

Weekly Devotions: GOD IS SOVEREIGN 1

God Wants Us to Know Him

The strength of any relationship depends on how much and how well we know of the other person. Likewise, the essence and depth of our relationship with God and our faith in Him depend on what we know and believe about Him. So, who is this God whom Jesus taught us to call, 'Abba, Father'?

Read Psalm 19

No one can plead ignorance of God as He never ceases to make Himself known to all humankind. The Psalmist, David, proclaimed that God reveals Himself to the world through His creation (vv. 1-6). Day and night; "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge" (Psalm 19: 1-2).

God also reveals Himself to His people through the Law / His Word (vv. 7-10). The bible tells us who God is, what is on His heart, what is His will, His expectations, His salvation plan for the lost, etc. God's Word revives our soul, gives us wisdom and teaches us what is right, what is true and what it means to live in holy fear of God.

David concluded the Psalm with a prayer (verses 11-14). In his life's journey, he had experienced God's forgiveness and protection and knew Him as his Rock (strength) and Redeemer.

God wants us to know Him but the noise and false glitter of the world may have deafened our ears and blinded us to God's self-revelations. Perhaps sin, pride or life's anxieties have hardened our hearts and shut out His voice. God has promised that those who seek Him will find Him, if we seek Him with all our hearts (Jer. 29: 12-14). Let's pray that we will have a fresh encounter with God and that we will know Him more and more each day. Amen.

Questions to ponder

1. David said that creation declares who God is. List 3 things that you learn about God when you look at the heavens, the stars and the moon or when you look at the trees and the flowers.
2. David knew God as his Rock and Redeemer. In your personal experience, which attributes of God have you come to understand and appreciate?
3. What is preventing you from hearing what God is saying to you through His Word? What can / should you do to strengthen your relationship with God?

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Weekly Devotions: GOD IS SOVEREIGN 2

We Worship God above all gods

The sad truth is that many in the Church know little of who God is; some of us even have misconceptions about Him. Some common wrong beliefs held even by Christians are that the God in the Bible is one among many other gods, that God has revealed Himself to different people groups, hence, all religions point to the same God.

How then can we truly love and trust God if we hardly know anything or have wrong beliefs about who He is? Throughout the bible, God is never portrayed as one of the gods. The subject of the bible's first sentence is *Elohim* (Gen. 1:1), the very first name given to God in the bible.

The name *Elohim* is also used to refer to kings, supernatural beings and false gods but when it is used in reference to Jehovah God, it means God of gods or '*ELOHIM* of *elohim*'. It refers to the One who is majestic, full of power, strength and honor. He is the infinite, all-powerful God who is the Creator and the Supreme Judge of the world. In Psalm 7: 9 (NIV) David pleaded with God; "Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure-- you, the righteous *Elohim* who probes minds and hearts."

Sometimes the word *Elohim* is shortened to *El* and used as part of a longer name. For example, *El Shaddai*, which means 'God Almighty' (Gen 49: 24) and *El Elyon*, 'God Most High' or the 'Exalted One' (Gen 14: 18-22).

The God whom we call, 'Abba, Father' is not one of the gods. He is God above all gods, the Most High God, God Almighty, who rules over all that is seen and unseen.

Read Deut. 10: 12-22

Questions to ponder

1. What is God saying to you through the text? Which verse speaks to you personally?
2. What did you learn about God from Deut. 10: 14-15; 17-18; 21-22? Does that change the way you look at your life, especially a difficult situation?
3. True faith is to do what pleases God, to walk in all His ways and to love & serve Him with all our heart and soul (vv.12-13, 16, 20). What would it mean for you to live in obedience and holy fear of the Lord in your social, recreational, family or work life?

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