Who God Is

An encouraging walk through the Scriptures that reveal His character

Fifteen passages • Scripture printed in full • New American Standard Bible 1995

Before we ask what God wants us to do, what if we begin with a more wonderful question: Who is this God who has made Himself known to us?

Think of the privilege of it. The Creator of heaven and earth has not left us to guess at His character. He has spoken. He has revealed His ways in history, proclaimed His name, and given us words by which we may know Him truly. We could spend a lifetime tracing what Scripture says about God and still find ourselves amazed. And surely that is part of the joy of knowing Him!

Our journey begins with Moses, who asked to see God's glory. We will hear God describe Himself, then listen as Israel's prayers and songs return again and again to those same truths. We will look at His power and wisdom through the prophets and apostles, and finally glimpse the worship surrounding His throne. Compassion and holiness. Mercy and justice. Immeasurable greatness and tender care. Not competing sides of God, but the perfect beauty of who He is.

The Scripture passages are printed here so you can linger over them. Read each one first, slowly and in its setting; then read the explanation and consider the question. There is no schedule to keep and nothing to rush. I hope you will find yourself turning back to the verses, noticing a word you missed, making a connection, and perhaps stopping simply to praise Him.

One important note: God revealed Himself to real people in real circumstances, sometimes through promises given specifically to Israel or to an individual. We will respect those settings rather than claim every promise indiscriminately. But the God who spoke in those settings is the same God whose character never changes. His Word gives us good reason to trust what He has shown us of Himself.

Come ready to discover. And as you discover, may you find yourself in greater awe of Him.

I · GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN

01 The God Who Introduces Himself

Exodus 34:6–7 (NASB 1995)

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Moses had just made an astonishing request: he asked to see God's glory (Exodus 33:18). Can you imagine asking that of the Creator of heaven and earth? The LORD placed Moses in the cleft of the rock, passed before him, and proclaimed His name. Notice how God chose to make Himself known. He did not simply display overwhelming power. He declared His character. Before Moses could describe God to others, God described Himself.

Look closely at what He says: compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and truth, keeping lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity. What an extraordinary beginning! But keep reading. The same God who forgives is also perfectly just; He will not treat guilt as though it were nothing. Even the warning that sin reaches into future generations reminds us that evil has real consequences. His mercy is not indifference, and His justice is not a failure of love. Both belong to His holy character.

Here is where I want us to begin: not with the God we imagine when life is difficult, and not with a handful of attributes we find especially comforting, but with the God who has spoken for Himself. So read His words again. What would change if His own testimony, rather than your circumstances, became the foundation for what you believe about Him? What a gift that we do not have to guess who He is!

Pause and consider

What part of God's own description most astonishes me? Am I willing to receive both His mercy and His justice as He reveals them?

A prayer: LORD, You have told us who You are. Give me a heart that delights in Your compassion, reveres Your holiness, and trusts Your justice.

02 Mighty Enough to Rule, Just Enough to Care

Deuteronomy 10:17–18 (NASB 1995)

For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.

Moses calls Him the God of gods and Lord of lords—the great, mighty, and awesome God. No one outranks Him. No earthly title impresses Him, and no gift can influence His judgment. His greatness is not simply that He can do whatever He pleases, but that He always acts in keeping with His perfectly righteous character. There is no corruption, favoritism, or hidden self-interest in His rule.

And then comes something wonderful. Immediately after describing God's incomparable greatness, Moses tells us that He executes justice for the orphan and widow and loves the foreigner, giving food and clothing. The Lord of lords sees those whom the powerful so often overlook! His concern for the weak is not beneath His majesty. It is an expression of it. The God who holds all authority is never too important to care.

Read the surrounding verses in Deuteronomy 10:12–19 and you will see why Moses says this. Israel was to fear the LORD, love Him, walk in His ways, and show love to the foreigner. Knowing God's character was meant to shape the way His people treated others. And we, too, can marvel at the One whose absolute power is inseparable from justice and compassion. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our ideas of greatness looked more like His?

