The passage begins with a series of rhetorical questions, rebuking those who do not pay attention to the many evidences of God's existence and power. The final question asks, "Have you not perceived the foundations of the earth?" (Some translations insert the word *from* before "the foundations," ^8 but there is no preposition at this place in the original.) A man who looks at the great forces of nature and the complexity of the universe and fails to see the hand of the Creator is without excuse. The same idea is expressed by Paul in Romans 1:20, where he says, "The invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

The next verse pictures God as sitting above the entire circle of the earth and stretching out the heavens like a tent. This is a beautiful figure, emphasizing the fact that God is everywhere and controls the entire universe.

Verses 23-24 go a step further. Not only has God power to overcome all human forces, but it is His intention to use this power. He declares that the great forces that seem so strong to the Israelites will wither and be blown away. In later chapters it is clearly predicted that the great power of Babylon will be demolished by the rising strength of Persia.

In verses 25-26 God again stresses His great power and declares that no one is equal to Him. Since He has created and controls all the forces of the universe, none of His plans can ever fail.

> (25) To whom then will you liken me, that I should be his equal? says the Holy One. (26) Lift up your eyes on high and see! Who created the stars? Who is the one who leads out their host by number, calling them all by name? Because of the greatness of his might, and the strength of his power, not one of them is missing.

As we have seen, most of verses 12-26 is related to the idea of God's greatness as compared to the weakness of humanity and the folly of idolatry. All this is relevant to the promise