

“What comes to your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.”

▶ A.W. Tozer

HISTORICAL SETTING:

Isaiah was a contemporary with Amos, Hosea and Micah for at least part of his ministry.

Tiglath-pileser had conquered all of northern Syria by 740 BC (date of Uzziah's death).

Assyria, under Shalmaneser, moved against Israel and after a three-year siege, took the capital of Samaria (722 BC) and carried the people into captivity.

Assyrian kings:

- ▶ Tiglath-pileser III (745–727 BC)
- ▶ Shalmaneser V (727–722 BC)
- ▶ Sargon II (722–705 BC)
- ▶ Sennacherib (705–681 BC)
- ▶ Esar-haddon (680–668 BC)



About 135 years later the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar would come and destroy the southern kingdom of Judah and take them into captivity.

Saul 1051

David 1011

Solomon 971

Kingdom divides 931

Israel - 722

Judah -

586



DATE FOR ISAIAH:

The basic dates are from 740–680 BC. The Northern Kingdom is in captivity and there are about 115 years left in the Southern Kingdom from the time of Isaiah's prophecy.

THE BOOK'S DESIGN:


To exhort the people to place their trust in YHWH for their deliverance by predicting and historically demonstrating the judgment which falls on those who do not trust in YHWH and the blessing which comes to those who do trust in Him.

Isaiah 40

- ▶ Divided into 2 parts


1. 40:1–11
2. 40:12–31

- Each part is divided into 3 sections

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1. Isa. 40:1–11: comfort after a message of judgment
 - a. Comfort from prophecy of a future kingdom (vv. 1–5)
 - b. Comfort from the eternal Word of God (vv. 6–8)
 - c. Comfort from proclaiming the Word (vv. 9–11)


Part 1: verses 1–11

1. Isa. 40:1–5: God tells Isaiah to comfort the people by telling them of the glorious future God has planned for them in the Millennium.
2. Isa. 40:6–8: The transitory nature of man, and that it is God who is in control of man's destiny. Men will come and men will go, but the Word of the Lord endures forever. God has a plan and it will be fulfilled.

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3. In verses 9–11 he tells them that they ought to be proclaiming to the world this mighty God and the marvelous plan He has for His people.


2. Isa. 40:12–31

- a. No one is like our God! (vv. 12–19)
- b. No one is like our God! (vv. 20–26)
- c. Application (vv. 27–31)



The first two sections in part 2 are parallel to each other, both proclaiming one central truth: *there is no one like our God.*

The third section gives us the application: we have absolutely no excuse for complaint, for our God has made perfect provision for every situation in life.



So if you ever ask, “Does God even know?
Does God even care?” Isaiah will bring this
truth to bear on our lives.

Section 1: verses 12–20

▶ Who is like our God?

Three portraits

Portrait #1 – verse 12

- ▶ **Our God is the omnipotent Creator.**
- ▶ Note the three verbs in verse 12:
 - ▶ He measured
 - ▶ He calculated
 - ▶ He weighed

Note the three verbs in verse 12:

He measured



He measured



He calculated

*the dust of
the earth*



He weighed



MOUNTAINS

HILLS

Forests of Lebanon



Portrait #2 – verses 13–14

- ▶ He is the omniscient Lord
- ▶ Note the verbs here:
 - ▶ Who has directed, who has taught,
 - ▶ Who has counseled, who has instructed,
 - ▶ Who has taught Him knowledge and showed Him the way of understanding?

Portrait #3 – verses 15–17

- ▶ He is the Sovereign over all.

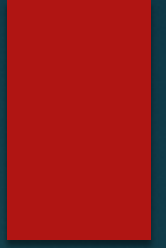
Note the descriptions:

- ▶ drop in a bucket, dust
- ▶ a very little thing, insufficient
- ▶ nothing, less than nothing, worthless.