Pause and consider

How does God's care for the overlooked deepen my understanding of His greatness?

A prayer: Great and awesome God, thank You that no one is beyond Your notice. Teach me to rejoice in Your justice and reflect Your care.

03 Everything Belongs to Him

1 Chronicles 29:10–13 (NASB 1995)

So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name."

Picture the scene. David and the people have gathered gifts for the temple, an occasion that could easily have become a celebration of their generosity. But listen to David's prayer. Instead of praising what the people have accomplished, he lifts his eyes to the One from whom everything has come. Greatness, power, glory, victory, majesty, riches, and honor—all belong to the LORD. The whole creation is under His rule.

David goes on to acknowledge that even what the people have offered came from God's own hand (see verses 14–16). Think about that. We are not independent owners who occasionally give God a portion. Our lives, abilities, resources, and opportunities are gifts entrusted to us by the One who possesses all things.

That truth humbles us, but it also lifts a burden we were never meant to carry: we are not the ones holding the universe together.

Notice David's response. He does not become passive or gloomy because God is sovereign. He gives thanks! He is glad to offer willingly because he knows to whom everything belongs. When you think about your responsibilities today, remember whose world this is. What a remarkable freedom to serve faithfully while resting in the greatness of the One who rules over all.

Pause and consider

If everything ultimately comes from God's hand, what can I receive with greater gratitude and hold with greater trust?

A prayer: Father, all I have comes from Your hand. May my dependence on You produce gratitude, not fear, and faithful service, not pride.

04 The Creator Who Keeps His Word

Nehemiah 9:6–8, 17 (NASB 1995)

You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You. You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees, And gave him the name Abraham. You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give him the land of the Canaanite, Of the Hittite and the Amorite, Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite— To give it to his descendants. And You have fulfilled Your promise, For You are righteous.

They refused to listen, And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake them.

Nehemiah 9 records a remarkable prayer in which God's people look back over their history. They begin with creation: the LORD alone made the heavens and earth and gives life to all. Then they remember His choice of Abraham and the covenant He made with him. Why does the prayer say God kept His promise? Because He is righteous. His faithfulness is not an occasional decision. It flows from His character.

Now notice the contrast. Israel's history includes stubbornness, unbelief, and even the desire to return to slavery. Yet the people recall that God was ready to forgive, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness. Does that sound familiar? Here is Exodus 34 again! Generations later, the people are still tracing their history back to what God told Moses about Himself. Human unfaithfulness was real; God's goodness was just as real.

The covenant with Abraham was a particular promise to Abraham and his descendants, and we should not turn every detail of it into a promise made personally to us. But do not miss what the history reveals: God

does what He says. His righteousness and faithfulness are not at the mercy of human inconsistency. Is that not a wonderful truth to carry with us? We may be changeable, but we can know and trust the One who is not.

Pause and consider

What does Israel's story teach me about the contrast between human inconsistency and God's faithfulness?

A prayer: Faithful LORD, thank You that Your character never falters. Help me read Your Word carefully and trust You wholeheartedly.

II · MERCY, MAJESTY, AND FAITHFULNESS

05 Good, Forgiving, and Unlike Any Other

Psalm 86:5, 10, 15 (NASB 1995)

For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.

For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God.

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

David is praying in trouble, but listen to the way he speaks about God. He does not first tell the LORD how impossible his circumstances are. He calls to mind who the LORD is: good, ready to forgive, abundant in lovingkindness, great in wondrous deeds, and God alone. The more we listen, the more we realize that David's confidence comes from the character of the One he addresses.

Then he uses language we have heard before. The God who described Himself to Moses as compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and rich in lovingkindness is the same God David calls upon in Psalm 86. I love this connection. God's revelation is not meant to sit in a distant chapter of history; it becomes the language of His people's prayers. We learn what to say to God by listening first to what He has said about Himself.

