

REVERENCE IN WORSHIP

David, the psalmist, proclaimed, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork" (Psalms 19:1). The apostle Paul declared to the church in Rome that God's creation declares to man his "power and divinity" (Romans 1:20). While the existence of the world and man testify of the existence of Jehovah God, to know more about Him man must consult the Bible which is God's revelation to mankind. In the Bible God is mentioned in every book except Esther and reveals Himself to man through His characteristics.

CHARACTERISTICS OF JEHOVAH

Contrary to man's limited life span, God is described by David as being eternal, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hast formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God" (Psalms 90:2). Moses speaks of the Almighty God (Genesis 17:1). The Omnipotence (God being all powerful) of God is established by his creating the world and all that is therein (Genesis 1:1, 2:4; Isaiah 45:18; Acts 17:24; Revelation 4:11), and by the fact that he will someday bring the earth and the works therein to a fiery conclusion (II Peter 3:10). The prophet Jeremiah informs us of the Omnipresence (God being present everywhere) of Jehovah, "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith Jehovah. Do I not fill heaven and earth? saith Jehovah" (Jeremiah 23:24). The inspired writer of the book of Hebrews tells us of the Omniscience (God knows everything) of Jehovah, "And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked

and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13). God knows our needs before we ask (Matthew 6:8) and knows when the lowly sparrow falls to the earth (Matthew 10:29). The apostle John speaks of the Omnibenevolence (God is all loving) of God, "God is love" (I John 4:8, 16; John 3:16), while James teaches us that Jehovah is unchangeable (James 1:17). Jehovah God is a God of holiness, "For Jehovah our God is holy" (Psalms 99:9; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8) and hates evil (Proverbs 8:13). The Omnibenevolence of God is seen in that He created man with the opportunity to choose his destiny (Joshua 24:15), provided man with the means of salvation (Romans 5:8-9), and desires the salvation of all men (II Peter 3:9; Matthew 11:28-29). When man, the creature, considers Jehovah God of the Bible he can truly say, "My God, how great Thou art."

IN THE PRESENCE OF JEHOVAH

It was in the presence of the great God Jehovah that Isaiah stood. He writes, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple" (Isaiah 6:1). It is not clear how Isaiah saw the Lord since God is a spirit (John 4:24), and a spirit does not have flesh and bones (Luke 24:39). The Scripture excludes looking directly upon God with the naked eye (Exodus 33:20), therefore, we understand that Isaiah saw God in a vision, dream, or in a limited sense as Moses saw the backside of the glory of God (Exodus 33:23). The foundations of the thresholds shook and the house was filled with smoke as the seraphim sang their mighty song of

the holiness of God (Isaiah 6:3-4). Isaiah's reaction to being in the presence of Jehovah was, "Woe is me! for I am undone. Because I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts" (Isaiah 6:5). When man sees God (reads and understands [comprehends to the extent of his ability] the characteristics of Jehovah God) and compares himself to God, man is truly undone! Isaiah stood in the presence of Jehovah the Almighty and in reverence acknowledged that he was a man of unclean lips.

REVERENCE TOWARD JEHOVAH

Reverence is defined as, "profound respect mingled with love and awe, honor or respect felt or manifested, veneration." The Bible teaches that man is to reverence God and worship Him. Psalms 33:8, "Let all the earth fear Jehovah: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him." Psalms 29:2, "Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto his name, worship Jehovah in holy array." I Peter 2:17, "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the King." Matthew 4:10; John 4:23; Revelation 19:10 teach us that we are to worship Jehovah God.

When men obey the will of God and submit their will to Him, they honor and respect (reverence) Him as their master. In their day-to-day activities they reverence God by living according to his standard for his children and bring honor to Him (Matthew 5:16). An important activity in the life of the Christian is the public worship assembly (Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 10:25) when Christians gather to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24), and to teach and admonish each other (Colossians 3:16). There should be great joy in