

# Spiritual Dullness Dissed

Isaiah 40:12-31

*Halifax: 18 July 2010*

## **Introduction**

Dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull!!!!

- That is what we are all like when it comes to the knowledge of our Maker!
- Dull, dull, dull, dull, dull!

Look, last week in Isaiah 40:1-11, we saw this incredible message that God sent to His people in their distress.

- They were distressed because the Lord had told them (as we read about in chapter 39),
  - that the Babylonians were going to come and destroy Jerusalem and that even the throne of David would be brought down so that his sons would become eunuchs in the palace of the king Babylon—servants to him!
  - The very temple where God caused His name to dwell—
    - where He made Himself known as a gracious redeemer—
      - would be destroyed—wiped out—turned to dust and rubble.
- But it was a powerful message that the LORD sent by Isaiah to comfort them!
  - He told them that *God Himself* was going to come and save them!!
    - He was not just sending someone else to save them:
      - He Himself was coming and His glory would be revealed to them!
      - Isaiah kept saying that the message would be “Behold your God!”
        - God Himself would be among them to save them!
    - He urged them to get ready for Him...for Yahweh Himself!
      - To be those who were prepared to meet Him, seeing their desperate need—their sin and their weakness!
      - God Himself was coming to save them!
        - This is everything!
        - What more could you want?
        - What more could you have?
      - He would come with all His glory and power, and that glory and power would be unleashed for their salvation!
        - He would rule with His mighty arm,
        - And He would care for them as a gentle shepherd,
          - pouring His grace into them out of His fullness—out of the fullness of His infinite resources!

God Himself was coming to save them!

- Jehovah, the self-existing One!
- What comforting words these were!

My brothers and sisters, you heard these words of comfort—at least most of you did...

- and I heard these words of comfort...
  - and the people in Isaiah's day heard these words of comfort...
    - and God's people have heard them all through the ages...
      - The LORD Himself comes to save you!
- And we even have the privilege of living after the days of Christ's first advent...
  - We have seen that He truly came in human flesh...
  - And that He even went to the cross for us—to atone for our sins!
    - God Himself! Jehovah! The Creator of Heaven and earth!
      - He did that for us!
  - That is how committed He is to our salvation!
    - What encouragement!
    - What comfort to know that it is He who saves us!
      - Behold your God! He comes for your salvation!

This ought to comfort us so much that we are nearly beside ourselves.

- Just think of it—God Almighty comes to save us!
- But why is it that we are not more impressed with this!
  - I mean, Yahweh Himself comes to save us!
  - Why doesn't this have a greater effect on us?
    - Why are we not filled with boldness and confidence and zeal and readiness to lay down our lives for Him—to do anything?
    - What is wrong with us?

The comfort we receive is limited because we are so dull about our God.

- We just don't see how glorious He is.
  - If we but knew who He is that comes to save us—how it would impact us!
- Isaiah knows how dull we are—the Lord knows how dull we are.
  - And so in the rest of chapter 40,
    - He gives us words to help us see just who He is!

- They are words that are calculated to jolt us into reality!
- To strike us with who it is that comes to save us!
- One day we will get it—we will see Him as He is...
  - That is itself a part of the salvation that He will bring to us at the last day...
  - but in the meantime,
    - we need to try to open our dull eyes of understanding and consider just who He is so that we may be comforted!
    - So that we can endure all the trials and sufferings of this world,
      - knowing that nothing can derail His plan to save us...
      - Nothing can stop Him because He is Yahweh, the LORD, and He Himself comes to save us!

So let us look at these wonderful words and let us stretch every nerve and every muscle within to try to grasp something of His glory as He presents it to us here!

- We are privileged like Moses when he was hidden in the cleft of the rock and was able to catch a glimpse of the glory of God...
- And just as it was with Moses, so it is with us—the LORD is not really showing us anything new here...
  - He is showing us the truth about Himself that is always before us—it is always before us—it is always there for us...
    - It is just that we are too dull to really appreciate it.
    - The things He reveals to us are things that everyone ought to see and to know about God—
      - and things that everyone would see and know about God—
        - if we were not so dull on account of our sin.
        - Oh that God would be pleased to open the eyes of our understanding that we may see who it is that saves us!

## **I. Do not be dull—see His supremacy!**

### **A. First, see His supremacy above all other beings!**

- It is really great the way Isaiah shows us this...
  - He shows us the great distinction there is between the Creator and all beings who are merely created.
  - All he does is ask us a bunch of questions to show us how absurd it is to think that there is anyone like God—

- anyone that even begins to be in the same category with Him.
- Questions that strike us with the impossibility that He might have an advisor!

