

What is God like?



Isaiah 40



Isaiah, Looking Beyond

ORCHARD VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Spring, 2021

Time Span for the Book of Isaiah



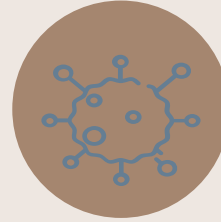
Assyrian Threat

Judah's conflict with Philistia, Edom, Syria and Samaria is overshadowed by the greater Assyrian threat.
734-701 BCE



Babylonian Conquest

After wresting control from Assyria (626-609 BCE), Babylon conquers Jerusalem in 597 BCE. Temple is destroyed in the second wave.
605-586 BCE



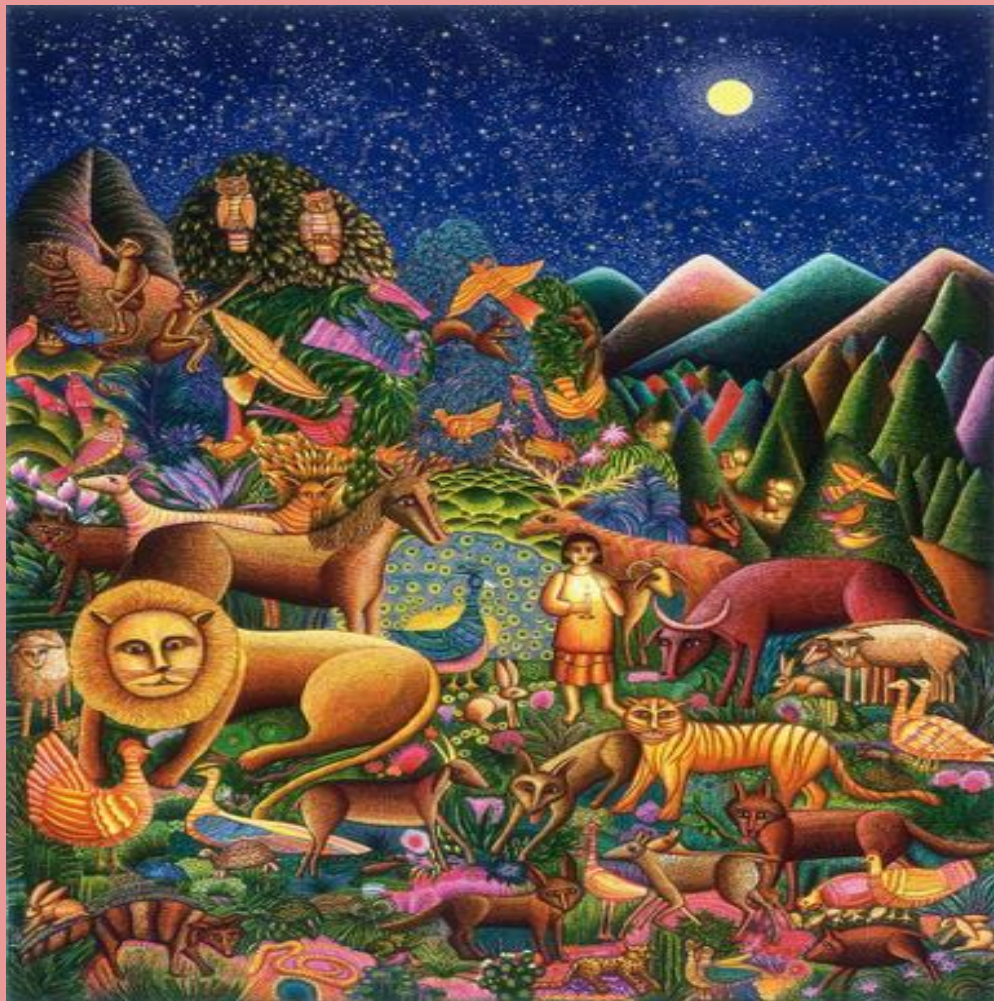
Persian Period Exile & return

There were waves of both exiles, and returnees, between Babylon and Jerusalem.
538-322 BCE



Future events

Events that will take place, some in the near future, some in the time of Christ, and some in the distant future .
AD - ???

