

**Message: The Greatness of God**  
**Sermon Series: Isaiah 40**  
**By Senior Pastor Tom Harrison**  
**December 15, 2019**

**(I will intro EMMA/CATE LINSENMEYER READ THE SCRIPTURE with: Genesis 1:1**  
***“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*** Scripture is definite  
– God created the heavens and the earth. If this verse is true, it changes  
everything. **Isaiah 40:12-26 p 712 in pew Bible**

1.) **The glory/greatness of God** *v12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the **heavens** with a span, enclosed the dust of the **earth** in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?* Note the word **“HEAVENS.”** **Astrophysics** = a branch of space science that applies the laws of physics & chemistry to explain the birth, life & death of stars, planets, galaxies, nebulae + other objects in the universe. **“Heavens”** appears 210x in the ESV, while **“heaven”** appears 498x. 250 +- 150 billion **stars** in the Milky Way **Galaxy**; **125 billion galaxies** in the universe; total number of stars is estimated at **10 billion-trillions** and God calls them all by name. **VIDEO CLIP** The text says, “the heavens” (big picture – astrophysics) and the **EARTH.”** Isaiah 40:12 mentions **water**. Nowhere else in the universe have they found water in any abundance. Water is an amazing solvent and dissolves almost everything upon earth except those things that are life-sustaining. It comes in various forms: solid (ice), liquid & vapor (clouds). Exactly 50% of the earth is covered by clouds at any one time allowing just the right amount of sunlight to come through. As steam, water can power machinery. The word **“dust”** appears 3x in our text. While we are *“but dust and to dust we shall return”* dust is also an important part of our world. Without dust we’d never see a blue sky. 17 miles above earth there is no dust, so the sky is always black. It’s dust that helps us see a blue sky. If it weren’t for dust, it would never rain. One drop of rain is made up of 8 million water droplets. Each one is wrapped around a tiny particle of dust. The world would be parched, and life would cease to exist were it not for dust. There’s **ozone**. It’s 40 miles up. If compressed it would only be ¼ of an inch thick. But ozone blocks ultraviolet rays that could be deadly. But it also allows other ultraviolet rays that are shorter to come through in just the right amount to kill the green algae, which otherwise would grow to fill all the lakes, rivers and oceans of the world. There is our **atmosphere** – the perfect blend of 78%

nitrogen and 21% oxygen and 1% trace elements – nothing else is like this in the universe. And **nitrogen** is put back into the soil by lightning. I remember being in Vici and learning that snow also puts nitrogen into the soil – it’s called “the poor man’s fertilizer.” The **moon** not only reflects the light of the sun, but it also blocks out meteors that could smash into the earth. It also creates a gravitational pull that sweeps the oceans – w/o it the oceans would turn into a stench pool of garbage. These tides aerate the oceans & produce oxygen for the **plankton** that is the foundation of the food chain of the world. Without plankton there would not be life. God made the moon the exact right size and right distance from the earth to make all of this happen. Likewise, the earth is just the right size and the right distance from the **sun**, so we receive the exact right amount of heat and light. If the earth were further away, we’d freeze – and if closer, we’d burn up. And we are at exactly the right **axis** – 23 degrees. The earth turns slowly, like a chicken on a spit, so that the earth is not too hot in some sections, burning up, or too cold and frozen in others. This is just earth science. How ‘bout the human body. Just one feature – the **eye**. How is this possible? We have 2 of them that can see vertically and horizontally. It’s so intricate. It sends signals to the **brain** – and how unbelievable is this?

## 2.) The Glory of Jesus

But there’s something even more amazing. This majestic creator God became a human and came to earth as a human being.

**John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*

**John 1:9-15** *The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his **glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

This great God, who made all things in the heavens and the earth, including us, moved into our neighborhood. God become a human being to redeem and rescue

us. We finite, dependent creatures, can decide to become children of God by giving our lives to the One who has given His life for us.

**Note these 3 questions from Isaiah 40:**

**v18** ***“To whom THEN will you liken God?”*** There’s no one like Him. No one. Nothing compares to this. God doesn’t hire consultants or get confused. God does need help understanding or knowing what to do. God’s promises are secure because no one and nothing can oppose the creator of all things.

**v21** says – ***“Do you not know? Do you not hear?”*** If you’ve never heard this or if you’ve never known this – this is our GOOD NEWS. Don’t put your faith in another “god.” What are idols compared to God? Don’t put your faith in anything or anyone else than this great God who has come to us in Jesus Christ. The only thing we can compare Him to are the things which He Himself has created, and so there is no comparison we can make. He exceeds everything we know or can imagine. This is why we come to worship.

**v26** ***Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?***

When in despair, in depression, in loneliness, in fear, in anxiety, in heartache, in physical pain, in doubt... look up ...to our Creator. We remember there is a God in heaven. Nothing in this life compares with the greatness of God. But wait...there’s even better news. Because of our difficulty in being able to choose God, God did something even more remarkable. The Incarnation. He came. He didn’t select one of us – GOD came. Himself. In the person of Jesus. When we don’t know what else to do, we look up – to the cross of Christ and remember our God saves.