

WHAT THE PSALMISTS SAY ABOUT GOD

INTRODUCTION

- A. Scripture gives us clear pictures of what God is like.
- B. God promises blessing for reading and listening to His Word.
- C. God wants us to know Him not just to know about Him.

WHAT GOD IS LIKE

- A. God is our Protector
 - Psalm 3:1-4, *O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.*
 - Howard Taylor, *If you take care of the things that are dear to God, He will take care of the things that are dear to you.*
- B. God is holy
 - Psalm 5:4-6, *For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.*
 - C. S. Lewis, *It is when we notice the dirt that God is most present in us.*
- C. God is majestic
 - Psalm 8:1-4, *O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*
 - John Calvin, *...men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God.*
- D. God blesses His children
 - Psalm 9:1-2, *I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*
 - Alexander Maclaren, *If God sends us on stony paths, He will provide us with strong shoes.*
- E. God is our trusted Teacher
 - Psalm 25:4-5, *Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*
 - John Wesley, *Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man who can comprehend the Triune God!*
- F. God is faithful
 - Psalm 36:5-6, *Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.*
 - Hudson Taylor, *In the greatest difficulties, in the heaviest trials, in the deepest poverty and necessities, God has never failed me.*
- G. God is our Deliverer
 - Psalm 40:1-3, *I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.*
 - Charles Swindoll, *The Lord doesn't promise to give us something to take so we can handle our weary moments. He promises us Himself. That is all. And that is enough.*
- H. God satisfies our deepest needs
 - Psalm 42:1-2, *As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the*

living God.

- F. B. Meyer, *The love of God toward you is like the Amazon River flowing down to water a single daisy.*

- I. God is our strength
- Psalm 46:1-3, *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*
 - Augustine, *When God is our strength, it is strength indeed; when our strength is our own, it is only weakness.*
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- K. God is our future hope
- Psalm 84:1-2, *How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.*
 - Martin Luther, *In our sad condition our only consolation is the expectancy of another life. Here below all is incomprehensible.*
- L. God is sovereign
- Psalm 97:1-5, *The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.*
 - Oswald Chambers, *God is never in a panic, nothing can be done that He is not absolute Master of, and no one on earth or in heaven can shut a door He has opened, nor open a door He has shut.*
- M. God is good
- Psalm 106:1, *Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!*
 - Allen Gardiner, *I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God!* This was found in his diary after an accident in which he died. The diary told of hunger, persecution, and suffering he had experienced.
- N. God is unique, Psalm 113:4-9, *The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!*
- O. God is worthy of our worship
- Psalm 115:1, *Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*
 - Augustine, *You awaken us to delight in Your praise; for You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.*
- P. God is worthy of our love
- Psalm 116:1-2, *I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.*
 - Ralph Sockman, *Our love for God is tested by whether we seek Him or His gifts.*

CONCLUSION

- A. Knowing about God is a matter of the mind but knowing God is matter of the heart.
 B. Archbishop of Canterbury, *The longest spiritual journey is from head to heart.*
 C. May we get to know God out of delight not duty.