

An Incomparable God

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Isaiah 42:5-9

Father,

What made you think to create us? The universe is your toy box—a tinker set specially designed by you from beginning to end. From the vastness of the cosmos to mere subatomic particles, you crafted system upon system so intricately woven together that humanity could spend an eternity unraveling its wonders yet never mar its surface. How did you conceive a universe from nothing with no model to base your work upon? You stretched out a universe like a tent, took a small lifeless planet, invented life with all of its ingredients, and filled this world with life. Then you entrusted this planet to our care.

What were you thinking? We have taken the life you breathed into us and filled your world with hate and spite. All the while, you knew you must send your one-of-a-kind, darling Son into the world to sacrifice himself for us. Love of this magnitude, I cannot conceive. How is it possible even for you to love us so much? What stays your hand from obliterating us when even the best of us falter and fail you so much? How do you stand by us when we walk away from you? We are duplicitous at heart and seek our good before yours. Yet, you are always there—your spirit breathes life into us.

Not only are you a God who is completely righteous and altogether good but you make us good and righteous as well. Paul's words constantly ring in my ears, "*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). When we were beyond hope and seemingly beyond the grasp of your love, you tore your Son from heaven and placed all of our hatred, guilt and sin upon him so we could approach you in holiness and righteousness. Again, how can you love us so much?

You took our broken promises and kept yours. You took a broken covenant only to enlarge upon it and make better promises. You gave us light in our darkness and proclaimed freedom to us in our self-imposed prisons. "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found—was blind but now I see."

Father, I will ever stand breathless and heart pounding as I seek know of love that compels a God to act as you do? In my deepest part of my soul, I want to love as you do and be loved by others as you love me. How can I be more like you—to know you more and know others as you have known me? I can only ask that your amazing grace will work its will in me to shape me in your image as I stand in constant awe of your wonder, glory and holiness.

Steve Davis