

Above All Else

Text: Isaiah 40:18-25

Date: 7-17-22 10:30 AM

Isaiah is prophetically reminding them of a most important truth: There is no God like Jehovah. There is no comparison of false gods to Jehovah. **God will not accept God plus another god. God will not be replaced or added to. He will validate that His strength is unmatched, His greatness is incomparable, and His sovereignty, while challenged, will not be altered.**

To whom can you liken God? To what likeness can He be compared?

Nothing can be compared to God for He is the Creator and all that He has made is His creation, the very work of His hands. Man is finite, limited, bound by time, created, and temporal. God is infinite, limited only by His own will, eternal, and the Creator.

To regulate God and compare Him to man is laughable at best and idolatry and worst.

I. God is separate from idols (Isa. 40:19-21).

The absurdity of all this is that God is the one who created man. It is the all-wise, infinite, powerful God who made humanity from the dust of the ground, and it is that same, created humanity who is fashioning idols from God's creation of metal and wood.

The height of foolishness is that man attempts to reduce God to an idol and create idols or representations of God.

Isaiah asks three questions: "Do you not know this? Have you not heard? Has this not been told to you since the beginning?" For the whole of Israel's history they had been warned against idolatry (Ex. 20:4-6; Deut. 4:9-12; 15-18; 22-24; 5:8-10).

They had no excuses as they had the knowledge of God though the law, prophets, and His word. They had a national heritage of the truth yet they rebelled against it.

II. God is superior over His creation (Isa. 40:22-25).

God is truly the administrator of this world. Proof of this lies in three clauses:

- 1) God sits above the *circle* (horizon) of the earth. The picture is of God's position of being seated on a throne and continually upholding His creation
- 2) Those under him are compared to Him as grasshoppers. Man is insignificant and totally dependent upon God.
- 3) God stretches the heavens like a *curtain*. This word means a *thin overhead veil or canopy, like a pitched tent*, under which the people dwell, which indicates that God has spread out and created the heavens and the skies as a canopy of protection over His people.

God is superior over the rulers of the earth.

The strongest leaders in the world cannot resist the power of God, including those who rule with iron lordship over their people. God remains in control for He has not left or abandoned His creation.

The lives of the world's leaders cannot even be planted, sown, or scarcely take root before God blows on them like a hot east wind and destroys them like stubble. He merely blows on them and they wither.

The conclusion is obvious: No one can be God's equal. Nothing can be likened to Me. When man views himself in his frailty compared to the divine, eternal, powerful, glorious, holy God, nothing even comes close. God is truly in His own class for He transcends His creation, rules over all, raises up for a short time and then brings down rulers, and proves idols to be powerless and inept man-made creations.

Truth: The Holy One and His Messiah are truly the sole beings of the universe that are worthy of man's worship, love, and devotion (Psa. 2).

Final Word

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be
 Let Thy goodness like a fetter Bind my
 wandering heart to Thee Prone to wander, Lord I feel it Prone to leave the God I love
 Here's my heart, oh take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts above.

Above all Else. God: Name Above all Names. God: Above all Gods. God: Creator above all Creation. Does God have your heart? Do you adore God? Is God's name above all else? Is God above all else?

Communion Thoughts

What should we desire to learn about the cross? Let me give you 3 quick thoughts:

- 1) **We should desire to recognize the magnitude of Christ's love for us.**
- 2) **We should desire to study and understand the impact and benefits of Christ's shed blood.**
 Redemption and forgiveness would be a great place to start.
- 3) **We should desire to meditate on the impact of Christ's death on our daily life.** All of our life's thoughts and actions should be through the lens of Christ's cross. While we may not think often about the cross in correlation to all of our daily life, the more we dwell and meditate on the cross, the more our perspective on life will go from the temporal to the eternal.

** Dwelling on Christ's willing death and sacrifice for our sin should cause us to evaluate our daily choices.

** When we are tempted to sin, we must train ourselves to think and hold that potential sin up against the cross and Christ's death.

** The more we spend in the discipline of quality learning time regarding the cross will take us to a place of peace and praise. We should never become complacent or short change the cross of Christ.