

Series: Speak Thou the Things that Become Sound Doctrine

TO WHOM WILL YE LIKEN GOD

ISAIAH 40:18, 25 AND OTHERS

Text: Isaiah 40:18

Isaiah 40:18

¹⁸ **To whom then will ye liken God?** or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

Isaiah 40:25

²⁵ **To whom then will ye liken me,** or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Introduction:

As we continue our series on sound doctrine we move from the doctrine of Word of God to God Himself.

The reason we began considering the Word of God is we know God through His Word.

The Word of God is not all that God knows, but is all that God wants us to know.

There is no way that we can know all that there is to know about God because our minds are not capable of such knowledge, and the world could not hold the volumes of books that would be needed to understand Him.

However we can know what He desires for us to know about Him from the inspired and preserved Word He has given us.

We will return to our text in a bit but note some other verses that lets us know that there is no other like God.

Isaiah 55:8

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 46:9

⁹ Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

By the way let me say that God is not One of many but the One and Only.

Today we will lay a foundation for the next three message about God.

Lord willing we will consider over the next few weeks three attributes of God.

- God is Omnipresent – Ever Present
- God is Omnipotent – All Powerful
- God is Omniscient – All Knowing

As we consider the question from our text – To Whom Will Ye Liken God or Compare Him To, the short answer is there is no one that we can liken God to or Compare Him to.

Some reasons:

- There Have Been None Before Him

Isaiah 43:10

¹⁰ *Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.***

- There Are None Beside Him

Deuteronomy 4:35

³⁵ *Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; **there is none else beside him.***

Isaiah 44:6

⁶ *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and **beside me there is no God.***

2 Samuel 7:22

²² *Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, **neither is there any God beside thee,** according to all that we have heard with our ears.*

- There Are None Like Him

Exodus 9:14

¹⁴ For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that **there is none like me in all the earth.**

Deuteronomy 33:26

²⁶ **There is none like unto the God** of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.

2 Samuel 7:22

²² Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for **there is none like thee**, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

Isaiah 46:9

⁹ Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and **there is none like me**,

Jeremiah 10:6

⁶ Forasmuch as **there is none like unto thee, O LORD;** thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

- There None Good But God

Matthew 19:17

*¹⁷ And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? **there is none good but one, that is, God**: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

Understanding these things let's consider our text today: "To Whom Will Ye Liken God?"

Sermon Content:

A number aspects of the character of God are recorded in the chapter.

This chapter begins the second part of Isaiah. The first part (Isaiah chapters 1-39) emphasizes condemnation. The second part (Isaiah chapters 40-66) emphasizes consolation.

This chapter covers a variety of subjects about God which include:

- The Comfort of God (vss. 1-2)
- The Calling by God (vss. 3-8)
- The Communication About God (vss. 9-11)
- The Character of God (vss. 12-31)

We are only going to consider the last subject during this message.

Note:

1. HIS CREATING (VSS. 12, 22, 26)

Isaiah 40:12

¹² Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Isaiah 40:22

²² It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Isaiah 40:26

²⁶ 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.

Wisdom acknowledges that God is the great Creator.

Evolution is a fool's philosophy that does not want God in its thinking.

Before man figured out the earth wasn't flat God had already told us that the earth was round for He sits on the circle of the earth.

We are the product of a Creator who is God. We are not the product of an evolutionary process, or a big bang, both of which are known as theories.

As we consider creation To Whom Will Ye Liken God – there is no one but God.

Consider also:

2. HIS COUNSEL (VSS. 13-14)

Isaiah 40:13-14

¹³ Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? ¹⁴ With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

God is all-wise and needs counsel from no one.

His wisdom needs no help or adjustment.

As we consider creation To Whom Will Ye Liken God – there is no one but God.

As we consider His Counsel To Whom Will Ye Liken God – there is no one but God because no one can counsel God.

Consider also:

3. HIS CONTRAST (VSS. 15-17)

Isaiah 40:15-17

¹⁵ Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. ¹⁶ And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. ¹⁷ All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

Nothing is equal to God or sufficient for God.

God is so great, He is a contrast to everything and everyone else.

As we consider His Contrast; to whom will ye liken Him to – there is no one or anything for He is superior to all.

Consider not only His Creating, Counsel, and His Contrast but also:

4. HIS COMPARISON (VSS. 18-20, 25)

Isaiah 40:18-20

¹⁸ *To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?* ¹⁹ *The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.* ²⁰ *He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.*

Isaiah 40:25

²⁵ *To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.*

Idols are compared to God and come out on the short end of things.

Notice the illustrations in these verses.

- The creating of gods (vs. 19)

Isaiah 40:19

¹⁹ ***The workman melteth a graven image,*** and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

This is how idol gods are created. Hardly does this compare to the eternal nature of the true God..

- The composition of god (vs. 20)

Isaiah 40:20

²⁰ *He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation **chooseth a tree that will not rot;** he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to **prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.***

Idols are comprised of the best wood and metal. The true God is composed of a Divine character that makes the best wood and metal look as nothing.

We have considered His Creating, Counsel, His Contrast, and His Comparison note also:

5. HIS COMMUNICATION (VS. 21)

Isaiah 40:21

²¹ *Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?*

Ignorance of the communication of God is inexcusable.

Remember what Psalms 19 tells us:

Psalms 19:1

¹ *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

The communication of God to man is visible and ignorance here is an indictment upon man.

We have considered His Creating, Counsel, His Contrast, His Comparison and His Communication note also:

6. HIS CONTROL (VS. 23-24)

Isaiah 40:23-24

²³ That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. ²⁴ Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

Some wicked men think they are so strong but God has not lost control. This passage mocks the strength of man and exalts the power of God.

God is all powerful and there is coming a day where every knee will bow.

There is coming a day where every individual will stand before him.

Have you prepared for that day?

We have considered His Creating, Counsel, Contrast, Comparison Communication and Control note also:

7. HIS COGNIZANCE (VS. 27)

Isaiah 40:27

²⁷ Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

Some think they can hid their actions from everyone including God. You may fool man but never God.

God sees all and knows all.

It is foolish to think that we can hide anything from Him

Let's consider one final thought:

8. HIS CAPABILITIES (VSS. 28-31)

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. ²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they

shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

The last few verses of this chapter emphasize the capability of the Lord. He is able to help us regardless of our situation.

Note:

God fainteth not, neither is weary.

There is no searching of His understanding.

He supplies help for the:

Faint

Those whose strength needs renewed

Close:

Understand God is Who you and I need, for without Him we can do nothing.

Understand that we will all stand before Him one day, are you ready for that day?