

# How Great Thou Art, and How Small We Are

(By Paul R. Blake)

Introduction to our Bible Study:

- A. A different kind of study
  - 1. More than using different kinds of materials, studying in a different place, with a different class structure.
  - 2. We are studying at a different level and intensity that is practical in a Bible class setting at church services.
    - a. Three levels 1) What the scriptures say and mean, 2) how the scriptures harmonize with one another in the great tapestry of God's will, and 3) what the scriptures implicitly reveal about God, man, and all things
  - 3. We are not studying outside of the box. Most folks only study to confirm their knowledge of what is in the box. We assume this gathering knows what is in the box.
  - 4. We are going to consider why those things are in the box, how the things in the box relate to one another, and how the things in the box define the Creator of the box
- B. The lessons I will be presenting were sparked from a day's conversation with Bob Waldron, who more than anything else taught me it was ok to study and teach at this level.
  - 1. We will begin each class with prayer, spend a period viewing, listening to, or reading less traditional study materials, we will move to an in-depth instruction period from the scriptures, take a brief break, return and spend a period of time in questions and discussion
  - 2. View video Indescribable by Louie Giglio - stop shortly after cross scene

## HOW BIG IS GOD?

- A. Psalm 8:1, 3-4 - Our great question (from the Hallel Adoni)
- B. Why did God create this vast and astonishing universe? - Psalm 19:1-6
  - 1. Because He is a Creator -- and what do creators do?
  - 2. We are made in the image of God. Those healthy and admirable qualities in us are little more than reflections of His image in us
- C. God manifested Himself in the universe (through the word and through the world) - Rom. 1:19-20
  - 1. Read the creation account - Gen. 1:1-28 - Exegete
  - 2. How did He create? - Heb. 11:3; Isa. 40:12-15, 21-22
- D. God is not bound by this universe; He is not limited by the laws within it; he dwells apart, above and outside of its boundaries
  - 1. Time is irrelevant to God - 2Peter 3:8
  - 2. Space/distance are irrelevant to Him - Job 38:31-32
  - 3. It is not about size, distance or duration
  - 4. Psalm 68:33 - Heaven of heavens
  - 5. From before the beginning - Psalm 90:2; Prov. 8:12, 22-31
  - 6. Outside of the universe illustration - box, watch, book, battery

- E. So what is man that God is mindful of him?
1. Psalm 33:13-15, 147:4 - He calls all of the stars by name; how many stars are there?
  2. How many people are there? 1 person for every 2 million known stars
  3. What gives meaning to infinitesimally small beings that live on the dust speck in the beam of light?
  4. God's love, but that's another lesson.

## THE NAME OF GOD

- A. Jehovah - JHWH - "He exists"
1. The Tetragrammaton is pronounced Yahweh, translated as Lord God in the Septuagint, translated as Jehovah in English versions
  2. "The self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah, Jewish national name of God; Jehovah, the Lord
  3. "The unchanging, eternal, self-existent God," the "I am that I am," (Eastons Bible Dictionary)
  4. In Ex. 6:3, God says, "I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty; but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them."
  5. Has a parallel among the ancestors of the Jews, the Eberon, descendents of Eber, the only God fearing family after the tower of Babel. They had a similar word that translates as "The Greener."
- B. Most importantly, it is a name that does not appear in history as the name of any god, and is a speech construction unfamiliar and unusual for humankind
1. Jehovah comes from a verb form that translates as "he is"
  2. They had only two kinds of verb forms: complete and incomplete
  3. Complete - finished, accomplished, past and present
  4. Incomplete - ongoing, unfinished, present, future, past through present into future
  5. Jehovah is the most unusual form of the incomplete: He exists, not in the past, present, and future, but rather in the past, He exists (present incomplete form), in the present, He exists (present, incomplete form), in the future, He exists (in the present, incomplete form)
  6. We don't talk that way; it doesn't make sense unless you are talking about God
  7. Ex. 3:14 - "And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
  8. John 8:58 - "Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."
- C. God is, past, present, future; He does not change
1. Mal. 3:6 - "For I am the LORD, I do not change..."
  2. Heb. 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- D. God exists outside, is not bound by, time, space, matter, energy, and the laws of thermodynamics that govern them
1. God is before there was space, matter, and energy - Gen. 1:1
  2. God is before there was time.

- a. Time does not exist in the absence of the universe of space, matter, and energy.
  - b. Time is a measurement of duration and intervals between processes and events
- E. God exists before, after, and apart from this universe - Psalm 102:24-27
  - 1. He can be in all places because he is not bound by space
  - 2. He can exist in all time because he is not bound by time
  - 3. He can manifest in the flesh and be in heaven because he is not bound by matter and energy
  - 4. That is how He will exist forever in both directions on the time continuum
  - 5. He is not bound by the laws of Thermodynamics that govern matter and energy
    - a. First - Law of conservation of matter and energy - the total amount of combined matter and energy in the universe does not change. Matter and energy can change into each other and into forms of less usable or of lower energy, but it cannot be annihilated
    - b. God doesn't need matter and energy to create; He can simply command it into existence - Heb. 11:3
    - c. Second - Law of entropy - local systems tend to disorder; matter and energy decay into forms less usable, less recoverable, or lower state. This universe is bound by these laws
    - d. God is not. He does not age; He does not decrease in power  
God is not bound by the restrictions of time and decay
    - e. 2Peter 3:8

## II. WHAT DOES THE NAME OF GOD MEAN FOR OUR FUTURE?

- A. Implications for the Incarnation - Jesus is all of those things said about God
  - 1. Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17
  - 2. Not all sacrifices were made on the cross; when He left heaven to become a man, He returned to heaven glorified as the Son of Man and to serve in heaven as our high priest - Heb. 2:17
  - 3. Jesus became man and was exalted as such - Phil. 2:5-9
  - 4. Jesus, as the firstborn from the dead, now enjoys the nature of God that is unbound by time, space, matter, energy, & the laws that govern them
- B. Implications for our existence in heaven
  - 1. We are joint heirs with Christ and will share in His glory and condition
    - a. Rom. 8:16-18 - as children of God, we will receive the same glory and nature as the Son of God
  - 2. We will enjoy the nature of God that is unbound by time, space, matter, energy, and the laws that govern them
    - a. We will enjoy, in its fullness, a share in the Divine nature, the Godhood - 2Peter 1:3-4
  - 3. In heaven, we will share in the nature of our awesome God!
    - a. 1John 3:1-3