1. In verse 12 he says:

- Isa 40:12: Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?
- Of course the answer is obvious!
  - We haven't even finished exploring the oceans—but God is the one who measured them out when He made the earth!
  - He is the one who determined how much dust there would be.
    - He parcelled it all out in the proportions that He had decided.
      - The words here speak of careful calculations that went into this grand work!
      - Who was there as His assistant?
      - Who even could have been there as His assistant?
- Desperate men who want to hide from God try to come up with all their feeble little explanations of how it all came to be without Him...
  - and they end up talking about aliens and all sorts of silly things that don't even make sense...
    - They become fools in the extreme, all twisted around in their absurdities.
    - Did these little green men in flying saucers weigh out the seas and the dry land for us?
      - But where did the little green men come from?
      - Or did all this just put itself on the scales to measure itself out for us however many billions of years ago?
      - Come now! Let's get real!
        - This is clearly the work of divinity!
        - Just because you are a little sinner who has a problem with God does not make it reasonable for you to deny Him!

2. Did our Creator get some help when He was planning all this out?

- Verse 13-14
  - Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the

path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

- Was there someone to whom He turned for advice?
  - someone that helped Him to get it all right—
    - so that the Sun would move in the right path and at the right distance for the earth?
    - And so that there would be gravity to keep us on the earth?
    - Did someone tell Him to give the giraffe a long neck and that there should even be such a thing as water?
      - Who came up with all this?
      - What is He like?
      - Is he is dependant or is He alone independent?
        - Is He a being who needs help from some other being?

3. His supremacy is obvious from the mere presence of creation.

- All men have access to the knowledge of God's eternal power and divine nature through the things He has made.
  - It is just that we don't like Him because we have sinned against Him and we don't like the way He deals with sin—
    - so we want to hide from His glory and change His glory and say that He is not really so glorious as He is.
    - There is a propensity in us to constantly suppress His glory and pretend that it is not so great.
      - We distort and sometimes even deny the obvious!
      - So we have to be told the obvious.
- Brothers and sisters, we who belong to the LORD are also dull to these realities.
  - We know they are true, but we are dull—they do not grip us the way they should!
  - His supremacy is not a reality in our everyday consciousness...
    - We fret, and worry and complain!
    - We need to repent and believe!

TRANS> Isaiah goes on...

- Not only is His supremacy over all other beings obvious, but

B. His supremacy is over the nations!

1. Take all the nations, put them all together and they are nothing compared to our glorious Creator...
  - He picks up the isles (the continents) and moves them around if He wishes!
    - Listen to what Isaiah says about the nations:
      - Isa 40:15-17: Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.
  - a. Isaiah is not saying that God does not care about the nations and what they do when he says they are like dust on the scales or that they are worthless—
    - He has spent many chapters in His prophecy speaking of God’s plans for the nations, of His anger toward their sin and of His promise of mercy.
    - We know that He even sent His Son to redeem not only Israel, but the whole world—people from every nation.
  - b. But Isaiah is exposing what these nations are if they are to come up against the Lord in a contest!
    - They can’t even begin to resist Him...
      - They don’t even faze Him...
      - All the nations together are like a drop in bucket...
        - You know, you are carrying a bucket of water along and there is this drop that wants to weigh you down...
          - so it jumps into the bucket and says—“there”
            - and that drop is all angry and he is trying to make you feel his weight...
            - and you really don’t notice it...
        - Or like the dust on the scales—you know,
          - You are on a diet and there is some dust that wants to mess with you—
            - so you get on the scales and the dust jumps on with you, laughing that you’ll be sorry now...
            - but you don’t even notice...
              - That is what all the nations, taken together, are before God.
      - Nor can we even begin to appease Him with our sacrifices for sin...

- even we were to gather the nations and take all the mighty cedar trees in Lebannon and all the beasts of the forest and offer a sacrifice to Him...
- it would have no weight with Him.
- It would be like a drop in a bucket, like dust on the scales.
- We are talking about the One who made the earth, who portioned it out!
  - What are the nations going to do to Him?
  - What power do they have to sway Him?
  - What have they to offer to such majesty as this?

