

Who is like the LORD? He is Everlasting (Isaiah 40)

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May 24, 2026 (Pentecost Sunday)

Dominant Thought: God rules over all from beginning to end.

Objectives:

I want my listeners to understand how God is eternal.

I want my listeners to find encouragement from the everlasting nature of God.

I want my listeners to read through Isaiah this summer looking for the greatness of God.

I want my listeners to focus on one of the everlasting ways of God this week.

In December of 1927, the USS S-4, a navy submarine, was accidentally rammed by a ship and quickly sank. The entire crew was trapped in what was quickly becoming their watery grave off the coast of Massachusetts. Severe weather hampered rescue efforts for several days until a diver reached the hull and could hear a tapping noise. 6 survivors were trapped in the forward torpedo room. They tried desperately to communicate with the outside world, tapping in Morse Code: "*Is... there... any... hope?*" (<https://adamwill.com/2022/11/29/is-there-any-hope/>. See also <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/tom-eadie-and-the-s-4-disaster.html>).

We live in a world in desperate need of hope. We live in a world dying without Jesus. People in need of purpose, hope and comfort.

This summer, I invite you on a journey through the latter half of the prophet Isaiah. We plan to preach through [Isaiah 40-66](#). It is called the book of comfort. All of Isaiah is good. For time's sake, I've chosen to anchor into the second half. We will refer back to the earlier sections as we move through the series. During this series, we will ask the question, "Who is like the LORD?" The question is asked a couple of times in [Isaiah 40](#). We find several answers to that question in the chapters to follow.

Many people call Isaiah the fifth gospel because it carries so many pictures of Jesus. Isaiah preached around 740-695 BC. He ministered in Jerusalem where he had access to several kings. He lived during the reigns of King Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ([Isaiah 1.1](#)). As we begin our series through this section of Isaiah that offers comfort and hope, we will look at different character traits of our God. Today, we'll look at how God is our everlasting God.

In [Isaiah 40](#), we discover four ways God is the everlasting God.

First, His Word endures forever ([Isaiah 40.1-11](#)).

All four gospels begin with a quotation from these opening verses of [Isaiah 40](#). They connect the voice of one crying in the wilderness with John the Baptizer, the cousin of Jesus. John is the one who prepared the way for Jesus to come.

This section of Isaiah is called the book of comfort probably from [Isaiah 40.1](#), "Comfort, comfort my people..." Notice all the speaking images in [Isaiah 40.1-12](#). Speak tenderly...proclaim to her ([Isaiah 40.2](#)), A voice of one calling ([Isaiah 40.3](#)), For the mouth of the LORD has spoken ([Isaiah 40.5](#)), A voice says, "Cry out" And I said, "What shall I cry?" ([Isaiah 40.6](#)), the word of God endures forever ([Isaiah 40.8](#)), lift up your voice with a shout...say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ([Isaiah 40.9](#)).

Back in [Isaiah 40.6-8](#), the voice says, "Cry out." And Isaiah replies, "What shall I cry out?" The response is "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

It may have been my first year at Maranatha Bible Camp. I was barely a teenager at 13 or maybe 14. We were studying 1 Peter that week. We were memorizing Bible verses. I remember learning [1 Peter 1:23-25](#), "since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.' And this word is the good news that was preached to you."

The verse that stuck out and stayed with me now almost 35 years later, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

God’s Word endures forever.

[Psalm 119:89](#), “Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”

Would you accept our challenge to read through Isaiah in the coming weeks? Choose some verses to memorize and hide in your heart.

Second, His Spirit is Immeasurable ([Isaiah 40.12-20](#)).

In [Isaiah 40.12](#), we encounter questions on creation. “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?”

Can you imagine trying to weigh Pike’s Peak or the Rocky Mountains on a scale. The prophet is trying to help us understand the greatness of our God.

[Psalm 104:30](#), “When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.”

[Isaiah 40:13](#) reads in the English Standard Version, “Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel?” Some translations will suggest “mind” in place of “Spirit.” The word is the same word for Spirit we see throughout Scripture.

Today, we celebrate Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on the first followers of Jesus in Jerusalem in [Acts 2](#). The Spirit is described in [Acts 2](#) as the blowing of a violent wind, tongues of fire, and people speaking in human languages they had not studied.

I invite you to read through Isaiah this summer. During your reading, look for the Spirit of God. In these later chapters we see the Spirit of God who empowers His servant (See [Isaiah 42.1](#); [48.16](#); [61.1](#); [63.10](#)). In the coming weeks, we will encounter the Holy Spirit again in Isaiah.