Pause over the words "ready to forgive." We may imagine God's forgiveness as something to be wrested reluctantly from Him. David knew the LORD was good and merciful toward those who call upon Him. That does not make sin a small matter; it makes His mercy more astonishing. What a difference it makes to come before God knowing that His goodness is greater than our fear and that His character, not our performance, is the ground of our appeal.

Pause and consider

How might my prayers change if I began by remembering who God is before speaking of what I need?

A prayer: Merciful Lord, thank You for revealing Your goodness. Let Your own words shape my prayers and enlarge my trust.

06 Righteousness at the Foundation

Psalm 89:5–14 (NASB 1995)

The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies is comparable to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the LORD, A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him? O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. You rule the swelling of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. You Yourself crushed Rahab like one who is slain; You scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm. The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them. The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at Your name. You have a strong arm; Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.

Read this psalm slowly enough to see its sweeping picture: the heavens praise God's wonders; the raging sea is subject to Him; the earth belongs to Him; mountains and distant places rejoice. Who among the mighty could ever compare with the LORD? The psalmist is trying to find language large enough for the God he worships—and still it feels as though no language could be enough.

Yet in the center of all this majesty comes a statement we should not rush past: righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne, while lovingkindness and truth go before Him. Think about what that means. God's power is never arbitrary. His rule is not held together by selfish ambition or the threat of injustice. Everything He does proceeds from who He is. Even His greatness gives us reason for confidence because He is perfectly righteous.

This psalm belongs to a longer reflection on God's covenant with David, one that eventually gives voice to painful questions about what appears to be happening to that promise. The writer's praise is not the result of having every circumstance resolved. He knows the character of the God to whom he brings his questions. When life seems confusing, what a comfort to know that the foundation of God's throne has not moved. Our sight is limited; His righteousness is not.

Pause and consider

When life is difficult to understand, how does the unshakable righteousness of God's throne strengthen my trust?

A prayer: Righteous King, when my sight is limited, help me rest in the unchanging foundation of Your throne.

07 Compassion That Remembers Our Frailty

Psalm 103:6–19 (NASB 1995)

The LORD performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust. As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer. But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To those who keep His covenant And remember His precepts to do them. The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

Do you see it? Psalm 103 tells us explicitly that God made His ways known to Moses, then repeats the words of Exodus 34: compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness. Scripture is teaching us to make the connection! What God declared about Himself in the wilderness became a song of praise for generations that followed. David is remembering not merely what God did, but what His actions reveal about His heart.

Now notice the tenderness woven into this psalm. God removes transgressions as far as east is from west; He has compassion as a father has compassion on his children; He knows our frame and remembers that we are dust. What a picture of the Creator's care! Our lives are like grass, here for a moment and gone, but His lovingkindness endures from everlasting to everlasting. His knowledge of our weakness does not make Him less compassionate; it gives us reason to marvel at His care.

The psalm speaks particularly of those who fear Him, keep His covenant, and remember His precepts. We should not flatten those words into an assurance that every person receives every covenant blessing regardless of response. Nor should we make "Heals all your diseases" (verse 3, just before our reading) a guarantee of immediate healing in every circumstance. Let the psalm give you the confidence it intends: this holy and sovereign God truly knows His people, remembers their frailty, and deals with them in faithful compassion.

Pause and consider

Which expression of God's compassion in Psalm 103 draws me most deeply to worship?

A prayer: Compassionate Father, You know our frame and remember that we are dust. Draw me to worship You for Your steadfast love.

08 Great Beyond Measuring, Near to Those Who Call

Psalm 145:3–20 (NASB 1995)

Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, And I will tell of Your greatness. They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, And Your godly ones shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power; To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD sustains all who fall And raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, And You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. The LORD keeps all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.

Psalm 145 seems to overflow with praise. God's greatness is unsearchable, and one generation tells the next of His mighty works. What a thought: no generation could exhaust the subject! We could spend all our years learning about Him, and there would still be more to marvel at, more goodness to recount, and more reasons to praise.

