<u>"BEHOLD YOUR GOD"</u> <u>ISAIAH 40</u> <u>" THE CHALLENGE OF ISAIAH 40:25 REGARDING THE HOLINESS OF GOD"</u>

STATEMENT TO CONSIDER: THE HOLINESS OF GOD IS NOT WHAT HE DOES, BUT WHAT HE IS.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER: BEFORE GOD SPEAKS OF HIS HOLINESS, HE ASKS TWO PRACTICAL AND SERIOUS QUESTIONS:

1) "To Whom do you Liken me?"

2) "To Whom am I Equal?"

LET'S FOCUS ON THOSE QUESTIONS

1) These questions MUST be considered by every human being...You and Me!

-WHO DO YOU LIKEN UNTO GOD? The point here is: WHO DO YOU COMPARE TO GOD....OR...WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF GOD?

- Do you compare God to a Heavenly Granddaddy?
- Do you compare God to your First Responder?
- Do you compare God to a Mean Grinch?
- Do you compare God to an Angry Judge?
- Do you compare God to an Indifferent Creator?

NO ONE ON EARTH CAN COMPARE TO GOD!

-WHO IS GOD'S EQUAL IN YOUR MIND? The point here is: WHO DO YOU PUT ON EQUAL TERMS WITH GOD?

- Your Earthly Father?
- Your Spiritual Leaders?
- Your self?

NO ONE ON EARTH IS ANYWHERE EQUAL WITH GOD!

2) These questions conclude a section of Isaiah 40 that begins with verse 18 in which we learn that:

- God is Paramount above all idols Vss. 19,20
- God is Paramount above nature Vs. 22
- God is Paramount above all earthly leaders Vss. 23,24

3) These questions and their proper answers lead us to recognize that GOD IS ALTOGETHER UNIQUE AND INCOMPARABLE TO ALL OTHER THINGS. Note Isaiah 57:15

- God is above all things.
- God inhabits eternity.
- God's Name is Holy.
- God dwells in a high and holy place
- God dwells with those who are holy...contrite and humble!

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

- 1) The Holiness of God is:
 - The absence of evil and the presence of positive right.
 - The attribute of God by which He wants to be known
 - -Leviticus 11:44 -Psalm 99:3.5.9
- 2) The Holiness of God means that He is completely separate from all that is spiritually unclean, sinful and evil.

3) The ABSOLUTE HOLINESS OF GOD means that sinners are separated from Him UNLESS a way can be found to "make them holy." THAT WAY WAS PROVIDED BY THE MERITS OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS - John 14:6

I. GOD'S HOLINESS DIRECTS HIS ATTUTUDE TOWARD SIN

- Psalm 5:4
- A. God does not know ANY sin.
- B. God does not fellowship with ANY sin.
- C. God does not tolerate ANY sin.
- D. God must judge ALL sin.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. GOD'S HOLINESS DIRECTS HIS ACTIONS IN LIGHT OF SIN

A. God has provided a way for ALL people to Overcome Sin...IT'S POWER, IT'S PENALTY AND IT'S PRESENCE

= SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST.

- B. God has given His GRACE in the face of OUR Sin -Romans 5:20,21
- C. God has offered MERCY in the face of OUR Sin -Lamentations 3:22
- D. God has LOVED us in Spite of our Sin
- -Romans 5:6-8

ILLUSTRATION:

OUR RESPONSE TO THE HOLINESS OF GOD

1) God's Holiness should make us sensitive to our sin - Isaiah 6:3-5

- 2) God's Holiness should compel us to be holy 1 Peter 1 Peter 1:15,16
- 3) God's Holiness should motivate us to Worship Him Psalm 29:2

LESSON/APPLICATION:

 EVERY BELIEVER IN CHRIST SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE HOLINESS OF GOD.
EVERY BELIEVER IN CHRIST SHOULD ALLOW THE HOLINESS OF GOD TO BE HIS STANDARD OF LIFE AND CONDUCT.