The Apostle Paul uses [Isaiah 40.13](#) in his letter to the church in Corinth in [1 Corinthians 2:16](#), “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.” No one can measure the

Spirit. No one can understand the mind of the Lord, but as followers of Christ, we can think as Christ thought. We have the mind of Christ through the Holy Spirit who reveals truth to us and leads us in the way of a crucified and risen Lord.

To further set apart the immeasurable Spirit, we have images describing the nations like a drop in a bucket ([Isaiah 40.15](#)) and the nations are as nothing ([Isaiah 40.17](#)). The scary intimidating nations of Assyria and Babylon are drops in a bucket. We could insert an intimidating nation throughout history or modern day. They do not stand up to the immeasurable Spirit of God.

In [Isaiah 40.18](#), the question is asked, “With whom, then, will you compare God?” Again in [Isaiah 40.25](#) “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?’ says the Holy One?”

These questions serve as the foundation for our summer series through the last part of Isaiah. Who is like the LORD?

This week as you walk outside and feel the wind, may it remind you of the Holy Spirit of God.

Third, His Throne rules from the beginning ([Isaiah 40.21-27](#)).

In [Isaiah 40.21](#) and [Isaiah 40.28](#), we encounter the same two questions, “Do you not know? Have you not heard?”

In [Isaiah 40.21-27](#), the question is since creation. We have a picture of God sitting on a throne above the circle of the earth and the people like grasshoppers. God is big. People are small. As you read through the prophets, let their poetry and imagery speak.

God stretches out the heavens like a canopy and spread them out like a tent to live in. As you go outside today after church, look up at the sky and say, “That’s a really big tent you’ve made God.” We have 56 people registered to attend the Nationwide Youth Roundup. About 1,600-1,700 people will converge on about 40 acres in the Rocky Mountains to hear the word of God and worship His greatness, to grow as disciples of Jesus. Let’s say 1,600 people attend NYR this summer and 4 people are in a tent. That’s 400 tents. My hunch is there are many more than 400 tents. We have big kitchen tents, but the heavens are God’s tent.

He is seated in the heavens on a throne ruling over people who look like grasshoppers to Him.

In [Isaiah 40:23–24](#), God “who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, than he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.”

In this world of conflict and wars, God rules over the rulers of this world. He reduces them to nothing. So, the next time you get anxious with the latest political developments, say, “God rules over all.”

God rules over all from beginning to end.

In [Isaiah 40.25](#), God asks another question, “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.” The expected answer is no one can compare and no one is equal to our Holy God.

God draws Isaiah’s attention back to the heavens. “Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?” ([Isaiah 40.26](#)). God calls the stars by name. “Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing” ([Isaiah 40.26](#)).

Stay up late this week and look at the stars and see the greatness of God’s power. Heaven is His throne.

Our God is everlasting because...His Word endures, His Spirit is immeasurable, He rules from the beginning, and His strength never ends.

Fourth, His Strength never ends ([Isaiah 40.28-31](#)).

These verses are some of the most quoted and most encouraging verses in all of Isaiah.

You may want to memorize these verses to hide in your heart.

As we look at these verses, we see God’s greatness and our response.

Look at God’s greatness: 1) The LORD is the everlasting God. 2)His understanding no one can fathom (is unsearchable, ESV). 3) He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Then, notice our response—those who hope in the LORD. The English Standard Version says, “wait for the LORD.” It means to look for or wait with eager expectation.

When we hope in the LORD, we may experience the following results: 1) They shall renew their strength. 2) They will soar on wings like eagles. 3) They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Interesting that people are called grass, drops in a bucket, and grasshoppers. Now, the image shifts from grasshoppers to soaring on wings like eagles. Again, the idea is to look up to the heavens where the mighty eagle soars.

As we move through life and stumble and fall and get tired and weary, we find a promise in God to hope in Him and He will renew our strength.

Why? Because He is the everlasting God. He doesn't get tired or weary.

This week, when you get to those challenging moments, whether it is another doctor visit or health issue, a challenging conflict at work or school that saps your energy, I invite you to look to our everlasting God who gives us strength.

He is an everlasting God.

His Word endures forever. His Spirit is immeasurable. His throne is from creation. His strength never ends.

Unfortunately, the sailors on the USS-S4 died. They were unable to be rescued. The rescue crews did everything they could, but with limited time and resources, they were unable to be saved.

Thankfully, our everlasting God provides us with hope. He is not limited. His Word endures forever. His Spirit is immeasurable. His throne is from creation. His strength never ends.

In J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Two Towers*, I read these words, “Where there's life, there's hope” (Samwise Gamgee). When life appears to be darkest, there's hope in our everlasting, living LORD. Will you trust Him more this week?