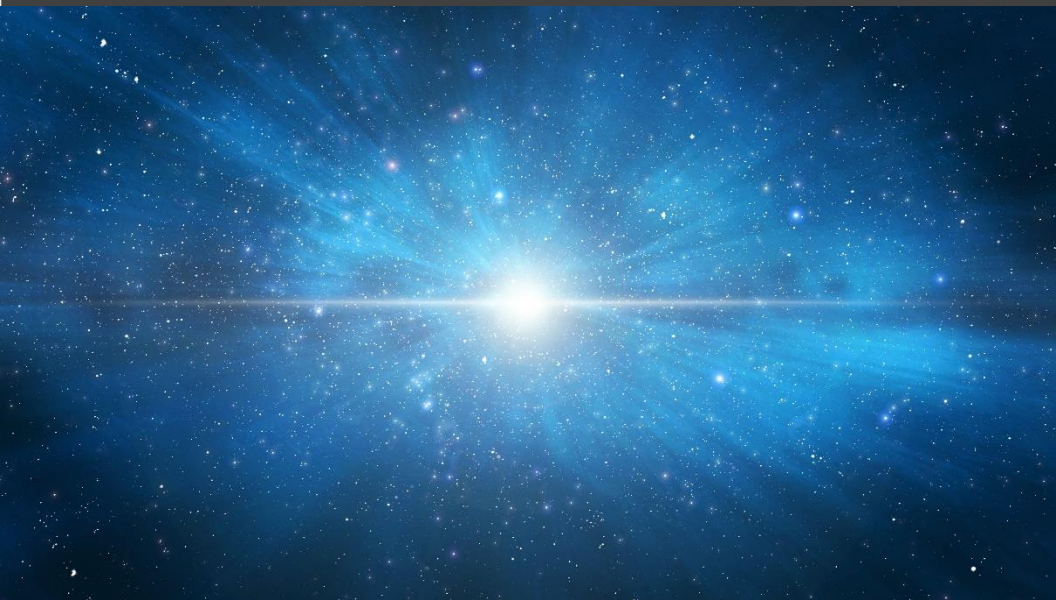


The Greatness Of God



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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The Greatness Of God

Introduction

A. Who can fully describe the greatness of God? We can only know what He has revealed about Himself.

B. God has revealed Himself to mankind in two ways.

1. Through creation (Psalm 19:1). Specifically, we can observe that God exists, that He is God, and that He possesses limitless power (Romans 1:19-21)!

2. Through His word. The word of God teaches us about who God is and tells us how we should respond to this great and awesome God.

C. Psalm 145 is an excellent example of a Bible passage that teaches about God's greatness.

D. Purpose: To introduce us to God's greatness by examining Psalm 145.

1. The God Who Is Great

A. He is God

1. The usual term people use to refer to the one who is greater than all others is "God." This is how David began in Psalm 145:1. This is how we are introduced to God (Genesis 1:1).

2. "God" comes from the Hebrew word "Elohim" (the plural form of "Eloah").

- Identifies authority, power, the ability to rule, and supremacy.
- People throughout the world would often bow themselves before and worship false gods because they believed they were worthy of such adoration and devotion.
- As we appreciate the greatness of the one true and living God, we must understand this God is far above all other gods (Psalm 95:3)!
- Concerning the word "Elohim" being plural, the Bible teaches there are three distinct Beings who possess the nature of being

God, though there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). Genesis 1:26 translates “Elohim” (plural) as “God” and uses plural pronouns. The Bible clearly teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all possess the full nature of being God, while all are perfectly united as one God!

B. He is King

1. God is King (Psalm 145:1) – the greatest King to ever reign!

2. The greatest kings and rulers who have lived on this earth have been defeated (if only by death) but God will always reign as King over His Kingdom and His kingdom will never end!

- While all other kings possess limited power, God possesses limitless power.
- God is the only one who is completely sovereign in that He has the power and right to control all things and is the only one who is worthy of great honor and devotion.

