

Welcome to the training program for “Kingdom of God” dwellers. During these next few lessons, we will learn about God’s army. We will learn about God, His attributes, His will and His way. We will study His purpose for us. We will also learn about His enemies, which are also our enemies.

GOD

Our Focus:

In any army, there is rank and file; there is a chain of command. In the Army of the Lord, there is command structure also. When we study God’s army, we must begin with God, the very top of the chain. He is the Lord, our God. God is praised and worshipped because of who He is. It really doesn’t matter, for praise and worship, what God can do; God can do what He does, because of who He is. So in the end, it is who God is that is most important.

Scripture Setting



Psalms

Psalm 100 *KJV*

1. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
2. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.
3. Know that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
5. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Lord Is God

- A. He Alone Is God
- B. He Reigns and Rules
- C. God Is Good
- D. God’s Mercy and Truth

II. We Are His

- A. He Made Us
- B. We Are His People

Introduction

Revival calls for a renewal in worship. God is renewing our sense of purpose. All that we do must come from a renewed awareness of who God is, and what He has called us to do. The more we know of God, the more we love Him. The more we love Him, the more likely we are to be obedient to His will. The more we are obedient to His will, the more He blesses us. The more He blesses us, the more we praise Him. The more we praise Him, we enter into worship of Him. The more we worship Him, the more He reveals Himself to us. The more of Himself He reveals to us, the better we know Him. The better we know Him, the more we love Him. The more we love Him, the more. . . . Get the picture? This may not be the conventional way to study the army of the Lord, but when we're done, you will understand who God is, what He's called us to, how we respond to that call, and who our enemy is. You'll also come to understand that this army is unbeatable, if we follow the commands of our leader.

I. The Lord Is God

A. He Alone Is God

“Know that the Lord he is God” (v.3a). God alone is Lord. There is no other God (Isaiah 43:10). We renounce all other gods. When Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, the people, *“fell on their faces: and they said, the LORD he [is] the God; the LORD he [is] the God”* (1 Kings 18:39). Since God is God, we must love Him with everything we are (Deuteronomy 6:4,5). He is to be praised and worshipped for who He is, not simply for what He has done. He is God!

Moses wrote, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). If it strains the mind to think of the concept of the beginning of the universe; what about thinking of the beginning of God? Whatever and whenever the beginning was, God was there, living and having everything He needed. God is self-sufficient. He needs no universe to be fulfilled; He doesn't need mankind to be complete. God is complete and entire, needing nothing. When we understand this, we can appreciate the grace of God to create us when there was no necessity for Him to do it!

There is no way for us to go back in time to verify that God always existed. There is no way to research the fact that He created everything. We can do no scientific observation, no laboratory experiment. Just like the writer of Hebrews, we must say: *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”* (Hebrews 11:3). Only through faith, given by the revelations of God, can we know that God is the creator. If God has spoken it through the prophets of all times, and He has been truthful on all other matters, then we believe, yes we know, by faith, that His word is true.

B. He Reigns and Rules

God is sovereign. In the Book of Job, we see Him exercising authority over a council of the “*sons of God*” (Job 1:6). God is ruler of the universe. The reporting “*sons of God*” give an accounting for their specific roles and delegated responsibilities. God created the universe, but not to sit back and watch things unfold before His eyes. He is mindful of what goes on in His universe and He is the guarantor of its moral order.

God is in control of what He creates. God told Job that the seasons do not come and go by some whim. The goings of the constellations of the sky - Pleiades, Orion, Mazzaroth, the Great Bear (Job. 38: 31-33) - are bound, loosed, set, and controlled at His command. He controls the seasons of earth. He controls the clouds, lightening, and thunder. Although God is the Creator of all, and He controls all; He is not the Cause of all, including natural disasters and the consequences of our suffering. He created nature and controls it through His laws. But He does not cause nature to favor some people and to destroy others. Although He does sometimes intervene in nature to bring about a blessing or to execute His judgment; not every act of nature is a result of divine judgment.

The psalmist said: “*The Lord shall reign forever*” (Psalm 146:10). When we put our faith, our trust, our love, our time, our hearts, and our beings into serving God; we experience some of eternity right here and now. Since God will reign forever, He is God to all peoples. He stands over human history. He embraces the history of all His chosen people in Christ Jesus

C. God Is Good

“*For the Lord is good*” (v.5). We praise God because He is good. The goodness of God can be known by His moral character and His willingness to bless His people. The word “good” denotes all of God’s grace and blessings to His people. It includes His presence, His wisdom, His purpose, and His power.

When Jesus was confronted by the wealthy young ruler (Mark 10:17), who called Him “*Good Master,*” Jesus turned his attention toward God, the author and true standard of all that is good. Jesus was not denying His own goodness and thus His deity: Jesus is God. Jesus accepted what the young man said of Him. Since He is inherently good, He must be God. Jesus was not just a good man, or an excellent teacher, He is truly God. And God is the source of ultimate good.

Jesus went about “*doing good*” (Acts 10:38). He healed all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. God not only sent Jesus, He continued to be with Him. His miracles revealed the goodness and kindness of God as well as God’s power in all things. This gave proof that Jesus was, and is indeed, God.