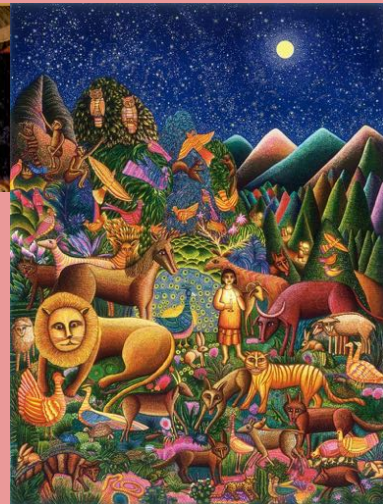
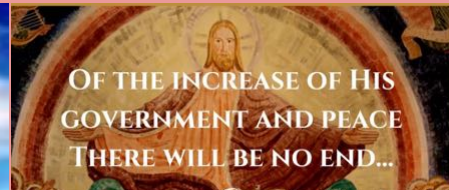


Peaceable Kingdom

Isaiah 7-12

10 January, 2021

Peaceable Kingdom



Making History: We Have A Strong City



Isaiah 13-27

Isaiah

24:10

The wasted city is broken down

You have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin

25:2

We have a strong city; he sets
up salvation as the bulwarks...

26:1-2

That the righteous nation that
keeps faith may enter in



Train for Trust, Pray for Deliverance

Isaiah 36-37

Train for Trust, Pray for Deliverance



Hezekiah

HZK YAH =

GOD strengthens



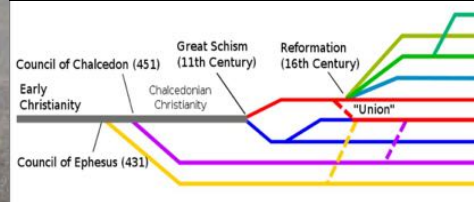
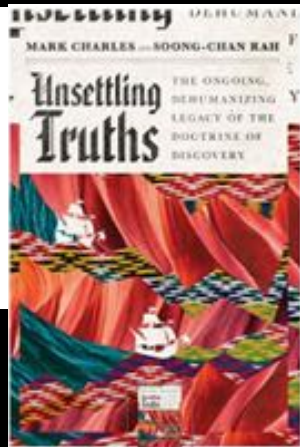
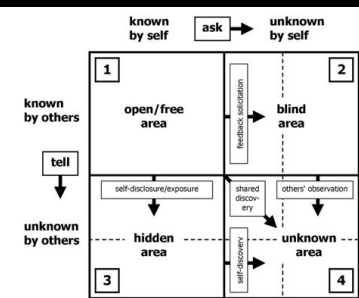
Isaiah 37:31-32

And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Squaring with History

Selections from Isaiah 30, mostly, w a bit of 33 + 35

Squaring with History



What is God like?



Isaiah 40

im·ma·nent

/ˈɪmənənt/ ◀▶

adjective

1. existing or operating within; inherent:
"the protection of liberties is immanent in constitutional arrangements"
synonyms inherent, intrinsic, innate, built-in, latent, ... more



tran·scend·ent

/ˌtrɑːn(t)ˈsɛnd(ə)nt/ ◀▶

adjective

1. beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience:
"the search for a transcendent level of knowledge"





12 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?

These rhetorical questions remind us:

God needs no management consultant.

