

"BEHOLD YOUR GOD"

ISAIAH 40:1-31

TEXT: ISAIAH 40:9b

INTRO: WHY DOES GOD EXIST? Some may answer: "WHY NOT?" Some may say: "BECAUSE HE WANTS TO." Some may say: "TO CREATE AND SUSTAIN THE UNIVERSE." Some may say: "TO PROVIDE REDEMPTION FOR MANKIND." **WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WHY GOD EXISTS?** Isaiah chapter 40 is one passage in the scriptures that answers that question. In studying over these precious 31 verses we learn that God exists to GLORIFY HIMSELF through HIS GREATNESS and CARE FOR HIS PEOPLE. Often we forget, overlook or neglect that truth so today we are going to focus on that great truth as consider: **BEHOLD YOUR GOD!**

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NOTE: Isaiah 40 begins the SECOND section of the book. In the FIRST section of 39 chapters, God, through Isaiah, reveals the judgment He is going to bring upon Judah because of their wickedness. In Chapters 40-66 God looks beyond the judgment to the BLESSING OF RESTORATION, the COMING OF THE MESSIAH and the BLESSING JUDAH AND ISRAEL WILL EXPERIENCE during the MILLENNIUM. This is a section of **HOPE AND COMFORT**. It is filled with many personal encouragements and applications for us today. In those encouragements and applications, we clearly see the GREATNESS OF GOD that should result in our WORSHIP, PRAISE AND SERVICE to Him.

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I. BEHOLD YOUR GOD THROUGH THE REVELATION OF HIMSELF

-VERSES 1-31

THE POINT: **TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR GOD!**

A. He is the God Who Comforts - Vss. 1,2

-Through His removal of judgment and the forgiveness of sin

1. God Plans a Great Future for Judah and Israel through Repentance
2. God Plans a Great Blessing for those who turn to Him

B. He is the God Who Sends Deliverance - Vss. 3,4

-Through the FIRST Coming of the Messiah

(Note the reference to John the Baptist's Ministry)

1. Deliverance for Israel
2. Deliverance for all who turn to Him

C. He is the God Who Is Glorious - Vs. 5

-Through the REVEALING of the Messiah

1. Glory seen in the Appearance of the Messiah
2. Glory seen in the Work of the Messiah

D. He is the God Whose Word is Eternal - Vss. 6-8

-Through Comparing to the Frailty of Mankind

1. The Condition of Mankind is Fading
2. The Condition of God's Word is Lasting

E. He is the God Who is Powerful - Vss. 9,10

-Through the SECOND coming of the Messiah

(The phrase "Lord GOD" is "ADONAI JEHOVAH" = The Messiah)

1. At that 2nd Coming God through Christ will Rule with Might.
2. At the 2nd Coming God through Christ will bring Reward

F. He is the God Who Provides - Vs. 11

-Through His Attribute of Shepherd of His People

1. For the Jewish people God will gather them from world-wide Dispersion
2. For the N.T. Church God will unite and care for them.

G. He is the God Who Created the Universe - Vs. 12

-Through His powerful Word

1. God Measured everything out Perfectly with a span (9 Inches)
2. God Balanced the Earth with Mountains so it could Perfectly move in Space

H. He is the God Who is Omniscient - Vss. 13,14

-Through His knowledge of All Things

1. God needs No Counselors
2. God needs No One to Teach Him

I. He is the God Who is Greater than All Nations - Vss. 15-17

-Through His Personal Greatness

1. The Nations are Insignificant before God's greatness

2. The Nations are Nothing and Vain before God

J. He is the God Who is Incomparable - Vss. 18-20

-Through His Immense Power and Wisdom

1. No Person on Earth Compares to God

2. No False God Compares to God

K. He is the God Who is Above All Things - Vss. 21-24

-Through His Exalted Person and Position

1. He sits on the Circle of the Earth upholding His Creation

2. He Disposes Earthly Leaders at His Will

L. He is the God Who is Holy - Vs. 25

-Through His Sinless Perfection

1. God knows no Sin

2. God cannot fellowship with Sinners

M. He is the God Who Knows His Universe - Vss. 26,27

-Through His Intimate Knowledge of His Creation

1. God Personally Made the Universe

2. God Personally Knows all things in the Universe by Name

N. He is the God Who is Beyond our Understanding - Vs. 28

-Through His Extreme Greatness

1. God is Everlasting

2. God is the Only and Compete Creator

3. God is Never Weak

O. He is the God Who Gives Strength - Vss. 29-30

-Through His Own Power

1. God Refreshes His Own

2. God Restores His Own

ILLUSTRATION: IT IS SAD THAT MANY PEOPLE MISS OUT ON THE GREATNESS OF GOD. IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED THAT EVEN MANY CHRISTIANS GOVERN THEIR LIVES BY PHILOSOPHY AND TRADITION RATHER THAN THEIR INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

II. BEHOLD YOUR GOD THROUGH THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO HIM

-VERSES 9, 31

THE POINT: RESPOND TO GOD BASED UPON WHAT HE DESERVES!

A. We are Compelled to Worship Him - Vs. 9

B. We are Compelled to Wait Upon Him - Vs. 31

ILLUSTRATION: YOU CANNOT HELP BUT RESPOND TO GOD AS HE IS REVEALED IN ISAIAH 40 ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. WHICH WAY WILL YOU RESPOND? IN WORSHIP AND DEPENDENCE OR NEGLECT AND INDIFFERENCE?

APPLICATION/CONCLUSION:

Why does God exist? TO GLORIFY HIMSELF AND SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF HIS UNIVERSE AND PEOPLE. No one else or nothing compares to God! Therefore our responsibility is:

1) To Get to Know Him Better

2) To Serve Him Better

3) To Worship Him Better

4) To Share Him Better