

## **“God Is Always God!”**

**1 kings 20:26-30**

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People form all sorts of ideas about God.

- \* He’s considered impotent and weak.
- \* He’s minimized to “The Man upstairs.”
- \* He’s perceived as harsh, angry and downright cranky.
- \* He is thought to be outmoded and unnecessary.
- \* The Arameans thought of Him as just a regional potentate as we read in 1 Kings.

“At the turn of the year, Ben-hadad mustered the Arameans and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. The sons of Israel were mustered and were provisioned and went to meet them; and the sons of Israel camped before them like two little flocks of goats, but the Arameans filled the country. Then a man of God came near and spoke to the king of Israel and said, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Because the Arameans have said, ‘The LORD is a god of the mountains, but He is not a god of the valleys,’ therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.” So they camped one over against the other seven days. And on the seventh day the battle was joined, and the sons of Israel killed of the Arameans 100,000 foot soldiers in one day. But the rest fled to Aphek into the city, and the wall fell on 27,000 men who were left. And Ben-hadad fled and came into the city into an inner chamber.” 1 Kings 20:26-30 (NASB). God is God everywhere!

One of the greatest statements in the Bible describing the omnipresence of God comes from the 139<sup>th</sup> Psalm: “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. Psalm 139:7-12 (NASB)

God is God, God has always been God and God will always be God. He has no beginning or end; He is bound by no parameters; He is not limited to any space or place.

Toni sang:

“God walks the dark hills  
The ways, the by ways  
He walks through the billows  
Of life's troubled sea.”

God will always be God and will always be with us!

**I. HE IS GOD ON THE MOUNTAIN TOPS:**

- A. For present purposes, “mountain tops” are those moments or events or circumstances that are:
1. Happy and joyful.
  2. Profitable in various ways.
  3. Peaceful and Pleasant.
  4. Exciting and stimulating.
  5. Upbeat and positive.
- B. Our mountain top experience might be;
1. A quiet devotion time when we meditate on our favorite Scriptures.
  2. A study of some passage in the Bible with study aids.
  3. A season of prayer, possibly accompanied with fasting.
  4. A powerful worship service.
  5. A time of sharing your faith with a friend.
  6. A morning when you wake with the assurance “I am loved and life is worth living!:
- C. We all have some “Mountain Top” experiences but we may not recognize or appreciate or develop the opportunities these experiences provide. For example:
1. We may be enjoying a special blessing and fail to give God the glory for it, but instead are like a man I once knew who stopped coming to church. When we checked, he said, “Well, we are so blessed and content that we just don’t feel the need for God right now.” Walt Chamberlain said, “We’ll just have to pray for some tribulation to let you know that you do need God.” That guy wasted an opportunity to witness to others and to share his blessings.
  2. We may be feeling quite victorious over some sin in our life and become overconfident and complacent and fall even harder into it. Paul wrote, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB).
  3. We may come into a good deal of money and fail to tithe it or to help someone with part of it. But God says, “One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.” Proverbs 19:17 (NASB).
  4. It is easy to see God as God when we are on top of the mountain looking down. “Oh, yeah!! He’s serving us well! Keep it coming, Lord!”
- D. If we lived always and only in the heights;
1. We would miss the challenges and lessons and disciplines of the low land.
  2. We’d disconnect from those who don’t share our mountain top. Like the Priest and the Levite who passed by the man who had been left for dead by robbers. They wouldn’t come off their religious mountain top (or, more accurately, their high-horse), to reach down to the man’s valley.
  3. We, too, might become so mystical and other-worldly and even holier-than-thou, that we are no earthly good and benefit nobody.
- E. Ricky, a 10 year old, was having the time of his life at the arcade. He was on a 10 year old’s Mountain Top. He was racking incredible scores. He was on top of his mountain ...until Dad said, “Let’s go, Ricky. We, too, will have Mountain Tops from which we must descend.

Mountain tops are not permanent – they are those occasional moments that we enjoy while they last, and we don't want them to end but they do, and then we come back to the valley and we find that

## **II. HE IS STILL GOD ON THE VALLEY FLOOR:**

- A. By "Valley Floor" I mean, for the purpose of this sermon, the ordinary life we live day in and day out,
  - 1. With its ups and downs.
  - 2. With its comfort and pain.
  - 3. With its gain and loss.
  - 4. With its joy and sorrow.
  - 5. With its excitement and tedium.
  - 6. With its calm and restlessness.
- B. We occasionally ascend to the heights, but we live in the valley. Here we have our duties, our families, our obligations, our responsibilities, our burdens and cares.
- C. We often think of valleys as dark and dangerous. There is nothing bad about being in the valley, but we want Jesus to be there with us. As David said, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 (NASB).
- D. When on the mountain top with Jesus, James, John, Moses and Elijah, Peter suggested to Jesus that they build three tabernacles and camp out. But Jesus led them back to the valley where human life is lived and where they could meet human need. Yet, it's awfully tempting to want to stay on top of the mountain.
- E. If we are faithful in the valleys, eventually we can experience the ultimate Mountain Top from which there will be no descent. One old fellow put it this way. He was questioned by a visitor about his hardships. "How can you be so joyful with all your pain and problems?" He answered, "I just don't forget about heaven and I believe the apostle when he said, 'I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.'" Romans 8:18 (NASB).

God is God in every place, and He is God in all of time.

## **III. HE IS GOD IN THE DAY:**

- A. We can equate daytime as the period of time we have to live and grow and serve the Lord. Jesus said, "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work." John 9:4 (NASB).
- B. Sometimes our days are not as we'd have them to be.
  - 1. They seem long and wearying.
  - 2. They become tedious and tiring.
  - 3. They are boring and bland.
  - 4. But God is still God
- C. Daytime is a good time, God gives it as our time for activity.
  - 1. We work and play and interact with people.

2. We conduct business and do regular things like shopping, laundry, and other tasks.
  3. We ought to be serving the Lord day by day and way by way.
- D. With all the opportunities and choice, trials and temptations each day provides we need godly set of priorities and we need to live every day with the Lord as our guide and helper. He walks the way and byways with us.
1. Sometimes we want to live the day the we want to live the day, God or no God. Jeremiah said, I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course. So correct me, LORD, but please be gentle. Do not correct me in anger, for I would die.” Jeremiah 10:23-24 (NLT).
  2. Every waking day, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB).
  3. “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33 (NLT).
- E. Each s ay we determine priorities. Ken Griffey, Jr. demonstrated a right set of priorities when he chose not to attend "The Players Choice Awards" to receive the "Player of the Decade" award. Junior beat out three time MVP winner Barry Bonds and four time Cy Young Award winner, Greg Maddux for the honor. The award is a big deal.

Why didn't he go? Trey, his 5-year-old son had a baseball game that night--his first, and Junior didn't want to miss it. Everyday God is God and has a plan for us – let's not miss it!

Whatever each day brings, remember what comes first and remember that God is there and wants to lead us so that when night comes we can rest in perfect peace. God is God in the day and

#### **IV. HE IS GOD IN THE NIGHT:**

- A. There may be several applications of the night theme. I choose to use night as meaning the end of toil and labor and the onset of rest and peace.
- B. I realize
  1. That people have sleepless, tortured nights filled with regret and nightmares.
  2. I realize that night is when evil people perform their evil under the cover of darkness.
- C. But night is welcome when it represents rest.
  1. When a weary body can cease laboring and rest.
  2. When the stresses of the day can be put aside as we enjoy our end of day time with our families.
  3. When we can say with the Psalmist: “Let your face smile on us, LORD. You have given me greater joy than those who have abundant harvests of grain and new wine. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.” Psalm 4:6-8 (NLT).
- D. Night can represent the end of earths day and the onset of Heaven's rest.

1. When Lazarus died, Jesus said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.” The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. John 11:11-13 (NLT).
2. When day fades into twilight and twilight darkens unto night, God will be there! The song said,

“He walks through the cold dark night  
The shadows of midnight  
God walks the dark hills  
Just to guide you and me.”

3. God is God in the night of rest and He is God in the night of death.
- E. Mickey Hayman was an unique individual, a charter member of Shasta Way Christian Church. She had survived over 100 strokes but she was the Lord’s servant. Finally, as her day drew to a close and her night drew near, she would say, “Marlene! I wish you could hear the music I’m hearing. It’s a choir. of angels singing. And I see a golden stairway” At the very end she testified to seeing Jesus and then she slept at the end of earth’s day to waken at the dawning of heaven’s endless day. And God was still God and was with her even in that night that preceded her eternal day.

The same God reigns today – on the Mountain Tops, in the valley, thought each day and through each night. But is He God in your life? Unless and until you obey Him and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, He is God, but not YOUR God. Change that. Ask Him to, and let Him, change you by changing your heart.

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