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Reverencing God Is Easy

Lita Aleese

Founder & Executive Editor

Michelle D. Mardenborough

Staff Writers

Ethlyn O. Farrell

Nishon Geary

Lita Aleese

Editorial Director

Nishon Geary

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results in

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results in

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Rewards

Psalm 111:10

Lita Aleese

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"Where there is no vision, the people perish."
Proverbs 29:18

Lord, You reign. You are clothed with majesty and strength. Your throne is established of old. You are from everlasting. Psalm 93:1-2. How wonderful it is to get up in the morning and speak out words of praise, honor, adoration and high esteem to my God, the Great I Am. I love the early morning hours when creation is quiet. It seems like all the world takes a backseat to my time with Him. It is not a time to ask Him for anything or to pray for someone else. This is a time to reverence Him. The Prophet Samuel encouraged the children of Israel to always love God, keep Him ever before them and follow His precepts. Deuteronomy 5,6,7. He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deut. 6:5. In essence they were to reverence, hold in high esteem their Lord God who was their covenant keeper and this mindset should transfer to how they dealt with His creation, His people, and with all that represented Him. This same principle hasn't changed and is still in effect today. God has an expected, good end for all His children. When we truly love and trust God reverencing Him becomes easy and natural to do. He is our Creator, we exist because of His love towards us. Why would we not reverence, and honor the Creator? He is the Self Existing One, deserving of all the praise and all the glory forever and ever!

God is Sovereign

When hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans bringing suffering and death to that region of the United States, many questioned God's authority. Tragedies such as, the conflict in Dafur, the Virginia Tech massacre and the Illinois church shooting makes one wonder if God is really in control. From the beginning of time mankind has struggled with the sovereignty of God. **Is God in control?** Does man have a free will? Scholars and philosophers have attempted to explore these seemingly illusive questions. For the most part, their efforts have resulted in additional questions rather than concrete answers. Mankind's intense desire to know is by no means coincidental. The desires for an answer to one's deepest questions are innate characteristics placed in man by almighty God. However, until one recognizes the omnipotence and sovereignty of God, as well as trust Him as their loving Father they will never be totally satisfied or content with an answer. We must be reminded that all events, great and small, are embraced in God's sovereign providence. He has not resigned the reins of government. Present history is not moving towards chaos. It is moving in the grand drama of God's plan to the accomplishment of His holy designs and to the vindication of His glory." But what is God's plan or original idea for mankind? Surely God's holy design does not include thousands of innocent people losing their lives through a senseless act of terrorism on September 11, 2001. However, many people believe that God has chosen not to be in control; their belief is that God loves man enough to give him a free will to choose his ultimate destiny. Tony Campolo states "Realizing that God is not in control of all that happens (because God chooses not to be) we recognize that the sufferings and catastrophes since Adam and Eve are because of the freely-willed decisions of those who disobey God." God's original design for man is not hidden in dark secrecy but lies in His inspired holy word, the Bible. Therefore, for the true answer one must start in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible. Genesis spans more time than any other book in the Bible, it covers more than all sixty five other books of the Bible put together. Although Genesis does not directly name its author and although Genesis ends some three centuries before the birth of Moses, all of scripture and Biblical scholars adhere to the Mosaic

