

Just Checking In #81 The Presence

Feb 15, 2010

Pilgrim's in Process Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a 'pilgrim' with You..."

God is infinite! He is without shore or boundary, impossible to measure, limitless in every respect.

He is infinite in relation to time.... He is eternal... “from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God!” Psalm 90 It is not just that He occupies all the time there ever is or ever will be, but that He exists both within and outside the realm of time itself. *Before the beginning and at the endless end, He moves all things to the destiny at which He already stand waiting.*

He is infinite in relation to power.... He is omnipotent.. “The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” Rev 19:6 It is not only that God has great power, or greater power than any other being, but that He possesses all power and that power is measureless and infinite. *Nothing ever is or ever will be hard for God!* What He has determined, He will bring to pass. Let men, nations, or demons resist ... He who sits in the heavens will laugh at the ridiculousness of such impotence in the face of such Omnipotence!

He is infinite in relation to space... He is omnipresent... “Wither shall I go from Thy presence...Thou art there!” Psalm 139 The psalmist was thunderstruck with the reality that wherever he could go that was far away... even the farthest away imaginable... God was already *there*, and therefore “far” and “near” are terms applying only to created beings. *God does not “go” anywhere in His omnipresence, for He is already “there,” “here,” and “everywhere all at once.”*

God is around everything but not excluded, within everything but not contained, above everything but not restrained, beneath everything but not compressed, behind everything but not abandoned, ahead of everything but not

alone. In this sense God is present in heaven and hell, in the material and immaterial universe, in every atom and molecule on every planet of every star of every galaxy of every universe that is or shall ever be.

But there is yet another aspect of the reality of God's presence, and that is what we may call "*the Personal Presence*" of God, or simply "***The Presence.***" In addition to the limitless omnipresence of God, the scriptures also clearly speak of ***God's Personal Presence*** among His people in a way that is unique, and blessed, and shared only by His own. Ex 24:9-11; Ex 29:46 Ex 25:8 Shakan (Shekinah)

It is in this sense that we declare that the Father's *personal presence* is in heaven; Christ's *personal presence* is at the Father's right hand; and the Spirit's *personal presence* is within the believer's body. 1 Cor 6:19-20 *Yet, all three persons of the Triune God are everywhere, all the time, uncontained, immense, transcendent and immanent.*

In the beginning, *The Presence* of God was known and loved in the garden called Eden. But the terrible day came when man rebelled and *God's Presence* became a terror to flee from and a horror to hide from. Man was sent away Eastward, away from *The Presence*, and could no longer remain in that *unrestrained Presence*. Cain then sinned, and "went out from *The Presence* of the Lord" further eastward. It was not until Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt that *The Presence* was widely seen in the pillar of cloud and fire. Moses constructed the tabernacle according to the Divine design and when *The Presence* dwelt above the mercy seat, Moses could no longer enter. Ex 40 God delights to dwell among His people but sin requires a separation between them lest His holiness consume them in their fallen state. Jesus, fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, came and dwelt (tabernacled - John 1:14) among us, Emmanuel, and we beheld *The Presence* in flesh and bone. Dying as our lamb, entering the holiest of all with His own blood, obtaining eternal redemption for us, He tore the dividing curtain separating us from *The Presence* and welcomes us in. On Pentecost, Israel's ancient theophany of *The Presence*, the pillar of fire, appeared and separating into 120 flames, signified that each believer had become a holy dwelling place of *The Presence* by the Spirit. Acts 2:3 *The Presence* that

had been *with* them was now *in* them. John 14:17

From a garden, to a temple, to the body of the believer...The Presence is here.

But there remains a more glorious and everlasting manifestation of *The Presence* yet to come. In Ezekiel 48:35 Jerusalem is called “***Jehovah Shammah***”.. ***the Lord is There***. The prophet, in vision after vision, watched as *The Presence*, because of Israel’s stubborn rebellion, left the temple, the city and finally the land of Israel. But at the end of the book, Ezekiel beholds the day when *The Presence* returns to the land, the city and the temple again. He foresees the day when Jerusalem will become ***The Place of The Presence***, forever. Another prophet would see an even greater vision of the everlasting manifestation of ***The Presence of God***. In one, final, glorious vision, John the Apostle in Revelation 21-22, beheld the day when *The Presence of God and of the Lamb* inhabit a *New Jerusalem*. ***The New Jerusalem is immense. It is a golden walled perfect cube (1 Kgs 6:20) like the Holy of Holies***, but 1400 miles in every dimension. Instead of *one gate* into the place of *The Presence*, it has *twelve gates*. It includes *Israel* (12 Tribes), the *church* (12 apostles), and *all nations*. Like Eden, at the gate to *The Presence* is an angel, but *unlike Eden, the gateways into The Presence are wide open and the angels’ welcome, not forbid entry, to all who come*. Unlike the tabernacle, multiple gates allow access to *The Presence* from every direction and are never shut; day or night, for night never comes before *The Presence*! And there is no temple in the city, for *The Lord God and the Lamb ARE the temple*. *At last, God is fully present among His people*.

All things are forever new! ***We have come to the day of unrestricted, unending, uninterrupted enjoyment of The Presence. And there is more***. John tells us, wonder of all wonders, that ***we will see His face!*** All our longings are forever fulfilled as gaze into the face of *The Presence*. Jesus’ ancient prayer is finally, completely fulfilled... John 17:24. “*I want them with me where I am... that they may see my glory.*”

A garden, a temple, a body, a city.... Jehovah Shammah.... The Lord is There!

No night, no closed gates, no temple, no separation, no restriction, no division, no sin, no sorrow, no death, no tears, no pain.... Why? **Because Jehovah Shammah... THE LORD IS THERE!** And wonder of wonders.... *so are we!* GLORY!

The Presence of God is the delight of His children. “Even so come Lord Jesus” Rev 22:20

The Presence of God is the despair of enemies. “Let the rocks fall on us and hide us from The Presence”

He is here. He is coming. He is Jehovah Shammah!

Self Check

1. How does the reality of God’s presence change your attitude, outlook and desires?
2. Recall three or four times you sensed the nearness of God’s Presence? Describe it.
3. Recall a time that that God seemed distant? (Job & David speak of this) Describe it.
4. Does lacking the “sense” of *The Presence* negate the reality of The Presence?

For Further Study

Read Psalm 139 What phrases indicate the nearness of God?

Read Psalm 73 The writer was so frustrated at what seemed to be the distance and indifference of God.

What did the writer mean when he said “I was like a beast in Your presence.”

Did the writer's "sense" that God was far off and indifferent change the reality of God's presence?

Underline all the phrases in the Psalm that demonstrate God's presence with the Psalmist no matter what his feelings were.

Do a study on the names of God. Send me an email if you want me to send you a document to get you started on a study of some of His names.

"Lord, I bless You that You are Jehovah Shammah, The Lord Who is There, wherever "there" may be. I am so thankful that day or night, in pleasure or pain, in loneliness or in sweet gathered fellowship, in hope or despair, in confidence or fear, in victory or in shame... You are here! Your presence is the one constant, the one certainty in this ever changing path of life I tread. How blessed I am to be Your dwelling place. Cleanse and purify me today and manifest Your presence through me that You may receive glory and obedience in this vessel of clay. I rejoice in the promise... "I am with you always" and I long for the soon coming day when I will be with You, face to face, forever." AMEN

We were made by God, we were made like God, we were made for God, but we ran from God, but are sought by God, to be restored to God, so we can live with God face to face with God forever.

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.