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Our God Is Majestic

DEUTERONOMY 29:11

Introduction

1. Over the last few weeks on Sunday, we have sought to know God just a little better.
2. One of the aspects of His character which cannot escape our notice is the fact that the God you and I serve is majestic.
3. To say that God is majestic is to say that he exhibits majesty.
4. What is majesty? We often hear a king or queen referred to as "Your majesty," but what does it mean?
5. Our word 'majesty' comes from a Latin root (*magis*) which has to do with greatness.
6. When we ascribe greatness to someone, we are acknowledging greatness in that person and voicing our respect for him or her (i.e., 'Her Majesty' the Queen).

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7. A number of times in God's Word, we find the word 'majesty' being used to express the thought of God's greatness:

"There is none like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to your help, and through the skies in His majesty." (Deuteronomy 33:26, NASB95)

"For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him, strength and joy are in His place." (1 Chronicles 16:25–27, NASB95)

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“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.” (1 Chronicles 29:11, NASB95)

8. Our knowledge of God’s greatness should motivate us to worship and trust Him.
9. However, when our faith seems weak and our worship lacks vitality, it may be because we lack this knowledge.
10. More often the emphasis we find placed upon our knowledge of God today is not of His divine *majesty* but upon Him as One who is *personal*.
11. Such an emphasis has a tendency to leave us with the impression that God is of the same nature as we are — finite and limited.
12. This is not the God of Scripture:
 - a. He is not finite and limited — He is infinite, eternal, all powerful.
 - b. Yes, He is personal, but unlike us, He is also great.
13. While the Bible does present to us God’s concern for His people — things like His gentleness, His tenderness, His sympathy and the compassion He has for us, it never lets us lose sight of His majesty, and His unlimited dominion over all His creation.

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I. These Two Aspects Of God’s Nature Are Revealed To Us In The Early Pages Of Scripture

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A. WE ARE INTRODUCED TO HIS PERSONAL NATURE

1. He deliberates with Himself.

“Let us make man in our image . . .” (Genesis 1:26).
2. He brings the animals to Adam to see what he will name them (Genesis 2:19).

3. He walks in the garden, calling to Adam, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9).
4. He asks people questions:
 - a. Adam: “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” (Genesis 3:11).
 - b. Eve: “What is this you have done?” (Genesis 3:13).
 - c. Cain: “Where is Abel your brother?” (Genesis 4:9).
 - d. Hagar, Sarah’s handmaid: “Where have you come from and where are you going?” (Genesis 16:8).
5. He comes down from heaven to find out what men are doing:
 - a. Tower of Babel: “The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.” (Genesis 11:5, NASB95)
 - b. Sodom & Gomorrah: “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.” (Genesis 18:20, NASB95)
6. Such representations as these reveal to us a God who is neither impersonal nor indifferent.
7. No. Our God is One who
 - a. Thinks, feels and acts.
 - b. Approves of good and disapproves of evil.
 - c. Is interested in His creatures all the time.
8. However, we are not to think from these passages that our God is limited in knowledge or power.
9. Nor are we to see Him as one who is absent and unaware of what is going on in the world.

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B. THE SCRIPTURES ALSO EXPRESSES GOD’S GREATNESS

1. Our God is the Creator of all that exists.
 - a. He brings order out of chaos.
 - b. He calls life into being simply by speaking.
 - c. He makes Adam from dust and Eve from his rib (Genesis 2:7, 21-22).
2. God is sovereign over all He has made.
 - a. He curses the ground and subjects mankind to physical death (Genesis 3:17ff).
 - b. He floods the earth in judgment, destroying all life except those who are on the Ark (Genesis 6-8).
 - c. He confounds human language and thus scatters mankind throughout the earth (Genesis 11:7ff.).
 - d. He overthrows Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24ff.)
 - e. Abraham rightly called Him “the Judge of all the earth” (Genesis 18:25).
 - f. He adopts Melchizedek’s name for Him, ‘God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth” (Genesis 14:19-22).
3. Our God is present everywhere and observes everything:
 - a. Cain’s murder (Genesis 4:9ff.)

“The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground” (Genesis 4:10).
 - b. Mankind’s corruption (Genesis 6:5)

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Genesis 6:5, NASB95)
 - c. Hagar’s destitution (Genesis 16:7ff.)

“Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from and where are you going?” (Genesis 16:8a).

- d. As a result, Hagar called Him, Elroi, “a God who sees” (Genesis 16:13).
- 4. God’s own name for Himself is *El Shaddai*, ‘God Almighty’ (Genesis 17:1)
 - a. When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless” (Genesis 17:1).
 - b. His actions demonstrate such omnipotence.
 - c. He promised Abraham and Sarah a son in their nineties, and rebuked Sarah for her unbelief — “Is anything too difficult for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14).
 - d. Not only does God take control of specific events in the moment, but all history is under his direction.
 - e. His promise to make of Abraham a great nation and to bless all the families of the earth through him (Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:12-21) was patiently brought to fulfillment ultimately resulting in the coming of Jesus Christ.
 - ❑ Such majesty, such greatness is seen in just in the first few chapters of Genesis.
- 5. The question for each of us is, “How do we make sure that we have a correct understanding of God’s greatness?”
- 6. In order to accomplish this, there are two things we must do.

