

Our Incomparable God

Isaiah 44:6-8

Introduction

Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above.
With wisdom, power, and love,
Our God is an awesome God.

That was the chorus to a song we used many years ago with our youth group, *Awesome God*. As I was studying for this sermon, I was reminded of that song. Indeed, Isaiah would concur that our God is an awesome God. But in my generation the word “awesome” was so overused that it has lost its punch, if not some of its meaning. A better term to use to describe God, though not as lyrical, is “incomparable.” Nothing and no one can compare with God. What is it about God that makes Him incomparable? What does it mean that He is incomparable? And what does it mean to us?

The Otherness of God

What makes God incomparable? Is it that He is almighty? Or is it because He is all-loving? Is it because He is all-knowing? He has so many great attributes that make Him worthy of our worship and praise. But what makes Him incomparable is His *otherness*. Of all the things in creation, nothing and no one is like God because He is apart from creation.

Transcendence

God transcends creation. It is impossible for us to imagine because our minds are limited to the created universe. While we might be able to imagine and theorize about “alternate dimensions”, we cannot comprehend anything outside of any dimension. God is outside any dimension. He is outside our realm, and as such, He is not susceptible to the natural laws that govern us.

Holiness

Along with the concept of transcendence is that God is holy. We often equate God’s holiness with His righteousness. Righteousness is a part of His holiness but literally, holy means to be set apart. When something is set apart, it cannot be touched by other things. We cannot come into His presence. It would be like putting paper in the presence of fire. Adam and Eve could “walk with God” because He had made them in His image, holy. That holiness was lost in the fall. At Isaiah’s call, he heard the seraphim say: (read **Isaiah 6:3**). This three-fold holy expresses that YHWH is the only true holy being in the universe.

How This Translates

But how does all this translate? What do the transcendence and holiness of God indicate?

Uniqueness

First, God is unique. There is none like Him. It’s not a matter of Him being bigger or stronger or wiser. He cannot be measured against anything else. He’s not even on any scale to be measured.

Creation

Second, He is Creator. Many cultures have “creation” myths. But in these, their gods merely fashion the world and all that is in it out of things already present. Before creation, there was nothing except God. He made all there is from nothing.

Living

Third, He is living. Fourteen times in the Old Testament and fifteen times in the New Testament, we read that God is the living God or the “one, true, living God.” All other gods have been made up by man and are lifeless. The problem with idols is not that they are made of stone or wood, but that the “god” that is worshiped comes from the mind of man.

For Us

But what does this mean for us?

The Definite Hope of Our Faith

Simply put, we have a definite hope. Our faith is in the one, true, living God who made heaven and earth and all that is in it. This God is love, a love the depth of which we cannot know. Because of that, He keeps His Word, and His truth is unshakable. He has given His Son to die for us and sent His Spirit to live within us. His Son lives and reigns and is coming back to take us home to be with Him forever. All these things God has promised in His Word, and we can believe it.

Trust

It also means we can trust Him for this life, too. Martin Luther said it best in his **Large Catechism**:

We are to trust in God alone and look to Him and expect from Him nothing but good, as from One who gives us body, life, food, drink, nourishment, health, protection, peace, and all necessities of both temporal and eternal things. He also preserves us from misfortune. And if any evil befall us, He delivers and rescues us. So it is God alone ... from whom we receive all good and by whom we are delivered from all evil (**Large Catechism I 1st Commandment 24**).

Means of Grace

This Incomparable God has also given us His very own body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Because the Son of God came into this earth, crossed over into our world and became one of us, we now have access to the transcendence of God through the presence of the body and blood of His Son. As we come to the Table, we receive all the blessings Christ offers because He is **OUR INCOMPARABLE GOD**.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
