

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Pastor Ron Rumburg

SBSS

524

Great God, thy glories shall employ
My holy fear, my humble joy;
My lips in songs of honour bring
Their tribute to th' eternal King.

[His sovereign power what mortal knows?
If he command who dares oppose?
With strength he girds himself around,
And treads the rebels to the ground.]

[His mercy like a boundless sea
Washes our loads of guilt away,
While his own Son came down and died
T' engage his justice on our side.]

O tell me with a gentle voice,
Thou art my God, and I'll rejoice!
Fill'd with thy love, I dare proclaim
The brightest honours of thy name.

Selected stanzas from Hymn 39 in *The Watts and Rippon Hymnal* (1827)

The Majesty of God's Greatness

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised...."

Psalm 48:1

What we now consider as God's greatness is the largeness or bigness of God. The Hebrew word for "great" (*gadol*) in the text has reference to the largeness of God in the seize, in the magnitude, and in the extent of His being. So, God's greatness or bigness is immeasurable or boundless not physiologically but spiritually. Human languages are limited or finite when it comes to depicting the hugeness of God, who overwhelms one in a spiritually sensitive state. One is blown away when considering the person of God for He is infinite and man is so limited; God is so big and man is so little. Yes, the human mind at best is out of its league, so to speak, when it comes to contemplating the vastness of God. Yet God reveals as much as our limitations can comprehend and more in His sacred Word. That is definitely so when considering His greatness or bigness or largeness. To people who are limited it is difficult to conceive of unlimitedness.

"How great Jehovah is essentially none can conceive; but we can all see that he is great in the deliverance of his people, great in their esteem who are delivered, and great in the hearts of those enemies whom he scatters by their own fears. Instead of the mad cry of Ephesus, 'Great is Diana.' we hear the reasonable, demonstrable, self-evident testimony, 'Great is Jehovah'" [Spurgeon].

God is great, greater, and greatest. He is “great”—“Great is the LORD.” He is “greater”—“God is greater than man” (Job 33:12). “For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods” (Ps. 95:3). He is “greatest”—“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable” (Ps. 145:3). God’s immensity is not to be confused with largeness. Immensity means He is everywhere and at all times present. We are reminded “that the entire indivisible essence of God is at every moment of time contemporaneously present to every point of infinite space” [A. A. Hodge]. The greatness of the LORD’s “excellency” is noted (Ex. 15:7). He is big in majesty, exaltation and excellence. Just consider these words, “For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward” (Deut. 10:17). The word “great” which describes God in that verse is the word for largeness or bigness! “For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised” (Ps. 96:4). Again, it is the big God who is to be exceedingly praised. He is not just great He is “very great” (Ps. 104:1). He is to be praised “according to His excellent greatness” (Ps. 150:2). Thus, He is to be praised for the magnitude of His greatness. As noted earlier in this paragraph His greatness is unsearchable or unfathomable. This is infinite greatness.

Is your God Most High great? If you have a little God, you will think little of Him! Low views of God destroy the intensity of trust in Him. Our God is to be high and lifted up. There is a danger of the loss of the sense of God’s majesty and a sense of the massive nature of His divine presence. Do you have a big God or a little God? The following explanation by Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse is quite appropriate here for he said, “Men are always in difficulty with their faith because *their God is too small*. If they can see the true God, and get the perspective that sees Him as filling all in all, then the difficulties of life will rapidly diminish to their proper proportions. I learned of the idea of a great God from my old professor of Hebrew, Robert Dick Wilson. After I had been away from the Princeton Seminary for about twelve years, I was invited back to preach to the students. Old Dr. Wilson came into Miller Chapel and sat down near the front while I set forth the Word of God. At the close of the meeting the old gentleman came up to me, cocked his head on one side in his characteristic way, extended his hand, and said, “I am glad that you are a big Godder. When my boys come back, I come to see if they are big Godders or little godders, and then I know what their ministry will be.” I asked him to explain, and he replied: “Well, some men have a little god, and they are always in trouble with him. He can’t do any miracles. He can’t take care of the inspiration and transmission of the Scripture to us. He doesn’t intervene on behalf of His people. They have a little god, and I call them little godders. Then there are those who have a great God. He speaks and it is done. He commands and it stands fast. He knows how to show Himself strong on behalf of those that fear Him. You have a great God, and He will bless your ministry.” He paused a moment and smiled, and said, “God bless you,” and turned, and walked out.

The true worship of God is determined by whether you realize you have a big God or little god, and another way of saying it is whether you have a low or high view of God. Worship and preaching are definitely impacted by whether we believe our God is big or little, exalted or diminished, high or low. The genuine sense of worship and preaching has been lost because of a suppressed view of the bigness of the Most High God. Do we “cry unto God Most High” (Ps. 57:2) or do we have a little God?

A. W. Tozer gave a great analysis, “Worship rises or falls in any church altogether depending upon the attitude we take toward God, whether we see God big or whether we see Him little. Most of us see God too small; our God is too little. David said, ‘O magnify the Lord with me,’ and ‘magnify’ doesn’t mean to make

God big. You can't make God big. But you can see Him big." We may sense Him big when we are in tune with Him. Is your God Big or little?