

GETTING TO KNOW

GOD

A study of His names & divine nature

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 7

Jehovah-Bara

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.

– Isaiah 40:28 ESV

- **Last week:** *Jehovah-Shalom* – “The LORD is Peacer”
- **This week:** *Jehovah-Bara* – “The LORD the Creator”
Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD [Jehovah], and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God [Elohim], the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. – Isaiah 40:27-28 ESV

creator – *bārā'* – to shape, fashion, create

- God [Elohim] is **always** the subject
...the Creator of the ends of the earth.” – vs 28

A merism – a rhetorical device used to stress completeness

- He created the **whole** earth – from beginning to end
- This has nothing to do with **geography**
- It is about **existence** and **longevity**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1 ESV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... – Revelation 21:1 ESV

*...the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God...**the heavens and earth that now exist** are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. – 2 Peter 3:5, 7 ESV*

***“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”** – Matthew 24:35 ESV*

- **The context of the Book of Isaiah**

- Israel has been in Canaan for 700 years
- For 400 years, judges ruled the nation
- For 120 years, Saul, David, and Solomon served as kings of Israel
- Then God split the kingdom in two
 - o Israel (north) – Judah (south)
- 722 B.C. – Assyria defeats Israel
- 597 B.C. – Babylonians invade Judah
- 586 B.C. – Jerusalem falls
 - o Isaiah prophesied throughout this period
 - He exposed their sinfulness
 - He warned of pending judgment
 - He called for repentance

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: “Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.” – Isaiah 1:2 ESV

They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. – Isaiah 1:4 ESV

Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made. – Isaiah 2:8 ESV

...for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. – Isaiah 5:24 ESV

- **The kings of Judah dropped the ball**

***Azariah**...did what was right in the eyes of the LORD...Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away. – 2 Kings 15:2, 3, 4 ESV*

***Jotham**...did what was right in the eyes of the LORD...Nevertheless, the high places were not removed. – 2 Kings 15:33, 34 ESV*

***Ahaz**...did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God...but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering... – 2 Kings 16:2, 3 ESV*

***Hezekiah**...did what was right in the eyes of the LORD ... – 2 Kings 18:3, 4 ESV*

Manasseh...did what was evil in the sight of the LORD ...And he burned his son as an offering...
– 2 Kings 21:2, 6 ESV

Amon...abandoned the LORD and did not walk in the way of the LORD. – 2 Kings 21:19, 22 ESV

Josiah...did what was right in the eyes of the LORD...he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. – 2 Kings 22:1, 2 ESV

Jehoahaz...did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. – 2 Kings 23:31, 32 ESV

Jehoiakim...did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. – 2 Kings 23:36, 37 ESV

Jehoiachin...did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. – 2 Kings 24:8 ESV

- **A less-than-stellar track record**

- Even their good kings weren't great
 - They struggled with pride
 - They gloried in their own significance
 - They took *Jehovah* for granted

Hezekiah was delighted with the Babylonian envoys and showed them everything in his treasure-houses—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the aromatic oils. He also took them to see his armory and showed them everything in his royal treasuries! There was nothing in his palace or kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them. – Isaiah 39:1-3 NLT

- Isaiah confronted Hezekiah
“What did they see in your palace?” asked Isaiah. “They saw everything,” Hezekiah replied. “I showed them everything I own—all my royal treasuries.” – Isaiah 39:4 NLT
- *Jehovah* delivered a stark warning
“The time is coming when everything in your palace — all the treasures stored up by your ancestors until now—will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,” says the LORD. – Isaiah 39:6 NLT

- **When men play God**

- Even good men make lousy gods
 - Hezekiah was **self-impressed**
 - His treasure made him feel **self-sufficient**
 - His reputation made him feel **self-important**
 - His worship was **self-directed**
- Just look at his response
Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “This message you have given me from the LORD is good.” For the king was thinking, “At least there will be peace and security during my lifetime.” – Isaiah 39:8 NLT

- No **consideration** for the future
- No **concern** for his sons
- No **compassion** for *Jehovah's* flock
- No **concept** of *Jehovah's* sovereignty

- **The compassion of “the LORD the Creator”**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned. – Isaiah 40:1-2 ESV

- *Elohim* is the all-powerful Creator-God
- But He is also *Jehovah*, the personal and always-present God
Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms... – Isaiah 40:10-11 ESV
- *Jehovah* (“I AM”) *Elohim* (all-powerful)
“I AM the all-powerful Creator-God!”
“I AM incomparable!”

