

Lesson
2

Only God Is Worthy

Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. For you created all things, and by your will they were given existence and life (Revelation 4:11).

We worship God because He is worthy. To be worthy means “to be deserving” or “to have a right.” The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord has a right to first place in our hearts and lives.

Is it wrong to worship a stone, a piece of carved wood, a beautiful idea, or even a powerful angel? Could we do this and still reserve a place in our hearts for God?

Bible history tells us of people who believed in God, yet wanted to worship something they could see or picture in their minds. Their loyalties were divided. But the end result became worship of (and obedience to) their idols. Jesus said, “No one can be a slave of two masters” (Matthew 6:24).

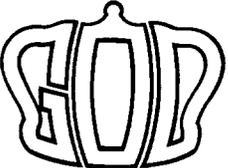
We want to love, serve, and worship one Master—He who is worthy.

In this lesson you will study . . .

God’s Great Power

God’s Awesome Holiness

His Fatherly Love

worthy  = worships

visible god ≠ worships

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the power and holiness of God.
- Experience more of His great love.
- Appreciate the worthiness of God to be worshiped.

GOD’S GREAT POWER

Objective 1. *Describe the extent of God’s power.*

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He referred to God’s power. He said, “May your Kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

Jesus gave us a glimpse of heaven. There the angels serve God who had only to speak the word and worlds came into existence. Sometimes we forget about His power because we see other powers in seeming control. We must remember, however, that though He may allow people to have their own way for a while, God has never lost His power. Revelation 4:10 tells us of those who will lay their crowns (symbols of power) at the feet of Jesus. All of the universe will claim Him as Lord.

Psalm 98:2 says, “The Lord announced his victory; he made his saving power known to the nations.” There is no boundary to His presence (Psalm 139:3-10) and no limit to His knowledge (Job 28:23-24). He can stir up the mighty winds, or He can quiet the troubled sea. By His power the lily pushes its way up through the ground so it blossoms pure and white.

All of nature shows God’s power and the angels of heaven stand ready to do His will. How much more we should trust ourselves to His love and care! We are safer there than anywhere else. God can change the course of history, and with that same power He can work in and through our lives. As we recognize His power and praise Him for it, our faith in Him is increased. We realize how limited we really are without His help—and we open ourselves to receive.



For You To Do

Read Daniel 4:28-37 and then complete the following sentences.

1 In the prayer Jesus taught His disciples He spoke specifically of God’s power. What were His words?

.....
.....

2 The king claimed he built Babylon to

- a) give honor to God.
- b) give his people work.
- c) display his own glory.

3 He learned that God is right and just and

- a) will someday get more power.
- b) can humble anyone who acts proudly.
- c) pays little attention to what we do.

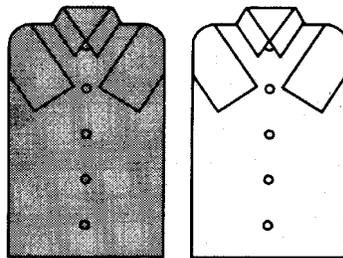
4 After this experience King Nebuchadnezzar

- a) kept still about what happened.
- b) returned to his boasting.
- c) gave honor and praise to God.

GOD’S AWESOME HOLINESS

Objective 2. Give scriptural descriptions of God’s holiness.

Perhaps you remember putting on a light-colored jacket or shirt that you thought was clean. But when you stood by something snow-white, you realized your garment was soiled and stained. Can you recall how you felt?



STAINED COMPARED TO CLEAN

That is somewhat how Isaiah the prophet felt. He knew that God is holy. He knew that holiness means being free from sin, being upright in every way. But one day he had an experience, a vision in which he saw winged creatures calling out, “Holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty is holy!” The sound of their voices shook the foundations of the temple. Suddenly Isaiah realized how unworthy he was to stand in the presence of God.

What could he do about it? He wasn’t clean and he knew it. He cried out, “There is no hope for me!”

Then one of the creatures touched his lips with a burning coal from the altar and took his guilt away (Isaiah 6:1-6).

What was the vision saying to Isaiah and to us? It was saying that God is so clean, so pure and holy, that we have no right to stand in His presence. That is, we have no right if we are counting on our own goodness. We cannot measure up to His standard, but He can touch us and make us clean. Then we have nothing to fear. We do not need to be afraid in His presence.

Nevertheless, another kind of fear takes over—the fear of the Lord which is a deep reverence, a sense of awe and respect. This has nothing to do with being afraid or frightened. It is the awareness of how great He is and how unworthy we are. This is what is meant in Isaiah 8:13: “Remember that I, the Lord Almighty, am holy; I am the one you must fear.”

God also said in Malachi 3:6, “I am the Lord, and I do not change.” He is a God of power and a God of holiness, and we can have confidence that He will never change.

