



Volume 9, No. 12, December, 2021



How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

*When thru the woods and forest glades I
wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain
grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;*

*And when I think that God, His Son not
sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin;*

*When Christ shall come with shout of
acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou
art!*

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

WORDS: Stuart K. Hine (alt. 1949)

MUSIC: Swedish Folk Melody

Arranged: Stuart K. Hine (w. 1949)



GOD IS!

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the firmament shows His handiwork.

The proof of His existence opens itself before us.

Consider the beauty of the sun
rising over the mountains:

God is there.

Consider the silence of the wind
gently swaying the trees,
the wonder of human existence,
the ability of the mind to comprehend beauty,
to understand nature's marvelous secrets.

Consider the riches
that He lays before us each day:
the laughter of children,
the smile of a loved one,
the memory of past pleasures,
the glorious hope of today's joys.

He is in the sunshine and the rain,
the rainbow and the lightning.

He proclaims Himself in every created thing,
from smallest stone to most stately animal.
His presence reveals itself in all around us.

To deny is to deny reality:
to see is ours for the opening of our eyes.

The small blade of grass in spring
says God is real.

The coyote's wail says he is.
The first hesitating step of baby's foot
and the gentle resignation of the saint

to death's close call
says that He is near.

Consider the star so far,
the snowflake so near at hand,
and know –

GOD IS!

Fred Willmon, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

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Sing Praise

Have you ever noticed how many scriptures there are that speak of praising God? I had not, but when I was preparing to write this article, I did a search for the word praise, honor, revere, glorify, and a few others. It became obvious that God wants to be praised. It is even more obvious that He has earned that right.

Look around and see all the marvels of nature, some overwhelmingly beautiful and others not so much, but remarkable none the less. For example, we are in awe when we witness a beautiful sunrise or sunset. I can't think of many things that delight me more than a sight like that, unless it would be a baby's smile. On the other hand, not many of us find our feet very appealing, and yet consider a foot's intricate design. Did you realize your big toe is vital in keeping your balance when you walk? We don't pay much attention to that unless we happen to stub it in the dark, but it would be disaster to lose that benefit. God knew and provided just what we need. How amazing is that? Feet are just one small portion of the human body, and that body is just one small element in the whole of creation.

Just contemplate the complexity of every created thing we experience. Each plant has a complete makeup that insures it cannot only thrive but reproduce. I am awed by the many different kinds of flowers with colors that dazzle the eye. Have you seen the blooms that look like small birds, and yet they are flowers? Animals also have multitudes of design. Forests have unique ecosystems in each different part of the world. So do rivers, lakes, and oceans. The solar system hangs in the heavens with no visible support and yet the stars and planets remain in place. The tides are controlled on a timed schedule without a visible clock. Even the Old Faithful geyser in our Yellowstone National Park functions within a predictable time frame.

All of nature is in God's control, and it is amazing to realize all the intricacies in each small portion if we take time to examine them closely. Yet, those things are not

what give us the best reason to praise God. The best reason is because God chose to love us and provide all those things we need for our wellbeing and enjoyment.

The most vital thing God gave us was his plan of salvation. It took me several years of study to realize that plan did not just happen in 33 AD. The plan was in place from before time began and before God ever made Adam and Eve. That is the most amazing realization for me, and the one I wish to praise Him for the most.

As I read the verses I researched, I found a large number that spoke of singing praise to God. I soon realized God wants us to sing; and in those songs we should tell of His greatness, His goodness, His love, and how awesome He is. I am not a good vocalist. My voice cracks and I have trouble staying on key. I hear myself and it makes me wonder how anyone could appreciate my efforts. My "joyful noise" is certainly not what I would wish to represent what I feel for the most holy God. I struggle with what it does to the people around me who are trying to sing well.

Then it makes me ashamed to even consider such feelings. My voice is what God gave me, and it isn't really terrible—at least that is what I tell myself—and we are commanded to sing. So, I sing, and I don't sing excessively loud, but neither do I smother my song. I pray God is pleased, because He is the one I am singing for. I want the people around me to know I love and appreciate Him, and I stand in awe of His majesty. I want others to be admonished by my singing as scripture instructs, but mostly I want to please God.

Look in your song books and take notice of how many songs are admonition, and then look at how many are praise to God and Jesus. The book we use in our congregation has an abundance of praise songs, and for that I am grateful. They not only remind us of God's awesomeness, but they help teach others that fact.

We should always take Psalm 105:2 to heart. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Tell of all His wonders.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana

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Praising God

"From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!" Psalm 113:3. This seems to be an impossible task when you think of it, but nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37). We can start out each day with a prayer, reading a praise Psalm or sing a song of praise. By praising God, we recognize His power and our dependency on Him. All throughout the day we can

make decisions by asking ourselves will this bring glory to God. By obeying His commands, we are praising Him as the Lord of our lives. Colossians 3:17.

Praising God in our daily lives can become our way of life. We love, forgive, give to the poor, help others, and can be content in all situations. I think one of the best ways we can praise God is by sharing the good news of the gospel to all those we meet. We can share that while we were still sinners, God sent His only Son, who would die for us. He was buried and rose on the third day so that we can have the hope of eternal life in heaven, Matthew 28:19-20. What better way to praise God than planting seeds with lost souls?

Another way to praise God is to remember to thank Him for answered prayers. If you keep a prayer journal, it will help you to see all of God's answers. Sometimes we don't realize God's hand in our lives until the storm of life has passed. David praised God in the psalms he wrote. He would write about his foes surrounding him and praise God in the same psalm, Psalms 3. In II Samuel 12, David prays for his baby to survive but God's answer was no. When David wrote Psalm 51 about this time in his life, he asks for forgiveness and praised God. Paul also prayed about the thorn in his side. God's answer was no, and yet Paul praised God, II Corinthians 12:9-12. So, we can praise God for every answered prayer.

Finally, you can sing hymns of praise. When I attended the Seneca church, we would sometimes have singing in the dark. We would meet in the hallway with something covering the door to the outside so that it was completely dark. People would choose a hymn, and one of the men would lead. Sitting in the dark singing with no distractions reminded me of, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Psalm 46:10. You can do this in your home. So, remember to praise God throughout your day.

Debbie Broughton, St. Robert, Missouri



WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!

A TOOL TO HELP YOU PRAISE GOD FROM EACH BOOK OF THE BIBLE

God of Genesis, You created the world and made it teem with life.

God of Exodus, You led Your people out of bondage and made them a nation.

God of Leviticus, You established Your worship in Israel.

God of Numbers, You are Lord of all.

God of Deuteronomy, You are the great lawgiver.

God of Joshua, You lead Your people to victory.

God of Judges, You always return Your people's hearts to Yourself.

God of Ruth, You care for all and establish Your work through widows, the poor, and foreigners.

God of Samuel, You raise up priests and prophets to do Your bidding.

God of Kings, You establish and depose the rulers of men.

God of Chronicles, You do not leave Yourself without a testimony of Your mighty works.

God of Ezra, You always show up when Your Word is exalted.

God of Nehemiah, You rebuild and restore Your people time and time again.

God of Esther, all nations and people are in Your hands.

God of Job, You are sovereign over all, and no one can accuse You of wrong.

God of Psalms, You fill my heart with song, my mouth with praise, and my feet with dancing.

God of Proverbs, You are God only wise, and in Your hand is all knowledge.

God of Ecclesiastes, You bring all our vanity to nothing.

God of Solomon's Song, You are my beloved, and I am Yours.

God of Isaiah, You are exalted, a God who fulfills His promises.

God of Jeremiah, You are a God of great and mysterious ways.

God of Lamentation, You are a God of passion who weeps for His people.

God of Ezekiel, You are a God of signs and wonders.

God of Daniel, You are a God who honors faithfulness and brings low the proud.

God of Hosea, You are faithful, even when I am fatherless.

God of Joel, You restore all that Your righteous wrath destroys.

God of Amos, You warn Your people again and again of the dangers and deceits of sin.

God of Obadiah, You will establish Your Kingdom, God of all nations.

God of Jonah, You show mercy to all who repent.

God of Micah, You repeatedly show compassion to Your wayward children.

God of Nahum, You judge the nations in righteousness.

God of Habakkuk, You alone are the strength of Your people.

God of Zephaniah, You turn back our enemies and make us glad.

God of Haggai, You are worthy to be honored among men and among the nations.

God of Zechariah, You are a God of visions and revelation.
 God of Malachi, You are constant and pure, desiring a religion of the heart, not an outward show.
 God of Matthew, You are my King.
 God of Mark, You are the supreme servant, the example of true humility.
 God of Luke, You are Lord of all.
 God of John, You are the living Word, the great I Am.
 God of Acts, You are the author of the church, the pioneer of the faith.
 God of Romans, You are the salvation-worker.
 God of Corinthians, You are a God of order and righteousness.
 God of Galatians, You are the great liberator, a God of freedom and grace.
 God of Ephesians, You are a God of light, unity, and unfathomable riches.
 God of Philippians, You are a God of joy!
 God of Colossians, You are preeminent, a God of glory.
 God of Thessalonians, You are a God of hope.
 God of Timothy, You are the great shepherd.
 God of Titus, You are always working, always doing good.
 God of Philemon, You make brothers of all men.
 God of Hebrews, You have made Jesus greater than all things—all priests, all covenants—**all**.
 God of James, You are a God of practical wisdom.
 God of Peter, You are true and victorious in all things.
 God of John, You are love and truth.
 God of Jude, You are able to keep me from falling.
 God of Revelation, You hold the future—and the times of all peoples—in your hand!
 I praise You, God of the Bible, God of all, for all You are!

--Bob Hostetler

Submitted by Sally Shank, Edmond, OK



Praises to Our King!

I love it when we begin our worship times with songs and prayers of praise. That is our foremost part of worship—praises to the Lord. Scripture is filled with verses, sometimes whole chapters, of praising the King of the Universe beginning in Exodus all the way through Revelation.

David's prayer of praise in 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 is one of the strongest and most passionate that we read about. "David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly saying, 'Praise be to you, O, Lord, God of our father, Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and

the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O, Lord is the Kingdom. You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from You. You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise Your glorious name.'"

David doesn't stop there. He says in verse 14, "But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from Your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers." David is referring to the generosity of the people in contributing to the building of the temple. The work of building the temple was given to his son, Solomon, but David wanted to provide the funds and materials to build it.

Robert Cameron wrote a song in 1995 titled, "It's a Privilege." The words are:

It's a privilege to worship You, Jesus
 It's a thrill to give You our praise
 It's an honor to stand in Your
 Presence and to glorify Your precious name.
 And out of a heart full of thankfulness,
 My spirit rejoices and sings.
 It's a privilege to worship You, Jesus.
 It's a thrill, it's an honor, my King.

When I attended a prayer retreat many years ago, I learned of a path our prayers should take. The beginning place should be our identification of God – His holiness, His majesty. He is Creator of all good things. He is the Almighty and the Exalted One. The second part of the path is our praise to Him. Psalm 148 is a whole chapter of praise. It begins with Praise the Lord." It ends with the same words. In between, it states that even the creatures of the earth, the heavenly bodies and everything and everyone owe their praises to Him. Verse 13 says, "Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted. His splendor is above the earth and the heavens."

It is one of the greatest honors and privileges for Christians to praise our Creator. We not only praise Him with our words but praise Him with our godly lives.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, MO



PRAISE HIM, ALL YE PEOPLE!

"Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore Him! Praise Him, angels, in the height; Sun and moon rejoice before Him;

Praise Him all ye stars of light. Hallelujah! Amen, Hallelujah! Amen! Those are the beginning words of a song written by J. Kempthorne in 1796. The words he wrote are still relevant today!

Praise seems to come naturally to little children. They love to sing “children’s songs” they learn in Bible classes. Soon they join in the singing during worship services. One of my sons and his little buddy, neither was even five years old at the time, sang quite loudly and enthusiastically during worship before they could even read the words.

Worshipping God is often spontaneous and comes from deep within us. In the Bible, David is the first person who comes to my mind when I think of praise. He had a heart for praising God from the time of his youth through his old age. He praised God in times of joy and when he feared for his own life, Psalm 71:14, *“But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.”*

Praise may be in singing, or it may be by praying. David wrote in Psalm 71:6, *“My praise shall be continually of You...And I will praise You yet more and more.”* We express our joy and thankfulness to God. *“O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation,”* Psalm 95:1. We sing praise to God both for who He is (adoration) and for what He does (thanksgiving), Psalm 150:2.

God is to be praised. Jesus said, *“It is written, ‘‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve,’’* Luke 4:8. The Lamb of God is deserving of worship, *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”* Revelation 5:12.

All on earth are to praise God. *“For it is written: ‘AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, TO ME EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, AND EVERY TONGUE WILL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD,’* Romans 14:11. In Romans 15:11, Paul quoted Psalm 117:1 to the Gentiles in Rome, *“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”*

The Psalmist wrote, *“³From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!”* Psalm 113:3. In Luke 19:37-40 when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, *“³⁷the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen ³⁸saying, ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ Their praise of Jesus was unappreciated by the ruling class of the day, ‘³⁹And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples.’ ⁴⁰He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.’”*

We are to worship in our minds and spirits, 1 Corinthians 14:15. We must praise God truthfully and faithfully so as not to worship Him in vain with empty praise. We are to sing, Acts 16:25. We must honor and praise God with the fruit of our lips when we sing and pray, Hebrews 13:15 and Psalm 51:15. Partaking of the Lord’s Supper, Acts 20:7a, and giving of our means, 1 Corinthians 16:1, are facets of our worship as an assembly.

In Hebrew 2:12, the Hebrew writer quoted David’s Psalm 22:22-23, *“I will tell of Your name to my brothers, in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”* Even our thoughts should be filled with praise, *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things,”* Philippians 4:8.

Worship is a serious matter. It is possible to praise God in vain and/or to offer empty praise. Jesus quoted Isaiah, *“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me, and in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men,”* Matthew 15:9. It is vital that we remember who the audience of our praise is. If we sing and pray to impress others, our worship is misdirected. Worship should always be focused on and directed toward God.

The early church worshiped in homes or in the temple court. As persecution of the church increased, Christians worshiped in remote places, caves, and even in the catacombs of Rome. Today it is still our privilege to know and worship the only true God. May we joyfully and thankfully praise Him every day!

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, Revelation 5:12

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The header for the Sunrise newsletter features a scenic background of a snowy mountain landscape with evergreen trees. Overlaid on this is a large, stylized blue and white logo for "Sunrise". Below the logo, a green banner contains the text "The Newsletter For Women By Christian Women".

Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveLove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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