“Behold Your God!”

Gary McDade

Isaiah asks twice in the magnificent fortieth chapter of his book the tandem questions, “Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard?” (vv. 21, 28). The theme of this great chapter is “Behold Your God!” “O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!” (v. 9).

The Mercy of God Granted to the Wicked

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower faeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower faeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (vv. 1-9).

The Power of God Guarding the Righteous

“Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. 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? Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel,
and who instructed him, and taught him in the
path of judgment, and taught him knowledge,
and showed to him the way of understanding?
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. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor
the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.
All nations before him are as nothing; and they
are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.
To whom then will ye liken God? or what
likeness will ye compare unto him?” (vv. 10-18).

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“Hast thou not known? hast thou not
heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the
Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not,
nor is weary? there is no searching of his
understanding. He giveth power to the faint;
and to them that have no might he increaseth
strength. Even the youths shall faint and be
weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 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” (vv. 28-31).

Conclusion

From Isaiah’s day to today most people
never look up to God. “The workman melteth a
graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it
over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He
that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation
chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto
him a cunning workman to prepare a graven

image, that shall not be moved” (vv. 19-20).
Therefore, we say with Isaiah, “Behold Your
God!”