

Man's Rebellion Is Futile

Text : **Isaiah 40: 12-31**

S#1.

A. In America these are dark days for those who seek to walk in the ways of God.

1. Evil is very aggressively rebelling against the rule of God on the earth. S#2.
2. Men came to this continent and founded this country to escape religious tyrants.
3. In recent days the forces of darkness have made significant gains via government.
4. I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet, but it appears there is worse to come.

S#3.

B. The loudest and the most organized voices are in full rebellion against God's rule.

1. They are not contented to coexist, but seek to drive out religious people.
2. There are even some setting in churches who reject the sovereignty of God's rule.

3. The words of the late A.W. Tozer turned out to be prophetic. In his book S#4.
"The Knowledge Of The Holy, The Attribute Of God" Tozer wrote :

"The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshiping men. This she has not done deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic." ... "With the loss of the sense of God's majesty has come further loss religious awe and consciousness of the divine presence. We've lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in silence. The words "be still and know that I am God" mean nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshipper."

S#5.

C. Isaiah 40 addresses God's people of old in similar circumstances to ours.

1. They were living under the threat of an invasion and war they could not win.
2. People of old erroneously believed that the strongest national god won the wars.
3. God reassures Israel that though they would be captives, He was able to deliver them
4. In America we're in for more difficult times, but we serve a God who will deliver us.

S#6.

As we examine our text we'll notice that God asks 8 questions of His people.

I. Who is able to measure the activities of God ?

S#7.

- A. Vs. 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? S#8.

1. **Gen. 1: 1** – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2. Man cannot even measure or count all that God has created. *water, sand on beach*

II. Who has directed the spirit (mind) of the Lord.**S#9.****A. Vs. 13 – Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,****S#10.****B. The word “direct” means to measure or to mark off.**

1. Who is able to understand the mind of God ?

a. Who knows why does God do what He does ?

b. **Isa. 55: 8-9** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways **S#11.**
My ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than
the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts
than your thoughts.”

2. We can't even understand our own minds so how can we understand God's.

a. We are very often unable to understand why we react to certain circumstances.

b. What man among us understands women ? Or women men ?

III. Who is able to act as God's counselor ?**S#12.****A. Vs. 13b – Who ... as His counselor has informed Him?****S#13.****B. The Apostle Paul applied this passage in his preaching.**

a. **I Cor. 2: 14-16** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit **S#14.**
of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand
them, because they are spiritually appraised. **15** But he who is
spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.
16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT
HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

b. Those who are not spiritually minded cannot even understand that which is
revealed from the mind of God. How can we advise God ?

C. We seek advice before making major decisions. Who could God ask for advice ?

1. Daniel was an advisor to King Nebuchadnezzar.

2. Our president and other political advisors have advisors. (*Doesn't do much good*)3. For sure no one is wise enough to give advice to God. (*He's not God if He needs it*)**IV. Who taught God how to be God ?****S#15.**

A. Vs. 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?

S#16.

B. We have all had people who taught us at all levels .. basic and advanced.

1. We learned how to talk by hearing others. *Even taught how and what to eat.*
2. We continue to learn so long as we live and still know little compared to God.
3. Even scientists have not come to understand much of what God has created.

For Example : Law of Physics says that things expand when heated and contract when cooled, but water expands when frozen. **S#17.**
 Scientists do not understand why ? (*Thus, Ice forms on the top.*)

C. God was not taught; He is the source of all knowledge.

***** Vs. 15-17** Is an illustration of the comparative greatness of God. **S#18.**

15 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. **16** Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. **17** All the nations are as nothing before Him; they are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. **S#19.**

1. Individuals and nations wrongly become infatuated with their own importance.
 - a. **Dan. 2: 21** – It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. (cf- **Isa. 29: 14** *Removes wisdom*) **S#20.**
 - b. **Dan. 4: 19f** ... God humbled Nebuchadnezzar ... most powerful man on earth.
 - c. **Acts 17: 24-28** ... *God decides when, where and for how long nations exist.*
2. God blows away nations the way the wind blows dust.

V. What likeness will you compare with God ? **S#21.**

A. Vs. 18-20 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? **19** As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, a goldsmith plates it with gold, and a silversmith fashions chains of silver. **20** 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. (*Idol has no power.*) **S#22.**

B. God is a Spirit (John 4: 24) ... What form accurately depicts a Spirit ? **S#23.**

1. Scottish philosopher : Men never thought to paint Christ until they lost Him in their hearts.
2. Idolatry is still a problem in this modern age.
 - a. Idolatry is widely practiced in the two most populous nations on earth. **S#24.**
 - b. The largest “Christian” denomination still practices idolatry. **S#25.**

C. The Holy God of Heaven can be likened to nothing on earth.

S#26.