But watch how David moves from immeasurable greatness to astonishing tenderness. The LORD upholds those who fall, raises those bowed down, gives food to living creatures, and is near to those who call upon Him in truth. His kingdom endures, yet He is attentive to the needs of those living under His care. We might expect such greatness to create distance. Instead, Scripture shows us the greatness of a God who is both exalted above all and wonderfully near.

David also tells us that the LORD is righteous in all His ways, kind in all His deeds, and that He will judge wickedness. Again, goodness and justice belong together. Nor is the psalm teaching that every desire is granted without regard to God's wisdom; David speaks of those who fear Him and call upon Him in truth. As you read, notice the verbs of praise: tell, declare, meditate, speak, bless. Who could you tell about what you have learned of this God?

Pause and consider

What would I most want to tell the next generation about the greatness and goodness of God?

A prayer: Great and gracious LORD, may Your mighty works and tender care fill my heart with gratitude and my mouth with praise.

III · WISDOM, POWER, AND PURPOSE

09 Nothing Is Too Difficult for Him

Jeremiah 32:17–19 (NASB 1995)

‘Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You, who shows lovingkindness to thousands, but repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great and mighty God. The LORD of hosts is His name; great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, giving to everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds

Jeremiah spoke these words in a terrible season. Jerusalem was threatened, and God had instructed him to purchase a field even though the land was facing devastation (read Jeremiah 32). What an unusual act of obedience! The purchase pointed to God’s particular promise that fields would one day be bought again. Jeremiah did not pretend his circumstances made sense. He began his prayer by turning his attention to the Creator of heaven and earth.

“Nothing is too difficult for You.” How could it be, when the One he addresses made heaven and earth by His great power? But read on. This mighty God also shows lovingkindness, judges evil, is great in counsel, and sees every human way. Jeremiah is not calling on a limitless force who must accomplish whatever we wish. He is worshiping the all-powerful and perfectly wise God, who will bring about His own righteous purposes.

There is such comfort in that distinction. The truth that nothing is too difficult for God does not promise that every outcome we want will occur. It assures us that no obstacle can defeat what He has determined to do. Jeremiah could not see the whole picture, but he knew the One who could. When you find yourself facing something you cannot understand, remember: God’s power is not separated from His wisdom, His goodness, or His faithfulness.

Pause and consider

Can I trust both God’s unlimited ability and His perfect wisdom, even when His purposes differ from my hopes?

A prayer: Lord GOD, nothing can frustrate Your purposes. Teach me to trust Your great counsel as much as Your mighty power.

10 Wisdom and Power Belong to Him

Daniel 2:20–23 (NASB 1995)

Daniel said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”

Daniel was far from home, serving in a foreign court, when a king’s troubling dream placed many lives in danger. Human wisdom could not uncover its meaning. God revealed the mystery to Daniel, and notice Daniel’s first response: worship! He blessed the God to whom wisdom and power belong. He knew the answer was a gift, not a reason to congratulate himself.

Daniel says God changes times and epochs, removes and establishes kings, gives wisdom, and knows what lies in darkness. Think about the comfort of those words to an exile. Earthly rulers looked powerful and unpredictable. Yet the God of Israel was not a helpless observer of history. He was sovereign over it. Nothing was hidden from His sight, even when Daniel himself could see only the next step.

We are not promised that God will disclose every mystery to us as He did to Daniel on that occasion. But Daniel’s prayer shows us something far greater than the satisfaction of having all the answers: there is a God who knows them. Our limitations are real; His wisdom is perfect. What freedom to ask Him for the wisdom we need, do what He calls us to do, and entrust what remains hidden to Him.

Pause and consider

What unknown concern can I bring to the God who sees what is hidden and rules over changing times?

A prayer: God of wisdom and power, thank You that nothing is hidden from You. Make me humble, obedient, and glad to trust Your care.

11 Beyond the Reach of Our Understanding

Romans 11:33–36 (NASB 1995)

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Paul has just spent three chapters explaining God's purposes concerning Israel and the Gentiles (Romans 9–11). He has thought carefully, argued from Scripture, and addressed difficult questions. And what happens when he comes to the end? He breaks into worship! His response is not "There is nothing worth studying." It is wonder at the depths of divine wisdom, even after all that has been revealed.

