

AN AWESOME GOD

Text: Isa 40:18 [TLB]

18 How can we describe God? With what can we compare him?

Introduction: When you read about God coming down on the mountain, have you really considered the real aspect of why those people stood at a distance? Let's read that text again.

Ex 19:16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.

17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently,

19 and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

If one of our youth had been there that day, they would have probably yelled out, "That's Awesome!" The problem with that statement is that in our world today we have used that word to describe some very common occurrences and it has lost most of its impact on our thinking.

"Now when a preacher stands before people and says, "God is Awesome," because they have heard that word repeatedly to describe an all- pro basketball player, they

have no ability to understand the impact of what he is saying.” [Bevere]

Let us look again at some of the revelation of God’s awesomeness as found in scripture and as we do let us relate some astounding facts from our world of science and mathematics’ that will bring further light to your understanding of God’s awesomeness. Maybe at the end of this message, you will want to stand in fear and trembling and declare, “Our God is an Awesome God.”

I. Israel’s God.

A. The One who came down on Mt Sinai was the One who designed and created the universe.

1. The One who put the stars in their places with His finger?
2. The One who through knowledge and wisdom laid the foundations of the earth?
3. The One who is from everlasting to everlasting?

B. Listen to Isaiah’s question.

Isa 40:21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

1. Isaiah is baffled about why Israel has lost sight of the wonder of God.
2. Maybe you need to be reminded about Who it is that you so easily turn aside.

C. Zophar asks a similar type question.

Job 11:7 "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?

D. Listen as Isaiah reminds Israel of their God.

Isa 40:10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.

Isa 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

13 Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?

14 Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?

15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

E. From Genesis 1:1 throughout the entire Bible, we are constantly confronted with this Eternal God and His Greatness.

II. Creation Reveals His Greatness.

A. God created the heavens with His hands by stretching out the universe like a canopy.

Isa 40:21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

- B. Have you ever pondered the size of the universe?
- C. Let's take a glimpse of the vastness of the universe and as we do maybe you will come closer to catching a peek at His glory.
 - 1. Scientists estimate that there are billions of galaxies in the universe with each containing billions of stars.
 - 2. The size of these galaxies is quite small compared to the space that exists between them.
- D. Our sun is located in one of these galaxies.
 - 1. When you look out at night, you are only seeing a picture of the galaxy we live in called the Milky Way.
 - 2. You only see a portion of it because most of the stars are too far away to be seen with the naked eye.
 - 3. The sun is the closest star to our earth and it is 4.3 light years away.
 - 4. A Light year is the distance light travels in one year.

5. Light travels at 186,282 miles per second or roughly 670,000,000 miles per hour.
 6. On one of our planes traveling 500 miles per hour a nonstop flight to the sun would take roughly 21 years.
 7. Those of you who are afraid of flying and prefer driving, it would take you about 200 years not counting gas and rest stops.
 8. However, it only takes light a mere 8 minutes and 20 seconds.
- E. If you made a scale model of the earth, sun and our nearest star, and you made the earth the size of a peppercorn.
1. The sun would be the size of an eight-inch-diameter ball.
 2. According to this size scale, the distance from the earth to the sun would be 26 yards distance.
 3. Our nearest star would be 4,000 miles away from the peppercorn!
 4. That means if you put the peppercorn earth in Miami, Florida, the sun would be 26 yards away on our map.
 5. The nearest star on our scale model would be positioned past Seattle, Washington, and into the Pacific Ocean a thousand miles out to sea!
 6. That would be a nonstop plane ride of 51 billion years.
 7. Yet light travels from this star in 4.3 years.

- F. When you look at one of the other stars that are 4,000 light years away, you actually see light that left that star about the time Abraham married Sarah, and has been traveling at a speed of 670,000,000 miles per hour, without slowing down or ceasing since, and is just now getting to the earth.
- G. SO MUCH FOR STAR GAZING AND THEIR AFFECT ON YOUR LOVE LIFE!
- H. Our nearest galaxy is named Andromeda.
 1. Its distance from us is approximately 2.3 million light years.
 2. It takes light traveling at 670 million miles per hour more than two million years to get to our earth from that galaxy!
 3. Scientist says there are billions of other galaxies.
- I. Isaiah declares that God measured this vast universe from His thumb to His pinkie

Isa 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

J. The writer of Hebrews confirms the same.
 Heb 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

III. Other Small Matters to consider.

- A. Isaiah states:
 1. That God weighed the mountains in His own scales and put the hills in a balance.

Isa 40:12b "...Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?"

2. Job declares:

Job 9:5 He moves mountains without their knowing it and overturns them in his anger.

3. God measured all the waters in the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and ponds in the palm of His hand.

Isa 40:12a "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand..."

4. God set boundaries for the waters.

Job 38:8 "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb,

9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness,

10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place,

11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?

5. Hear the cry from the mouth of God in Jeremiah.

Jer 5:22 Should you not fear me?" declares the LORD.

"Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.

C. All forms of created life are based on cells.

1. Cells are the building blocks of the human body, plants, animals, and every other living thing.

2. The human body contains about 100,000,000,000,000 cells of which there are a vast variety.
 3. God designated these cells to perform specific tasks.
 4. These grow, multiply, and eventually die—right on schedule.
 5. Cells as you know are made up of tinier structures called elements.
 6. And within elements can be found tinier structures called atoms.
 7. My period at the end of the last sentence contains more than a billion of them.
 8. The rest of the atom is composed of protons, neutrons and electrons.
 9. So where does the atom get its energy?
- D. Scientist calls this atomic energy because it describes something they cannot explain.
1. But God says He is the source.

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

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,

2. God also gives credit to His Son.

Col 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

E. Stop and ponder what we have just shared with you.

1. We have a glorious Maker whom even the universe cannot contain.
2. He measures the universe by the span of His hand, yet He is so detailed in His design of the tiny earth and His creatures that modern science is baffled by it after years of study.

Conclusion: Can you better understand how Job felt after uttering foolish questions and statements in the ears of God and God came to him in a whirlwind and said:

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

2 "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?

3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

8 "Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb;

9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness
its swaddling band;
10 When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors;
11 When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther,
And here your proud waves must stop!'
12 "Have you commanded the morning since your days
began, And caused the dawn to know its place,
13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the
wicked be shaken out of it?
14 It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out
like a garment.
15 From the wicked their light is withheld, And the
upraised arm is broken.
16 "Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you
walked in search of the depths?
17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have
you seen the doors of the shadow of death?
18 Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell
Me, if you know all this.
19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And
darkness, where is its place,
20 That you may take it to its territory, That you may know
the paths to its home?
21 Do you know it, because you were born then, Or
because the number of your days is great?
22 "Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you
seen the treasury of hail,
23 Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the
day of battle and war?
24 By what way is light diffused, Or the east wind scattered
over the earth?

25 "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water,
Or a path for the thunderbolt,
26 to cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A
wilderness in which there is no man;
27 To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth
the growth of tender grass?
28 Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of
dew?
29 From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of
heaven, who gives it birth?
30 The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the
deep is frozen.
31 "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the
belt of Orion?
32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you
guide the Great Bear with its cubs?
33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you
set their dominion over the earth?
34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an
abundance of water may cover you?
35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say
to you, 'Here we are!'?"

God, help us to grasp Your Awesomeness! Help us to
realize why we should stand in awe of You oh Lord! Help
us to realize that worship is necessary and mandatory in the
light of all that creation declares to us of Your Greatness
Oh God!