D. God’s Mercy and Truth

“*His mercy is everlasting*” (v.5). We worship and praise God, who is merciful. His mercy is revealed in His covenant love. God has bound us to Himself with a covenant that He will never void, annul, or break. This promise is fulfilled in Jesus who, according to the writer of Hebrews, made a new covenant giving us an “*eternal inheritance*” (Hebrews 9:15). We depend on God’s mercy, His covenant faithfulness, for our salvation.

Our prayers to God for mercy is a cry for release from the influences of Satan and sin. Our willingness to call upon Him is based on His character: His lovingkindness and His “*tender mercies*” (Psalm 51:1). His tender mercy is a

compassion or motherly feeling. We can count on God's mercy because of His covenant in Christ Jesus. When we come to God for forgiveness, we come seeking His grace and mercy. Now see the mercy of God: *"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins"* (1 John 4:10).

God is good and *"His truth endureth to all generations"* (v.5). We worship God because of His character. God's covenant is for everyone. Jesus died for the whole world (John 3:16), putting into effect the final covenant in His blood so that all people may have access to God. This covenant stands because the "truth" of God stands forever. We can count on His truth because we can count on God.

What is truth? Jesus said, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"* (John 17:17). Since, *"the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14); we know that Jesus is the Word of God. He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6). Jesus is the truth; and Jesus endures forever.

II. We Belong To God

A. He Made Us

God is the Creator: *"It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves"* (v.3). God made man (Genesis 5:1) and woman (Genesis 2:22). We are not self-governing; we are not self-sufficient. We are the creatures of the Awesome, Eternal, Omni-potent God; therefore dependent upon Him for everything. The truth has made us free (John 8:32). Jesus is the truth and He is the Son of God (Matthew 3:17), He said, *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36). So, *"it is He that made us"* (v.3); He made us anew (1 Peter 1:13-23), and He made us free !

God is worthy of praise because His Word not only cleanses us from sin, but It also makes us what God has always wanted His people to be: *"kings and priests unto God"* (Revelations 1:6). When God delivered Israel out of Egypt and brought them to Himself, He told them He wanted them to be His own people in a special way (Leviticus 26:12). Kingdom dwellers are to be a spiritual temple, a holy priesthood, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession in a special way (1 Peter 2:5,9).

B. We Are His People

Jesus did the work of redemption; thus, *"We are his people"* (v.3). It refers to Israel first, who was called out of Egypt to be God's son (Hosea 11:1), but it also applies to all who were called *in Christ Jesus* (Acts 2:39). God, in an act of grace and love, has redeemed us from the dominion of sin. Our sin was atoned for by Christ Jesus, so we would not be punished for them.

True believers can be just and righteous in God's sight only through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.. We are God's people only if we accept His Son, Jesus. It is through Jesus' redemptive work, as a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, that we, who are called Gentiles, will also be saved through faith in His atoning excellence.

Someone once said, "we are what we think." Since words are the vehicle by which our thoughts travel, the words of a man are his thoughts (Luke 6:45). Similarly, The Word of God is the mind of God. Now when

the Word was made flesh (John 1:14), it was God who wrapped Himself in flesh and dwelt among us: “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is God with us! When we are believers in Jesus, we are God’s people.

C. We Are His Sheep

Believers are not only the people of God, but “*the sheep of His pasture*” (v.3). This brings to mind the fact that God is the shepherd (see Psalm 23). Isaiah wrote, “*He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry [them] in His bosom*” (Isaiah 40:11). Israel’s early kings thought of themselves as shepherds of their people. The scepter the king held in his right hand emerged from the shepherd’s staff. The shepherd- sheep theme comes from God; who led His people in the wilderness as a shepherd leads his sheep. David, the psalmist, knew of this analogy when he said, “*The Lord is my shepherd*” (Psalm 23:1). Jesus revealed His identity and function when He said: “*I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep*” (John 10:11). This picture of the shepherd is now fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The Good Shepherd possesses a love for His sheep that motivated him to die for them. “Giveth His life for them” is the shepherd’s analogy for death on the cross. It is Jesus’ death on the cross that brings salvation to all who believe in Him (John 3:14-18). He became sin for us and died in our place (2 Corinthians 5:21)

There is a bond between the Good Shepherd and His sheep. His presence is assurance enough to guarantee our well being: “*Lo, I am with you alway*” (Matthew 28:20). The sheep follow the shepherd, they are not driven by him. The shepherd will not take his sheep anywhere that he has not gone: “*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin*” (Hebrew 4:15). The Good Shepherd loves His sheep.

Summary

In this lesson, we learned about God. God is our Lord, our creator. We owe all that we are, and all that we hope to be, to God. God told Moses that He would be what He would be (Exodus 3:14). Whatever we need God to be, God will be that for us; if we will obey His commandments and serve Him only. The more we know of God, the more we can appreciate the special relationship God has called us to share with Him. Not only is He our Creator, Our Lord, our Savior, but in Christ Jesus, He is our Good Shepherd, our Redeemer, our friend.

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