Listen to the questions: Who has known the mind of the LORD? Who has become His counselor? Who first gave to Him, that God should owe anything in return? No one. All things are from Him, through Him, and to Him. We are not qualified to stand over God as His advisers. Even when we understand a great deal of His Word, His knowledge and judgments remain far beyond the reach of our own.

I love that Paul does not treat this as disappointing. It leads him to praise. What an extraordinary God, whose wisdom can be truly known through what He has revealed and yet never exhausted by the brightest human mind! Study carefully; ask your honest questions; follow the argument of Scripture. And when you reach the limit of what you can trace, let Paul show you the way forward: worship the God whose ways are deeper than ours.

Pause and consider

Where has studying God's Word brought me to the edge of understanding—and into greater wonder?

A prayer: O LORD, how unsearchable are Your judgments! Lead me from careful study into joyful worship of Your infinite wisdom.

IV · THE HOLY GOD, OUR HOPE AND WORSHIP

12 The Only Sovereign in Unapproachable Light

1 Timothy 6:15–16 (NASB 1995)

> which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

Paul is speaking of the future appearing of Jesus Christ, which God will bring about at the proper time (see 1 Timothy 6:13–16). Then he pauses to describe God Himself: the blessed and only Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords, the One who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light. Stop for a moment over those words. What kind of Being is this? Not merely the greatest among many, but the eternal God utterly unlike anything He has made.

Sometimes familiarity with biblical language can dull our sense of wonder. We speak easily of God, pray to Him, sing about Him—and we should. Yet Paul reminds us that the One who hears those prayers cannot be reduced to a larger version of ourselves. He is glorious, self-existent, sovereign, and deserving of everlasting honor. There is a proper place for silence and amazement in our worship.

And here is another wonder: this same transcendent God has chosen to make Himself known through His Son (John 1:18; Hebrews 1:1–3). In Christ, believers can draw near with reverence and confidence

(Hebrews 4:14–16). Nearness does not erase His majesty; His majesty makes our welcome all the more extraordinary. May we never lose the awe of knowing that the God who dwells in unapproachable light has graciously made Himself known.

Pause and consider

Have I grown so familiar with speaking about God that I need to recover my awe of His holiness and majesty?

A prayer: Holy God, restore my wonder. May the glory of who You are make the grace of drawing near to You through Christ more precious.

13 Able to Keep His People

Jude 24–25 (NASB 1995)

> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude is not an easy letter. He warns believers about false teachers, calls them to contend for the faith, and urges them to persevere. Yet look at the way he ends. After all those serious exhortations, he turns our eyes to the God who is able to keep His people and present them before His glory. What a remarkable way to conclude a letter full of warnings!

God does not merely promise an escape from danger. Jude speaks of standing before His glory blameless and with great joy. Can you picture it? The God of perfect holiness is also "our Savior," through Jesus Christ our Lord. The One before whom we could never stand in our own righteousness is the One who makes the hope of standing there possible. His power to keep His people is joined to His saving mercy.

Jude's words do not cancel his earlier call to watchfulness, obedience, and perseverance; they give those commands their proper foundation. We are to keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21), trusting the God who is able to keep us (Jude 24). How encouraging to know our confidence rests not in pretending we are strong enough, but in the glorious God whose power, majesty, dominion, and authority endure forever.

Pause and consider

How does the hope of standing before God's glory with joy change the way I think about persevering today?

A prayer: God our Savior, thank You that You are able to keep Your people. Give me grace to persevere with my confidence fixed on You.

14 The Holy One Worthy of Worship

Revelation 4:8–11 (NASB 1995)

And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.” And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Now Scripture lifts our eyes from earth to heaven. John sees creatures around the throne who never cease declaring God’s holiness, while the elders fall before the One who lives forever and ever. Try to take in the scene. Heaven is not distracted or bored with God. Those who behold His glory respond with worship because He is holy, almighty, eternal, and worthy.