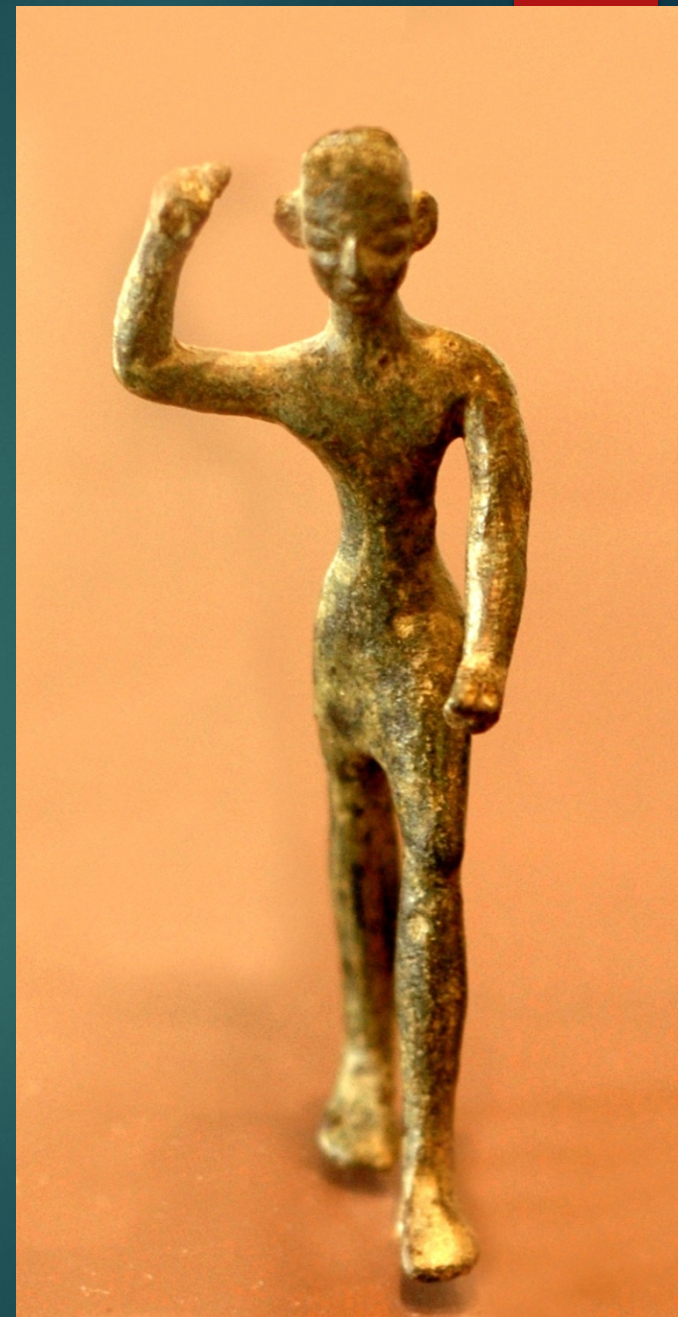
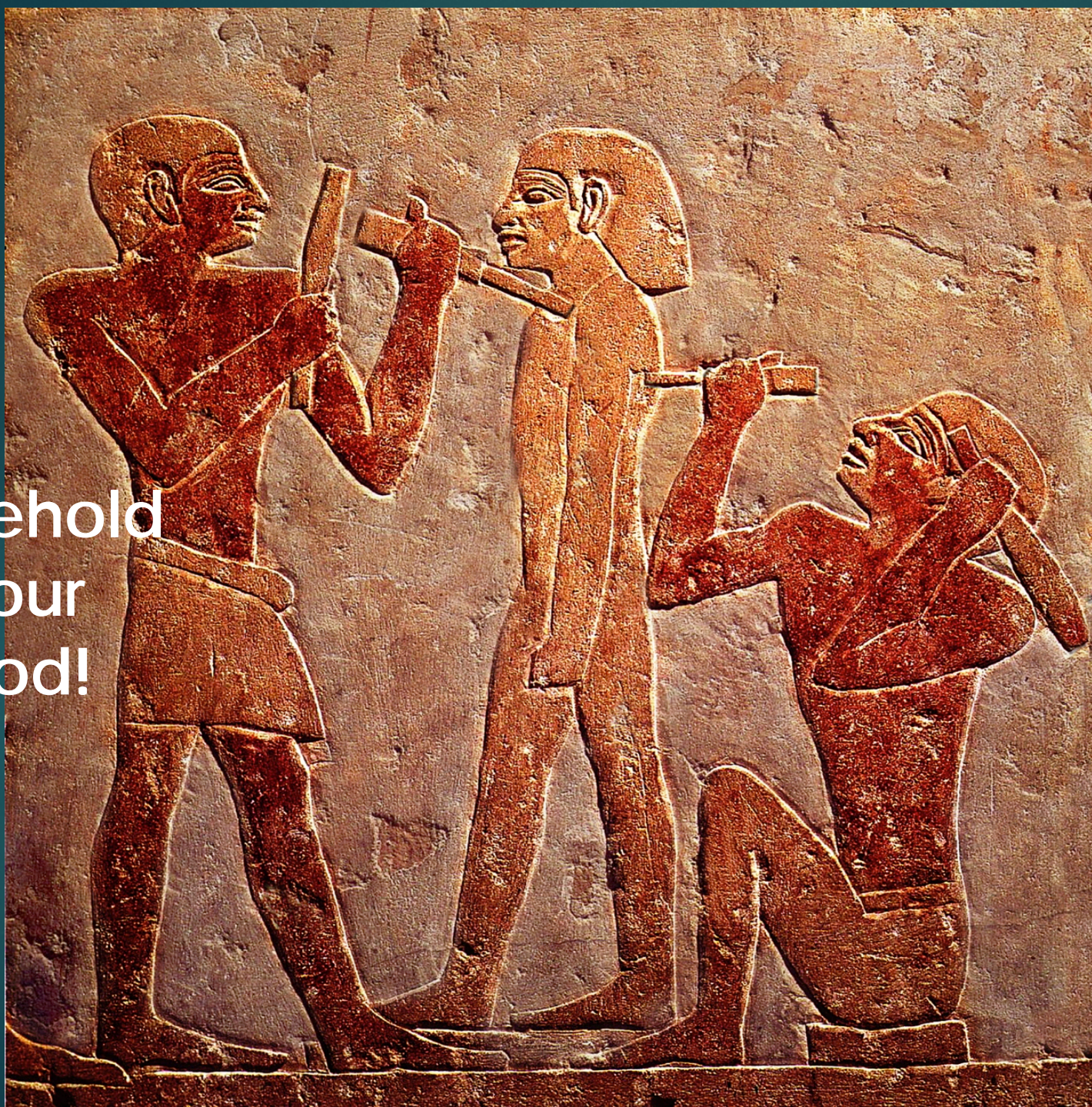
A drop in
a bucket



Our God is incomparable –
verses 18–20

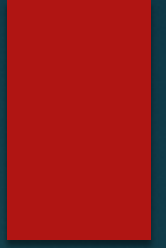


Behold
your
god!



Part 2: section 2: verses 21–26

(Parallel to verses 12–20)



Three facts about God known from the beginning (Isaiah 40:21)

- ▶ **Fact #1:** Our God sovereignly rules over His creation.
- ▶ **Fact #2:** He rules sovereignly over earthly rulers, over the powers on this earth.
- ▶ **Fact #3:** Our sovereign God knows the universe intimately and sustains it.



He sits above the circle of the earth



1,000,000,000,000,000,000

Three facts in this section

- ▶ **Fact #1:** Our God sovereignly rules over His creation.
- ▶ **Fact #2:** He also rules sovereignly over earthly rulers, over the powers on this earth.
- ▶ **Fact #3:** Our sovereign God intimately knows the universe and sustains it.

Part 2, Section 3

- ▶ Application of the chapter:
verses 27–31
- ▶ God will supply everything we need
under every circumstance of life.