

*for those who wait...*  
ISAIAH 40

ADVENT SERIES

<sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Behold your God!”

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*

<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.


<sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those  
that are with young.

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*

<sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God,  
or what likeness compare with him?

<sup>19</sup> An idol! A craftsman casts it,  
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold  
and casts for it silver chains.

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*

A photograph of a wooden structure, possibly a stall or a small building, with a thatched roof made of straw. The structure is dark, and the straw is light brown. The background is black.

20 He who is too impoverished for an offering  
chooses wood that will not rot;  
he seeks out a skillful craftsman  
to set up an idol that will not move.

21 Do you not know? Do you not hear?  
Has it not been told you  
from the beginning?  
Have you not understood  
from the foundations of the earth?

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*




22 It is he who sits above  
the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;  
23 who brings princes to nothing,  
and makes  
the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*


24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem  
taken root in the earth,  
when he blows on them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off  
like stubble.

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*

A wooden structure, possibly a stall or a small building, with a thatched roof made of straw. The structure is dark, and the straw is a light brown color. The background is black.

25 To whom then  
will you compare me,  
that I should be like him?  
says the Holy One.

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*

A wooden manger filled with straw, illuminated by a warm light source, set against a dark background.



<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name;  
by the greatness of his might  
and because he is strong in power,  
not one is missing.

*Isaiah 40:9-11, 18-26*

*for those who wait...*  
ISAIAH 40

ADVENT SERIES



# *the magi*



Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem saying, “*Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.*”

*Matthew 2:1-2*



*the magi*

Made room for an expanding theology





# *the magi*

Made room for an expanding theology

A **star** shall come out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

*Numbers 24:17*

But you, **○ Bethlehem...**

from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be **ruler in Israel**  
whose coming forth is from of old.

*Micah 5:2-3*

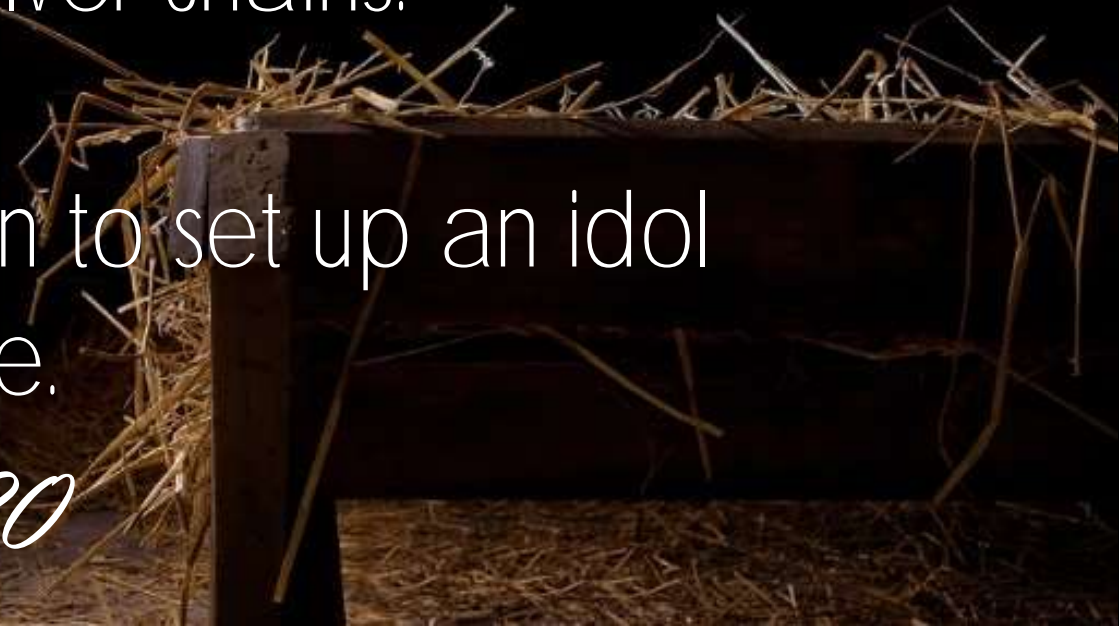
To whom then will you liken God,  
or what likeness compare with him?

An idol!

A craftsman casts it,  
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold  
and casts for it silver chains.

...He seeks out  
a skillful craftsman to set up an idol  
that will not move.

*Isaiah 40:18-20*



*Who is the God  
that we worship?*

[He] emptied himself  
by taking the form a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.

*Philippians 2:7*





Resident  
Policeman







Resident  
Policeman



Grand  
Old-Man





Resident  
Policeman



Grand  
Old-Man



Cosmic  
Santa Claus

# *Who is the God that we worship?*

[He] emptied himself  
by taking the form a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.

*Philippians 2:7*



*the image of our God*

To whom then will you compare me,  
that I should be like him?

*Isaiah 40:25*



*the image of our God*

THE HOLY ONE

To whom then will you compare me,  
that I should be like him?  
Says the Holy One.

*Isaiah 40:25*



*the image of our God*

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

It is he who sits above  
the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out  
the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

*Isaiah 40:22*



*the image of our God*

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

Lift up your eyes and see:  
who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name;

by the greatness of his might  
and because he is strong in power,  
not one is missing.

*Isaiah 40:26*

*the image of our God*

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name;

...not one is missing.

1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

STARS

*Isaiah 40:26*



*the image of our God*

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

For we saw his star  
when it rose (in the east)...

The star that they had seen when it rose  
went before them until it came to rest  
over the place where the child was.

*Matthew 2:26, 9b*

*the image of our God*

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

For we saw his star  
when it rose (in the east)...

The star that they had seen when it rose  
went before them until it came to rest  
over the place where the child was.

SOURCE: Sir Colin J. Humphreys

*Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society* (1991)



# *the image of our God*

## THE RIGHTEOUS & REWARDING JUDGE

Behold, the Lord God comes with might;  
and his arm rules for him;      *Isaiah 40:10*

Behold his reward is with him  
and his recompense before him

...Who taught him the path of justice?      *40:14*

...It is he who sits above the earth      *40:22*

...He brings princes to nothing.      *40:23*



*the image of our God*

THE RIGHTEOUS & REWARDING JUDGE

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

# *the image of our God*

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

He will **tend** his flock like a shepherd;  
he will **gather** the lambs in his arms;  
He will **carry** them in his bosom,  
and **gently lead**  
those that are with young.

*Isaiah 40:11*

*the image of our God*

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR



*the image of our God*

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

There were shepherds out in the field,



and the glory of the Lord  
shone around them.

*Luke 2:8-9a*



*the image of our God*

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

For you were straying like sheep,

but have now returned  
to the Shepherd  
and overseer of your souls.

*1 Peter 2:25*

*the image of our God*

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE HOLY, POWERFUL CREATOR

Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,  
*"Behold your God!"*

*Isaiah 40:9*