3. God is truly the King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15). His glory will never be diminished. His kingdom will never be overthrown or defeated. His majesty will always be worshiped and adored. And, His sovereignty will always rule.

C. He is LORD

1. God is identified as LORD (Psalm 145:3). This is the name of God.

2. Most translations of the Bible will have the word “LORD” (and sometimes “GOD”) in small caps to identify the four-letter sequence (“YHWH”) in the Hebrew text.

- This is because the early Hebrew text did not contain vowels. Ordinarily, this name of God is pronounced as “Yahweh” (or Jehovah, from “YaHoWaH”).
- This tetragrammaton (“YHWH”) is used 6,828 times in the Old Testament and is not used in the New Testament (Psalm 83:18).

3. What does this name mean and how does it help us understand God’s greatness?

- The name is commonly believed to identify God as self-existent and eternal, the one who brings into being. It is comparable to what God identified about Himself to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:13-14 – “I AM WHO I AM”).
- This God (“YHWH”) has always existed, exists presently, and will always exist. He is not dependent upon anyone or anything else. He is perfectly sovereign and fully eternal. He is the only one who had no need of a creator and has created all things. There has never been and will never be a time when God is *not*. He is the great “I AM”! And, again, this name identifies the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 11:6-8; John 8:58).

2. Snapshots Of God’s Greatness

A. Unsearchable greatness

1. The greatness of God is something we cannot fully understand as human beings (Psalm 145:3). God is far more magnificent, wise, and powerful than our finite minds will ever be able to comprehend, though we should always strive to grow our understanding of Him.

2. We can only begin to appreciate and understand God’s greatness through the God-inspired writings contained in the Bible (Ephesians 3:8-11 shows the multi-faceted wisdom of God has been made known, particularly concerning God’s wisdom for saving mankind).

B. Mighty, wondrous, awesome

1. When mankind becomes aware of what this great God has accomplished (through creation and the word), notice the terms used to describe His works (Psalm 145:4-6).

2. Consider that this is the God who was able to speak this universe into existence, cause the flood to cover the entire earth, part the Red Sea, cause the sun to stand still and the sundial to turn back, defeat powerful armies in miraculous ways, cause the walls around Jericho to fall after being encircled by the Israelites, cause a great fish to swallow Jonah and release him at the appointed time, walk on the

water, rebuke the winds and sea so they would calm, heal the sick, cause the blind to see, and even raise the dead!

C. Glorious splendor of His kingdom

1. This great God has majesty like none other (Psalm 145:5). His kingdom is far superior to any that have existed or that will exist (Psalm 145:10-13).

2. His kingdom is everlasting. All the kingdoms of men will pass away and be defeated. But, the kingdom (rule) of God will stand forever. So, people will always be serving, worshiping, and glorifying the “glorious splendor” of God in His kingdom!

D. Holy name

1. Psalm 145:21 identifies God’s name (“YHWH”) as “holy.” God’s name (which indicates who He is) is far greater than any other name that has ever been on the lips of mankind! It is “holy” (set apart from all other names that are common, unclean, or profane).

2. None are so precious. None indicate so much authority and power. None match or even approach God’s splendor. Only His name is holy and awe-inspiring (Psalm 111:9)!

3. Attributes of God’s Greatness

A. Sovereign

1. Psalm 145:4-7

2. Although the text in Psalm 145 does not directly use the word “sovereign,” God is seen as self-reliant and as the only one who possesses full authority, power, and majesty.

B. Gracious

1. Psalm 145:8

2. God cares about those He created and blesses those who are undeserving to receive such – particularly in giving sinners the opportunity to have everlasting salvation in Heaven.

C. Compassionate

1. Psalm 145:8-9

2. God's compassion (mercy) is shown in not giving people what they deserve, especially in that He is willing to forgive sins and not punish people for their sins.

