

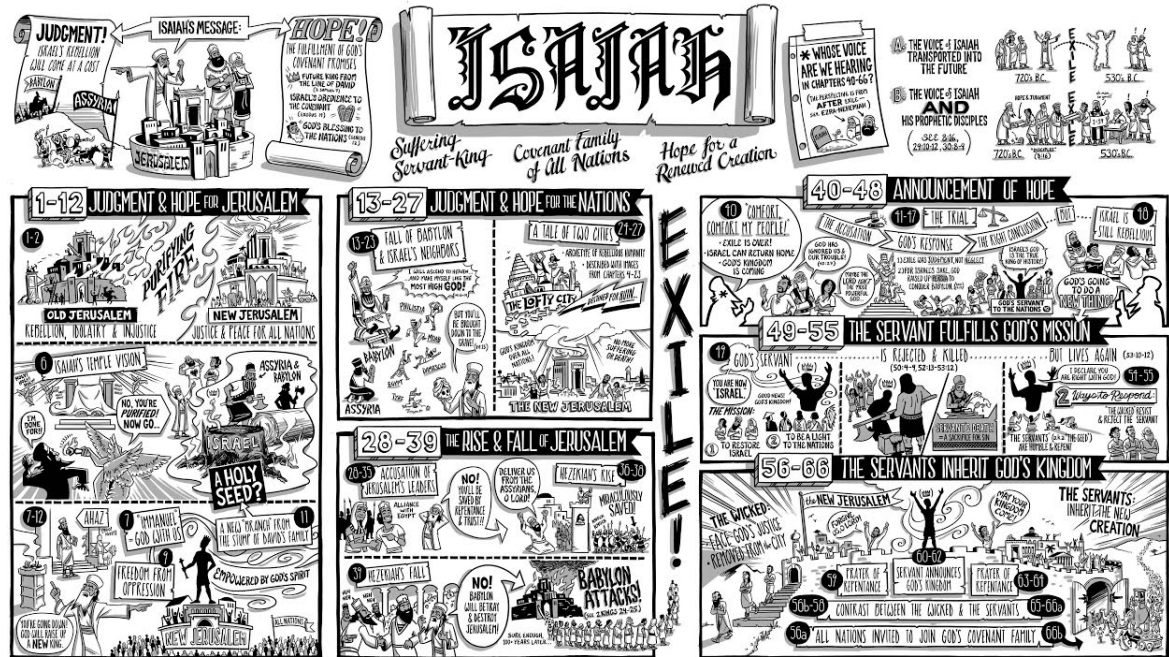
ISAIAH 40:25-31

GOD ABOVE ALL OTHERS

As Americans, we position ourselves at the top of the heap. We always have. We always will. No one dominates us. For whatever reason, and there are a few, we see ourselves as indomitable.

No matter what we think of our own dominance, the nation of Israel would top us in every category, not because of their inherent strength, but because their leader is the Creator and Maker of the universe!

We're just looking at a few verses tonight, yet they are some of the most over-the-top declarations Yahweh makes about his universal stature and dominance. Who else can take credit for not only the creation of the stars in the heavens, but naming them all as well!



English Standard (ESV)	Passion Notes	Passion Translation (TPT)
<p>Isaiah 40:25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ 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.</p>	<p>ag 40:26 See Col. 1:15-16; Eph. 3:9.</p>	<p>God Above All Others</p> <p>Isaiah 40:25 The Holy One asks: “Can you find anyone or anything to compare to me? Where is the one equal to me?” ²⁶ Lift up your eyes to the sky and see for yourself. Who do you think created the cosmos? ag He lit every shining star and formed every glowing galaxy, and stationed them all where they belong. He has numbered, counted, and given everyone a name. They shine because of God’s incredible power and awesome might; not one fails to appear!</p>

