

'Building Blocks of Faith Series'

Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

Message 14 - 'Worship with Wonder' Nehemiah 9: 1-6



In these verses we continue to see a great reviving amongst the people of God in Jerusalem. The Scriptures make it clear that the centrality of this is the understanding of the wonder of God, as revealed in the preaching of the Word, and stemming from that there has been a consciousness of sin amongst the people. As God has continued to pour out His grace on them, they have been convicted, repented, been cleansed, celebrated, and now they are convicted of their sin once more. The remarkable thing that becomes very clear is that the people had an increased awareness of the greatness of God. In any great movement of God, there is this sense of God that is real, it is close, it is humbling, it is awe-inspiring. The God of the Bible is marvellous in His greatness, and we the verses here suggest five reasons why:

1. The God of the Bible is Great because He Receives Our Worship - True worship of the living God involves many practical elements, but it must have at its heart a soul saved by grace. We are unable to worship unless the Lord has worked in us. However, we see a number of aspects of the practices of worship in these verses here in Nehemiah. We see, the proclamation of the Scriptures (v3), praise offered to God, there is prayer, confession of sin, and also a very real separation from that which displeased God. True worship always has to be God-centred, God-directed, and heaven-bound. To embrace the world's standards in our worship is surely to stray from the holy and reverent worship that God requires of His people.

2. The God of the Bible is Great because He Alone is God - This fact ascribes to Him the greatness that is due to His name. When a person understands the law of God, and in particular, the 10 Commandments, the first two very clearly declare and emphasise the uniqueness and greatness of God. His greatness demands our devotion, moreso for the believer when there is a realisation of what He has done in giving to us the covenant of grace. When there is a great movement of God, the majesty of God, the uniqueness of God, becomes very real. The understanding that He alone is to be exalted and worshiped in a way that is pleasing to Him becomes very real. There is no slackness before Him. The Christian is to bear witness to this reality, to His greatness, and the world will see the difference!

3. The God of the Bible is Great because He is the Creator God - Throughout the Old Testament there are many occasions when God has pointed to creation to encourage His people. He would remind them that His hand was behind creation (Isaiah 40). This would also be pointed to remind the Israelites of the foolishness of worshipping idols. For the believer, the realisation that God is the God of creation enables us to see His greatness, but it also is a reservoir of great comfort and security. Idolatry forgets this and becomes ensnared in worship something created rather than the Creator.

4. The God of the Bible is Great because He is the Sustaining God - God's greatness is seen in the fact that even now He is sustaining creation. If He was to remove His hand then all would cease to be. Right now, your very breath is supplied by Him. God did not create and then withdraw, He upholds this creation, which is incredible.

5. The God of the Bible is Great because the Hosts of Heaven Worship Him - We can never do the work of angels, but we can similarly worship the great God before His throne in our devotion to Him. In fact, if anything, for the believer, then we have a greater cause to worship Him than they! For he has dealt graciously with us, bountifully, in taking us from the pit and saving us. Saved by the grace of God, and His arm is mighty to save. We have been given a great hope of glory to come, when we shall see the Saviour, when we shall be made to be like Christ.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs