

Isaiah 46:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

Analysis

The rhetorical question 'To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal?' asserts God's incomparability, establishing the foundation for worship and faith. The verb 'liken' (damah) implies not just comparison but attempted equation, which is the essence of idolatry - reducing God to manageable categories. This anticipates Paul's worship in Romans 11:33-36 before God's unsearchable ways.

Historical Context

In polytheistic culture, gods were routinely compared, ranked, and amalgamated (syncretism). Isaiah's radical monotheism insisted on Yahweh's absolute uniqueness, preparing theology for New Testament Trinitarianism's 'only true God' (John 17:3).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. In what subtle ways do you try to make God 'likable' or manageable to your understanding?

2. How should God's incomparability affect your worship, prayer, and daily trust?

Interlinear Text

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|---------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| לִּמּוֹ | יִנְדְּמָהּ: | וְתִשּׁוּ וְ | וְתִמְשַׁל וְנִי |
| H4310 | To whom will ye liken | me and make me equal | and compare |
| | H1819 | H7737 | H4911 |

יִנְדְּמָהּ:

To whom will ye liken

H1819

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:18 (Parallel theme): To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

Isaiah 40:25 (Parallel theme): To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Psalms 89:6 (Parallel theme): For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD?

Colossians 1:15 (Parallel theme): Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Psalms 86:8 (Parallel theme): Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

Psalms 113:5 (Parallel theme): Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high,

Jeremiah 10:16 (Parallel theme): The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Exodus 15:11 (Parallel theme): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Philippians 2:6 (Parallel theme): Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Psalms 89:8 (Parallel theme): O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?

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