

## A Meditation on God – 1 Chronicles 29:10-15

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Spurgeon

1. On the first Sunday of January, 1855 the minister of *New Park Street Chapel* in London, opened his morning sermon with these words.
2. The language is a bit loftier than what we're used to so listen closely . . .

It has been said "the proper study of mankind is man." I will not oppose the idea, but I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God's elect is God. The proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, work, doings, and existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.

There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of Divinity. It is a subject so vast, all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, our pride is drowned in its infinity. Other subjects we can compass and grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-content and go our way with the thought, "Behold I am wise." But when we come to this master-science, finding that our plumb-line cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought that vain man would be wise, but he is like a wild [donkey's] colt; and with solemn exclamation, "I am but of yesterday, and know nothing." No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind, than thoughts of God.

But while the subject humbles the mind, it also expands it. He who often thinks of God, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe. The most excellent study for expanding the soul, is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity.

And, while humbling and expanding, this subject is eminently consoling. Oh, there is, in contemplating Christ, a balm for every wound; in musing on the Father, there is a [comfort] for every grief; and in the influence of the Holy Ghost, there is a [ointment] for every sore. Would you lose your sorrow? Would you drown your cares? Then go!—plunge yourself in the Godhead's deepest sea; be lost in His immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead. It is to that subject that I invite you this morning. <sup>[1]</sup>

3. The minister who spoke these words a century & a half ago was C.H.

Spurgeon; at that time a mere 20 years old!

4. No wonder he went on to become known as The Prince of Preachers.
5. What he said was true then, and it's just as true now.

### **B. Today**

1. His words are a fitting preface to what we're looking at today. For this is a meditation on God.
  2. King David knows he's come to the end of his reign.
    - a. Instead of waiting till he was too feeble to do so, he began to turn things over to Solomon who would rule after him.
    - b. The most important task Solomon would have was to build the temple which had been David's chief passion for years.
    - c. Chronicles devotes several chapters to all David had done in getting things ready for construction.
  4. Here in ch. 29, he describes what he'd *personally* given to the project,
    - a. Not to boast, but to be an encouragement to others to give.
    - b. And they had, in great abundance.
  5. When David saw the generosity of the people, he realized the desire for a temple wasn't his alone; there were many who understood how important the worship of God was to the well-being of Israel.
  6. So he broke out in praise & worship.
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7. Vs. 10-15 are one of the many Psalms David composed, a simple meditation on the goodness of God.
  8. What I want to do today is simply walk thru these lines with you.
  9. This is less a *sermon* & more just what David intended it to be – a *meditation*, the pondering of a heart & mind turned to consider God.

## **II. TEXT**

**<sup>10</sup> Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.**

**Blessed are You.**

***Barak*** = to endue w/power to succeed, prosper, be happy, have lasting life.

When God blesses – bestows success!

When we bless God – recognize He's the source, fountainhead of success.

Not the world: advertising, mall, Hollywood. God!

**Blessed are You, LORD God**

**LORD** = Proper name = Yahweh; given to Moses.

When gave name rather than title, *invited* into relationship.

Our God not some unknown "higher power."

He has a name & wants us to not only know it but to know HIM by it – "I Am"

/ "The Becoming One."

**Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel**

He is the covenant making & promise-keeping God.

By giving His name, invites into relationship; but His covenant w/Israel proves the relationship He invites to not casual, distant.

Personal & intimate includes all of life.

## **Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father**

2 reactions; one warm & positive, other a shudder of unease.

Here – ought to be all that’s warm, rich, inviting & safe. / Run *to*, not from.

If the idea of God as Father difficult – know can change right now & can own it as David.

Can only know poor if have ideal of good comparing to.

That ideal **IS** Your real Father – God. / Rolex vs lesser watches

## **Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.**

God never changes.

## **<sup>11</sup> Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty;**

One of those vs. that unfolds when understand the Hebrew –

**Greatness** = bigness, large; fame - *Famous One*.

Key → not static, INCREASING size = growth.

The more you learn about God, the more you realize there’s even *more* to learn.

The Romans believed the edge of the world lay just past the Straits of Gibraltar, so they erected a large sign on the island that read “*Nec Plus Ultra – Nothing Further Beyond.*”

It was meant to warn sailors to sail no further; they’d gone as far as they could go.

With the discovery of the New World, Spain removed the sign and adopted the motto, “Plus Ultra – Further Beyond.”

It became the mantra of countless sailors & explorers as they set sail to discover new lands.