**McKinsey
& Company**



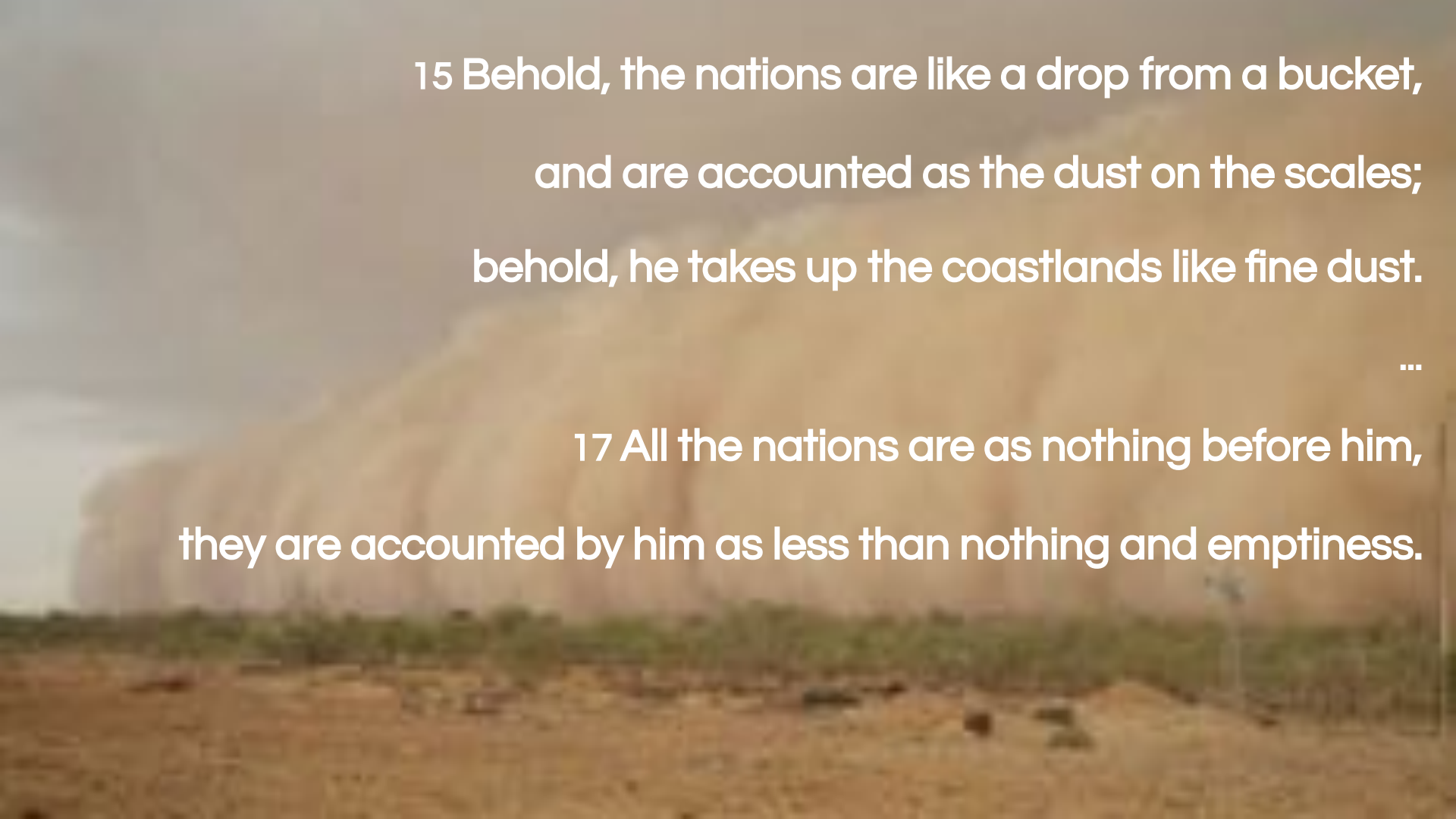
**BOSTON
CONSULTING
GROUP**

**13 Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord,
or what man shows him his counsel?**

**14 Whom did he consult,
and who made him understand?**

**Who taught him the path of justice,
and taught him knowledge,**

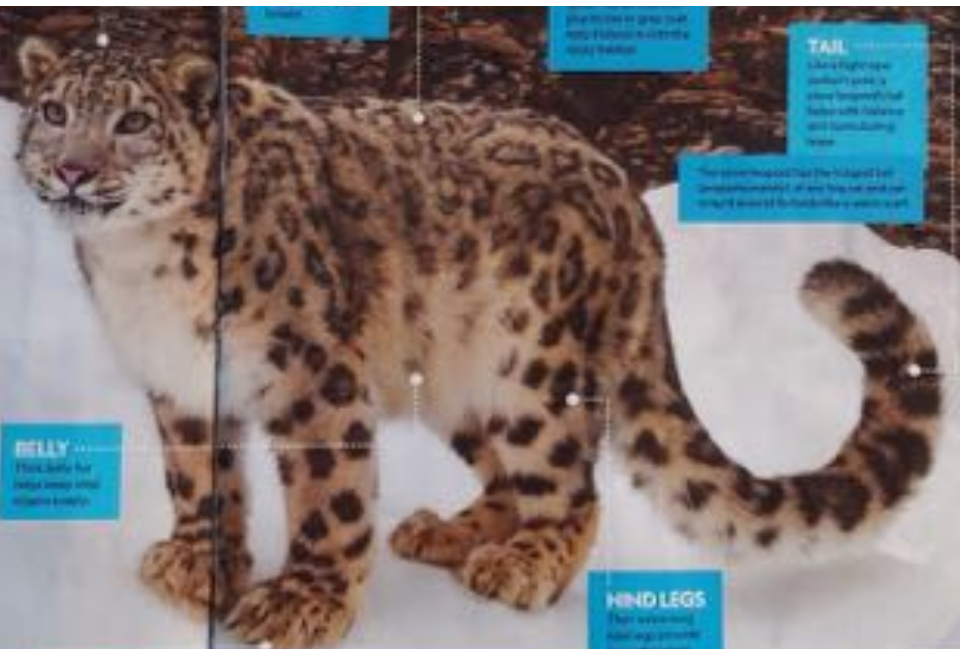
**and showed him the way of
understanding?**

A large, dense dust storm or sandstorm in a desert landscape. The dust is thick and yellowish-brown, filling most of the sky and obscuring the background. The foreground shows a flat, sandy desert floor with some sparse, low-lying green and brown vegetation. The overall scene is hazy and dramatic, illustrating the concept of nations being like dust.

15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

...

17 All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.





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

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

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.

*“Christ...is more of an artist than
the artists; he works in the living
spirit and the living flesh; he
makes men instead of statues.”*