2. The question for you is this:

- Why do you fear what nations think?
  - Why do their threats intimidate you?
  - The LORD is not the least bit intimidated, so why should you be intimidated?
    - Let them tear you to pieces if they wish—the LORD is not stymied.
    - His purposes stand as sure as ever.
  - Oh yes, I know that they are given power over you for a time...
    - but listen—God is high above the nations and He is the One to fear!
    - He is the one that gives them power over you for a time in order that He may work out His purposes...
      - He is the One who raised up Assyria and Babylon.
      - They do not rise up over Him in some way...
        - Isn't silly to even think such a thought?
        - They are less than nothing.

TRANS> So get a grip on reality!

- He is supreme over every being—He is supreme over all the nations taken together
  - None can compare with Him.
  - And now I want you to see...

C. His supremacy over whatever men may think Him to be!

- even in their highest thoughts that they are most impressed with—there is no comparison.

1. Oh the folly of men and their idols!

- All of them gross reductions of our glorious creator—
    - men's attempts to represent Him in their blinded ignorance and suppression of the truth about Him.
  - Isaiah speaks of this folly:
    - Isa 18-20: To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains. Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution Chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image that will not totter.
  - Here is the rich man with His gold and silver and the poor man with his carving of wood...
    - fashioning a likeness of God...
      - a pitiful desperate exercise!
      - All the false religions of the world, all the philosophies of men are vanity until they bow to God's revelation by His word and Spirit.
        - The revelation is there, even in the very creation itself...
          - But fallen men are not capable of getting it right because of their corruption.
2. Yet, we (as God's people) continually liken God to these foolish conceptions of men...
- We think of Him in ways that He is represented instead of as He is in truth...
    - We think He is a god we can hide from under fig leaves...
    - We think He does not see what we are doing...
    - We carry thoughts that are offensive to Him and suppose that He does not know about it.
  - In our day, there are a lot of people who think He is a God who does not punish sin...
    - or a God who is not sovereign over the affairs of the earth...
      - And sadly the people of God pick up on these false ideas, even though we have the word that tells us plainly that He works all things according to the counsel of His own will...
        - That even the crucifixion was done exactly according to His predetermined purpose and plan.
    - The LORD is greatly superior to all man's representations of Him...
      - They are all worthless idols that tell lies about God.



- Do you think fallen man can figure what God is or even what He ought to be?
    - Of course not—He is the creator!
      - We must humble ourselves before His revelation.
      - We must realise that whatever we think to be our most noble conceptions of Him must give place to what He has revealed in His word.
3. He is greatly superior to whatever men conceive Him to be
- You must not listen to whatever people’s popular notions about God are.
    - They do not know.
    - You only weaken your faith when you are influenced by the notions of the people of this age.

TRANS> We know that God is supreme in all three ways that I have spoken of...

- He is supreme over every being, over the nations, and over men’s conceptions of Him.
  - But our default mode, as fallen creatures, is to slip into lowly thoughts of Him.
  - It is our way of hiding—it is our way of giving ourselves comfort.
    - But we do not need such comfort!
      - We need true comfort—comfort that comes from seeing Him in all His glorious majesty and realising that He is the One who comes to save us...
- So do not be dull—see His supremacy!
  - And now let us look at a second way we must not be dull...

## **II. Do not be dull—see His absolute control of destiny!**

A. Isaiah has spoken of His supremacy over the nations, now He goes a step further and speaks of Him as the one who determines their destiny...

1. Look at how He puts this in verses 21-23:
  - a. He begins by showing how this is something we ought to have known...
    - Isa 40:21: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
    - He speaks this way because this seemed to have become hidden, even to God’s own people...
      - He is saying, “Hey people, isn’t this something you know about?
      - Have you not thought about this before?
        - When wicked nations arise against you, don’t you know that it is my doing?

- Don't you know that I have sent them to accomplish my purposes concerning you (and concerning them)?
  - How did you miss this?
    - Hasn't Isaiah been declaring what God is going to do with each nation?
    - Isn't this something you would know just from creation itself?
      - That as the Creator of the nations, I am the one who disposes of them according to my own purposes?

b. And so Isaiah continues in verses 22-23...

- Isa 40:22-23: It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.
- Do you see brothers and sisters?
  - The Lord does what He pleases with the nations!
  - He is the one that gives them a place to live—
    - To him, their lands are the setting up of a little grasshopper house...He determines the boundaries of their habitation...
    - He can do what He pleases with them.
    - When He is finished with them, He can destroy them.
  - The nations have their judges and their proud princes...
    - But He makes their judges useless—and brings their princes to nothing.
      - As Psalm 82 says, they all die like men...
        - They return to the dust from which they were taken.

c. Isn't this the reality that we constantly see?

- The powerful princes who seem so invincible, and the mighty nations that they rule quickly come and go—
  - especially if you look at them with reference to the One who reigns forever and ever.
- Look at how Isaiah describes it in verse 24:
  - Isa 40:24: Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

- All He does is blow on them and they wither away.
    - Remember how God humbled Egypt and forced them to let His people go?
    - Remember how He humbled Nebuchadnezzar and forced him to confess that the Most High God rules in the earth, and raises up and puts down princes according to His will?
      - that none reign unless He raises them up to reign?
2. How it would change us to think this way!
- To know with full assurance that whatever nation (or whatever authority) is raised up has been raised up by God to carry out His purpose—
    - which purpose He has revealed—
      - that He is going to bless His people and give them eternal life in His house...that He is going to do good for them...
    - When Christ is on the cross—it is God who raised up the nations to do whatever His hand and purpose had determined!
      - Things have not gone wrong!
      - Of Him and through Him and to Him are all things to whom be the glory forever and ever!
        - He is simply carrying out His sovereign purpose and will!
    - Remember that! when you are intimidated by public opinion or afraid the opinion of some professor or some boss or some government official...
      - They are so temporary and God is so eternal!
        - Whatever they think will pass, but what He thinks will never pass.

TRANS> God not only controls the destiny of the nations—

B. He also controls the destiny of the stars and planets!

1. You can see that in verses 25-26:
  - Isa 40:25-26: "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.
  - a. This language speaks of His absolute control of them:
    - First, we are told that He created them—that means that He is the reason they even exist in the first place—they are here for His purposes.
    - Second, He is the one who “brings out their host by number”

- In other words, He is the one that sets them in their courses
  - Third, we are told that He calls all by name...
    - That shows not only His knowledge of each one, billions though they be, but also His authority over them—He names them like a father names his children.
    - And finally, it is because of His might and power that each one is sustained—like nations—they are kept by His power.
- b. God’s control of the destiny of the stars is a tremendous truth for men in every age to hear...
- because men in every age have often thought that the stars control our destiny...
    - Perhaps they do have some influence—we know that the moon and tides of the ocean have an influence on us...
      - just as our parents or the nation in which we were born does...
    - But the point is that God is the One who controls the stars!
      - We are absolute fools if we think that either nations (whose influence we see) and the moon and the stars control our destiny,
        - for it is God who appoints them to their places in His creation.
        - He is high above them!
2. So you see that all this is directing you to look to your Maker!
- Do not put your trust in kings or nations or in the stars and planets!
    - God created these things and He controls them for His purposes!
    - We are not in a universe that runs on its own...
      - We are in the universe that God created for His glory and purpose and we need to see that all things come from Him...
- a. We need to be like Joseph, the son of Jacob, who understood that all of his difficulties were sent by the hand of God.
- When he was a slave in Egypt, he was there for the glory of God.
    - God had sent him. Indeed, his brothers had, but God was over His brothers.
  - And then when he was cast into prison—unjustly...
    - He was sent there by God for the purpose of God.
  - And when he was raised to sit at Pharaoh’s right hand, he was put there for God—for the glory of God.

- Not only the hard things, but also the good things were God's doing.
  - This is how He understood life and this is how life must be understood by us!
- b. Take Daniel—he was the same...
- He was there when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed—
    - He knew this was for the glory of God...that God was chastening His people and would sustain in Babylon until He brought them back.
  - He was made a eunuch in the house of Nebuchadnezzar—he knew that this was for the glory of God.
    - His life was not ruined by this—it was before him... not as one who had to jockey for position, as one who could serve God there.
  - He was raised to a position of authority in Babylon—he saw himself in that position for the glory of God.
    - Instead of trying to force his destiny, he prayed to the God of heaven and submitted to His command and will.
  - Instead of fretting and shrivelling up in despair, he trusted and continued by God's grace and strength.
- c. Take Paul as yet another example...
- Was he in a synagogue with powerful Jews who would be offended with the gospel?
    - It did not matter to him—he was there for the glory of God.
  - Was he with a bunch of Greek intellectuals who would laugh at him as an ignorant fool for preaching of the incarnation and the resurrection?
    - It did not matter—the Creator did not mind if these little philosophers thought all this to be foolish—blinded by the notions to which they happened to hold at that time.
  - Was he before an angry mob of silversmiths whose idol-making business made them ready to tear him to pieces?
    - He did not care—the God who keeps the stars in their courses would do with these silversmiths whatsoever He pleased.
  - Was he in prison?
    - That would not stop him—he would use it to write letters to the churches—to testify to the guards so that the gospel might spread.
  - Did he have a bodily infirmity?
    - It was from God. It was for His wise purpose. It was not random and out of His control.

TRANS> Do you see?

- These men did not lose sight of the one who held the destiny of nations and of the very stars in His hands.
  - They kept in mind just who it is that made and manages the heavens and the earth and they served Him accordingly...
  - They did not lose sight of His majesty and glory!
    - They lived by His power, looking to Him for His grace.
    - They were not dull—they saw that He is the one who holds the destiny of nations and stars.
- And that brings us to the last great implication of this chapter:

### **III. Do not be dull—see God’s care for His people!**

- This mighty God is your shepherd!
    - He is the one who comes for your salvation!
    - He who spared not His only Son, will He not with Him freely give us all things?
      - Of course He will!
        - See what Isaiah says of His care for us!
- A. First, don’t be so stupid as to suppose that the LORD has forgotten you when things do not go your way.
1. See how the Lord addresses you in verse 27 with a “why” question...
    - “why” questions are meant to challenge you—to make you think...
      - You know how it is if someone comes to you and says, “Why did you do that?”
      - It sort of puts you on the defensive so that you have answer for yourself.
    - So the scripture gives us this why question:
      - Isa 40:27: Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God"?
    - a. Isn’t it ridiculous, after all that Isaiah has said about the Lord, to think that this glorious God has missed something?
      - That He has done something unjust?
        - That He ought to have acted and hasn’t?
      - This is not to say that injustices are never done in this world though!

- Of course they are!
  - In was unjust of Joseph’s brothers to sell him as a slave to Egypt.
  - It was unjust of the Jews to deliver Jesus to the Romans to be crucified.
    - Of course there are many injustices that are done...
      - But it is absolutely ludicrous to suggest that the LORD who made heaven and earth has done some injustice
        - or that He has missed something so as not to act when He ought to have acted!
  - Anyone who could say such a thing or even think such a thing has completely lost sight of our glorious Creator!
    - Such a person is completely out of touch with reality.
    - God is incapable of injustice, He is incapable of missing something that is going on!
- b. But you know what it is like when heavy trials come on—it is very easy to lose your perspective and to suppose that your way is hidden from the Lord.
- Surely, many thought that when the temple was destroyed and they were taken away to Babylon...
  - Surely, you think that when you don’t see God’s grace in your trials...
    - When you battle with illness, with poverty, with lack of wisdom, with trouble in your home, with your sin, with just getting on in life.
    - Why doesn’t God do something?
    - Why doesn’t He help me?
    - Is my way hidden from the Lord? Has He forgotten my cause?
- c. You will notice how the LORD addresses His people as both “Jacob” and “Israel” here.
- In doing so, He reminds us that we are His covenant people
    - (I say “we” because all who have faith are blessed by the covenant that God made with Abraham as Galatians 3 teaches us)
  - But in calling His people both Jacob and Israel, he not only reminds us that we are His covenant people...
    - He also reminds us that Jacob was an exile and that the Lord was with him...
    - And that Jacob was uneasy about God’s protection until He learned to call upon Him with true faith,

- and to look to God's strength instead of to his own cleverness.
- Then he was given the name Israel because he had turned to God in earnest faith.

TRANS> You need to see how foolish it is of you to think that the God we have been talking about today has missed something—

- or has not acted when He should have!

2. So to wake you up, more questions are asked in verse 28...

- Isa 40:28: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

a. It is as if the LORD is saying,

- Have you lived on the earth and did you somehow miss this?
  - Do you not know who I am?
  - Have you not heard about me?
    - The everlasting God?
    - Yahweh (the self-existing one)?
    - The Creator of the ends of the earth?
- To miss Him is like denying that you have a mother... or worse...
  - We don't think it is because we live in a world where, at least to some extent, everybody has lost sight of their Creator.
    - But really, it is still just as They are all around us...
    - but really, this is ludicrous—it is absurd!
    - He is the one who weighed out the dust and measured the waters in his hands...

b. Do you suppose that He has become weak and frail?

