

In answer to those who might find verses 10-11 difficult to believe, these Verses lay stress on God's supremacy over nature. Verse 12 stresses His power in comparison with all the forces of the universe. Verses 13 and 14 emphasize God's infinite knowledge.

Scientists are constantly learning new facts about the tremendous complexity of God's creation. The human body is made up of separate cells, each of them a complicated organism in itself. There are so many of these cells that if those in a single body were placed an inch apart, they would reach many times around the earth. Each human eye contains more than half as many rods and cones as the total number of people in the United States. Botanists have discovered that the leaves on every tree are arranged in accordance with a mathematical formula. The more science advances, the more we can see how true are the words that the prophet cried out in verse 13: "Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?" When did God need to ask for advice in order to accomplish His work? Who would be capable of giving such advice?

Verses 15-17 again stress the greatness of God's power as compared to earthly forces. About 150 nations send their representatives to meetings of the United Nations. Yet all they can accomplish is like the small dust of the balance in comparison with God's power. He lifts up the great nations to the west of Israel as a very little thing. The term here translated "coastlands," or "isles," ^7 indicates any great area west of Palestine. Today it can include all the nations of Europe and of America. God can strengthen or can utterly wipe out any one of these "as a very little thing."

After verse 17 there is a transition to the closely related theme of the folly of idolatry. This transition is gradual rather than sharp, since the first part of verse 18 could be connected either with the verse before it or with those that follow.

(18) To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with him? (19) As to the idol, an artisan