

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn how to build up the Christian Church. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of the God of the Bible. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme.

In this eleventh series, the Bible teaches five truths about God's greatness. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: GOD IS INCOMPARABLE. We will meditate a new Bible passage, memorise a new Bible verse and then review the previously memorised verses together.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Isaiah 40:25-26.

The memorisation verse is: God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing". Isaiah 40:25-26.

(T) **First. No god can be compared to the God of the Bible.**

Who is God in comparison to the so-called gods of the nations? In Isaiah 40:18-20 the God of the Bible challenges the people of the world, saying, "To whom then, will you compare God? What image will you compare to him?" Then God describes how the people of the world make their so-called "gods". The rich people employ a craftsman. He casts an idol from impure metals like bronze and then overlays it with gold. He fastens the idol with silver chains, so that it will not topple! The poor people select wood that will not rot and ask a craftsman to fashion an idol from wood. They nail down the idol so that it will not topple (41:7)! The eyes of the idols are plastered over so they cannot see and their minds are closed so they cannot understand (44:18). Idols have to be carried on the shoulders of people or on the backs of animals (46:1-2,7). They cannot move by themselves.

Idols are not just made by craftsmen of materials. Idols are also made by philosophers and false prophets of their own thoughts and imaginations. These man-made gods cannot tell what the future holds and cannot do anything good or bad (41:23). These man-made gods know nothing and understand nothing. They do not answer when people pray to them and cannot answer them, because they are just man-made gods. These man-made gods cannot save people from their troubles (46:1,7). The people who pray to gods that cannot save them are ignorant. And the makers of gods that cannot save will be put to shame and disgraced (45:20,16).

(S) In contrast to the gods of the nations, we read in Isaiah 40:10-11 who the God of the Bible is. The God of the Bible rules with power. He rewards with justice (10). "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young". The God who reveals himself in the Bible is first of all *the King* of the universe and he rules the universe with power and justice. The God of the Bible is also *the Shepherd* of his people. He is the loving Caretaker of his people. He gives special attention to those who need special care. And the God of the Bible is *the living God*. While people make man-made gods, the God of the Bible created people! While people carry idols or their views about their god around, the God of the Bible carries us. While man-made gods always remain silent, the God of the Bible speaks about the past, the present and the future to us. While man-made gods cannot see or hear or think, the God of the Bible sees and hears everything and his understanding is unfathomable. While man-made gods cannot do anything good or bad, the God of the Bible judges the wicked and rewards the believers. While man-made gods cannot hear prayers or save, the God of the Bible hears every prayer and saves eternally! In Isaiah 46:4-5 God says, "Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. To whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?" The answer is, The God of the Bible is incomparable!

(T) **Second. No god can be compared to the Creator of the universe.**

In Isaiah 40:25-26 we read, "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing".

One. How many stars are there in the universe?

With our eyes we can see 2 000 stars. Our galaxy, called *the Milky Way*, has about 100 000 000 000 stars. With a large telescope we can see more than 1 000 000 000 galaxies and 3 000 000 000 individual stars. Scientists estimate that there

are about 200 000 000 000 000 000 stars in the universe! The God of the Bible created all these stars. Therefore he says, "To whom will you compare me?" The God of the Bible is incomparable!

(S) Two. How far are the stars from us?

Our own star, called *the sun*, is 150 000 000 kilometres from the earth. Because the distances in the universe are so immense, they are measured by *light-years*. One light-year is the distance light travels in one year. One light-year equals a distance of 9 454 000 000.000 kilometres! The closest star is 4.3 light-years away. Flying by modern plane would take you 4 644 000 years! Our galaxy, called *the Milky Way*, has a diameter of 100 000 light-years. The furthest stars in the universe are billions of light-years away! Our God, the God of the Bible, created all the stars. Therefore he says, "To whom will you compare me?" The God of the Bible is incomparable!

(T) Three. How big are the stars?

Our own planet, called *the earth*, has a diameter of 12 756 kilometres. The diameter of the sun is 109 times that of the earth. There are some stars in the universe that have a diameter of 100 times and even 1 000 times the diameter of the sun! Part of our *solar system*, namely the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, can easily rotate around the sun inside one of these stars! If the earth's diameter is represented by 1 millimetre, then by comparison the diameter of the biggest star would be 100 metres! Our God, the God of the Bible, created all the stars. Therefore he says, "To whom will you compare me?"