Their praise gives us a reason: He created all things, and because of His will they existed and were created. Nothing has life apart from Him. The crowns laid before His throne acknowledge that whatever honor the elders possess is derived from the One who made and rules all things. This is not flattery addressed to a powerful ruler. It is the fitting response to reality. God alone is worthy.

And think how beautifully this returns us to Exodus 34. The God who proclaimed Himself compassionate and gracious is the very God before whose throne heaven bows. His mercy never makes Him less holy; His holiness never makes Him less merciful. How easily the concerns of our day can fill our entire field of vision! Let this passage enlarge it. Our circumstances change by the hour. His glory never changes.

Pause and consider

What happens to my perspective when I consider the worship surrounding God’s throne?

A prayer: Lord God Almighty, You alone are worthy. Lift my eyes beyond my circumstances and fill me with reverence and praise.

15 The Song of Moses and the Lamb

Revelation 15:3–4 (NASB 1995)

And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”

We began with Moses hearing God proclaim His character. Now, in Revelation, we hear the song of Moses and the Lamb. What a remarkable way to end our journey! Those who have overcome sing of God's great and marvelous works, His righteous and true ways, His holiness, and the day when the nations will come and worship before Him.

This song stands in the setting of God's coming judgments. The worshipers are not pretending that evil does not matter. They are praising the Lord whose ways are just and whose righteous acts will be revealed. From Moses to the final scenes of Scripture, God does not become good or just over time. He is eternally both. The unfolding of history reveals more of what has always been true of Him.

And now, after all fifteen passages, where have we arrived? Not at the end of everything there is to know about God—how could we? We have seen enough to deepen our wonder and whet our desire to know Him more. The God who spoke to Moses, who sustained His people, who rules with perfect wisdom and justice, and who is worshiped in heaven is the God who has chosen to make Himself known. What a privilege. What a reason to worship!

Pause and consider

Which truth about God has stirred my heart most? How might I carry that truth into worship and daily life?

A prayer: Great and marvelous God, righteous and true are Your ways! May knowing You lead me to a lifetime of grateful worship.

Beholding Him: A Response of Worship

Think back over what we have seen. The LORD introduced Himself as compassionate and gracious, abounding in lovingkindness and truth, yet perfectly just. We have watched that same character unfold through Israel's history. We have seen His care for the vulnerable, His faithfulness to His word, His wisdom over the rise and fall of rulers, and His majestic holiness before which heaven worships. The God of Exodus 34 is the God of Revelation 15. He has always been worthy of our trust and praise.

And still, we have only begun! We will never exhaust the wonder of who God is. Return to these passages in the ordinary moments of life. When you are afraid, remember His wisdom and rule. When you are weary, remember His knowledge of your frailty. When you are conscious of sin, remember His holiness and mercy. When injustice troubles you, remember the foundation of His throne. Rather than making the world seem smaller, may knowing Him make His goodness seem greater and His promises more precious.

My hope is not that you finish with fifteen descriptions neatly filed away, but that you leave wanting to know Him more. Scripture has given us a magnificent invitation: to behold the living God as He has revealed Himself, and to respond with reverence, gratitude, obedience, love, and worship. What a privilege that we can know Him!

Our closing prayer

Father, what a gift that You have made Yourself known to us. We praise You for Your holiness and glory, for Your righteousness and perfect justice, for Your compassion, patience, goodness, and steadfast love. You are greater than anything we could imagine, and yet You have chosen to speak so that we may know You truly.

Forgive us for the times we have allowed our fears, circumstances, or limited understanding to shape our picture of You more than Your Word. Give us attentive hearts and teachable minds. Help us receive the whole truth about Your character—not only what comforts us, but also what calls us to reverence, repentance, and obedience.

Thank You for Your faithfulness through every generation and for revealing Yourself to us through Jesus Christ. As we open Your Word in the days ahead, may we never lose the wonder of who You are. Deepen our trust, enlarge our love, and make our lives an offering of grateful worship.

To You belong glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, now and forever. Amen.

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