Let us be thankful, then, because we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Let us be grateful and worship God in a way that will please him, with reverence and fear; because our God is indeed a destroying fire (Hebrews 12:28-29).



For You To Do

- 5 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a If I try hard enough, I can be as clean and holy as God wants me to be.
 - b Isaiah felt sinful when he realized God’s holiness.
 - c A divine touch took Isaiah’s guilt away.
 - d The Lord can make us clean, too.

6 Complete this sentence from Malachi 3:6. “I am the Lord, and

.....
.....”

- 7 Choose the correct completion to the sentence. The fear of the Lord is a deep reverence, a sense of awe, that
- a) makes us afraid to pray.
 - b) reminds us of all our failures.
 - c) invites us to prayer and worship.

Check your answers.

HIS FATHERLY LOVE

Objective 3. *Identify, from Scripture, examples of how God shows His love to mankind.*

The Israelites who lived during the time of the kings and prophets had learned the first part of this lesson well. They knew about God's great power and His holiness. They had seen the pillar of fire at night; they had trembled as thunder and lightning shook Mount Sinai. They depended on their High Priest to go into the Holiest Place of their tabernacle or temple to talk with God in their stead. They were afraid to approach Him.



But God doesn't want to be thought of as someone far away who cannot be approached. He loves humanity so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to the world to reconcile the world to Himself. Sin had made a difference and it was as if a wall had come between mankind and God. Sin had to be atoned for and fellowship and communion between God and mankind restored.

Jesus Christ did this through His death on the cross. Hebrews 10:19-22 says:

We have, then, my brothers, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus. He opened for us a new way, a living way ... So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith.

What do you think of when you hear the words, "God, the Father?" Do you think of a harsh judge, a cruel leader, or a dictator? Do the words make you feel nervous or afraid?

Some people experience this feeling because of an unhappy childhood or the memory of a cruel parent. God who sees us and all our thoughts has been careful to let us know that His love for us is greater than that of an earthly father or mother—even greater than that of the best parent on earth. King David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said, "My father and mother may abandon me, but the Lord will take care of me" (Psalm 27:10). Although David had grown up in a secure home, he knew that human love could fail. But God's love will never fail.

In Psalm 103:13 we read, "As kind as a father is to his children, so kind is the Lord to those who honor him." We can think of the kindest of earthly parents, and think of God as being like them, only much more so.

The trusting son goes to his warm and loving father when he feels fearful and needs reassurance. He goes to his father when he needs help, when he is hungry, when he is lonely, when he is in trouble. And he goes to his father when he wants to talk and share the happenings of the day. Or maybe he doesn't want to talk—he just wants to be near his father, to be right there listening if his father has something to say to him.

God wants us to experience this parent-child relationship. He wants us to feel secure in coming to Him. The apostle Paul knew this and wrote as follows:

For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God’s children, and by the Spirit’s power we cry out to God, “Father! my Father!” (Romans 8:15).

When Paul was writing these words, he used the Aramaic word *Abba* for Father. It was the name commonly used by children when speaking to their earthly fathers. Its English comparison would be “Daddy.”

What does this tell us about worship? God loves us so much that He wants the closest possible relationship with us. Surely He is worthy of all the praise and adoration we can give Him. When we fail to worship the Lord, we hurt ourselves. More than that, we hurt our loving Heavenly Father.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves a few questions. *Do I treat the Lord as if He were a complete stranger? Do I ignore Him and go my own way? Or do I start each day in fellowship with Him and praise to Him?*

If you couldn’t answer as you would like to, you can bow your head right now and ask Him for His forgiveness. He is waiting for you.

As you enter into joyful worship and communion with God, you will sense His nearness. And the more you worship, the easier it becomes to worship, for it becomes a way of life—a richer, fuller life.



For You To Do

8 Read Luke 13:34. How do you think Jesus felt when He said these words?

.....

9 After each of the following references write how God shows His love toward us. The first one is done for you.

a John 3:16 *He gave His Son for us*

b Isaiah 41:10

c Hebrews 12:5-6

d Psalm 40:3

10 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

a God wants us to be afraid so we will be obedient.

b Our Heavenly Father is kinder than any earthly father could be.

c *Abba* is what a child who spoke Aramaic would call his or her father.

d Sincere worship is a joyful experience.



Check Your Answers

1 Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

6 I do not change.

2 c) display his own glory.

7 c) invites us to prayer and worship.

- 3** b) can humble anyone who acts proudly.
- 8** In your own words: perhaps sadness, love, or a deep longing.
- 4** c) gave honor and praise to God.
- 9** **b** Strengthens, helps, protects.
c Corrects.
d Gives a new song.
- 5** Statements **b**, **c**, and **d** are True.
- 10** Statements **b**, **c**, and **d** are True.