- That His understanding of your situation has not been complete?
  - That He is too tired to step in and do something?

c. Of course not—it cannot be so!

- He is neither faint nor weary!
  - His understanding is unsearchable!
    - It is for you to bow to His sovereign will and wholly trust Him!
    - You are the one who is weak and who does not understand!



- He has matters—all matters—your matters, the nations' matters, His own matters—all matters perfectly in hand!

TRANS> Don't be so stupid as to suppose that He has grown faint and weary or that He does not know what to do...

B. See rather that He is the one who sustains you so that **you** will not become faint or weary!

- **He** is not the one who needs more strength and understanding—**you** are!
1. Far from lacking power and strength, He is your only source of power and strength.
    - Verse 29 says:
      - Isa 40:29: He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.
  2. Truly, it is not a consequence of your *natural* youthfulness or strength...
    - Verse 30 says,
      - Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,
    - This speaks not only of those who are young but also of those who are select men—choice men among men who are in their prime...
      - Yet, even they become both faint and weary...
        - Faint speaks of collapse from exertion under stress...as when engaged in a fight.
        - And weary speaks of getting worn out from the length of the struggle—as after days and days of labour.
    - Even the very strongest among us have limits to what they can take.
      - There are times when they utterly fall!
      - There are times when they can do no more.
    - Understand that even their natural strength and vigour—whatever strength any of us may have—is from God.
      - He is the one who regulates—
      - He increases and He diminishes it at His choosing.
        - Goliath was big and strong because God made Him big and strong.
  3. So in your weakness, look to Him!
    - a. Do not let your spiritual dullness cause you to think that He is not there for His people!

- Whether you are in a pit or in exile in Babylon or languishing on a sick bed...
  - there is no limitation to His power.
- He is doing just what needs to be done.
  - There is no injustice, no mistakes,
    - only divine unsearchable wisdom and power in full operation!
    - Only an Almighty God who can be trusted without question!
    - Remember who He is!

TRANS> But that is not all—

- It would not be very comforting to be left to the arbitrary will of such a powerful God if you had no idea what He was going to do with you!
  - I mean, you don't know exactly what He is going to do concerning with you...
    - but it would awful if you did not know if He had plans for ultimate good or evil concerning you—
      - if you were just left to wait and see.
  - But it is not that way!

b. The LORD has promised to bless all those who turn to Him for His help!

1) That is what we saw at the beginning of chapter 40...

- Isaiah spoke words of comfort to tell His people to prepare for His coming because He was coming to save!
  - This God who is so powerful and whose wisdom is so unsearchable is Himself coming to save His people from their sins.
  - And all He asks is that they prepare for Him by repentance and by seeing how helpless and unable they are to deliver themselves.
    - They are simply to prepared to look to Him for help when He comes to save them.
- That is all you need to do to be qualified to receive His grace...
  - Just see that you are in desperate need of salvation and that you cannot save yourself...
    - And look to God—even God the Son who comes to save you!
    - This mighty God who made heaven and earth is the One who does what must be done to save you...
    - This God whose power and wisdom we have looked at today...

- It is He who comes!

TRANS> And so here at the end of this wonderful description of Him, the promise is renewed for you in verse 31...

2) The promise is for you who will but look to Him for salvation. It says:

- Isa 40:31: But those who wait on 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.
- Here are wings for you to rise out of your bondage to sin and misery.
  - You can mount up with wings like an eagle by His grace and soar for His glory.
  - He is able to give you a new heart, a new life, a new hope, so that you can serve Him in His house forever and ever!
    - So that you can run and not be weary...
    - So that you can walk and not faint!
      - He is the one who sits about the circle of the earth!
        - The nations and stars are at His disposal.
        - And he is there for you if you will seek Him.
- Do any of you need this salvation?
  - Do you need Him to pour out His grace on you?
- If you are trusting in Him, He is committed to you...
  - You can go with Jacob to Padan Aram and know that He will deliver you...
  - You can go with Joseph to be a slave in Egypt and then a prisoner in Egypt and know that He will lift you up to reign.
  - You can go with Daniel to Babylon and know that He will keep you and give you eagle's wings.
  - You can go with Jesus to the cross, taking up your cross, and know that you will be raised up by Him.
- The message is not that there will be no troubles greater than you are...
  - The message is that there will be no troubles greater than He is!
    - that there will be no troubles that He does not send!
    - that those who wait on Him will find that He will renew their strength.
  - It is a call for you to trust Him who promises to save you because you know who He is!