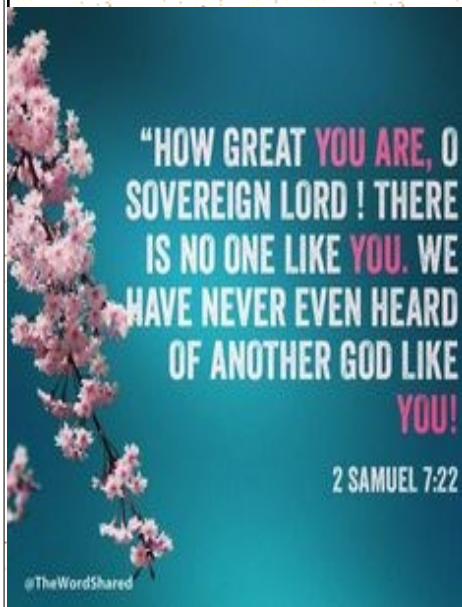
authorship of Genesis. The book of Genesis shows how human beings rebelled against God and fell under His judgment, but it also shows how God began to carry out His plans for their salvation. Genesis 1:26-28 states "Then God said "Let us make man in our own image according to our likeness and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and God said to them be fruitful, and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." Genesis 1:26-28 clearly reveals God original intent for mankind. God's initial mandate for man was to be blessed, fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and rule over the earth." However, if that is God's original plan and if He is truly sovereign why would He allow such evil and wickedness to run rampant in the world? How could a loving God allow war, ethnic cleansing, environmental destruction, oppression, famine, and political and religious corruption? Due to this, many skeptics resolve that God is not sovereign, because a sovereign God would not allow such horrific events to occur. So the mere knowledge of God's original plan still leaves the question of God's sovereignty unanswered. Therefore, one must first understand the meaning of sovereignty. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines sovereignty as "Supremacy of authority or rule, as exercised by a sovereign or sovereign state." One must further understand that even though God is sovereign, His original plan gave mankind rulership over the earth. God intended man to rule the earth. Psalms 115:16-17 states "The heavens are heavens of the Lord, but the earth he has given to the sons of men." But unfortunately man relinquished his rulership to Satan in the Garden of Eden. The Bible tells how the serpent was extremely crafty and how he deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit. Adam also disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit. This single act of disobedience was the beginning of man's decline and the earth's chaos and disorder. **Myles Munroe states in *The Most Important Person on Earth* "By their rebellion, the children (Adam and Eve) not only took something that wasn't theirs, but they also handed it over to someone who didn't deserve it and would never be qualified for it.** Lucifer the unfaithful former general of heaven would never transform the world into the heavenly kingdom. He would transform it to something completely opposite, a kingdom of darkness."

satan's rulership So did Adam and Eve willingly choose to relinquish their rulership on the earth to Satan? Did God know before hand that they would choose to do so? Second Corinthians 4:3-4 states "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel who is the glory of Christ who is the image of God." This scripture clearly identifies Satan as the god of this world. Ephesians 2:2 also refers to satan as the "prince of the air." The Bible clearly shows that satan is currently ruling the earth. In John 10:10 Jesus verifies that "the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy but I come that they might have life and have it abundantly." The thief in this passage is satan the god of this world. Even though satan is currently the god of this world, God's original intent never changed. He must remain committed to His plan. Numbers 23:19 states "God is not a man that He should lie nor a son of man that He should repent; has He said and will He not do it." Skeptics would have one to believe that God chose to relinquish His sovereignty, that He put His omnipotence on a shelf temporarily. As the scripture states, "God is not a man", He does not change His mind or go back and forth. God is sovereign; He is above all and superior to all. If God said it He must stand by His word. When a mandate or directive is given by an earthly King he is not allowed to retract it. In the book of Daniel, King Darius was tricked into signing a decree that stated for thirty days all citizens must bow and worship the royal statue or be thrown into the lion's den. When Daniel was told of the decree he continued his normal practice of praying towards Jerusalem three times a day. When it was brought to the King's attention he felt terrible because he could not retract his words. The Bible reports in Daniel 6:14-16 "Then as soon as the King heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him. Then these men came to by agreement to the king, Recognize O king that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed." How much more is this statement true for the almighty God, sovereign and Lord of the universe? Simply put, God can not retract His word nor will He abort His plans. God's plan absolutely demonstrates His sovereignty. His holy plan could not have been scripted by anyone but an omnipotent, all powerful and loving God. To understand the latter part of God's plan one must look further in Genesis. Genesis 3:15 states "And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." **contd. pg.3**

Continued - God is Sovereign

In this passage God is speaking directly to the serpent, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God decreed that an eternal struggle would continue between the serpent, the woman and generations to come. God makes a promise. The heart of the promise is the coming of an offspring through a woman who will break the power of the adversary over mankind and regain the authority and dominion that was lost. This promise refers to restoration, and reconciliation through the Lord Jesus Christ Don Fleming writes in Concise Bible Commentary that "Henceforth, the human race (the descendants of Eve) would be in constant conflict with Satan. A snake might injure a man by biting his heel, but a man can kill a snake by crushing its head. Humankind had been successfully attacked by Satan, but through Jesus Christ humankind would eventually conquer Satan though the conquest would involve suffering" Adam's act of disobedience did not catch God off guard. God's original plan for mankind will transpire. God must remain true to His word. God's holy divine plan includes a redeemer and His name is Jesus Christ. Even though, mankind's relationship was severed God in His great mercy and longsuffering could not leave man in that broken state forever. God's divine plan to reconcile man back to Him began with Abraham. Because of Abraham's faith, and love for God, God proclaimed Abraham the father of His chosen people, the Israelites. As God's chosen people, they received prophecies and teachings of God from the prophets. The children of Israel were in great anticipation of God's promise to send a messiah for the redemption of sin. The prophet Isaiah prophesied the coming of the messiah in Isaiah 53:11-12," As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant will justify the many, As He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out to Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressor." The Bible records over 300 prophecies which fulfilled the pre existence; immaculate birth, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, 400 years before crucifixion was even invented, both Israel's King David and the prophet Zechariah described Jesus Christ death in words that perfectly portrayed that form of execution. They said that His body would be pierced and that none of His bones would be broken, which was contrary to customary procedure in cases of crucifixion. However, historians and New Testament writers alike confirm the fulfillment that Jesus of Nazareth died on a Roman cross, and his amazingly quick death eliminated the need for the usual breaking of bones. Also, a spear was thrust into his side to verify that he was definitely dead. Only an all knowing, all powerful, sovereign God could align events to such accuracy and precision. God's love for mankind sent Jesus Christ into the

