



INVESTIGATE

Grasp God's CARE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL (v25-31)

Again, note how God's people are feeling in v27. (Literally "...keep saying..")

Isaiah's (and God's) answer is in v25-26:

- How does God reveal his awesome power? (Note: *the stars were often worshipped as powerful deities in Isaiah's day.*)
- How does God reveal his attention to individual detail?

Do you ever feel like God is too awesome and too involved with his universe to be concerned with personal concerns?

Read Psalm 147:3-4. The God who created and sustains the entire universe also keeps track of his people and heals the broken hearted! See also John 10:3.

EXPERIENCING THE POWER of this awesome God (v27-31)

How is God different to the idols who needed food, sleep etc. (v28)?

What is he able to do (v29)? (Note: Literally, "*keeps giving strength to the weary*")

What is the promise in verse 31?

What is the condition? (Literally, "... keep on hoping..")

- What does this mean / look like?



THINK IT THROUGH

It's been said that the strange thing about God's people is that they keep going, through loss, grief, pressures, disappointments. Here's the reason why – there really is a God who never grows weary and really does keep on giving power to the weak. ***Let's trust Him!***



PRAY IT THROUGH

Respond in prayer to the God who has revealed his glorious character in this study.

THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

SMALL GROUPS SHEET

WEEK BEGINNING 30 SEPTEMBER 2012

2. The Incomparable Creator

Isaiah 40:12-31

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

We are living in a day of quick solutions and almost unlimited self-help options whether our need is financial, health, diet, confidence or hair loss! But what is the solution for us as God's people when it looks like and feels like God has forgotten us?



BACKGROUND

Isaiah is prophesying in the 8th century BC. The first part of his book (Isaiah 1-39) warns the people of God's coming judgment on their sin. The nation of Israel would be defeated by the Babylonian armies and many would be taken into exile (this happened in 586 BC). The second half of his book (Isaiah 40-66) seeks to comfort those who are in the middle of that painful experience. We get a feel for their heartache in 40:27.

So, what do you give God's people when they are in despair and think God has forgotten them. In Isaiah 40:12-31 Isaiah gives them (and us) his prescription – ***meditate on the awesome character of your God!***

Read: Isaiah 40:12-31



INVESTIGATE

Grasp God's WISDOM (v13-15)

What answer is Isaiah anticipating to these 'ridiculous' questions?

So how is God unlike a Prime Minister?

What point is Isaiah making about God and the way he runs his world?

What is the implication and encouragement for people in despair due to difficult circumstances?



INVESTIGATE

Grasp God's GREATNESS (v12, 15-22)

In v12 Isaiah again asks some crazy questions – try and picture each test.

What answer does he expect?

What point is he making about God?

In v16 the focus is on Lebanon, famed for its cedar trees. What is Isaiah saying about Lebanon... and about God?

Isaiah is trying to stir his listeners' (and readers') imaginations so we get a truer sense of God's greatness. This is so important because the world tends to distort and limit God.

How is Isaiah exposing and mocking those who worship idols in v19-20?



THINK IT THROUGH

It's easy for us to think it's stupid to worship idols, but the fact of the matter is that God's people then (and now) were the only people who didn't! Idolatry was the air people breathed. What pressures would that / does that produce for God's people?

How will grasping God's greatness help us not be seduced by idols?



INVESTIGATE

Grasping God's CONTROL OF NATIONS AND RULERS (v15, 17, 23-24)

What is Isaiah saying about God... and by implication his people here?

Why would Israel need to hear this?

What impact would this truth have on believers living in Burma today?

How is it an encouragement to us?

Note: Verse 17 is not saying God doesn't care less about the nations but rather God is putting the nations in their proper place.