

**Because God is so big we can trust Him with our lives.**

How big can you get? No, really, stand up and try to get as BIG as you can!

Some of us can get fairly “big” and maybe even given years of growth we can aspire to “bigness.”

But notice, none of us filled the room. Maybe we displace a neighbor or felt really huge but in the scheme of things we remain pretty small. And the further you zoom out, the smaller we get.

When you are small it can be easy, and often necessary, to run after or follow bigger things to feel heard, protected, thought of - to have a sense of belonging. Kids cling to parents... The voiceless need advocates... The weak need protection... And so it goes.

But in a world of small things there is only One big enough to ultimately put our trust in - to hold onto, to claim as ours.

God - powerful, creative, beyond brilliant. God is big enough to protect, provide and save you. This is the call of Isaiah and it is meant to lift our eyes in contented confidence in the source of our hope.

So let's endeavor to see how big God is.

**Isaiah 40:12-26**

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Isaiah 40 is God's voice to a people in exile. Their whole nation would be displaced, moved to a strange new land. They would be surrounded by those that spoke a different language, had a different way of doing things. It could be a depressing experience leaving people anxious and in need of help.

They would have a historical faith in God but wonder if he is really big enough to solve what they were experiencing? Things may have unfolded the way God said, but they didn't unfold the way the people had hoped.

We are familiar with this unsure thinking. Culture now “esteems skepticism as the mature point of view and reduces God to an object of sentimental indulgence...”

The prophet says ‘hear the words of God, don’t settle for your thoughts of God, understand his thoughts of himself’ reality through God’s eyes.

Isaiah does this by attacking our categories of bigness, showing God above the smaller things we can be tempted to trust in.

The exiles are given hope, God as the good shepherd who will come and carry them in his arms. “Behold your God!” **Isaiah 40:10** “Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;”

Is his might enough to come through on this promise? Is he really capable of his promise? Is anyone worthy, including God to carry it out?

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In our text we are given a series of things God is bigger than and we want to briefly think of these. Creation, Brains, Nations, and Fake Gods.

### **1) Bigger than Creation**

If you have ever seen the Lego Movie you may have a sense of what it means to know a creator. The guy responsible for setting things up, giving life to what is under him. Often seen as a mystical, far away persona. God, in a much more meaningful way has the same creative authority but on a cosmic scale.

Talk about bigness, all of creation, the oceans, the mountains the vast prairies... The endless sky... beyond our planet, the unfurling universe with millions upon millions of galaxies. Making us a speck of dust!

But it is Yahweh, God himself that enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure. Who takes the oceans in the hollow of his hand...

Like we might stand proudly over toys in a sandbox, God stands over the totality of the universe, all of creation. Everything that exists exists because he made it so.

And he sits above the circle of the earth ruling over it all, ordering things in the way they should go as he stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

We are meant to get a sense of his bigness here, in light of creation more than in anything else. Our existence can seem vitally important, and it is, but we can have too narrow a vision of life when we don't see all that is beyond us. And here God says, 'yeah, all that, I hold it in my hand.'

Judah, looking down in desperation may only see dust. We might learn to trust in our exploitation of the dust, of creation, but God asserts himself as the better option.

"Isaiah here uses the doctrine of God the Creator to assure the people of their security and of the certainty that the divine promises will be fulfilled (this is the relation between verses 12–26 and 1–11)." J. Alec Motyer

God is capable of keeping his promise because he is the Creator. The God of history and he alone is God.

## **2) Bigger than Brains**

Sounds cheesy to say but I want you to remember it.

“Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him counsel?” Who teaches God about justice or gives him knowledge? This is the easiest quiz you will ever take! NO ONE!

God tells his people that his thoughts are beyond ours. His strategy, his decree, it is above our ability to wrap our minds around it, to comprehend.

The exiles might be inclined to think their way out of their captivity. And thinking, learning, growing in knowledge is not bad, we should pursue it, but God is inviting us to not ultimately trust in our own ability to be the brains of the operation. He wants us to trust his smarts.

When we think we would do a better job at being God... he tends to gently humble us - as we have certainly seen with the nation of Judah, warned against trusting in their own scheming and brought low by it.

We might trust in our ability to figure things out, or we could trust in science and technology as the great hope of humanity.

A great example of how this can go wrong happened in a funny way last Sunday. There was a terrible accident on one of the only roads to the Denver airport and people were scrambling to find a way around and make their flights. So their “savior,” Google Maps gave them a way out. Unfamiliar with the area people followed the directions on their apps and more than 100 people found themselves stranded in an empty field.

God is bigger than brains. He stands as the definition of wisdom, ingenuity and power. He is generations of thoughts ahead of us. He can be trusted.

His bigness rolls on.

