

Subject: *Behold Your God*

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:1-9*

We are in the middle of a Bible study on Sunday nights in our King's Academy class and I have come to conclusion that it is too good to keep to ourselves. I want to share a message from Isaiah 40. Our subject comes from verse 9, "Behold your God."

This chapter is a turning point in the Book of Isaiah. The first part (Isaiah 1-39) contains the prophet's message of judgment. The second part (Isaiah 40-66) contains a message of hope and salvation. In some ways the Book of Isaiah is a reflection of the whole Bible, 39 books in the Old Testament and then 27 books in the New Testament.

My purpose in preaching this message is to give an overview and introduction to the chapter. I want you to see the outstanding themes and I pray they will make you hungry to dig deeper in coming days.

1. Consolation for the Lord's people (vs. 1-2)

The prophet's job, in a word, was to disturb the comfortable and to comfort the disturbed. Isaiah has warned the people about their sins and God's impending judgment. Now he reminds the people of God's comfort and mercy. Speaking of the future restoration of Israel following their destruction and years in captivity, Isaiah says that Jerusalem and the nation have been punished and they have been pardoned. In wrath God remembers mercy.

2. Preparation for the Lord's coming (vs. 3-4)

The prophet predicts the king's arrival. This refers to John the Baptist's ministry and his preaching of repentance in preparation for Jesus and his ministry. In ancient times before kings would make their appearance in an official capacity, a team would go ahead of him to prepare the roads and, as we say, pave the way for his arrival.

3. Revelation of the Lord's glory (vs. 5)

The glory of God is none other than Jesus, the Son of God.

- **John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
- **Hebrews 1:3** *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*
- **2 Peter 1:16-17** ¹⁶ *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Peter, James, and John saw His glory and heard God the Father speak from heaven on the Mount of Transfiguration. This was a glimpse of His glory that He had before He came to earth and a glimpse of the glory He would have when He ascended back to heaven. When Jesus was on earth all the disciples saw His glory, but it was a muted glory instead of the brilliant outshining glory that is now seen by angels and saints in Heaven.

4. Preservation of the Lord's Word (vs. 6-8)

In contrast to people, God's Word stands forever. Human flesh is compared to grass in the field that eventually withers and dies. Here today and gone tomorrow, as they say. The preservation of God's Word guarantees that His plan and purpose will not fail. God will fulfill every promise that He has made. We can stand on the Word because the Word will always stand.

5. Declaration of the Lord's character (vs. 9-28)

This is the heart of the chapter in which Isaiah describes some of God's magnificent attributes or character qualities. God is compared to His creation. He is compared to the great nations of the earth. He is compared to idols or false gods. He is compared to the world's great leaders. A. W. Tozer said: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." As we look at these verses, see if this is your concept of who God is.

- Vs. 10 – God is the strong ruler – Behold His power and authority.
- Vs. 11 – God is the caring shepherd – Behold His tenderness and love.
- Vs. 12 – God is the almighty creator and sustainer – Behold His greatness.
- Vs. 13-14 – God is the all-wise God – Behold His wisdom and understanding.
- Vs. 15-20 – God is the great and incomparable God – Behold His uniqueness.
- Vs. 21-28 – God is the sovereign God – Behold His control and personal involvement.

He deserves our love, trust, worship, and obedience. Because God is great, He deserves great worship. We could not begin to bring an offering big enough for Him. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Our God is a big God. There is none like Him.

6. Restoration of the Lord's people (vs. 29-31)

This rich chapter begins with the promise of God's comfort and ends with His promise of strength. Every person eventually runs out of gas, even the young eventually wear out. That's why we keep coming back to God. We need to wait on Him, be patient and wait on Him, that is, depend on Him. The promise of verses 29-31 is a great promise because the God who made the promise is great. The Lord not only gives strength, He is our strength.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

It is my duty and privilege to point you to the only One who can help you. Behold your God. People can disappoint you and let you down, but God is always faithful.