

'Hid From Our Eyes': The Unsearchable God

1) He cannot be fathomed

Introduction - Describe God!

Creator (Isaiah 40:12-14, 25-26)

"Whatever God is, he is infinitely so: he is infinite Wisdom, infinite Goodness, infinite Knowledge, infinite Power, infinite Spirit; infinitely distant from the weakness of creatures, infinitely mounted above the excellencies of creatures... conceive of him as excellent without any imperfection; a Spirit without parts; great without quantity; perfect without quality; everywhere without place: powerful without members; understanding without ignorance; wise without reasoning; light without darkness; infinitely more excelling the beauty of all creatures than the light in the sun... and when you have risen to the highest, conceive him yet infinitely above all you can conceive and acknowledge the infirmity of your own minds. And whatsoever conception comes into your minds, say, 'This is not God; God is more than this.'" Stephen Charnock

Ruler (Isaiah 40:15-17, 21-24)

2) He cannot be compared (40:18-20)

“left to ourselves we tend to immediately reduce God to manageable terms. We want to get Him where we can use Him, or at least know where He is when we need Him. We want a God we can in some measure control. We need the feeling of security that comes from knowing what God is like, and what He is like is of course a composite of all the religious pictures we have seen, all the best people we have known or heard about, and all the sublime ideas we have entertained.”

3) Yet he can be seen (40:3-5)

“No one has ever seen God but God the one and only Son, who is himself God and in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.” John 1:18

Review questions

- 1) Think about the quote, “This is not God; God is more than this.” Did this idea unsettle you? Why/why not?
- 2) How is the God depicted in Isaiah bigger than how we might typically conceive him?
- 3) In what ways might we reduce God to “manageable terms”?
- 4) How does seeing the hiddenness of God make the incarnation all the more glorious to you?