

HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD?

Selected Scripture

Introduction:

This weekend we have been hearing a great deal about the work of God in creation. His power and majesty are evident in the things he has made. We have made many observations about the greatness of God. One of the things which becomes obvious when we begin to see the glory and power of God is the vast gap that exists between man and God when it comes to knowledge and understanding.

Isaiah 55:8-9 – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

God is infinite, unlimited in power and knowledge. We, on the other hand, are finite, our minds are limited in knowledge and our ability to comprehend and understand. Because of the finite or limited capabilities of the human mind, man is often guilty of the error of limiting God, trying to reduce God to something he can understand and use and manipulate.

Yet, in spite of our inability to truly understand God we have a tremendous need and responsibility to seek to know him and to grow in our awe and respect for Him. In fact, to know and fear God is the very foundation of the Christian life; our understanding of who God is - our answer to the question, “What is God like?” is of absolute importance.

A. W. Tozer, a great preacher of the last century, had this to say about our understanding of God:

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts about God.”

But... our answer to that question, “*What is God like?*” cuts through to the very core of not only what we believe, but also how we live. You see, what we believe has a profound effect on how we conduct our lives. And particularly, what we believe to be true about God affects the way we live. It has to, for theology that has no bearing on life is nothing more than dull orthodoxy.

With this in mind we ask the question, “*How big is your God?*” There is a song that says about God, He’s big enough to rule this mighty universe, but small enough to live within my heart.

We are going to focus our thoughts today on a verse in the book of Ecclesiastes. In chapter 3:14 we find three phrases, or statements which I believe help us to summarize this whole question about what is God like.

Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, who is regarded in Scripture as the wisest man who ever lived. Yet he spent a lifetime searching for truth and satisfaction. That is really the theme of Ecclesiastes. But in chapter 3, verse 14 Solomon makes a very profound and insightful statement, giving us three things He found to be true about God.

I. God's Plan is Eternal (v. 14a)

“I perceived that whatever God does endures forever.”

One of the infinite attributes of God, which we often talk about, is His knowledge (omniscience). He knows the end from the beginning. Nothing can catch Him by surprise. Therefore, when He started out with a plan in eternity past, it was eternal. It could not change.

Ephesians 1:9-12 “...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”

Let us consider, for a few moments, God’s eternal plan as it is given in the Scripture, the Word of God.

The Scriptures, from beginning to end, contain the story of God's plan to redeem mankind from sin and the effects of sin which entered the human race in the Garden of Eden. Theologians have called this "The Scarlet Thread of Redemption."

- Gen 3 - sin - God slew an animal to cover them
- Gen 6-9 - Noah saved - faith 8:20 - He sacrificed
- Joshua 2, 6 - Rahab saved - faith - scarlet cord
- OT sacrificial system
- All pointed to Christ the Supreme Sacrifice for man's sin.
- NT - Jesus came and gave His life - put an end to sacrifices - Hebrews

God's plan - is to redeem people to Himself – to ultimately bring all things together in Himself. That plan is eternal – it has never changed.

As, the Preacher, the writer of Ecclesiastes said, "*I know that everything God does will endure forever...*"

II. God's Work is Complete (v. 14b)

"Nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it."

Not only is His plan and purpose eternal, but also His work, as He carries out that plan, is complete and perfect. There is nothing missing, nothing incomplete, there is nothing lacking in anything that God does. Now we do not have time to discuss all the work of God here this morning, but I want to mention two key areas of God's work.

A. His Work in Creation

God's work in creation was perfect and complete.

Gen 1 - Universe and Earth
Light, Ground, sky, etc.
Plants, animals
and, ultimately Man - The crown of creation

Gen 1:31 "It was very good" – Exceedingly good, perfect.

Gen. 2:1 – "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." That word *finished* means to be at an end, completed. There was absolutely nothing that could be added to it.

B. His work in Redemption

As we think again of God's purpose and plan - the scarlet thread of redemption:

- Adam and Eve
- OT Sacrificial system
- NT - Jesus Christ - the perfect, complete sacrifice

Heb 10:12-14 - " But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

That word *perfected* can be defined as "*to make perfect, complete; to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to an end*"

Again there is nothing that can be added to God's work in redemption. He has done it all.

As, the Preacher, the writer of Ecclesiastes said, "*I know that everything God does will endure forever, nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.*"

- God's plan is eternal.
- God's work is complete.

III. God's Desire is Glory (v. 14c)

"God does it so that men will revere Him."

This may, at first glance, appear to be irrelevant, but I assure you it is not. When you look back at the previous statement and you realize the power and authority of the infinite God, you realize that He is worthy of all praise and all glory and all honor and respect.

Rev. 4:11 - "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

God's will and purpose in creating everything and especially man was that He might receive glory and worship.

Isaiah 43:7 - "Everyone who is called by my name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes I have made him."

God's desire is that we would recognize His majesty and power and would worship Him and bring Him glory. That is why He made us. He will not be satisfied with anything less.

Isaiah 42:8 - "I am the LORD, that is my name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to graven images."

- God's Purpose is Eternal.
- God's Work is Complete, perfect.
- God's Desire is Glory.

"I know that everything God does will endure forever; Nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him."

Conclusion:

So, how big is your God? The God of the Bible is infinite, eternal, all-powerful, worthy of all praise. He is bigger than the universe for He created it. He is bigger than our problems, because He made us. He is bigger than anything we may face. And He is more than ready to hold us and take us through the trials of life.

How big is your God? Is He big enough to save you from sin? Is He big enough to keep you in the storms of life? Finances, illness, family problems, bad weather, drought, personal loss, or anything else. He's bigger than any of these things.

Yes, "He's big enough to rule this mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my heart."

Never underestimate the power and sovereignty of God. I encourage you, in fact, I urge you to trust Him with everything. The things that overwhelm us are well within His mighty power to overcome. Just trust Him, and worship Him. He is worthy to receive glory and honor and power.