

Our Present Problems & God's Sovereign Power - **Isaiah 40:21-31** (NIV)

What are some things that really go well together?

Peanut butter & Jelly, Pancakes & Syrup, Pepperoni & Pizza, O-H & I-O

There are some things in life, in how we live, that ought to go together as well – if we have the one, we need to have the other one also:

- **A lack of understanding & the peace of God (Philippians 4:7)**
- **Fears/Anxieties & God's calming presence (Isaiah 41:10)**
- **Our weakness & God's power (2 Corinthians 12:9)**
- **Times of doubt & God's gift of faith (Hebrews 11:1)**
- **Our weariness & God's strength (Isaiah 40:30-31)**

We don't always have to have everything under control & always be ok, **as long as we have the counterpart to what is lacking in us from God.**

This is what this looks like in real life:

- When we don't understand why COVID takes the lives of some and not others, only God's peace can provide the perspective we need!
- When fear runs rampant b/c of what's taking place in our country today, & we're scared for what's ahead, **God's presence with us changes things!**
- When we feel powerless to face the challenges before us (caring for a child, forgiving an offense, loving a difficult person), God's power is sufficient!
- When doubts fill our minds about the future, when doubts keep us from trusting God, **God gives us faith to see what is unseen, but certain w/God!**
- When we grow tired & weary from the weight of this world, God promises us that with His strength we will **"mount up on wings like eagles..."**

This sounds great, right, but it's hard sometimes to take these words from God and actually live in response to them! This is what helps me -

When I consider the source of the one giving me these promises!

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?" – Vs. 21

This message/truth/reality is nothing new! They have existed since the days of creation! **God does not change, therefore neither do His promises to us!**

"He (God) sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and it's people are like grasshoppers." – Vs. 22 **This is how big God is, yet He knows us personally!**

"He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, & spreads them out like a tent to live in." He created the heavens & the earth & He puts us in our rightful place!

"He brings princes to naught & reduces the rulers of this world to nothing."

You think Trump or Biden have power? **They are mere pawns in God's plan!**

If God were to blow on them, they would wither, & a whirlwind would sweep them away like chaff! This perspective forms my response to our political chaos

"Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name." – Vs. 26

Ancient Israel could see some 5,000 stars in the night sky, but astronomers today estimate some 400 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy, 125 billion galaxies in the universe, & **an estimated total number of stars of 10 billion trillions!**

"Because of His great power & mighty strength, not one of them is missing."

Vs. 27 - "Why do you say, O Jacob, & complain, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God'?" He is not blind, not far away, not unconcerned for our well-being! He sees/knows/is present/at work!

Isaiah declares God's power to create, his provision to sustain, and his presence to help as **a reminder to God's people that God's promises to them are binding.**

No matter what our circumstances seem to reveal about God & His relationship to us, **God's promises are the deciding verdict – because of who God is!**

"The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired & weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

God does not act/respond as we do, His ways are higher! His actions are not arbitrary/careless. We may not understand but He knows exactly what He is doing!

So whatever comes our way, He promises to give:

- **Strength to the weary**
- An increase of power to the weak
- And to those who hope/trust/wait on the Lord – a renewed strength

Don't limit God's work in this world by underestimating Him! Don't doubt what He can do/is doing even when you can't see or understand it! Trust His promise!

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