

The God of No Respect
Isaiah 40:1-11

Theme: God

Aim: To show that God is an awesome God and deserves our respect and worship.

1. There is a comedian who has based his whole act on the premise that he gets no respect.
2. As we will see, there seems to be a lack of respect for a lot of things in our day and time, in our culture. Ours is truly an informal culture. Has that taken away our ability to be humbled in the presence of an awesome God?
3. I sometimes think that is even true of Almighty God. Does He get the respect He deserves?
4. Quote from A. W. Tozer: "The church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be unworthy of thinking, worshipping men. This she has done, not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes the situation all the more tragic.
The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in religious thinking.

With our loss of the sense of the majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the Divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience life in the Spirit. The words "Be still and know that I am God" mean next to nothing to the self-confident bustling worshipper in this middle period of the twentieth century."

I. Isaiah was a prophet who wrote during a time when God surely did not get the respect He deserved.

A. The people were steeped in idolatry, and it had determined their fate.

B. With clear language, Isaiah tells the Jews how their lack of respect for Jehovah was tied to their impending destruction, Isaiah 1:5-15.

II. But as Isaiah continued to plead with his people to return to God, he gave them several ways in which God's majesty is displayed, and for which God was/is worthy of respect.

A. His Word will stand forever, Isaiah 40:6-9.

B. Though they were disobedient, He loved and longed to care for His people, 10-11.

C. His majesty is shown in His mighty works, 12-14. Who can teach such a powerful God?

D. His majesty is seen in His power over the nations, 15-17.

1. A casual reading of the Old Testament will show that God controls the fate of nations.

2. In God's eyes, the power struggles of men are but games that they play.

E. His majesty is seen in that no man can capture Him in an image, 18-20.

1. How foolish to make and worship an idol (Isaiah 44:9-17) when one can worship the God of heaven.

2. But mankind has done so for centuries, and continues, and will continue to do so.

F. His majesty is seen in His power over the universe, 21-22. It all came into existence with His word and it will all pass away with the same word, 2 Peter 3:7.

G. His majesty is seen in His power over great men, 23-26.

III. There is one final reason to respect this God of creation: even though they had not respected Him, if they returned, He would accept them and bless them again.

A. Isaiah 40: 27-31.

B. Isaiah 1:16-20.

1. Our God is truly an awesome God.

2. Let us stand in awe of that mighty and majestic One.

E-Town, 2-07-03