

God's (un)Secret Identity: Our God is Infinite

Part 3 Our God is Infinite, so let us humble ourselves Isaiah 40:9-31

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When I was a young boy around 8 years old, I was sitting on the top of the steps in my family's home, trying to imagine what it would be like to live forever in heaven
 I clearly remember what happened in that moment: I literally became dizzy and disoriented
 I believe the cause of that physiological response was that my young finite, limited mind, tried to comprehend an infinite, limitless truth
 There are attributes of God that we share, and there are some that we do not, and cannot
 The infinity of God is one we do not share, exclusive to Him, outside of our experiential reality, incomprehensible in its totality
 Yet, in Isaiah 40 we have an invitation to know and appreciate the infinite nature of God

1-God invites us to know Him

As you turn to **Isaiah 40**, let me explain why this series is called God's (un)Secret Identity
 Jesus prayed in **Matthew 11:25**, ***"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children."***

To the proud God hides Himself, but to the humble He delights to make Himself known
 And we see that invitation in **Isaiah 40:9**, ***"Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'"***
 Who doesn't love to give someone good news, especially when you have the best news possible?
 The best of the good news is the declaration that God will save sinners from their bondage to sin, by faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 Here, Isaiah proclaims good news to God's people who are in exile in Babylon...God is going to save you out of bondage, and bring you home to Zion, to Jerusalem
 He directs God's people to ***'Behold your God'*** and that is exactly what he begins to help us do

2-God's Infinite might and gentle love

My brother John operates backhoes, skid steers, excavators, and back in 1995 I worked with him
 I'll never forget a time we were digging a leech field for a septic system, and I was down on my knees in the trench and I threw a fat, long earthworm up through the backhoe window and it landed on him
 He took the digging bucket and pinned me against the wall of the trench, and began to increase the pressure, certainly causing me discomfort, but not injury
 I marveled at how such a powerful machine, could actually be used with such precision and even Gentleness
 Isaiah is about to show us the infinite nature of God, but not without first holding that in balance that He is also the God Who is our good Shepherd, gathering us in His arms, gently leading those with lambs
"Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he

will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.” Isaiah 40:10-11

Christian, do you ever feel God is being harsh with you, uncaring, treating you roughly?

He cannot, He will not, He is your Good Shepherd, and Jesus promises us that He is ***“gentle and lowly in heart...” Matthew 11:29***

But God is not some weak but kindly grandfather God, and Isaiah is about to hammer that into our minds until it is firmly attached to our theology

3-Look and see His infinite nature

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?” Isaiah 40:12-13

We live in a world where we measure everything...plugin our destination and google maps tells us how many hours, how many miles the trip will be

We step on our scales and it tells us whether we should have dessert with dinner

We measure how much flour goes into the bread, how many gallons of gas it took to fill the car

We have clocks and watches, and batteries icons on our phones...we live in a measurable world, and we like that, it gives us some control, some forewarning, some consistency in life

It is also one way that we image God, living after our Creator, Who measured out all there is, oceans, the size of our planet and the distance between the stars

But God is so great, He is not even measurable, and not because we don't have a measuring stick big enough, rather because it is not possible to measure Him, and here is why

Whatever is measurable belongs to the finite, because it at some point has a boundary, an end

But there is no point, edge, or line that confines God, no size or weight that can measure Him

He is infinite...without end, without boundary, without the ability to be measured, without limit

His love is without limit, His faithfulness limitless, His mercy never ends

The God Who measured out all things (12), is Himself immeasurable in His infinity (13)

He has no beginning, and no end, filling eternity from everlasting to everlasting

And Isaiah is just warming up as he helps us ***‘Behold our God!’*** in His infinite might

In **40:14**, God never had to figure something out, that He holds all knowledge, taught by no one

In **40:15**, if we gathered all the glory of all the nations on earth in a cosmic-sized bucket, it would amount to one drop compared to the glory of God

If you put it all on a set of scales, it would be weightless as dust, not even need to be wiped off

In **40:16**, if all the great cedar trees of Lebanon were used to fire an altar, and of their animals sacrificed for a burnt offering, it would not be worthy of God

In **40:17**, if the might of all the nations was arrayed against God it wouldn't be enough to even get His attention

Then Isaiah concluded these thoughts by asking in **18**, ***Who is there to compare God with?***

You see, we measure something by the standard of something or someone else

You bench press 225lbs and shout a booya, but then one bench over a guy pushes up 450
 Last Saturday I biked 20 miles, the next day Peter Bernsdorf and Joyce Kastenbader biked 50
 You might have a 130 IQ, top 2% of people, but compared to Einstein's, hmmm, not so great
 How can we do that with God?

