

Isa 40:12-17 ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³ Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? ¹⁴ With whom did He take counsel and who instructed Him and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding? ¹⁵ Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. ¹⁶ And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. ¹⁷ All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

When we consider that the prophet Isaiah's object or purpose here is to expound upon the power of God in a most elegant and glorious manner in order that he might provide for the people of God a true support of their faith. A foundation for faith that would cause us not to hesitate to believe that God will do all that He has promised because of who He is. As we consider the greatness of God in this passage of Scripture this morning as believers we cannot help but to realize that with God nothing is impossible. There can be no question that this passage of Scripture was written to glorify God and to strengthen the faith of His elect. As we read about the creation as it relates to God, we must remember that we are talking about our Lord Jesus Christ.

The greatness of God. The insignificance of man. The self-sufficiency of God.

A. The overwhelming greatness of God.

1. Holds the waters of the earth in the hollow of His hand. - *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand*
 - a. Hold out your hand palm up - Observe the small dip in the center of your palm
 - b. Imagine all the waters of the earth - contained therein.
 - c. What then was the Hurricane that devastated New Orleans to God - Great and threatening to us
2. The galaxies of the heavens are covered by the span of His hand - *measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure?*
 - a. Hold out your hand and consider the space from the tip of your little finger to the tip of your thumb.
 - b. Now think of billions of galaxies containing millions of stars light years apart contained in that small area
 - c. God says that is how I measure the heavens that are beyond your comprehension.
 - d. Now imagine a small speck in the center of that area and think of it as the galaxy in which our earth exists.
 - e. A galaxy containing millions of stars with our sun somewhere within that tiny speck. Now how big would our earth appear?
 - d. Upholds all things by the word of His power
3. The insignificant smallness of the nations to Almighty God - *Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.*
 - a. All the nations from the beginning of time to the present - like a small drop in a bucket.
 - b. What is the volume of a drop in a bucket of water? Or like the small dust on the scales.
 - c. The continents that He lifted up are referred to as small land masses, as a small thing.

Ps 104:5-9 5 You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. **At Your rebuke they fled**; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. *They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth.*

Gen 1:9-10 Then **God said**, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and **let the dry land appear**"; **and it was so**. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

- d. Now think of the most powerful nations upon the earth. - *All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.*
- e. How we must remember and remind those about us, there is coming a day when all men, great and small, will stand before the Judge of nations.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, **small and great**, standing before God, and books were opened.

- f. Truly it is the fool who has said in his heart there is no God.

B. Now consider the total insignificance of man. - *Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering*

1. God does not stand in need of our worship.

- a. The fact that we are able to worship God is a privilege granted to us.
- b. The forest of Lebanon could not suffice for fire wood, nor would all the animals of it territory be sufficient for a burnt offering to glorify God.
- c. God was glorious in, of and unto Himself from all eternity past.

Ps 50:9-12 I will not take a bull from your house, nor goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness."

2. What is man that you are mindful of him?

C. The self-sufficiency of God. - *With whom did He take counsel and who instructed Him and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding*

1. Prayer is not commanding God.

- a. It is making known your needs
- b. Bringing before God His promises.
- c. It is standing upon those promises.
- d. But it is not instructing, teaching or directing God as to what He must do.
- e. Nor is it advising Him as to how He is to meet our needs, or fulfill His promises.

2. He did not stand in need of us at creation. (Job 38:4ff)

- a. Clearly He does NOT stand in need of our wisdom in His providential care over all things.
- b. Nor does He stand in need of our wisdom in directing His justice in all things. - *who instructed Him and taught Him in the path of justice?*

CONCLUSION: Truly we can only conclude - How great is our God?

But I have one final question - Who is being spoken of here?

Yes, it is the Godhead, but I believe it is our Lord Jesus Christ in particular

I believe it is proper to conclude that - - - He has been and continues to be the subject matter of Isaiah - chapter 40

I close with 3 verses that will show Him to be Creator and the one who upholds all things.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Heb 1:1-3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,

And the marvel of it all - This is the One who left all the glories of heaven above,

Was made in the likeness of men, humbled Himself and took upon Himself the form of a servant

Obedient unto death, even the death of the cross

Why? - To redeem God's elect from God's eternal wrath

Truly the marvel of it all.