### **3) Bigger than Nations**

The people in exile wondering how the might of their captors will be beaten.

This week thinking of some of the patriotic displays many churches will have today, I was drawn back to the experience of viewing the Star-Spangled Banner at the National Museum of American History. The huge flag, 30 by 34 feet, flew over the Battle of Baltimore (in 1814 - not even from our Independence.) But you see it in a climate controlled exhibit because the flag that inspired our national anthem is fading and dissolving.

We love our nation, the values we believe bring us together, our heritage. Even with the great sins of our country, we can celebrate freedom this week. But that Star-Spangled banner is a gentle reminder that no nation lasts forever.

A few hundred years is a long time for us as individuals, but it is a blip in the timeline of humanity. There is no more Roman Empire, there is no National Museum of Babylonian History. In fact I have been to Babylon, it's not there. Mere mud piles and new walls that a dictator erected in an attempt at national pride.

There might be relics in other museums but the powerful nations that once reigned are nothing.

Nations are like a drop from a bucket to God. All the nations are as nothing before him.

"If a man were carrying a bucket of water to a garden and a drop spilled on the way, would he try to reclaim that drop from the ground? That's what the nations are in God's sight. That means two things: (1) the combined power of the nations will not be able to stop God's plan of redeeming his chosen people; (2) the combined wealth of the nations is not sufficient to honor God with a suitable offering (v. 16)." Andrew M. Davis

So to people in exile worried about the strength of their captors, or to those that might trust more in our politics, or our form of government as a source of security and a future; God stands bigger, outlining the nations' boundaries and accounting them as insects...

#### **4) Bigger than Fake gods**

Gods of wood and metal are nothing more than trinkets and have no power to deliver the people. "To whom will you compare God?" Certainly not the household gods made by a craftsman!

This message reaches a people used to idols like the Babylonian god Marduk. A god that had to be led places and sought counsel from other little gods.

"Idols may look magnificent, venerable and mysterious, they may excite a sense of awe but there is nothing there except the materials—no ability but human ability, no innate resources but those of earth." J. Alec Motyer

The One True God is like "nah." Don't trust in trinkets. Trust me.'

While we aren't making wood idols much these days, we can end up trusting in man-made identities for belonging, fulfillment and purpose. But they all leave us broken and confused.

God remains steady and strong, the One that gives us real identity, a place to belong forever.

Bigger than creation, bigger than brains, bigger than nations, and bigger than fake gods. **Because God is so big we can trust Him with our lives.**

**Isaiah 40:25** “To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.” (ESV)

This is all about who is worthy of serving as a sacrifice to save the people... If Lebanon isn't worthy... if creation isn't worthy, if idols are not worthy... who is? Only God. Judah should look nowhere else. Even in exile he can be trusted. His promise will come. The prophets will keep saying it, will the people believe it?

What of us?

**Hebrews 1:1–3** “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. [3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” (ESV)

There is only one sacrifice worthy of God. Only the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ can equal the worth of God himself or cover the multitude of the sins of God's people.

As Jesus lived a life of obedience in our place reaching out to and living among the least, the worst of sinners, he took on our death for sin and beat death by walking out of the grave. Securing not only spiritual salvation, but the lasting promise of an eternal home with him.

We are left to feel the brokenness of the world. The darkness that pervades. The groaning of creation waiting for redemption, that promised by the Good Shepherd. But we wait, already experiencing the salvation he gives, trusting in him, because only He is worthy.

We live in the tension of Isaiah 40 and Revelation 5. Final deliverance still to come, who can fulfill what was promised? Andrew Petersen.

“Is anyone worthy?

Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy of this?  
He is”

Jesus is our big God. He can be trusted with our lives. And when we see God through his own eyes, we see his promises as more real, stronger than anything else. When we see Jesus as upholding the universe with the power of his word what is there left to fear? Only he is worthy.

The struggle of faith is won or lost in the way we perceive reality... here is reality. Jesus.

**Isaiah 40:26** “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.” (ESV)

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**Surrender to His Bigness** - Trust Only Jesus. Wherever you are, exile, provision, he is the One we trust. Believe in Jesus, turn away from the smaller things call him Lord.

"If you want the love of God, you can have it. No tricks, no games, no fine print. All of himself, for you, just for the trusting." Jared Wilson

**Lift Your Eyes** - Tonight, take your parents outside to look at the stars and no the One who put all of them in place, knows you and loves you. See Jesus in his word and in his work in our world by the Spirit. He gave himself for you. And keep lifting your eyes in singing, live in confidence because he is sustaining all things right now.

When the ground is unsure. When we feel far from home. When we can't figure out the next step. When we just need a place to belong. When we are weak and need protection... or just recognizing our smallness. There is One that holds all of it and invites us to trust in Him. Look up friends, and live.