

OUR GOD IS A GREAT GOD

Yes, it is so true – Our God is a Great God. The only problem with that statement is that we need to, no, we must know, who we are referring to. The word “God” today has taken many different directions. In some thoughts it refers to many different gods. In many religions it is referring to a god who says he is God but is really not the one and only true God. Even in some “Christian” circles we must truly know who they truly are referring to as God. Not everyone is referring to the same living God, unfortunately.

The true God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is the God found in the very first scripture in the Bible as we read, *“In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth.”* The word “God” in the very first scripture of the Bible declares that He is *‘Elohiym*. This refers to the One and only true God of all gods. It refers to the one and only true God.

He is called many other terms as found within the Bible. There are over 100 terms referring to God as found within the scriptures. Terms such as the Almighty, the Amen, Emmanuel, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, etc., refer to the one and only true God. He is actually named in the Old Testament, the Jewish scriptures, as El, Elohim, El Shaddai, Yahweh, Yahweh-Jireh, Yahweh-Rophe, Yahweh-Nissi, etc. In the New Testament He is referred to as Kurios, I Am, The Word, the Almighty, etc. The true God is so vast that He must be referred to and can only be referred to in many ways – not simply one name or term.

In essence God is, and therefore He is expressed, as being our “everything.” That is who our God is. That is who the true God is. He never changes. He always was, is and will be the same. The scriptures tell us in the James 1:17, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is **no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**”* What this scripture is literally saying to us is that “God never changes.” That is the truth concerning God – He **never** changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. It tells us this fact in Hebrews 13:8 when it states very clearly, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*

Jesus and the Father are one. That is what Jesus Himself states in John 10:30 as He declares, *“I and the Father are one.”* In this scripture Jesus was referring to Himself as not simply a messenger of God but that He actually was and is God. This seemed to be a blasphemous statement, especially to the Jewish listeners for they were ready to take up stones to stone Him. This kind of statement was worth “legally,” according to Jewish Law, of being stoned to death. The blessed truth in this is that He **wasn’t** stoned. He was able to simply answer their inquiries and He walked away. Why? Simply because it wasn’t His “time” to die. It was not in the way that He was to be put to death. He was not to be stoned but rather He was to be crucified.

Jesus declared that He was of equal power with God. He declares this over and over. Again, this was a “blasphemous” statement worthy of being stoned. But He wasn’t. Again this refers to us that it was not His time to die and that, yes, He was God - absolutely.

Next, Jesus referred to Himself as God’s Son and to God as His Father (John 10:36–37). He used Psalm 82:6 to show that the Messiah, who He declared Himself to be, had the right to claim the title “Son of God.” The Jewish people at that time, as well as the Jewish people and many, many others today heard Him say who He was but they did not and still do not believe Him and in who He is. It was no secret. He outwardly said it. People heard Him. They had the choice to either believe Him or not. The same is very true today.

Our God is truly the one and only true God. This may seem very simplistic to many of us. To be truthful, it really is a very simplistic statement. However, in today’s world it seems as though may be a very ominous statement. It seems to be getting lost in the shuffle of things. It seems as though everything pertaining to

this truth is being pushed to the side. In many venues it is being blatantly expressed while in many more dubious ways it is being expressed in the lack of standing fast concerning the truth of who God truly is.

In many venues there is a silence when these issues are broached. In other venues there is an out and out rebellion against the standards of God's Word and its true meaning. There is a stand for many things of this world, using the Word of God to push across their own beliefs and opinions. Many are making God's Word say what they want it to say and express. Many are misusing God's Word to push their own mistruths, lies and actual sinful ways.

Now this may seem a little harsh on my part. However, I believe it is so very, very clear in the world today – and it is getting clearer. This is all part of God's plan. He is allowing these lies and deceptions to be expressed. He is allowing every individual to make their own choice in whom and in what they will believe in or not believe in. God has always done it this way. He never forces Himself upon anyone. He allows every person to make their own decision.

That is exactly what I wish to express. It is our own decision. It is not the decision of who we listen to. It is each and every person's own decision to hear the truth which ultimately will make one free. It is the truth, His truth that will make one free from the bondage of sin and death; from going in the wrong direction and from doing the wrong things.

Unfortunately, God's truth is being perverted and being taken out of context. There is a great movement in today's "church" to tell us that the Old Testament is invalid and that we do not need to look at it. Along in that same movement there is the thinking that the Gospels are no longer useful because Jesus took care of it all while on cross. In that same movement there is the thinking that many of the letters in the New Testament are invalid and need not be looked at or studied.

Finally, there is a movement that is stating and teaching (and has been stating and teaching for many, many years) that the Book of Revelation has already been fulfilled and is no longer needed by the believer. In essence the Bible is being torn apart and only a few scriptures are being kept. I am sorry, but that is absolutely ludicrous and out and out blasphemous to state and teach such things.