English Standard (ESV)	Passion Translation (TPT)	Passion Translation (TPT)
<p>²⁷ 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”? ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ 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.</p>	<p>ah 40:27 Or “my way is hidden from Yahweh.” ai 40:27 Or “my decisions are passed over.” aj 40:30 Or “young men.” ak 40:31 Or “will grow new feathers like eagles” (LXX) or “renew their strength.” An eagle has the longest lifespan of any bird. See Ps. 103:5. al 40:31 Or “without fainting.” The outer court is where we walk, the Holy Place is where we run, and we soar like eagles (into the heavenly realm) in the Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:19).</p>	<p>²⁷ Why, then, O Jacob’s tribes, would you ever complain? And my chosen Israel, why would you say, “Yahweh isn’t paying attention to my situation. ah He has lost all interest in what happens to me.” ai ²⁸ Don’t you know? Haven’t you been listening? Yahweh is the one and only everlasting God, the Creator of all you can see and imagine! He never gets weary or worn out. His intelligence is unlimited; he is never puzzled over what to do! ²⁹ He empowers the feeble and infuses the powerless with increasing strength. ³⁰ Even young people faint and get exhausted; athletic ones aj may stumble and fall. ³¹ But those who wait for Yahweh’s grace will experience divine strength. ak They will rise up on soaring wings and fly like eagles, run their race without growing weary, and walk through life without giving up. al</p>

Bible Knowledge Commentary

JOHN A. MARTIN

- God’s Sovereign Control over the World (40:21-26).

- **40:25-26.** God, who cannot be compared to anyone or anything (cf. v. 18; 46:5) knows everything about His Creation and sustains it. In His strength He created and also controls and sustains millions upon millions of stars, each one of which He, amazingly, has named (cf. Ps. 147:4). In Isaiah 40-66, God is frequently referred to as Creator and Maker, probably as a polemic against the lifeless idols of Babylon. He created the heavens, the earth, people, Israel, and darkness, and will create the new heavens and new earth.

- Further words of comfort: God watches over His people (40:27-31)

- Isaiah’s readers were under the threat of Assyria. Years later Isaiah’s readers during the Babylonian Captivity were under the domination of a godless empire. So Isaiah encouraged the people to remember that God never relaxes; He is always watching His people.
- **40:27.** God’s people should never think He has forgotten them. Jacob and Israel are synonyms for all 12 tribes. In chapters 40-49, Isaiah used these two words together 16 times (40:27; 41:8, 14; 42:24; 43:1, 22, 28; 44:1, 5, 21, 23; 45:4; 46:3; 48:1; 49:5-6). Though the people of the Northern Kingdom were already exiled to Assyria, God was still watching over the few believers who remained true to Him. His covenant people should never think God did not see or remember them.
- **40:28-31.** On the question Do you not know? see comments on verse 21. Since God, who unlike pagan idols is eternal and the Creator, never grows weary (v. 28) He can give strength to those who are weary or weak (vv. 29-31). Among Isaiah’s original readers those who hope in the LORD were believers who remained faithful to God. They were the ones who would be restored. For his readers in captivity Isaiah was

probably speaking of a national refreshing when the captives would be released and would return to their land. Even though in captivity they were weary the LORD would help them endure and soar ... like eagles, to be uplifted emotionally and spiritually.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What, specifically, would you give God credit for doing in your life? Trust me, you will have to work at honestly answering this question.
2. When God asks, "To whom then will you compare me," he is not looking for a name, he's looking for evidence that his people understand his love for them, as well as his commitment to sustain them as their leader. After reading through verses 25-31 of Chapter 40, in what ways do you anticipate your relationship with Jesus will impact what you see unfold in your life in 2020?
3. When someone you know is feeling weak and vulnerable and susceptible to hopelessness, what do you typically say to them to not only emotionally connect with them, but encourage them as well? How could you draw upon the verses we studied tonight to help you share your encouragement?
4. When someone tries to encourage you with statements about the nature of God like the ones we read tonight, how does it make you feel? Try sharing just one of the phrases we read tonight with someone else in the room and then ask them how it makes them feel.
5. Verse 31 says that a certain group of people, "will rise up on soaring wings and fly like eagles, run their race without growing weary, and walk through life without giving up." According to this verse, what do people do to position themselves for this amazing blessing? How can you position yourself to receive the same result from God?