

THURSDAY

The World of the Psalms**What place does God occupy in the psalmist's life?****GOD IS THE CENTER OF PSALMIST'S LIFE****Psalm 16:8** I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.**Psalm 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.**Psalm 57:2** I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me.**Psalm 62:8** Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah**Psalm 121:7** The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.One of my favorites: **Psalm 138:8** The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever

- God hears the psalmist = wherever he may be
 - God responds to him in His perfect time
- God is ever-present = never failing God

ABSG: The world of the Psalms is wholly God-centered; it seeks to submit, in prayer and praise, all life experiences to God. God is the sovereign Creator, the King and Judge of all the earth. He provides all things for His children. Therefore, He is to be trusted at all times.

THEREFORE, WORSHIP SHOULD BE CENTRAL TO OUR LIVES**Psalm 44:8** In God we boast all day long, And praise Your name forever. Selah**Psalm 47:1, 7** ¹Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!⁷For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding.

Psalms envision = time when all peoples/entire creation = worship God

ABSG centrality of God in life produces the centrality of worship. The worship in which the Psalms lived was fundamentally different from worship as understood by many people today, because **worship in the biblical culture** was= natural /undisputed center of entire community's life. Therefore, everything that happened, both the good and the bad, in the life of God's people inevitably was expressed in worship.

Psalm 3:4 I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah

Psalm 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.

Psalm 20:6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand.

Psalm 11:4 ⁴The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

Psalm 139:7–8 ⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

Psalm 24:7–10 ⁷Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ⁸Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. ⁹Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ¹⁰Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah

- God directed Moses to record two separate accounts of Creation = reveal two distinct dimensions of His omnipresence (His divine ability to be everywhere at the same time.)

- First account/ Creation reveals God's realm of infinite existence— outside time/space of His created universe = God's **TRANCENDENCE**
- His existence at this level is beyond human comprehension,
 - Because everything we know has = beginning/end
 - and we can only be in one place at one time
- Genesis 2 = second narrative of Creation.
- God inspired Moses to reiterate story w/emphasis on more intimate details that reveal He is an “up-close-and-personal” God who listens, speaks, and acts = for benefit of His creatures.
- God's **IMMANENCE**—His presence inside His created time /space
- His presence permeates = whole realm of Earth.
- He is nearby/ fully present to / actively involved w/all of His creation.

ABSG The psalmist is aware that God's dwelling place is in heaven, but at the same time, God dwells in Zion, in the sanctuary among His people. God is at the same time far and near, everywhere, and in His temple (*Ps. 11:4*), hidden (*Ps. 10:1*) and disclosed (*Ps. 41:12*). In the Psalms these apparently mutually exclusive characteristics of God are brought together. The psalmists understood that proximity and remoteness were inseparable within the true being of God (*Ps. 24:7–10*). The psalmists understood the dynamics of this spiritual tension. Their awareness of God's goodness and presence, amid whatever they were experiencing, is what strengthens their hope while they wait for God to intervene, however and whenever He chooses to do so.

How can the Psalms help us understand that we cannot limit God to certain aspects of our existence only?

What might be parts of your life in which you are seeking to keep the Lord at a distance?