That ought to be our motto as we consider God – Plus Ultra – Lord take us beyond where we are into a deeper knowledge & experience of You.

**Power** = unique word referring to might deeds of valor.

Our God is a rescuing Savior, a daring warrior Who fights for us.

He loves adventure & is active in a great drama of redemption.

Those who think the Christian Faith is boring sadly have no idea!

It is the greatest story ever told – is being told actually!

**Glory** = another special word meaning exquisite beauty.

There’s lot of art that’s beautiful, but every so often you encounter one piece that takes your breath away.

It’s beauty stands in a class all by itself.

God’s splendor is so great, if you were to see it, it would literally take your breath away – *permanently!*

**Victory** = to prevail over all obstacles & enemies. Undisputed Champion.

**Majesty** = robust excellence.

Refers to something so surpassing in it’s quality that you keep discovering new ways it excels.

New backpack.

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David heaps up unusual superlatives that together speak of The Best! → God Is!

**For all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is Yours*; Yours *is* the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.**

No matter how you slice it – God is sovereign. He rules!

He's given the power of choice to us and He never violates our will – yet everything moves forward to the end He's ordained.

That means we don't need to fret, or worry that the train we call history is going to get off track.

Don't panic over who wins or loses the election. / Don't sweat the verdict of the court.

**12 Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all.**

If anyone would know, it was David. He was both the wealthiest & most powerful person of his day.

But before he came to Israel's throne with all the wealth & power he spent years on the run from a mad man.

Looking back from the vantage point of age he could see God used those fugitive years to mold him into the man of honor he became.

Riches & honor do come from God, even to those who deny Him.

They could only prosper if God' allowed it.

They're accountable to God for what they do with what they've received.

Great wealth is great responsibility. To whom much is given, much is required.

**In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.**

This looks back to v. 11 & all David had said about God being the best.

He is ready & able to give it to those who will look to Him.

**13 "Now therefore, our God,**

David's meditation on God moves him to draw some conclusions that need to be put into practice right now, in his life today!

What all these thoughts about God move him to is worship!

**We thank You and praise Your glorious name.**

David thanks God because all this has sharpened his focus & given him *renewed* faith in God.

His hope has been *rekindled*.

His commitment to follow God has been *reinforced*.

He was king of the world's premier nation– so inevitable target of rivals.

Not without his critics & opponents. Plenty gunning for him.

Life filled with the stress & pressure of his office. Anxiety, worry, fret.

Refuge in God – meditate on the Lord.

For us – newspaper, iPod, radio, TV, Facebook, MySpace, hobbies.

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**14 But**

When looks to greatness of God, praise & worship. Look's to himself, confusion.

**who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this?**

Remember the setting for all this – the offering they'd made for the building of the temple.

David had been shown how important this building would be & he's amazed he & others would be allowed to take a part in what God was doing.

God is building a temple today – not of dead but rather living stones.

We are that temple – the church, the body of Christ.

God, in all His glorious splendor & might has chosen to dwell in US!  
If that doesn't **both** thrill the socks off you as well as humble you right down to your face on the floor, nothing will.

**For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.**

They'd given a massive offering of treasure to God for the building of the temple.

But in a moment of clear-headed insight, David realized in fact, everything they had & were belonged to God.

He'd merely portioned it out to them to see what they would do with it.

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You may have heard of the group *Sixpence None the Richer*.

They took their name from CS Lewis' book *Mere Christianity*.

A little English boy asked his father for sixpence, a tiny amount, to get his father a gift.

The father gladly received the gift, blessed by the son's devotion, even though he knew it was his sixpence that bought it.

Though he was sixpence none the richer, that sixpence became the means by which his son revealed his love.

**<sup>15</sup> For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers;**

David uses 2 words that describe landless wanderers who own nothing but the clothes on their backs, & even those aren't much.

He acknowledges there was nothing inherently better about the Jews that caused God to chose them to be the focus of His special blessing.

It's all of grace.

**Our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope.**

In this last line of David's meditation on God, he flips everything around and considers what life is w/o Him.

Life w/o God is vain, empty, futile, & filled with despair.

The brilliant author Ernest Hemingway is a classic example of the truth of that.

Though incredibly intelligent, he rejected God, and ended his life by swallowing the end of a shotgun

Kurt Cobain, founder & leader of the group *Nirvana* chose the same path.

Both of these men were heavily influenced by Existentialism which rejects God & says because life is meaningless, suicide is the only honest conclusion.

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[1] Quoted from *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer