

## The Majesty of God

Isaiah 40:12-28 (New American Standard Bible)

**Who has measured the waters** in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span  
And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure?

Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

<sup>13</sup> Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him?

<sup>14</sup> With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice?

Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

<sup>15</sup> Behold, **the nations are as a drop in a bucket**, And are counted as the small dust on the scales;  
Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.

<sup>16</sup> And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> **All nations** before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him **less than nothing** and worthless.

<sup>18</sup> **To whom then will you liken God?** Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

<sup>19</sup> The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold,  
And the silversmith casts silver chains.

<sup>20</sup> Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution Chooses a tree that will not rot;  
He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image that will not totter.

<sup>21</sup> **Have you not known? Have you not heard?**

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is He who **sits above the circle of the earth**, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,  
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

<sup>23</sup> He **brings the princes to nothing**; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown,

Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth,

When He will also blow on them, And they will wither,

And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> **“To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?”** says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high, And **see who has created these things**,

Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name,

**By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power**; Not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel:

“My way is hidden from the Lord, And my just claim is passed over by my God”?

<sup>28</sup> **Have you not known? Have you not heard?**

The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

## Introduction

(Ask the congregation to describe God using adjectives: God is.... Give them a minute. Then proceed.). Mine is 'God is great.' God is awesome.

This morning, we are going to think about one of God's attributes: the greatness of our Heavenly Father. May the Lord open our eyes to see how majestic He is so that we may worship Him at all times.

## Content

My sermon title reads, 'The majesty of God.' Let me tell you what I mean by the word 'majesty.'

**Definition:** *majesty: impressive stateliness, dignity, or beauty* (Oxford Dictionaries). Rooted in Latin, 'majesty' means 'greatness/grandeur.'

In the world, we use '*majesty*' for kings and queens (e.g., Your Majesty, Her Majesty the Queen). When it occurs in the Bible, however, it always refers to the greatness of the Lord our God in the context of worship. "*The majesty, applied to God, is a declaration of His greatness and an invitation to worship*" (pp. 82-83, *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer).

A couple of examples in the Bible about the majesty of God: *Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised ...* (Psalm 48:1). Because of God's greatness, we are called to worship Him: *For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods,<sup>4</sup> In whose hand are the depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are also His. <sup>5</sup> The sea is His, for it was He who made it, And His hands formed the dry land. <sup>6</sup> Come, let's worship and bow down, Let's kneel before the Lord our Maker* (Psalm 95:3-6).

**Reality:** Although they worship the Lord every Sunday, many a Christian today still lack the knowledge of such majestic God. Think about it. Today's world is full of liberalism that glorifies human experiences. Technology further advances such liberalism. We conquered the nature. We can manipulate weather. We almost defeated disease and famine. We can even modify genetics. We order babies based on our genetic preferences. How about *blonde hair, brown eyes, brown skin*, etc. All for sale. Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are the masters. We crown ourselves with a crown of wisdom, glory, and might. In our own eyes, we are truly mighty and great, are we not? We make ourselves gods. Where do you see God in this picture?

It's Deja-vu of the tower of Babel all over again! "*Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let's make a name for ourselves;*" (Genesis 11:4). Remember the serpent's temptation to Eve? *You shall become like God* (Genesis 3:5). Listen. Since the beginning of creation, we humans never stop trying to be like God. When

the self grows bigger, in turn, God becomes smaller. The greater humans become; the lesser God becomes. Talking with a fellow believer in the Church using the word “God,” how often would we get the impression of divine majesty---*the greatness of God’s power and might?* Not often, would we? By the way, what have you written down on God is...? Does it reflect His greatness?

**Diagnosis:** Here’s the thing. We tend to put God in the box---in the box of our limited understanding---and make Him a puny god. Other times we get a misrepresentation of God from the church. For instance, at church, we are taught, told, and preached that God is personal: He’s kind, gentle, merciful, loving, forgiving, and patient. So far so good. However, focusing only on such divine attributes, we totally lose the sight of God’s majesty and His dominion over all the heavens and earth. Personal God is great. Don’t forget, however, that the same God is Almighty. It’s like staring at a tree and believing that’s all there to it while forgetting the whole picture of the forest. Have the whole picture.

**Restore:** So, how do we return to the right understanding of God’s majesty and His greatness? We must remove from our thoughts of God the limits that would make Him small, Professor Packer suggests. In the following two ways: *consider and compare*. Consider Psalm 139, for example.

First, no one can escape from the presence of God (Psalm 139: 5-12).

<sup>5</sup> *You have encircled me behind and in front, And placed Your hand upon me.*

<sup>6</sup> *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot comprehend it.*

<sup>7</sup> *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

<sup>8</sup> *If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.*

<sup>9</sup> *If I take up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,*

<sup>10</sup> *Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will take hold of me.*

<sup>11</sup> *If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,”*

<sup>12</sup> *Even darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day.*

Next, God knows everything about you (Psalm 139:1-4). Lord, *You have searched me and known me.* <sup>2</sup> *You know when I sit down and when I get up; You understand my thought from far away.* <sup>3</sup> *You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.* <sup>4</sup> *Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, Lord, You know it all.* Nothing can we hide from Him. His eyes are always upon us. He’s the “all-seeing” God. His wisdom, presence, and power are unlimited. All-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful is our God.

The second way to restore the understanding of majestic God is to compare Him with powers and forces which we consider great.

God declares about Himself: ***To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?*** (Isaiah 40:25).

The Lord our God is **the Incomparable One**. No match to Him at all. In the following ways: first, consider the tasks that He has done. **Who has measured the waters** in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? (v. 12). Was it not My hand that made all these things? (Acts 7:50).

Next, consider nations---to God, they are like a drop in a bucket or less than nothing (v. 15, 17). <sup>15</sup> Behold, **the nations are as a drop in a bucket**, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. <sup>17</sup> All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him **less than nothing** and worthless. The rulers are nothing to Him (v. 23). <sup>23</sup> He **brings the princes to nothing**; He makes the judges of the earth useless. The Lord rules over the world (v. 22). <sup>22</sup> It is He who **sits above the circle of the earth**, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Thirdly, consider stars in the universe: stand alone on a clear night, look up and look at the stars above (v. 26): <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high, And **see who has created these things**, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

**Our Response to His Majesty:** we repent of our sin that made Him too small, too petty, too human, and too much like us. He is the Lord. We are His servants. We repent of our arrogance that we embraced the wrong beliefs about ourselves. We are not gods. He is. He is the Creator. We are the creatures. Let us bow down before Him. Finally, we repent of our slowness to believe how majestic our God is. Let us stand in awe before Him.

## Conclusion

God declares His majesty: <sup>21</sup> **Have you not known? Have you not heard?** Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>28</sup> **Have you not known? Have you not heard?** The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable (Isaiah 40:21, 28). Let us come and worship our Majesty! Amen.