daily routine of life**, that often times people seek to **escape** from!
- 4.6.7.2. Often time it is **more difficult to walk than mount!**
- 4.6.7.3. Every cyclist knows that it is hardest to keep your cycle at walking pace.
- 4.6.8. **Q: Where are you being asked to **walk w/patience?****
- 4.7. **He** will help you all 3, all 3 require **His** mighty power! (29,30b)