
Water in His Hands



Photo of waves taken on Fraser Island in an Air Van.

Nature nourishes my soul and within it I see God's handiwork. Such beauty, such intricate detail, such immense power, such grandeur. Imagine yourself standing on a boat, windswept hair, small droplets of spray flicking up from the bow as it moves through the water. Behind you, the water looks marbled, the wake of the boat slowly dissipating in the distance. A pod of dolphins dart by, playing in the waves which mound up like rolling hills. In the distance you spot one of the most majestic animals, a humpback whale. You are overcome with a sense of awe. An entirely different world exists below your boat, where some of the strangest creatures live in a substance which would drown us in moments. Where the largest of animals are weightless, moving with such grace and ease. The ocean is an incredible place, a place which I love wandering on a quiet Sunday in the early morning, a place where I find indescribable beauty which I try to capture with a camera, and a place where I can just take a breath and contemplate God's incredible love for me. That is where I would like to begin my thoughts.

Water. We read about it in Genesis 1:2, that in the beginning before God created anything; he was hovering over it. Then as he created, we read that he, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place and let dry ground appear." Genesis 1:9. Water is a symbol of life. From the moment we are conceived we are held in the waters of the womb. We drink water daily, keeping our bodies alive. We clean ourselves and wash away decay, dirt and dust with water. We play in it, we grow food using it and we most importantly baptise in it. Water is life-giving in many senses.

I guess, most of you would agree that the oceans have two different sides, they can be destructive and dangerous and on the other hand they can be a place of calm and tranquillity. The salt water of the ocean can be cleansing for the wounds of both our mind and our flesh. We then read in Isaiah 40 that God holds these unpredictable, beautiful and calming oceans in his very hands. From Verse 12: "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?" How awesome is that! God created the oceans, they are a symbol of eternity, His presence can be felt within the roar and crash of the waves and they are electric with

life. The life which God is the source of, for we read in Deuteronomy 32:39: "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no God beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand."

Isaiah then asks in Chapter 40: "who or what is greater than God." And I think we can all safely answer that. There is nothing. God is over all, He is in all, He is great and almighty, He is awesome. The word 'greater' as mentioned in Isaiah 40 is not just in relation to God's, strength and power. He is greater in His grace, mercy, love and righteousness. As we read in Psalms 116:5, "the Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion," and in Psalms 145:8, "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in Love." It is with faith that we can approach God and His greatness as we read in Ephesians 3:12: "In Him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." How amazing is that!

I just want to finish with the end of Isaiah 40, reading from verse 28-31:

Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isn't that amazing! God doesn't try to overpower us with his strength, he doesn't try to make us confused with his immense wisdom. Instead, he empowers us and fills us with hope to continue in the absolute craziness of life, whether it be the years just gone by or even the years to come.

The God who holds the oceans in his hands, the oceans and waters that course around the earth, bringing life and colour to the world, He holds us all, He cares for us all, He empowers us all and most of all He loves us all!

Carl Bundesen