VI. God asks His people, "Do you not know Me by now ?"

S#27.

A. Vs. 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? 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 out like a tent to dwell in. 23 He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. 24 Scarcely have they been planted, scarcely have they been sown, scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,

S#28.

B. God dwells so far above man that we are very small in His eyes.

S#29.

1. "you" is used 4 times in vs-21 ... man has a responsibility to know God.
2. God reveals that the earth is spherical ... men believed it to be flat.
3. Men are not as significant as we like to think we are.
 - a. Men are just clay pots that He created in a day. (II Cor. 4: 7)
 - b. God is so far above us that we look small like insects. (view from airplane)
 - c. Num. 13: 33 ... The spies reported that they were like grasshoppers compared to the giants in the land. *The giants are grasshoppers to God.*

C. To God creating and managing the earth was no more than pitching a tent.

VII. To whom will you liken God ?

S#30.

A. Vs. 25-26 "To whom then will you liken Me that I would be his equal?" says the Holy One. 26 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.

S#31.

B. The stars demonstrate the majesty and power of God.

S#32.

1. God not only created the stars, He knows them all.
 - a. He knows exactly how many there are. (Mt 10:30 more impressive than hairs)
 - b. God has a name for each and every star.

2. Until this day our scientists can't even count the stars. S#33.
 - a. Isaiah might have been able to see **3000** stars.
 - b. In 1609 Galileo invented the telescope .. could see **30,000** stars.
 - c. In 1789 William Herschel made first large refractory .. could see **26 mil**
 - d. In 1948 Hale telescope on Palomar Mt. in Calif. ... **Billions of Stars** **mils galaxies**
 - e. In 1990 (2009) Hubble Space Telescope in space reveals from **100 to 400 billion stars** in our galaxy (Milky way) and above **100 billion galaxies**.
3. Scientists can't even count all the stars but the low estimate is S#34.

1E+22 ? (**10 to 27th**) **i.e. , Octillion**

Octillion 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

(Trillion 1,000,000,000,000 National debt is only 19T)

AND .. God has a name for each and every star.

VIII. Why do you say, "My way is hidden from God ?"

S#35.

- A. Vs. **27** – **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"?** S#36.

B. Israel believed that God did not understand the peril they were facing.

1. Armies were about to overwhelm them and they were afraid.
2. If God only knew about our plight, He would save us.
3. Job felt this way and we Christians often feel this when facing trials.
4. God's church and our nation are under threat and many are wringing their hands.

*** Vs. **27-31** There are six things God wants them to know.

S#37.

27 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"? S#38.

28 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. **29** He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. **30** Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, **31** 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. S#39.

1. I am the everlasting God and Creator. *I'll always be there for you.* S#40.
2. I do not become tired or weary. *I will never be unable to care for you.*
3. What I know and understand is inscrutable for man. *You can't understand Me.*

4. Keep faith in Me and I will give you strength when you are weary. *Don't give up.*
5. Keep faith in Me and I will give you power to endure or to overcome. *You'll win.*
6. Keep faith in Me and I will give you renewal when the trial is over. *It will be okay.*

CONCLUSION :

A. Four practical lessons you can use.

S#41.

1. Everything we will ever know about God is revealed in scripture. **STUDY IT**
2. God knows every difficulty that every one of His people go through.
3. God expects His people to do their part in securing the victory.
 - a. Turn to Him
 - b. Trust Him
 - c. Wait for Him (Place your hope in Him.)
4. The best counseling on earth comes from God through His word.

B. As Christians we can see some difficult time on the horizon.

S#42.

1. The ruler of darkness is attacking his strongest adversary on earth .. America.
2. Times may will get much more difficult for us before they get better.
3. Do not be fearful or discouraged ... our God is in control.
4. We must not allow ourselves to be silenced ... **speak out for God. (Acts 4: 29-31)**
(*Public opinion is formed by the loudest, most persistent voices .. Not the majority.*)

INVITATION :

A. Don't let Satan separate you from God.

S#43.

B. Jesus sacrificed Himself to purchase your pardon.

C. Reject Satan and free yourself from the chains of sin.

COME to Him now !!

S#44.**Communion slide #45**

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