There is no scale, no test, no one to compare Him with, He is infinite, without measure or limit

Perhaps you saw Star Wars: The Phantom Menace, when Qui-Gon, Obi-Wan and Jar Jar Binks
 leave the underwater Gunga City in a transport, and a sea creature grabs hold of their ship
 They are helplessly in its power, but then a massively larger underwater creature snatches the
 first creature, freeing the ship, when Qui-Gon says, *'There's always a bigger fish'*

That is a good analogy to understand exactly how we should not understand the infinity of God
 It isn't like you scale up from a single-cell amoeba, to an animal, to a human, to an angel, to God
 Animals, humans and angels all exist within time and space, within measure, within the finite,
 but God exists outside of time and space and is without measure...He is infinite

This was Solomon's conundrum when he built the house of God: ***"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!" 1 Kings 8:27***

One of Job's friends said, ***"Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?" Job 11:7***

But the infinity of God is so out of reach to us, that it tends to create a problem we all have
"To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness will compare with Him? An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move." Isaiah 40:19-20

Idolatry is the turning to something created and finite that we can have a measure of control over
 Godly worship is the glad abandonment of control, and turns to the One Who is infinite

The power to overcome an idol is to ***'Behold your God'***, and say with Isaiah in verse 25, ***"To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number,***

calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing." 40:25-26

If you find yourself in the grip of a power greater than you, then ***'lift up your eyes on high and see...the greatness of His might'***, His infinite power

Isaiah will show us the help that will come to you when you do

4-The beautiful truths of God's infinite nature

i. *Because God is infinite, He always knows your struggles*

"Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in

power not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God’?” 40:26-27

Listen once again to C.S. Lewis: “*God has infinite attention to spare for each one of us. You are as much alone with Him as if you were the only being he had ever created.*”

Friends, let this truth settle into your heart, you have all of God’s incomparable, immeasurable, boundary-less attention every second you live

Many have experienced the doubting in the soul in the midst of trials and struggles: *Does God even see my pain, is He hearing my prayers, does He care?*

Isaiah tells the exiled people of God, Yes, He does hear, your way is not hidden from Him

ii. *Because God is infinite, He knows exactly how to help you*

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;” 40:28-30

God is without measure in His understanding, He knows us better than we know ourselves

He knows the exact point that our faith will fail, and he will not snuff out that flickering candle

He never gets tired, never needs to recharge His batteries by getting away for a weekend and turning off His phone or selecting an automatic vacation response to all inbound prayers

He never sleeps so let that truth dawn on you each morning when you wake up: God just spent the night watching over you...that terrible dream, that night of poor sleep shouldn’t just be excused by late-night snacking...perhaps God spent the night speaking to you

How finite we are to need sleep, to need a vacation, yet amazingly, God never does!

He Who has all power and strength can surely help the weak and faint and discouraged!

iii. *Because God is infinite, let us learn to humbly wait on Him*

“but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” 40:31

Like many of you, I have long thought on what it means to ***‘wait for the LORD’***

The word ***‘wait’*** means to bind together, likely by twisting, like the strands of a rope

We must grab the hand of our infinite God, trust Him and do not let go!

Like a child who is scared, and you take their hand, they grab on for all they’re worth

Do you want to know the secret to renewing your strength?

Behold your God, Lift up your eyes and see, and wait for the Lord, and renew your strength

Don’t for a moment think you can skip the first three and experience the last one

God wants to be known by you, and has revealed Himself to you, so be amazed at His infinite nature, lift up your eyes and see, grab His hand by faith and do not let go for anything

You shall run and not be weary and walk and not faint

I want to close by encouraging you to notice what Isaiah was doing

He is encouraging the beleaguered, scared, struggling people of God

Is that not what we do for each other in our growth groups as we gather together to behold our God, lifting up our eyes to see Him clearly, helping each other hold onto our faith?
Growth groups are where we love one another John 13:34, Build up one another Romans 14:19, teach one another Colossians 3:16, encourage one another 1 Thessalonians 5:11, stir up one another Hebrews 10:24, pray for one another James 5:16
If you want to experience maximum spiritual growth here at Cornerstone, do more than just attend a worship service, online or in person, join a growth group
And to get you started in that direction, simply email us at grow@cornerstonechurches.org

Amen?

Pray