

BEHOLD YOUR GOD

Isaiah 40 has some of my favorite words in the Bible. As it says, "Have you not known? Have you not heard, the Lord is an everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable."

God, who created everything, does not faint or grow weary. We are reminded of the power of God. God is not limited in understanding. God is not limited to earthly life like we are. God created everything and knows everything and has the power to do anything.

That is often hard for us to grasp. We are so limited in our understanding and in our energy and in our power to change things. But we are not God.

It is hard to understand that God never gets tired. God is not tired tomorrow and doesn't go to sleep tonight.

We can call on God in the middle of the night. We can call on God over and over again and we can all call on God at once. God remains patient and ready to receive and answer our cries.

That's what it means to be God, the creator of the ends of the earth. As one theologian puts it, "When God does not intervene as we wish, when things don't change as we hope, it is not because God is not able or does not will it."

"Without growing weary of us, the Lord is everlastingly devoted to us."

Sometime we allow ourselves to be dominated by our worries and controlled by our anxieties. God knows our needs and always understands what we are going through better than we do.

The greatest assurance for us is that Jesus underwent every temptation and trial to which we are subject so that he eternally understands.

Page 2

In these words, before the coming of Jesus into our world, the prophet Isaiah refers to God as sitting above the circle of earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. It could be said, in comparison to almighty God, we are grasshoppers, meaning we are small and have no power compared to almighty God.

Life up your eyes, as Isaiah says, and see how important God is. It is a way to picture what creation looks like.

But now we know the Everlasting God has not stayed at a distance. But our God came and entered our world and our lives and drew close to us as a human being in the person of Jesus.

This almighty and all powerful God gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless. Even youth will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted. But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Those words, of course, have led to the popular hymn, On Eagles Wings by Michael Joncas

Here are some of the words:

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

Page 3

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

The Everlasting God comes to give strength to us in our weakness. God will continue to do that no matter what comes our way.

It is said that faith is falling into God's arms.

Years ago, Walter Wangerin wrote an article in the Lutheran magazine about a woman who wrote asking him what faith is.

He told this story from his boyhood.

In their back yard, Walt had a favorite tree to climb and on a summer day he would sit and daydream. One day, sitting high on a branch, a sudden thunderstorm rolled in, blowing hard on his branch. Yelling for help, he expected his father when he came running, to climb up to rescue him.

But instead, he stood below with outstretched arms, calling for Walt to jump. Much too scared to jump, he clung ever more tightly to the weakening branch. Then with a terrible blast of wind, the branch started cracking. Down he fell. And into the arms of his waiting father. And that is faith, explained Walt.

In Hebrews 11:1-3, we read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds

Page 4

were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”

So we are invited to Behold Our God who invites us to fall into the arms of this Everlasting God not just one time, but over and over again.

Amen