*Vincent Van Gogh,
The Complete Letters,
B9, III, 499*




21 Do you not know? Do you not hear?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

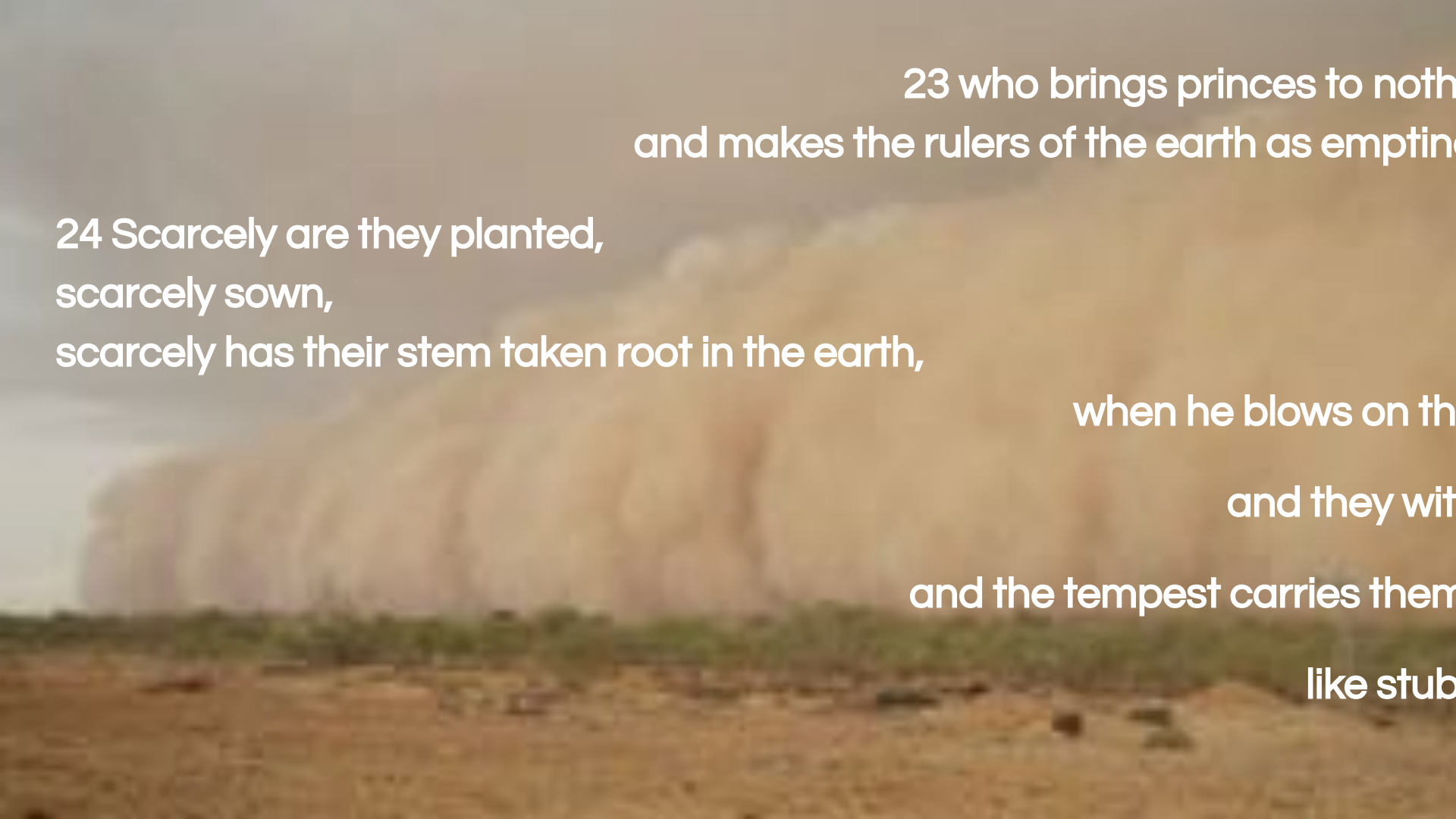
Have you not understood

from the foundations

of the earth?

A hand holding a green brush is painting the Earth, which is shown as a globe with blue oceans and green continents. The background is a deep blue space filled with stars and nebulae. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the brush tip touching the continent of Africa.

**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;**

A large, powerful dust storm is blowing across a dry, brown landscape. The dust is thick and yellowish-brown, obscuring the sky and the ground. The foreground shows sparse, low-lying green and brown vegetation. The overall scene is one of a harsh, arid environment.