As this is being done, it would seem as if God is being lost in the mix. Well, not really. God's Word is forever. It is the same, just as God is the same. It never changes just as God never changes. God, Jesus and the Word are all the same – yesterday, today and forever. That is what the Word of God teaches us. Somewhere in the mix, we have lost sight of that truth. We have "grown" so much in the Word it seems, that we have made the Word of God to be non-effective in our lives. We have come to the place where we have become greater than the Word. In essence we have made ourselves our own God and have left the true God out of our lives.

There must be a move of true repentance from this type of behavior and thinking. Unfortunately, there will not be many who will be willing to repent. They are not willing because they are being taught that repentance is also not of God anymore. They teach and are being taught that there is no need to repent. There is a teaching that the idea of repentance is "old" and there is no need for it anymore. I can go further into why they teach this but I really do wish to even express that irreverent and most fallible teaching. To be very out front about it all, I will simply say that it is wrong and most deceiving!!!

This all leads back to our title and the very first thing mentioned in our essay – "Our God is a Great God." So what does that mean? We have all heard it spoken of concerning the One and only true God. But – what do we mean when we say that?

Psalm 145:3 (KJV) states it very clearly, *“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”* The word “great” used in this scripture comes from the Hebrew word, *“gadol”* which is an adjective that describes who God is. This word comes from the root Hebrew word, *“gadol”* which is a verb that means to be or to make powerful, to make or be magnified. It is a word that is used to the highest degree of the form to be powerful or to be magnified. It is referring to God as the most powerful and the most magnified of everything that there is – over **all** things.

This same word is used in describing our “great” God in 1Chronicles 16:25 and Psalm 48:1. Both times it is expressing how “great” God is. In all these verses it uses the term LORD which is translated from the Hebrew word Yahweh which express the proper name of the One and only true living God – Yahweh. As we know the Hebrew actually is YHWH. We have added the vowels over the years for pronunciation. This is referring to and points us to YHWH – the One and only true and living God. It points us to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It points us to the God of Moses and of David. Of course it points us to the Father God who is the Father who Jesus, who also is God, points us to.

God the Father is God, the first person of the Trinity. Jesus is God. He is the second person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. These three are God. They are one in the same, yet they are three distinct persons with three distinct functions. This is very difficult for any of us to truly grasp a hold of and to truly “figure out.” However, the Bible is clear. This is who they are. They are three distinct persons – yet they are one. I am sorry but I don’t truly believe that there is anyone who can truly grasp nor can they truly explain this fact. That is where faith comes in. We simply just need to believe it.

Throughout the Bible we see that God is “great.” We see this from the creation of the world, to the parting of the Red Sea, to the miracles of Christ, to the final judgment. The only true response that we as believers must do when we hear of and read of how “great” our God is to truly humble ourselves, worship Him and adore Him.

Psalm 71:19 tells us that God cannot be compared to anyone or anything else as it states, *“Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, **who is like unto thee!**”* Since He created everything in existence, He is far superior to all of those creations. He is bigger, in the sense that He cannot be confined by time or space. He is wiser, using foolish things to confound those who think themselves wise (1Corinthians 1:27). He is infinite, while all created things are finite (Psalm 90:2).

God, in fact, defines the term “great.” All other uses of the word “great” are mere echoes of His greatness. The word “great” can never ever truly be used as the definitive definition of who God is because it simply cannot fully express or define or tell who He is. God is vastly superior to any word that we can use to try to describe Him. We can try to come close but we can never truly “get there” in expressing how **GREAT** our God truly is.

What I am trying to say is that God is simply beyond our finite understanding. There have been many, many people that have tried to explain who God is and who He is not. The truth of the matter is that God is God and that is final. We can never ever truly grasp His greatness. We can never ever truly grasp nor understand all of His ways. He will “let us in” on things as they happen or He may even let us know before they happen. The truth of the matter is that He has everything under control – His control.

Throughout the Bible when He speaks to His people there is a common thread that we see underlining everything that will be done by our God. That underlying thread in which God always desires His people to have and walk in and live in is to simply trust in Him and who He is and what He is going to do.

The question for us today that we truly need to settle within our heart this day is, "Do we truly trust Him when He tells us something?" Do we truly believe that our God is a "great" God? We must know the answer to these questions within our heart of hearts. We must have this settled in this hour when everything is "hitting the fan."

If we believe the scriptures, there are difficult and even perilous times ahead that we are going to have to face. This can range from things in our everyday lives to His prophecies found within the Word that still need to be accomplished concerning the end times and His coming return. The question we must continually ask ourselves is this, "Is God great?" Is He greatly to be praised in all things? Do we trust His greatness? The answer to these questions in these days that we are living in should be, must be and are a resounding, **YES!!!**

"God is great and greatly to be praised!!!"
Amen and amen!!!