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II. Remove From Our Thinking Those Limits We Place Upon God

A. GOD IS UNLIMITED IN HIS PRESENCE

- 1. You and I are always in His presence.
- 2. We may hide ourselves from those around us, but not from God (Psalm

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- a. There is no place to which we may go that God is not present (vv. 8-12).

“If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,”
Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.”

(Psalm 139:8–12, NASB95)

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- b. He is even present as we are being formed in our mother’s womb (vv. 13-16a).

“For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother’s womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
Your eyes have seen my unformed substance”

(Psalm 139:13–16a, NASB95)

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B. GOD IS UNLIMITED IN HIS KNOWLEDGE

“O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.
You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too high, I cannot attain it.”

(Psalm 139:1–5, NASB95)

1. Just as you and I are never left alone, we never go unnoticed.
2. We may be able to hide the deepest inclinations of our hearts, the secrets of our past and our future plans from those around us, but there is nothing which we can hide from God.
3. We may deceive those around us, but nothing we can say or do deceives God.
4. His is always with us and His eye is always upon us.
5. How humbling is it to realize that every moment of your life is spent in the sight and company of the One who is all-knowing and ever-present.

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C. GOD IS UNLIMITED IN HIS POWER

1. Both DC and Marvel Comics have brought in a good sum of money for movie studios over the last 12 years with their various super heroes.

2. However, if you watched any of the movies, you realized they each had their weaknesses.
3. Not so with our God.
4. All around us we see evidence of His power.

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5. Long ago, David looked up at the heavens, one starry night, and declared,
“O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!”

(Psalm 8:1)

6. In the prologue to his gospel, John spoke of the eternal Word and wrote,
“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:3, NASB95).
7. In speaking of our Lord, the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Christians in Colossee, “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16, NASB95).
8. As David considered the complexity of his own physical body, he was compelled to praise God, “I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well” (Psalm 139:14, NASB95).

[The second thing we must do to make sure we have a correct understanding of God’s greatness is . . .]

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III. Compare God’s Greatness To Those Things We May Consider To Be Great

A. ASPECTS OF CREATION ITSELF (ISAIAH 40:12)

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
And marked off the heavens by the span,
And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,
And weighed the mountains in a balance
And the hills in a pair of scales?”

(Isaiah 40:12, NASB95)

1. Ask yourself, “could I do this?” or “could any man do this?”
2. Are you wise enough or powerful enough to accomplish these things?

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B. THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH (ISAIAH 40:15-17)

“Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.
Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,
Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
All the nations are as nothing before Him,
They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.”

(Isaiah 40:15–17, NASB95)

1. Consider the great national powers down through the centuries — Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, Rome — each with their own vast armies and resources.
2. Are any of these a match for God? No.

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C. THE EARTH ITSELF (ISAIAH 40:22)

“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.”

(Isaiah 40:22, NASB95)

1. Consider the size of our earth, its complexity, the vast sky above it.
2. The earth dwarfs each one of us, and yet God dwarfs the earth.
3. As a matter of fact, God calls the earth His “footstool” (Isaiah 66:1).

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D. CONSIDER THE WORLD’S GREAT MEN (ISAIAH 40:23-24)

“He it is who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.”

(Isaiah 40:23–24, NASB95)

1. Consider those men who have ruled a portion of the world down through the ages (kings, emperors, presidents, etc.) and those who have sat in judgment over others throughout that same period.
2. Do any of these men actually determine the way in which the world will go?

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E. CONSIDER THE STARS IN THE SKY (ISAIAH 40:26)

“Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these stars,
The One who leads forth their host by number,
He calls them all by name;

Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing.”

(Isaiah 40:26, NASB95)

1. Stand outside on a clear night and look up at the stars.
2. Our Sun belongs to what is known as the Milky Way Galaxy.
3. Astronomers estimate there are 100 thousand billion stars in this galaxy alone.
4. Talk about feeling small and insignificant!
5. God is their Maker and Master.
6. Not only does He have the whole world in His hands, He has everything beyond it as well.

Conclusion

1. I think you get the idea — there is no one like our God.
2. His greatness is beyond an comparison.
3. Our response is to say with David of old, “How majestic is Your name in all the earth” (Psalm 8:1).
4. And yet, in spite of His greatness, He chooses to stoop down and save us.
5. How do you respond to such a God?
6. We must acknowledge our need for Him and the salvation He offers.
7. Will you humble yourself in His presence tonight?