

**ECC Growth Groups – Term 4, 2014**  
**Behold our God – Study 8: God is Beyond Compare (Isaiah 40)**

1. In verse 27 of our passage, Isaiah writes, “*Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God?’*” What causes us to have the same kinds of thoughts?

2. How do you usually respond in those times?

Spend some time praying together before you look at God’s Word.

The book of Isaiah is set in the time after the kingdom of Israel was split into two – the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah). Isaiah was one of the prophets to the southern kingdom, Judah. His ministry occurred during the lead-up to the Babylonian invasion and the exile of God’s people. Hence, there is much talk of God’s judgement on his people for the sin that has brought this about – particularly in the first half of the book. We saw some of this when we looked at Isaiah Chapter 6 in Study 4. Chapter 40 represents a significant shift in the flow of the book. From this point on Isaiah moves away from speaking of judgement to emphasising the future hope and comfort that God will eventually bring his people.

Read Isaiah 40:12-31.

3. Using a whiteboard or butcher’s paper, have the group identify the various ways in which God is described in these verses.

4. Split the group into smaller groups of at least three or four members. Give people a few minutes to spend on their own, reflecting on what was written on the whiteboard/butcher's paper. After this time of reflection, have each member share with their small group what particularly impacted them in terms of who God is.

5. Bring the groups back together and have a few members share their thoughts with the larger group.

6. What kind of emotional response does this chapter produce in you?

7. Have a look again at the complaint of God's people in verse 27. How do verses 12-26 answer this charge?

8. How do verses 28-31 also answer this complaint from God's people?

Read Colossians 1:15-23.

9. In verses 15-19, Paul focuses on who Jesus is. Given what we read in Isaiah, what stands out to you in what Paul says about Jesus?

10. In verses 20-23, Paul speaks about what Jesus has done. Why is this so amazing?

### **Close + Prayer**

See Appendix 1 – 'Theology to Doxology' – and then close the study with a time of prayer.

## Appendix 1 – Theology to Doxology

Given that (apart from the Review Study) this is the last in our series of studies, it is fitting that our final *'Theology to Doxology'* should be *'Behold our God'*. It is also appropriate given that so many of the thoughts expressed in the song, and even the very way in which the lyrics are formed, matches with what we have seen from Isaiah 40.

If you would like to listen to a version online, you can use the URL below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gqrli3Lkf58>

If you would like to sing together or simply read out the lyrics, they are included below:

### Verse 1

Who has held the oceans in His hands  
Who has numbered every grain of sand  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

### Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne  
Come let us adore Him  
Behold our King nothing can compare  
Come let us adore Him

### Verse 2

Who has given counsel to the Lord  
Who can question any of His words  
Who can teach the One who knows all things  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

### Chorus

### Verse 3

Who has felt the nails upon His hand  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal humbled to the grave  
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

### Chorus

### Bridge

You will reign forever (Let Your glory fill the earth) (REPEAT 4X)

### Chorus

CCLI Song # 5937510

Jonathan Baird | Meghan Baird | Ryan Baird | Stephen Altrogge

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