

Waiting on the LORD

BY PASTOR BRIAN BRODERSEN



At some time, we will all find ourselves in circumstances we are unable to change or control. It might be an incurable disease, financial difficulty, relational trouble, or a prolonged season of discouragement. Whatever the case, during those times we can be tempted to think—as was expressed by Israel—that **“my way is hidden from the LORD”** (Isaiah 40:27b).

I recently spoke with a woman I had prayed with many years ago after she had lost her husband, son, and father in three days. She related that now she’s doing quite well. However, she said: “What was most difficult was trying to figure out why this had happened. I was a Christian and I loved the Lord; I thought that nothing like this was even a possibility. Was God angry? Had He forsaken me?”

Life is not fair. Like this woman and the nation of Israel, you might believe at times that God has abandoned you, that your **“just claim is passed over by ... God”** (Isaiah 40:27c).

In Isaiah 40, the prophet reminds us of God’s greatness and shows us that God sees; we are not forsaken. And chapters 40 through 50 encourage Israel that God is with them and that He is sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful, compassionate, and faithful.

God Is Sovereign

What does it mean that God is sovereign? That God is in rightful control. He has authority over all things.

He is sovereign over the universe: **“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**” (Isaiah 40:25-26).

God is saying, “Didn’t you hear? Don’t you understand who I am? I stretched out the heavens. I placed the planets in their

particular positions in the heavens. I created and named the stars.”

In verses 15a and 17, we see His sovereignty over the nations: **“Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; ... All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.”**

We see God’s sovereignty over all mankind in verses 21 to 24: **“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? 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. ... He will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.”**

God is sovereign—over the heavens, over the nations, over all people, and over the rulers. We sometimes become distressed over decisions being made politically by leaders, both in the U.S. and internationally. But God says He has everything under control.

God Is Omniscient

God knows everything; verse 28 says that His understanding is unsearchable. That includes knowing all about truth, equality, and justice. Look at verse 14.

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?

The implication is that God doesn’t need anyone to teach or counsel Him; He already knows what is just. Sometimes we

think, *That’s not fair!* And many things aren’t fair; there are plenty of injustices in this sin-cursed world. But God sees them, He allows (not causes) them—and He knows what is just. He notices when we suffer injustice, and He will one day right all wrongs and reward those who remained obedient and faithful to Him on this earth.

God Is Omnipotent

Our God has absolute power. Look at verse 26: **“Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls**

*God sees; we are not forsaken.
... He is sovereign, all-knowing,
all-powerful, compassionate,
and faithful.*

them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing.”

We emphasize rightly that God is Creator, but do we understand that He is also Sustainer? He is intimately involved in His creation, not detached or removed. He did not wind the world like a clock and then let it go. He still acts in it, and verse 28 tells us about this all-powerful God whose power is absolute and undiminished: **“The LORD ... neither faints nor is weary”** (Isaiah 40:28b). God never gets tired; He never needs rest. His strength is consistent.

All of this is wonderful but incomprehensible. Isaiah 40 speaks of a God Who is so magnificent that we might question whether or not He even cares about us. David expressed this in Psalms, **“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man, that You are mindful of him?”** (Psalm 8:3-4a). We seem rather insignificant when compared to all these things, so we will consider next how God deals with His people. ☞