

to Him all the forces of the earth are as nothing, for He has created them all and can do with them what He will.

This great note of the omnipotent power of God will be particularly needed later on, when the people will be suffering in exile, but it is equally needed by the godly followers of Isaiah as they see the nation falling deeper and deeper into sin. In such times it is easy to think that God does not exist or that He is powerless. There are more passages declaring the greatness of God in Isaiah 40-50 than anywhere else in the Scriptures, except in the latter chapters of Job. Both books were written in a situation where the heart was tempted to doubt God, so God used them to give His people assurance of His power and of His faithfulness.

In verse 18 another related note is struck: comparison of God to the idols. This note is also frequent in the following chapters. It emphasizes the utter weakness and futility of the idols, which are the work of men's hands, and the absurdity of comparing them with God. To whom is God to be likened? God is great in power and glory and none of the idols of the heathen can be compared with Him!

After all these verses on the power, glory and knowledge of God, verse 27 comes almost as a rebuke. Why does Jacob say, "My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?" How can this One who is so powerful forget those whom He has set apart for His own purposes?

Verses 28 to 31 give the answer to this question. The answer is not given in specific terms which may apply only to one situation, but in general terms which apply to all the situations in which people are tempted to doubt God. If God's plan does not seem to be working out, it is not because He is too weak to do what He chooses. It is rather because we do not fully understand His plan. It is impossible for us to search His understanding. He knows the end from the beginning. His power is sufficient to accomplish anything He undertakes. He never faints and never is weary. Not only is He not weary but He gives power to those who tend to become weary. The situations that are ahead may be so terrible that even the strongest of us will faint and be utterly weary "but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they