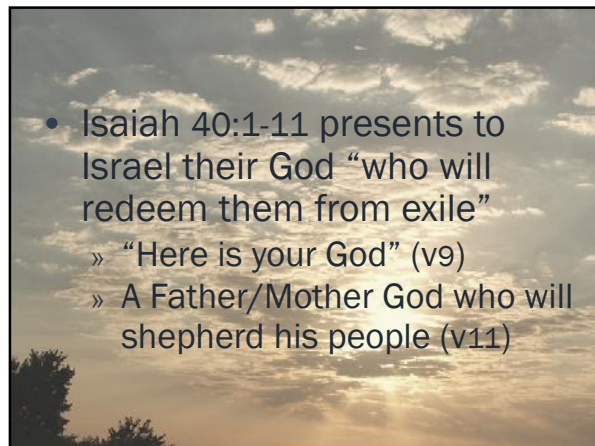


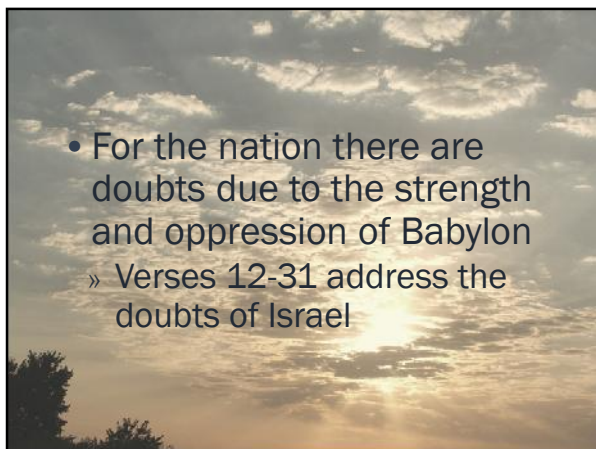


Our Incomparable God

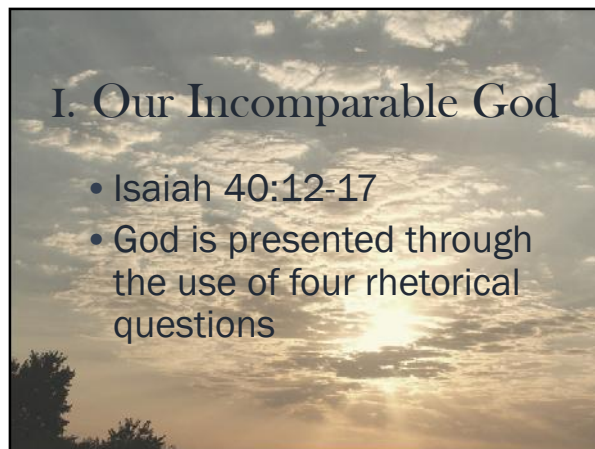
Isaiah 40:12-31



- Isaiah 40:1-11 presents to Israel their God “who will redeem them from exile”
 - » “Here is your God” (v9)
 - » A Father/Mother God who will shepherd his people (v11)

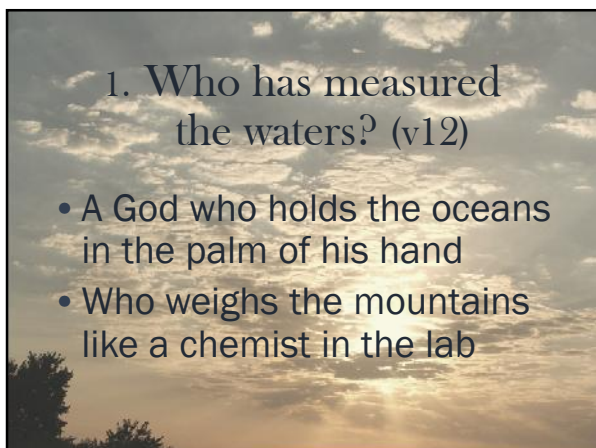


- For the nation there are doubts due to the strength and oppression of Babylon
 - » Verses 12-31 address the doubts of Israel



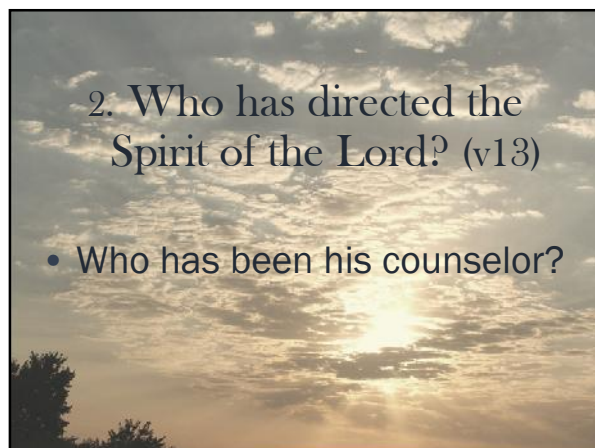
I. Our Incomparable God

- Isaiah 40:12-17
- God is presented through the use of four rhetorical questions



1. Who has measured the waters? (v12)

- A God who holds the oceans in the palm of his hand
- Who weighs the mountains like a chemist in the lab



2. Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord? (v13)

- Who has been his counselor?

3. Whom did he consult? (v14)

- Who has taught him knowledge?
- The nations are as nothing compared to God (v15,17)
- All the forests of Lebanon cannot provide enough wood for the sacrifices (v16)

- The description of God (v12-17) depicts his capacity as Creator
- He is far above the nations and their political strength – they are as nothing (v17)

II. Our God is Greater

- Isaiah 40:18-26
- God is presented as greater than any idols or astral powers

Greater than Idols (v18-20)

- To whom will you liken God – to idols? (v18-19)
- The idols even of Babylon are only the works of artisans (v20)

- Idols are completely irrelevant in comparison to God - including our own idols – power, money, fame, security – they provide no lasting value

A Doxology Proclaiming God's Greatness (v21-26)

1. Above all the nations (v21-24)
 - » God brings the princes to nothing – as are the great empires (Babylon, Rome) nothing
 - » They are like plants – bloom & wither - similar to the fragility of people (v6)

2. Above all the powers (v25-26)

- » Astral powers – which spoke to the cosmology of the period
- » Stars are witnesses to the glory of God
- » God calls them out and names them

3. A reminder

- » This doxology reminds the people that God is able to redeem them from all powers
- » It is meant to address the doubts that they still carry

III. Creator & Sustainer

- Isaiah 40:27-31
- God is presented as the Creator and sustainer of Israel

1. A Final Complaint (v27)

- The people complain –
Where are you God?
You do not care for us!
- God's response – My way is hidden from you!

- The people are complainers even as we may complain or feel that we are alone, abandoned by God

2. God Remains Active (v28)

- God's knowledge is unsearchable – we do not understand the full purposes of God
- We complain but we do not really know what's going on

3. God will Sustain us (v29-31)

- 'He gives power to the faint' (v29)
- The key is to 'wait' upon the Lord for his strength (v31)

Our True Source

- We who are weak have a true source of power to draw from
- Abba is our fountain – go to him, spend time with him and be strengthened
- Those who wait shall renew their strength (v31)

- God will empower us to face our circumstances and difficult situations
- God is like the mother eagle who cares for her own (v31b)

What is Your Babylon?

- Where do our doubts come from?
- God is with us to help us overcome our Babylon
- We are more than conquerors but we must wait upon him

Re-imagine Your Life with God

- Hold on to your loving God
- Do not focus on the powers that seem so strong
- God is not irrelevant – he will sustain you