23 who brings princes to nothing
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness

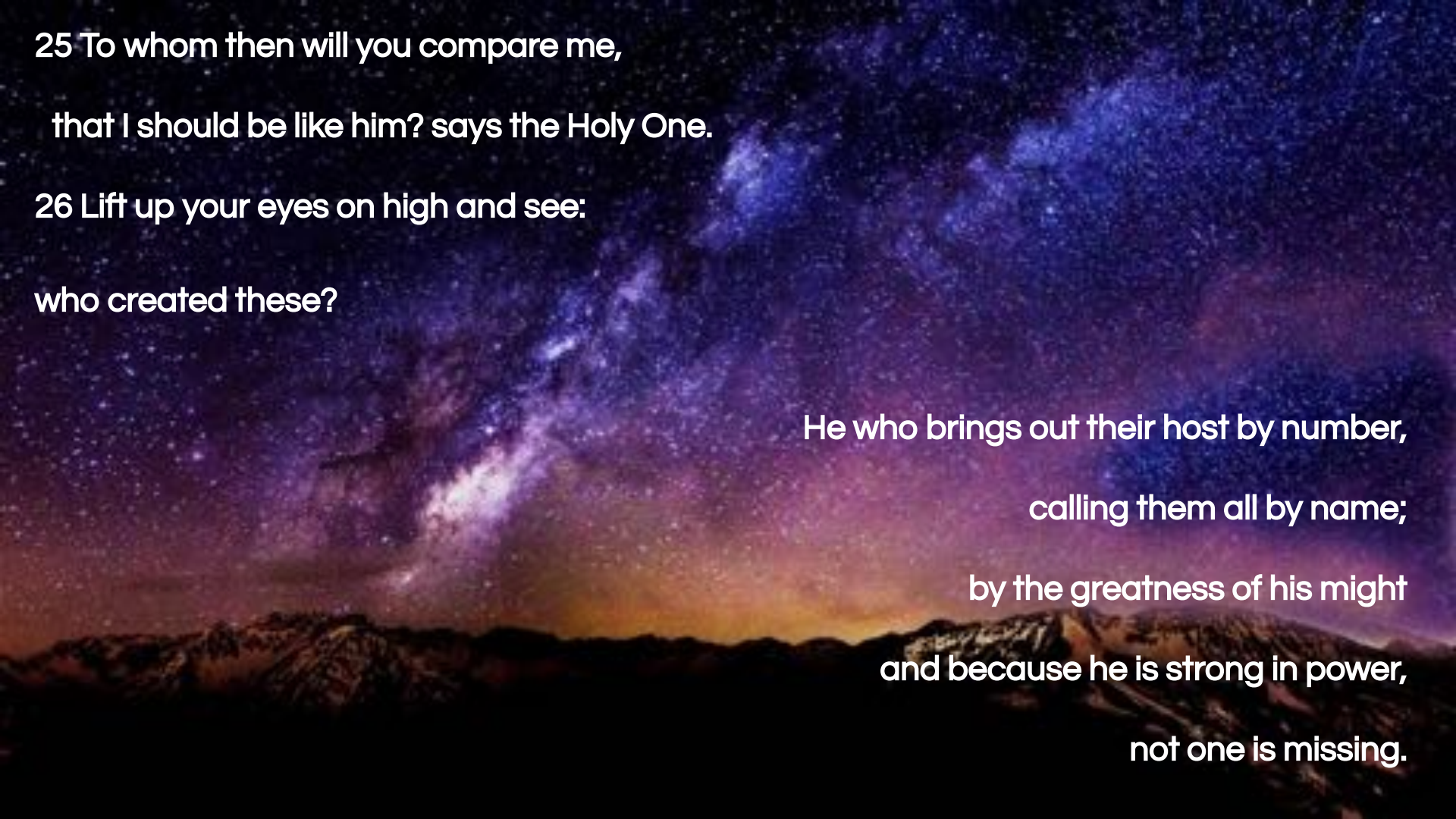
24 Scarcely are they planted,
scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows on them

and they wither

and the tempest carries them

like stubble

A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible, stretching across the frame. The foreground shows dark, silhouetted mountains. The text is overlaid on the sky.

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

26 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.

Who are we as a result?



27 Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord, and
my right is disregarded by my God”?