The answer is that the God of the Bible is incomparable!

(S) Four. How wonderful is God's creation?

God's creation consists of an uncountable great variety of rocks and elements, trees and plants, birds and animals, human beings, colours, forms, etc. No two things are exactly alike! Every leaf of a tree is different from all the other leaves in creation! The fingerprint of every human being is different! The earwig is a small insect, which folds its wings in 40 layers under small wing-shields! But the man and the woman are the most wonderful of all God's creatures.

In Psalm 139:14 the Psalmist says, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well". The human body grows from *one cell* into a great variety of cells, each with its specialised function. Each cell is connected to the other cells so that it is a miracle that the complex human being functions as a unity and is usually healthy!

(T) Five. How wonderful has God made the cells of our body?

The human body consists of uncountable cells. 1 Kilogram of body weight can contain up to 2 000 000 000 000 cells! Each single cell contains tens of small power stations that produce all the energy in the human body. But in size, each power station is less than one micrometer, that is, one thousandth of a millimetre! These power stations are so small, and yet they are capable of producing all the energy our body needs for its many functions!

(S) Six. How wonderful has God made the lungs of our body?

The human lungs consist of many tubes that end in air sacks. Scientists estimate that there are more than 600 000 000 such air sacks in our lungs. The wall of each air sack contains many tiny blood vessels that absorb the oxygen we need to live. These walls are so artfully folded together that they form a surface as big as a football field!

Our God, the God of the Bible, created all our human bodies. Therefore he says, "To whom will you compare me?" The answer is that the God of the Bible is incomparable!

(T) Third. The God of the Bible is unfathomable in his wisdom.

Isaiah 40:28 says, "The Lord is the everlasting God ... His understanding no one can understand". And verse 13-14 says, "Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed him as his counsellor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him? Who taught him the right way? Who taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?" The answer is, "No one"! God infinitely surpasses man's power to make things. He also infinitely surpasses man's knowledge and wisdom. He knows everything about everyone and everything, because he is all-knowing. It is also his wisdom that directs all the events in the universe and in the history on earth. He asks no counsel from any human being and no human being can tell him what to do. While the God of the Bible is unfathomable in understanding and wisdom, we human beings are very limited in our understanding and wisdom. Job 11:7-8 says, "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens - what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave - what can you know?" The answer is, "We human beings can only know what God has revealed to us". Everything else is unfathomable for man!

(S) Fourth. The God of the Bible is irresistible in his rule.

What does the Bible say about nations and their rulers? Isaiah 40:15-17 says, "The nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales. ... Before him all the nations are as nothing!" It does not matter how large a country is or how many people there are in a nation. In the eyes of God they are very small. Isaiah 40:22-24 says, "God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth. ... He brings princes to naught and he reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. ... He blows on them and they wither". God sits enthroned above all the nations of the world and he rules all

the nations, their rulers and the history of this world according to his eternal purpose. Not a single emperor or king or official can rule longer than God permits him to rule. As soon as God blows on him, he withers! Not a single ruler on earth can resist his plans, his decisions and his rule! God is irresistible in his rule!

(T) Fifth. The God of the Bible is inexhaustible in his power.

Isaiah 40:28-31 says, "Do you not know? ... The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary. ... He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ... Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint". Because the God of the Bible himself is inexhaustible in his power, he is the Source of all power for those who wait on him. *To wait* on the Lord is to continually believe that God will fulfil his promises. The opposite of *waiting* is to waver and complain continually. The God of the Bible is incomparable as God. He is incomparable as Creator. He is unfathomable in his wisdom, irresistible in his rule and inexhaustible in his power.

(S) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is "God is incomparable". Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Isaiah 40:25-26. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

(T) Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

(T+S) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

(S) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

(T+S) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?

(T) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?

(T+S) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.

(S) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.

(T+S) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:25-26.

(T) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:25-26.

(S) POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.

Series "The Christian Church", verses 1-5.

(T) The nature of the church. 1 Peter 2:5. You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5.

(S) The activities in the church. Acts 2:42. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42.

(T) The ministries of the church. Ephesians 4:12-13. To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13.

(S) The tasks of church leaders. Acts 20:28. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:28.

(T) The glory in the church. Ephesians 3:20-21. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21.

(S) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and build Christ’s Church” and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.