

Isaiah 40:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Analysis

The invitation to observe the stars demonstrates God's creative power and sustaining providence. He not only created the heavenly host ('tzaba'—army, suggesting organized multitude) but calls them each by name and maintains them by His great strength ('ko'ach') and mighty power ('amitz'). Not one star fails to answer His call, showing His exhaustive sovereignty.

Historical Context

Against Babylonian astrology which worshiped celestial bodies as deities, Isaiah declares these are merely God's created servants, named and commanded by Him. The Creator surpasses His creation infinitely.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's intimate knowledge and control of the stars encourage you about His care for your details?
2. What does it mean that the God who names and sustains billions of stars knows and sustains you personally?

Interlinear Text

אָלָה	בְּכָא	מִי	וְרָאֹו	עִינֵּיכְם	מָרָם	שָׁאוֹ
Lift up	on high	your eyes	and behold			
H5375	H4791	H5869	H7200			
בְּשִׁים	לְכָלָם	צְבָאָם	בְּמִסְפֵּר	רַאֲמָן	יָאֵם	פְּמֹזֵךְ
them all by names	in power	not one	by number	their host	by	these things that bringeth out
H8034	H3605	H3318	H4557	H6635	H3318	
אִישׁ	כְּפָרָה	וְאֶתְזָבֵחַ	אוֹנִים	מְרַבָּה	כָּלְלָה	אִקְרָבָה
he calleth	in power	not one	of his might	for that he is strong	by the greatness	by the greatness
H376	H3581	H7121	H202	H533	H7230	H3808
לֹא	בְּעִדרָה:					
faileth						
H5737						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:6 (Parallel theme): Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Isaiah 48:13 (Parallel theme): Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

Isaiah 44:24 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Isaiah 45:7 (Creation): I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Isaiah 34:16 (Parallel theme): Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

Isaiah 42:5 (Creation): Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Psalms 19:1 (Parallel theme): The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Deuteronomy 4:19 (Parallel theme): And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.