



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn Your Bibles to Deuteronomy 32:3-4

Title: Stabilizing Truths, Part 2

Theme: The Greatness of God

“I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. (Deuteronomy 32:3-4)

Introduction: *This passage of Scripture is found in the “Song of Moses” with the opening verse saying, “Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.” (Deuteronomy 32:1)*

Proposition: I would propose to you that there are four different truths that the Holy Spirit wants you to grasp about the “Greatness of God.” When the Lord is allowed to illuminate these truths into the child of God, He will declare the greatness of God, announcing Him as strong and stable, as one who can be relied upon.

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what does the Bible say about the “Greatness of God?”*

Transitional Sentence: *The first truth to grasping and enjoying the greatness of God is to rest in the Sovereignty of God. In the New Testament we read three times of God being addressed in prayer and the people crying out to God praying, “O Sovereign Lord.” (Luke 2:29; Act 4:24; Revelations 6:10; International Dictionary of the Bible Encyclopedia)*

The application of the Greek word for “Sovereign Lord” (*despotes*) has been used by slaves in referring to their masters, slaves who are totally subjected to their master’s control over them. God being addressed as “Sovereign Lord,” projects the idea that the people petitioning Him consider themselves as slaves purchased and owned by Jesus Christ, people subjected to His absolute control over everything. (Practical Word Studies in the New Testament) The term means that He alone is God and no person, no being, nor ruling power, visible or invisible, physical or spiritual is outside of His hand to be blessed or cursed. He is above all and has authority over all things. (Romans 8:38-39; Colossians 1:16-17)

This is what God told Moses about His dealing with a stiff necked people, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” (Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:15)

In regards to God’s Sovereignty working in the free will of mankind, the Holy Spirit moved the Apostle Paul to write (Romans 9:16-17) (Romans 9:18-23)

The inscrutable sovereignty of God is manifested, not so much in the punishment of the reprobate, but in His gracious ability to draw sinful mankind to Himself. Those who enjoy the sovereignty of God are those who can rest with the fact that there are people out there who have no longing to respond to the Holy Spirit's drawing to Christ and to the ways of God. Yet, God can still work through them to accomplish His will and bring glory unto Himself and His Son. The Lord is fully able as He chooses to work through those who oppose Him as well as through those who trust and obey Him.

Pharaoh: (Exodus 8:15,32) (9:34-35) (Exodus 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:20.27; 11:10)

On the basis of the whole of Scripture, this does not mean God caused Pharaoh to sin and to be unyielding to the will of God. God never tempts mankind to sin. (James 1:13-14)

Our Sovereign Lord judged Pharaoh just as he would any other man. Pharaoh heard the truth, saw God clearly working, showing Himself as supreme. Pharaoh "sowed" a hardened heart thus he reaped a hardened heart. Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." Therefore, God made Pharaoh, his officials and his entire army into vessels of wrath showing the ultimate end of those who are against God's divine will.

God also makes vessels of noble uses. The Apostle Paul: (Romans 11:13; Galatians 2:8; 1 Timothy 2:7)

Christians who grasp the greatness of God say as the apostle Paul did, "...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." (Philippians 4:11-12)

Gregory Dawson wrote:

All Christians have the possibility of going down in history as Paul and Abraham Lincoln did, men who enjoyed the greatness of God.

Transitional Sentence: *God is great in His Sovereignty and He is great because of His ever-present help.* The Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1) The Lord says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10) This is a wonderful promise of deliverance.

Three metaphors that describe His ever-presence are, 1.) Refuge. 2.) Strength and 3.) Fortress. (Psalm 46:1, 7, 11)

As our “refuge” (*mahseh*) He is a person Christians can trust. (A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on OT and NT; International Standard Bible Encyclopedia) This trust gives Christians a sure hope and an ability to relax in the trials of this age. In every storm of life Christians are able to put their trust in the Lord because they have found Him to be that place of refuge.

Psalm 25 is a prayer Psalm that reflects the heart of a man who is after God’s own heart. In this Psalm there is a verse that shows the trust that David had developed in God. The King James Bible has the best translation with, “O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.” (Psalm 25:20) The child of God who lives a life of repentance before the Lord can make this same profession and have the same desire toward God as King David.

In regards to the Lord being the Christian’s “strength” (*oz*) He becomes ones strength for service and in trials. The Holy Spirit moved David to write, “For Thou has been a refuge for me, a tower of strength against the enemy.” (Psalm 61:3 NAS) I love the way the King James Bible put what the Apostle Paul came to understand in living for and working with the Lord Jesus, “I can do all things through Christ which [strengthens] me.” (Philippians 4:13) “Strengthen” (*endunamoo*) means to be made strong or vigorous to accomplish all that the Lord is calling you to do and/or withstand all that comes against you.

Fanny Crosby: Her work is still a blessing in the Lord’s church today. (Source: Jeff Strite)

His ever-present help is a fortress. “Fortress” (*misgah*) means having the Lord as a safe haven or a place of protection. Psalm 46:11 says, “The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Psalm 46:11)

We are under the protection of God and our proclamation is, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31b) (Romans 8:28-30)

F. B. Meyer wrote about two Germans: (Lou Nicholes, Our Daily Bread)

All of us are like those five men. We are in dangerous territory and we can slip at any time, but thank God Christians are bound in a living partnership to Christ. He stands even after taking on the sins of the world so we will never perish as long as we stay connected to Him. He is our stronghold in our ascent to higher ground in the Lord’s work and in living the Christian life.

Transitional Sentence: *God is great because His ever-present help is available to Christians at all times in life and because His truths remain the same.* Malachi 3:6 says, “I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.” (Malachi 3:6a) We have here a declaration about the Lord God, His attribute is changeless and He will ultimately have a people who serve Him in a true God-fearing manner who will inherit His promises.

Keeping this passage of Scripture with the context of which it is written we must understand that there is a real danger of backsliding in our relationship with the Lord as we live down here. The Apostle Peter writes about making one's calling and election sure: (2 Peter 1:5-10)

Transitional Sentence: *God is great because His truths and eternal plan are unchanging, He will continue His work and we can be a part of it. He is also great because He is Faithful.* The Bible says, "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands." (Deuteronomy 7:9) God is faithful to extend His love to one generation after another because it is His character to love, not because of the excellent of His people.

I recently read about a man who had experienced God's love through different people during his three day stay in the hospital. One day he said to the hospital chaplain, "I am beginning to see what [God's love] is all about. I saw it in the care in the nurses who cared for me. I have seen it in my parents' eyes who never left my side, even when I was living wrong, outside of God's will. I saw in the faces of those who came to visit. I saw it in those who forgave me for what I did to their car and for the hurt I caused them. I guess I found what [love] was all about by looking at people who knew what [God's love] was about. A love that upholds and surrounds me, the love of God through Christ instilled in each life [lived for Him.]" (Tim Zingale)

In Closing: Let Christians proclaim the greatness of God because of His Sovereignty. He is in absolute control and able to glorify His name through vessels of wrath or vessels of noble use. He is an ever-present help, He is our refuge, our strength and our fortress. His truths remains the same, he will keep a remnant faithful to Himself. Lastly, He is faithful in showing His love to a thousand generation of those who love Him and express that love by obeying His commands.

Let us Pray!