



# **A Tribute to God and His Ways**

From the Book of Isaiah

# Tribute to God and His Ways

- There is only **one God**—the One who reveals Himself in creation and throughout the pages of Scripture.
  - “For I am God, and **there is no other**; I am God, and **there is none like Me** (46:9).
    - “Your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called **the God of the whole earth**” (54:5).

# Tribute to God and His Ways

- The ONE God is **eternal**, which is exactly what He means when He says, “Listen to Me...I am He, I am the First; I am also the Last” (48:12).

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- The one eternal God is **all-knowing** and **all-powerful**, which means He is capable of...
  - “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done...” (46:10)
  - “Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, lest you should say, ‘My idol has done them...’” (48:5).



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- “My hand has laid out the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand up together” (48:13).
- God does all this “by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power” (40:26).



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- God “formed the earth...to be inhabited” (45:18), and so He “gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it” (42:5).

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- These people to whom God gives “breath”—He does not leave them to “devise plans” apart from what He has revealed (30:1).
- “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go. Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea (48:17–18).

# Tribute to God and His Ways

- To keep His people in the way they should go (or to bring them back), God refines them with affliction—  
“I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction” (48:10).



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- God carries His people through this “furnace of affliction”— “Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you” (46:4).

# Tribute to God and His Ways

- God does things in His own time, so we need not become impatient when His help *seems* far away, or when it *seems* He has abandoned us.
- “Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel: ‘My way is hidden from the LORD, and my just claim is passed over by my God’...Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (40:27, 31).

# Tribute to God and His Ways

- God is our Helper, especially through our spiritual struggles.
- “Behold the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young” (40:10–11).

# Tribute to God and His Ways

- God is our Helper, especially through our spiritual struggles.
  - “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My elect One in whom My soul delights...He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench...” (42:1–3).

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- God is holy, and therefore cannot tolerate sin (6:1–5).
- Isaiah's response to the vision he saw of the Lord sitting on a throne, to the seraphim crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts": "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

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- Yet to those in sin God offers forgiveness and salvation, righteousness and peace, joy and gladness (35:8–10; 43:25; 46:12–13; 48:18).
  - “I...am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins” (43:25).
  - “Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, who are far from righteousness. I bring my righteousness near, it shall not be far off...” (46:12–13).

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- But don't wait to get right with Him, because God holds all men accountable, and He will bring "vengeance" on those who continue in sin.
  - "Your nakedness shall be uncovered, yes, your shame will be seen; I will take vengeance, and I will not arbitrate with a man" (47:3).
  - "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked" (48:22).

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- “A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:8–10).