

The King's Highway

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— Our Pastors Speak —



HOW GREAT

THOU ART!

by Rev. B. M. Hicks*

As I read the 40th chapter of Isaiah I am reminded of the hymn, "How Great Thou Art." We have here in the compass of a few verses a declaration of the greatness of God. The people are to take comfort in His greatness and in the close of the chapter are exhorted to draw strength from this great God.

In verse 9 there is the exclamation, "Behold your God!" Let us endeavor to catch a glimpse of Him in His greatness as portrayed in this chapter.

"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?" These statements remind me of children playing in a sand pile pretending to make mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes and oceans, shaping them in their little hands. In their pretending they reduce the mountains, etc. to their size. Isaiah, however, is not reducing the earth and heavens to fit our little hands or finite minds. He is showing us how great God is. He would have us behold our God as great enough to take the waters of the whole earth in the hollow of His hand, to hold a pair of balances in one hand and with the other grasp the hills and mountains, place them in the balance and weigh them. Can you visualize such hands? A Gospel song states, "Hold to God's unchanging hand." What a hand to hold to! No wonder the prophet began the chapter by stating, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people," If it would not thrill and comfort any soul to get hold of a hand like that I don't know what would.

"Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing." Here again he shows us the greatness of God. Nations to Him are as a drop of a bucket. In relation to Him they could be compared to the dust that fell from the hills and mountains onto the balance after He had replaced them having weighed them.

"To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" He is asking us, "What is your conception of God?" Well, what would your answer be? Are we big enough of soul and mind to know Him as did the prophet? Perhaps Isaiah's vision of the Lord high and lifted up, the touch of the live coal from the altar, the

cleansing of his sin, prepared him to know how great God was. A glimpse of God, the touch of a live coal, the cleansing of sin, will today help us to comprehend His greatness. He states, "He that is . . . impoverished . . . seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image." A graven image is an impoverished soul's conception of God. I fear that, too often, we are so impoverished that we do not begin to know how great God is. In our impoverishment we bring God down to our size. Our conception of Him is bounded by our experience. The touch of the live coal will extend out horizon.

"He sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers . . . That bringeth the princes to nothing, he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity." Here He is shown encompassing the earth beholding its inhabitants. He sees not only the general inhabitants but also the princes and judges. He can raise them up. He can bring them to nothing. Those rulers who work for peace are in His hands. Those who would threaten with great nuclear bombs also live, and move, and have their being in Him. They may sound strong and terrible but God can bring them to nothing. They are as grasshoppers before Him.

"God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth fainteth not, neither is weary." After stating again and again great feats of our God, of which we have reviewed a few, the prophet declares that He can perform them without feeling a touch of weariness. He is saying that these are but little things to God. Things great enough to weary God or cause Him to faint have not been mentioned. What Strength! Can we imagine tasks that would weary Him. Surely all our little needs He can readily accomplish.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." We get weary; sometimes faint. There is a source of strength from which we can draw. "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." But there is a condition, "they that wait." Jesus stated similar words, "tarry . . . until ye be endued with power." Take comfort fellow pilgrim, the strength of this great God will be imparted to you, if you wait upon Him.

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He Knows

Yes, Jesus knows! just what you cannot tell,

He understands so well!

The Silence of the heart is heard,

He does not need a single word,

He thinks of you;

He watcheth, and He careth, too,

He pitieth, He loveth. All this flows

In one sweet word: He Knows!

—Havergal