the world to perfectly atone for the forgiveness of sin. John 3:16-17 states "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Jesus death on the cross was of paramount importance to the completion of God's divine plan but God is not finished there is more prophecy yet to be fulfilled. The Bible foretells of the wickedness that would reign, as well as signs of Jesus Christ second coming. In Matthew 24:6-31 the Bible provides an explicit description of what is to come. But the great news for the believer is that God will be victorious and that Jesus Christ will reign supreme.



Mankind will be restored back to God's original plan and the earth will rest from the chaos and madness that it has experienced over the past four thousand years. In the book of Romans 8:18-21 Paul states "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly but because of Him who subjected it in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. God's invincible plan is moving at a momentum that can not be ignored. Signs of a failing economy, famine at an all time high, earthquakes, tsunamis, and war are all mentioned as the beginning of things to come in the book of Matthew.

Matthew 24:14 states "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations and then the end will come." This prophetic statement is being fulfilled at an unstoppable force. The February issue of Charisma's magazine main article was entitled "God's moment for India." The article reports "So far, about 12.4 million Indians have come to Christ in Gomes' meetings, but that is a small number compared to the total who has embraced Christianity in India in recent years. The nation of more than 1 billion people is on the verge of a spiritual upheaval." Christianity is on the increase like never before. The good news of God's plan for mankind has reached over 2.1 billion people worldwide which totals approximately one third of the world's population. God's divine plan to redeem fallen mankind can not be stopped. He is all powerful, all knowing, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. Furthermore, God is a loving father, who has given man the free will to trust and obey Him. Therefore, both God's sovereignty and mankind's responsibility are at work. Skeptics consider this a contradiction, and from a fallen, dead to sin viewpoint it is. However, from God's viewpoint it is not. The last chapter of history will be written by God not Satan. The February 2009 issue of Word of Faith magazine states "Things can be different now if we'll believe God. Things will be different here if we'll trust Him." God is in control, He is working behind the scenes to accomplish His purposes. Therefore, no matter what it looks like, no matter what the atheist or skeptic says, no matter what the economist says, no matter what the media says, God will complete all that He promised to do. God is sovereign and His master plan to redeem, restore and reconcile the world back to Himself will prevail.

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The Temple of God

A Beautiful You

Ethlyn O. Farrell

When we hear the word temple, the picture that comes to mind is a place of worship. This is a true and common thought, Webster's defines temple as a "building for worship." However, God calls our body His temple. He chose to make us in His image and when we mess up he still pursue d us through His son. In 1Corinthians 6: 19-20 it states "*What? know he not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which he have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are brought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's.*" In view of what the Bible states God expects us to be good stewards or caretakers of our bodies. Jesus paid for mankind with His life, that's how valuable you are to God. We have to guard our health by eating a wholesome diet, getting adequate rest and exercise and being responsible for our temple. Our father God has given us the best of all things for us to be successful in life. His best for us is stated in 3 John 2, "*Beloved above all things I wish that thou should prosper and be in health even as thy soul pros-*



Good health is a blessing and a gift. Our choices will affect every area of our lives. Whatever our goals are whether it is weight loss by starting an exercise program or making a commitment to rest and relax, let's strive for the finish-line. King Solomon was chosen to build a temple for God (1 Kings 6:1,) and he use the best material that was available. The people bought so much that the king had to ask them to stop. They gave there best just like God did for us. Today we go to our churches and we have committees that clean ,decorate and do whatever is necessary to keep our buildings beautiful. When there's an event we will do whatever needs to be done in preparation for the occasion: We usually spare no expense because nothing is to good for the House of the Lord. We must have the exact standards for our personal temple. Our body, which is the temple of God is a priority. We are the House where God resides. Therefore let's take care of ourselves; spare no expense, enhancing and accentuating the beautiful temple that God chose to live in.

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