

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical And Southern Studies

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1 Great God, how infinite art Thou!
What worthless ones are we!
Let the whole race of creatures bow,
And pay their praise to Thee.

2 Thy throne eternal ages stood,
Ere seas or stars were made;
Thou art the ever-living God,
Were all the nations dead.

3 Eternity, with all its years,
Stands present in Thy view;
To Thee there's nothing old appears;
Great God, there's nothing new.

4 Our lives through various scenes are drawn,
And vexed with trifling cares,
While Thine eternal thought moves on
Thine undisturbed affairs.

5 Great God! how infinite art Thou!
What worthless worms are we!
Let the whole race of creatures bow,
And pay their praise to Thee.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

God Our Majestic Sovereign

"He doeth according to His will ... and none can stay His hand..."

Daniel 4:35

Not only does our text give a definitive sense of what it means for God to be the Sovereign, but by the Holy Spirit's guidance Isaiah also helps us here when he writes, "Remember ... I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isa. 46:9-10).

We could not truly or fully grasp the gravity and majesty of doing everything desired in a perfect and completely powerful way. The true and triune God rules over everything and

everyone and He is above all, over all, and knows all. Therefore, He perfectly, completely, and all-powerfully rules heaven and earth and the events of our lives.

God is sovereign majesty and He is never at a loss of power, or has a loss of control, or has accidents, or becomes victimized by chance, or has a temporary loss of thought. He never slumbers nor sleeps. Every historic event present, past, or future is marked by His presence of being—“Thou didst it!” No one “can stay His hand!” No one can legitimately question Him by saying, “What doest Thou?”

What comfort can we have from this majestic Sovereign? Our God is in control of all events that befall us for good or ill, and His eternal purpose is being done (Rom. 8:28). “Will not the God of all the earth do right?” Thus, the miniscule hair is not lost as to location or knowledge. Where we live is not without His domain for He “appoints the bounds of our habitation.” He measures earth’s waters in the hollow of His hand, or He metes out heaven with a span, or He comprehends the dust in a measure, or He weighs the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance. The vicissitudes of life are at His dispersing. He does not suffer us to be tested beyond our ability. Also, our lives are in His hand!

Knowing we have such a majestic Sovereign ruling over us should give peace to our minds preserving us from “proneness to brood and fret over second causes, were this grand but simple truth ever realized—that all that befalls us are integral parts in a stupendous plan of wisdom,—that there are no crossing or thwarting the designs and dealings of God; none can say, ‘What doest thou,’—all *ought* to say, ‘He doeth all things well,’” (J. R. Macduff).

Those who know savingly and want to gain a greater knowledge of this majestic Sovereign must confine themselves to God’s Word for their knowledge of Him. People are prone to want to know or gain areas of understanding beyond what God has revealed about Himself and His doings in this world. We must remember that “the secret things belong unto the LORD our God.” Finiteness fixes our horizon in regard to the infinite Sovereign. The mysterious and incomprehensible things even of the Word of God bring us to the edge of the infinite sea where we cry out with Paul, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!” Our Saviour demonstrated His Father’s sovereign acts in His earthly sojourn, “Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in Thy sight.” Our Sufferer in His life shows submission to the sovereign acts of His Father. Do we dry our eyes and submit or do we remonstrate?

Charles H. Spurgeon proclaimed, “I worship a God I never expect to comprehend. If I could grasp Him in the hollow of mine hand, I could not call Him my God; and if I could understand His dealings so that I could read them as a child reads his spelling book, I could not worship Him; but because

He is so infinitely great I find truth here, truth there, truth multiform; and if I cannot compress it into one system, I know it is all clear to Him, and I am content that He should know what I know not. It is mine today to adore and obey: by-and-by when He sees fit, I shall know more and adore better. It is my firm belief that everything in heaven, and earth, and hell, will be seen to be, in the long run, parts of the divine plan; yet never is God the author or the accomplice of sin, never is He otherwise than the hater of sin and the avenger of unrighteousness. Sin rests with man, wholly with man, and yet by some strange overruling force, Godlike and mysterious, like the existence of God, His supreme will is accomplished. Observe how the two truths combine in practice, and are stated in the same verse in reference to our Lord's crucifixion, in Acts 2:23: 'Him, being delivered by the determinate council and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.' Now, to deny this truth because we cannot understand it, were to shut ourselves out of a great deal of important knowledge. Brethren, if God does not rule everywhere, then something rules where He does not, and so He is not omni-presently supreme. If God does not have His will, some one else does, and so far that some one is a rival to God. I never deny the free agency of man, or diminish his responsibility, but I dare never invest the free will of man with omnipotence, for this were to make man into a sort of God, an idolatry to be loathed. Moreover, admit chance anywhere, and you have admitted chance everywhere, for all events are related and act on one another.... I dare not believe even sin itself to be exempted from the control of Providence, or from the overruling dominion of the Judge of all the earth.... Happy are we that it is true, 'The Lord doeth as He wills in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth.'"