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" BEHOLD YOUR GOD "

(Isa.40.9)

In the words of our text there is intimated an exercise that is one of the most beneficial, one of the most strengthening, the most encouraging that a believer in God can engage in. To behold simply means to look upon, to gaze intently with the purpose of noting the features, the hidden things, the latent possibilities there that a casual glance would miss. It means to close up the mind and heart to this one thing, "beholding," slowly, carefully painstakingly observing or looking at someone or something. Since our faith rests in God, since we look to God for aid, for help, for comfort, it is important to us that we spend time in "beholding our God." It is plainly evident that if we would "behold God," rather than look at man, if we would "behold our God" rather than search out and be ever considering our troubles, our perils, our misfortunes we would all experience a happier life, we would have stronger faith, more triumph in Christ. We would love Him more if we knew Him better and in many other ways we would be wise to spend time "beholding our God."

But not only would we thus be wise in the light of our own choice. We would also be obedient. The words of our text written by the prophet Isaiah are a direct compelling charge, "Behold your God." There is call to respond in that. And we are justified in noting that thus the Holy Spirit by the word of the prophet calls to us: "Behold your God." For it is the distinct characteristic of the Scriptural Message, that it has a present application for every generation. Even here in the context we note the significance of the of the verses immediately preceding, where we read "All flesh is grass;--- the grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever." Yes, heaven and earth shall pass away but His Word shall never pass away. I pause to ask, will we ever honour and use our Bibles as we should? Reading, searching, meditating and thus learning what will abide forever? And because it has this eternal nature we do well to heed the message of the prophets, for, as Peter says, much of what they wrote was expressly intended for us. And here in our text the message of the prophet, the message of the Holy Ghost by the word of the prophet, the Word of God for us is contained in these three words that have a challenging thought-arresting impact upon our consciousness -- "Behold your God."

It is when we want to do this, to behold our God, that we are at once face to face with the problem, Where shall we find Him? Where is He that we might behold Him? Where is there any portrait of Him that we might know Him,?

I know that the suggestion is made to us today, and it is both made and accepted seriously by some people, that we can imagine Him as He is: or we can reason out what He must be like. We can very well think how holy He must be, how faithful He must be, etc. But I submit to you that in as far as that suggestion involves the use of man's own mind merely, that it is a false guide; that it is impossible from the very nature of things, Men can never find out God. Consider these facts,--We are men, we can only conceive the things of men, and then only things similar to what we have seen and know. It is impossible for us to conceive the things of God.