

“Who will you compare me with or make me equal to?” Isaiah chapter 46 verse 5

God is an eternal spiritual being. He had no cause, nothing and no one is greater or more powerful than he is, and he is the very definition of holiness and perfection.

So as human beings we have no way of ever fully understanding or knowing who God is or what he is like. There is nothing in all of creation that we can point to and say “That is what God is like.” Some things may give us a hint of some aspect of God's being, but it will always be a pale shadow of the reality of God. He is completely unlike anything that we can ever know.

We human beings have a way of dealing with this. It's called 'religion'. It is the human institution by which we try to get a sense of what God is like and how to connect with him. The problem is that, because God is beyond our understanding and our fallen human nature is reluctant to engage with who God really is, we always end up doing it by reducing our idea of God to things that we can understand, manage and control. That is why so much human religion is filled with our rituals, observances and endless words.

But the more we make religion a human endeavour, the further we will move away from any sense of the real God at all. In the end we will have something that is almost entirely of human origin, and a God who is formed in our image and whose role is to indulge our human needs, comforts and desires.

But we are not left to puzzle it out alone. God has always revealed something of himself to people. He revealed himself to Moses and to the Israelites in his law, through his prophets and in his word. And then, most significantly, he revealed himself in human form, in the person of his Son Jesus, who said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

So when we come to faith in Jesus, we come to relationship with God. And as we grow in our personal knowledge of him, we are intended to come to resemble him in our own lives. We begin to become people who reveal in ourselves something of what God is like. That is why it is so important to make God the centre of our lives and the centre of our worship. Paul tells us that we are God's letter to one another and to the world.

In all that we do, we need to be seeking the glory of God revealed in and through our own lives. God wants us to know him, as much as we can, as he is, not diminished because we are not willing to see beyond the limits of our humanity. Let's believe that he can reveal to us more of himself than we ever thought possible.

Prayer

God of glory, we exalt your name, you who reign in majesty. We lift our hearts to you and we will worship, praise and magnify your holy name. In power resplendent you reign in glory, eternal king, you reign forever. Your word is mighty, releasing captives, your love is gracious, you are my God. amen.

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