**28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**



**29 He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might
he increases strength.**

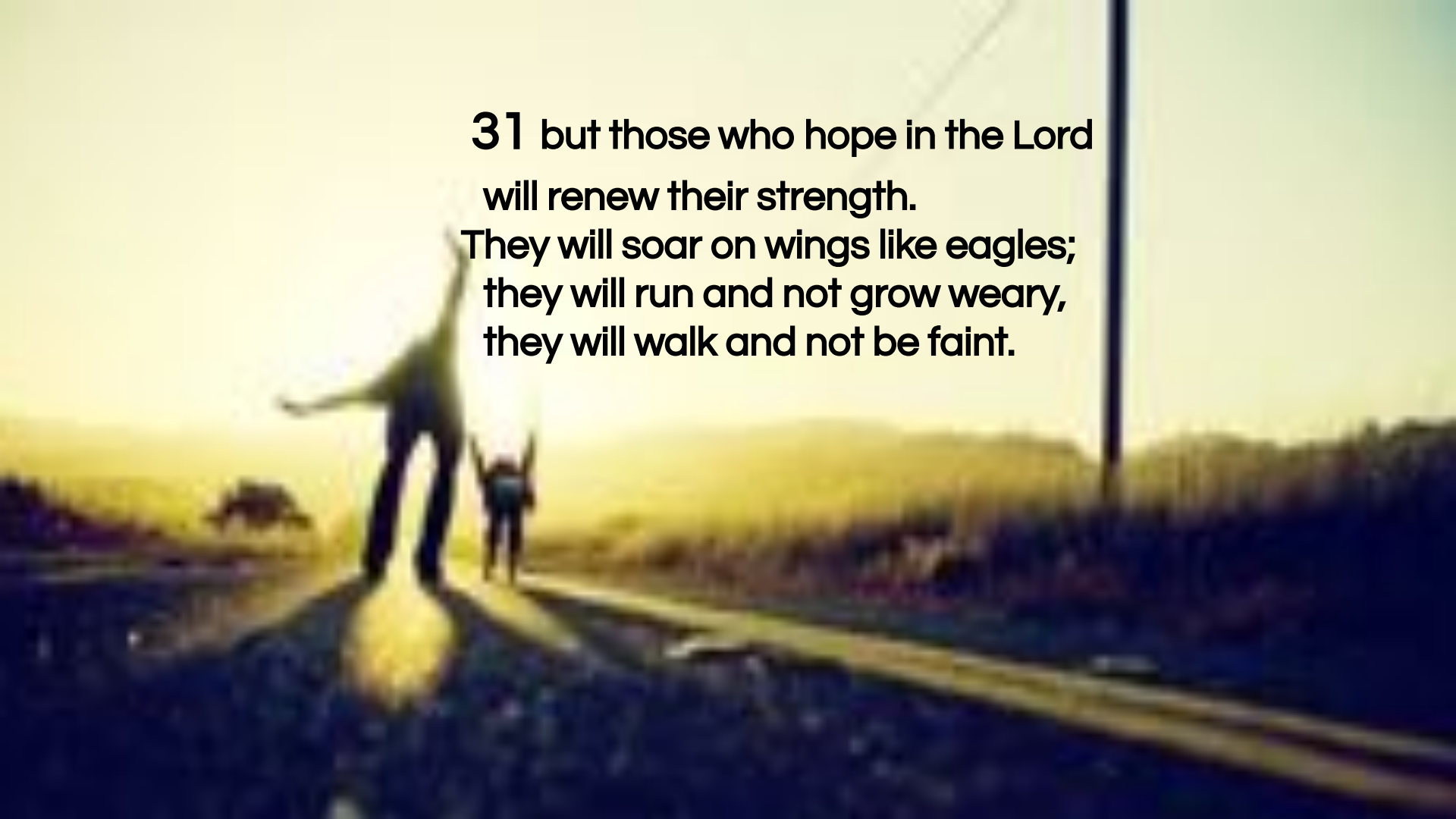


**30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;**



31 but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

**They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.**



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