

The Great God

July 6, 2014

Ps 99:3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name

I. Introduction

Dt 10:17 For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.

This phrase is both a name and a description of God. Moses reminded the Israelites, "The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome."

Heb = El HaGadol

He is great in all ways: His nature, His attributes, His deeds, and His size.

He is in fact "the great God who formed everything" (see Pr 26:10).

He is exalted above everything that people worship or rely on. Isaiah says:

Isa 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, "My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure."

II. The name "Great God"

A. The great God

Dt 10:17 For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.

Ezr 5:8 "Let it be known to the king that we have gone to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God, which is being built with huge stones, and beams are being laid in the walls; and this work is going on with great care and is succeeding in their hands.

Ne 1:5 I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

Ne 8:6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Ne 9:32 "Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness,

Dan 2:45 "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

B. A great God

Dt 7:21 "You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.

C. You are great

2 Sa 7:22 "For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

D. He (who) is great

Ne 4:14 When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

Ps 48:1-2 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion in the far north, the city of the great King.

Ps 77:13 Your way, O God, is holy; What god is great like our God?

Ps 95:3 For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods,

Psalm 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great And that our Lord is above all gods.

E. Our great God

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

III. He is Great in:

Nature

Dt 10:17 "For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.

Works

Jdg 2:7 The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

Great things He has done

Dt 10:21-22 "He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

The greatness of God has redeemed us

Dt 9:26 "I prayed to the LORD and said, 'O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people, even Your inheritance, whom You have redeemed through Your greatness ,

Victory

2 Sa 23:10 He arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary and clung to the sword, and the LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to strip the slain.

2 Sa 23:12 But he took his stand in the midst of the plot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the LORD brought about a great victory.

Glory

Psalm 21:5 His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him.

Mercy (compassion, lovingkindness)

2 Chr 1:8 Solomon said to God, "You have dealt with my father David with great lovingkindness, and have made me king in his place.

Ne 13:22 God, have compassion on me according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness.

Ps 51:1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

Ps 69:13 O God, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness, Answer me with Your saving truth.

Ps 69:16 According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me,

Power

Dt 4:34-37 "Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within another nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? 35 "To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him. 36 " Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire. 37 " Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power,

Ps 66:3 Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You.

Ps 145:6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, And I will tell of Your greatness .

The crowd was amazed at the greatness of God when Jesus casted out a demon (Lk 9:37-45).
Lk 9:43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Signs

Dt 6:22-23 Moreover, the LORD showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.'

Wrath

2 Chr 34:21 "Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book which has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD which is poured out on us because our fathers have not observed the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book."

His greatness is unsearchable

Ps 145:3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.

IV. Jesus Christ is:

The Great God

Ti 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

The Great Prophet

Lk 7:16 Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!"

The Great Priest

Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

The Great King

Lk 1:32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

Rev 11:17 saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

The Great Shepherd

Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

Jesus is the "great Shepherd" in view of what His death for us has accomplished. He did more than just die so that His sheep might continue to have earthly life. More importantly, "through the blood of the everlasting covenant," Jesus has made us "complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight." Thus, as the "great Shepherd," Jesus has enabled us to live in harmony with God here and now, and also to do His will daily (from, Every name of God in the Bible).

V. Greatness applied to believers:

A. In worship we are to ascribe greatness to God!

Ps 150:2 Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness .

Dt 32:3-4 "For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."

1 Ch 29:10-11 David blessed God saying; "to God alone is the greatness"

1 Ch 29:10-11 So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 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."

Ne 8:6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, " Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

B. The surpassing greatness of His power

Is to be of God and not from ourselves.

2 Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

Is towards us who believe

Eph 1:18-19 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

C. We have:**Great reward**

Mt 5:12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Great faith

Mt 15:28 Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

Great joy

Ac 8:8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.

Great zeal

Col 4:13 For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Great affliction

2 Cor 8:2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

Great boldness

1 Tim 3:13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Great promises

2 Pt 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

VI. Commentary on Dt 9:17**Every name of God in the Bible**

Rev 19 is a chapter that describes the triumphant return of Christ and the destruction of God's enemies; the Father is rightly called "the Lord God Omnipotent" (v.6) and "the great God" (v. 17). From this we see that in the end, God the Father will indeed reign. Also, all will acknowledge Him to be the "Lord God Omnipotent" (v. 6), that is, the truly "great God."

Handbook on Deuteronomy

The great, the mighty, and the terrible God: the adjectives great and mighty have almost the same meaning, and their equivalents should be easy to find; CEV (Century English Version) combines the two terms with "tremendous power." Terrible means "awesome," one who is to be feared. The whole sentence may be also expressed as "and people should be afraid of his tremendous power."

Keil & Delitzsch

To set forth emphatically the infinite greatness and might of God, Moses describes Jehovah the God of Israel as the "God of gods," i.e., the supreme God, the essence of all that is divine, of all divine power and might (Ps. 136:2),

Ps 136:2 Give thanks to the God of gods,

and as the "Lord of lords," i.e., the supreme, unrestricted Ruler ("the only Sovereign," 1 Tim. 6:15),
1 Ti 6:15-16 He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16
who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen
or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

above all powers in heaven and on earth, "a great King above all gods" (Ps. 95:3).
Ps 95:3 For the LORD is a great God And a great King above all gods,

Compare Rev 17:14 and 19:16, where these predicates are transferred to the exalted Son of God,
as the Judge and Conqueror of all dominions and powers that are hostile to God.

Rev 17:14 These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because
He is Lord of lords and King of kings,

Rev 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, " KING OF KINGS, AND
LORD OF LORDS."

The predicates which follow describe the unfolding of the omnipotence of God in the government of
the world, in which Jehovah manifests Himself as the great, mighty, and terrible God (Ps. 89:8),
Ps 89:8 O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD?

who does not regard the person (Lev 19:15),

Lev 19:15 You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to
the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.

or accept presents (Dt 16:19), like a human judge.

Dt 16:19 " You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe,

Matthew Henry's commentary

He has great power. He is a mighty God and terrible (v. 17), who regards not persons. He has the
power of a conqueror, and so he is terrible to those that resist him and rebel against him. He has
the power of a judge, and so he is just to all those that appeal to him or appear before him. And it is
as much the greatness and honor of a judge to be impartial in his justice, without respect to
persons or bribes, as it is to a general to be terrible to the enemy. Our God is both.

He has great possessions. Heaven and earth are his (v. 14), and all the hosts and stars of both.
Therefore he is able to bear us out in his service, and to make up the losses we sustain in
discharging our duty to him. And yet therefore he has no need of us, nor any thing we have or can
do; we are undone without him, but he is happy without us, which makes the condescensions of his
grace, in accepting us and our services, truly admirable. Heaven and earth are his possession, and
yet the Lord's portion is his people.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Though human hearts are slow to change, Moses warned the nation that no bribe or anything less
than an inward transformation could satisfy the LORD, who is the great God. God's treatment of the
helpless (the fatherless ... the widow, and the alien) further illustrates His absolutely just character
(showing no partiality) and highlights His requirement for Israel to be just.

The following References were used in this study:

Handbook on Deuteronomy
Keil & Delitzsch Commentary
The Bible Knowledge Commentary
Matthew Henry's commentary
Every name of God in the Bible