Who else has held the oceans in his hand? **Who has** measured off the heavens with his fingers? **Who else** knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? – Isaiah 40:12 NLT

Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? **Who knows** enough to give him advice or teach him? **Has the Lord ever** needed anyone’s advice? **Does he need** instruction about what is good? **Did someone teach him** what is right or **show him** the path of justice? – Isaiah 40:13-14 NLT

- *Jehovah Elohim* is all-wise, just, and righteous
- The Creator-God is greater than His creation

...all the nations of the world are but a drop in the bucket. They are nothing more than dust on the scales. – Isaiah 40:15 NLT

The nations of the world are worth nothing to him. In his eyes they count for less than nothing—mere emptiness and froth. – Isaiah 40:17 NLT

God sits above the circle of the earth. The people below seem like grasshoppers to him! – Isaiah 40:22 NLT

- Mankind is **nothing** to Him
- Nations are **nothing** to Him
- Idols are **nothing** to Him
- Problems are **nothing** to Him
- The presence of evil is **nothing** to Him

Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing. – Isaiah 40:26 NLT

- **Doubting God’s presence and power**

*...how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles?
...how can you say God ignores your rights? – Isaiah 40:27 NLT*

- God is unaware of my problems
- Or He simply doesn’t care
- Or ignores my righteousness
- Or is simply mad at me
- Or lacks the power to do anything
- Or...

- *Jehovah-Bara* is still creating
 - He who created everything from nothing...
 - ...can transform sinners into saints
 - ...can produce peace from problems
 - ...can turn joy into sorrow
 - ...can make the weak strong
 - ...can transform the faint-of-heart
 - ...can revive the exhausted

He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the LORD [Jehovah] will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. – Isaiah 40:30-31 NLT

- **New & Improved**

- God was not done with Israel
- They will one day get a divine makeover
- God will “re-create” them

“I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh...” – Ezekiel 11:19 ESV

- And He has already done this for us
 - ...if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation...** – 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV*

*...put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge **after the image of its creator...** – Colossians 3:10 ESV*

*... put on the new self, **created after the likeness of God** in true righteousness and holiness. – Ephesians 4:23-24 ESV*

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing...” – Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV

*“For behold, **I create new heavens and a new earth**, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” – Isaiah 65:17 ESV*

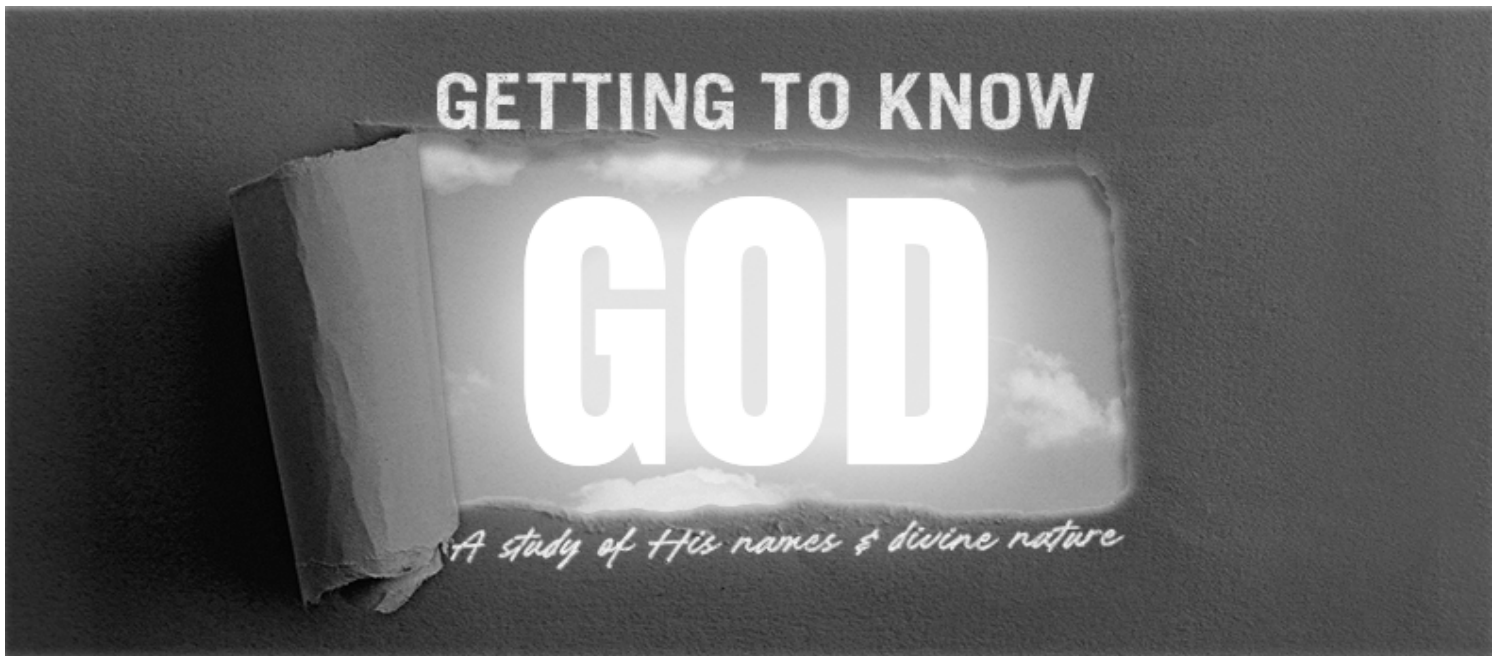
*Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...And he who was seated on the throne said, “**Behold, I am making all things new.**” – Revelation 21:1, 5 ESV*

- **Discussion Questions**

How has being reminded that God is Jehovah-Bara, the LORD the Creator, helped you today?

Why is it critical that we view ourselves as “new creations” rather than reclamation projects or “works in process?”

How should Jesus’ statement that He will one day “make all things new” give us hope for today?



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SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 8 HOMEWORK

WEEK 8 – *Jehovah-Go'el: The LORD Our Redeemer*

Jehovah-Goel (יהוה גאֵל, *YHWH Go'el*) translates to “The Lord is my Redeemer” or “The Lord, my Kinsman-Redeemer.” This name emphasizes God’s role as a redeemer who rescues, delivers, and restores His people. The term “Goel” (גאֵל) comes from the Hebrew root *ga'al* (גאֵל), which means “to redeem” or “to deliver.” In ancient Israelite culture, the *goel* was a family member, often a close relative, who had the responsibility of redeeming a relative in distress. This could include redeeming a person from slavery, rescuing someone in financial hardship, or avenging a family member’s death. As the *Goel*, God acts to save His people from sin, oppression, and destruction. The concept is rooted in the broader biblical narrative of salvation, where God is portrayed as actively involved in rescuing His people from various forms of bondage, both physical and spiritual.

- Read pages 43-48 of Ken’s Devotionary™ on the names of God. Write down any key thoughts or insights you got from considering the name **Jehovah- Go’el**.

- Read Isaiah 49. Look for any words, phrases, or verses that reflect God’s role as a redeemer. Write them in the space below.

- What clues do you find in verses 1-7 that this is a prophetic passage about Jesus?
- Read the following Old Testament passages and then write down how they describe Jehovah as our redeemer.

Exodus 6:6:

Psalm 82:4:

Daniel 6:27:

Jeremiah 20:13:

Ezekiel 34:10-12:

- According to verses 8-13, what reasons do the people of Israel have for rejoicing and singing?

What do the Israelites accuse God of in verse 14?

How does God contradict this view in verses 15-18?

What blessing from God do verses 19-21 seem to convey?

- Read verses 22-26 again. What promises does God make in these verses?

Verse 26 combines some very graphic imagery with a promise of God. Why do you think God chose to use this kind of language to describe the redemption of His people?