D. Good

1. Psalm 145:9, 14-16

2. God is the fountain from whom all blessings flow and extends His goodness without partiality (physically and spiritually). Particularly, He has made all spiritual blessings available for people to enjoy in Jesus.

E. Patient

1. Psalm 145:8

2. While God does allow His wrath to burn against those who reject Him and His word, He is willing to exercise patience to give people the opportunity to find forgiveness and avoid His wrath.

F. Mighty

1. Psalm 145:11

2. God's power is truly limitless. For, He was able to create the universe when there was nothing and has demonstrated His power throughout the Bible.

G. Righteous

1. Psalm 145:17

2. There is nothing wicked in God. He is entirely fair and pure, as separate from evil as light is from darkness. He is the perfect manifestation of all that is good.

H. Near

1. Psalm 145:18-20

2. God will save those who come to Him. We all have access to Him and His saving power if we will completely trust and obey Him, calling on Him for salvation!

I. Severe

1. Psalm 145:20

2. God has warned that those who reject His goodness by refusing to obey Him will be punished with His great wrath. And, none can resist or overpower Him!

4. How To Respond To God's Greatness

A. Praise Him for His greatness

1. People must direct their worship and praise to the God who possesses all these attributes (Psalm 145:1-3, 10).

2. We must bow ourselves in worship and praise the Lord for His greatness!

B. Declare God's greatness to others

1. Our praise and devotion to God must not just be privately held. Psalm 145 pictures those who truly recognize God's greatness as declaring His greatness to others (4, 6, 7, 11, 12).

2. Those who recognize God's greatness should want others to know so they can also respond to His greatness in the appropriate ways.

C. Meditate on God's splendor and glorious majesty

1. The greatness of God ought to continually cause us to meditate on Him and what He has done (Psalm 145:5 – note the word can mean to muse, meditate, or speak).

2. We should be still and observe all the wondrous things around us He has impacted and created and be constantly reminded of how great God is.

D. Humble self in God's sight

1. Recognizing God's greatness should cause us to consider our own insignificance. We are not the ones the whole universe depends on, or the ones who possess perfect wisdom, or the ones who possess limitless power, or the ones in control of everything – God is!

2. We should humbly bow before Him, seeing that everything good comes from God and that He raises up those who are bowed down (Psalm 145:14-16).

E. Call on Him

1. We are helpless without God. Physically, we would not exist and would not know how to live. Spiritually, we would be doomed to everlasting punishment in Hell.

2. We must call upon Him, expressing our dependence on Him by obeying whatever He requires us to do to be saved (Psalm 145:18; Acts 22:16).

F. Fear Him

1. God is greatly to be feared (Psalm 145:19).

2. There are two elements involved in fearing God: Respect (awe) and terror. Both are reasonable responses to God's greatness and is our purpose in life (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

G. Love Him

1. We should have great love for the God who loved us first (Psalm 145:20). God not only wants us to fear Him, but also to love Him.

2. He does not just want us to say that we love Him. Truly loving Him involves keeping His commands (1 John 5:3). Let us devote ourselves in love to the great and awesome God!

Conclusion

A. How great is our God! There is truly none other like Him!

B. Let us all determine to properly respond to God's greatness. God will save us and give us eternal life in Heaven if we believe and obey Him, devoting our entire lives to Him!

Study Questions

How has God revealed His greatness to mankind?

1. The God Who Is Great

What does it mean for God to be “God”?

What does it mean for God to be “King”?

What does it mean for God to be “LORD”?

2. Snapshots Of God’s Greatness

What does it mean for God’s greatness to be unsearchable?

What does it mean for God’s greatness to be mighty, wondrous, and awesome?

How is there glorious splendor in God’s kingdom?

What does it mean for God’s name to be holy?

3. Attributes Of God's Greatness

Identify and briefly explain the 9 attributes of God's greatness discussed in the lesson.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

4. How To Respond To God's Greatness

Identify and briefly explain the 7 responses to God's greatness discussed in the lesson.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

