



MONDAY 04 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Plug In...

We now leave the Gospel of Matthew until later in the year. Over the next few weeks, before beginning Zechariah, we have a short series at The Lakes called *Behold Our God*. We will be reflecting on some selected passages from the Bible that will lift our awe and wonder of God, and then cause us to worship. This week we'll reflect on who is God and how we can know Him.

Chew It Over...

From Jeremiah 9:23-24, what is the most important thing in the world? Review, how the most important has come to expression in your life over the past week.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord to expand your view of Him. Ask that what you know of God will permeate every facet of life, changing up how you do things, what you say, how you order things, what you dwell on.



The Lakes

TUESDAY 05 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Exodus 3 & Philippians 2:5-II

Plug In...

The verb 'to be' in Hebrew has the same sound as the word *Yahweh*. Based on Exodus 3:14, God's name for the Israelites is Yahweh. The Israelites are told throughout the Old Testament to confess the name of Yahweh (see: Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

[RE: 'LORD' – most Bibles explain in their introductions that the capital letters 'LORD' is a render for the Hebrew word *Yahweh*.]

Many times through the Old Testament, God performs mighty acts of deliverance so that people will *know* that He is 'LORD'. These acts bring people into relationship. [Exodus 3: God gives His name Yahweh to Moses as He is about to act to secure the Israelites in relationship with Him.] Therefore, *knowing* God in the Old Testament is being in relationship with God, not merely reciting facts about God.

Chew It Over...

Consider the mighty act God did through Jesus so that we might *know* Him? If God uses the name Yahweh/LORD all the time, what does Philippians 2:11 explicitly say about Jesus?

Prayer Suggestion

Confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.



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WEDNESDAY 06 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Psalm 14 & Romans 3:9-26

Plug In...

As God looks down from heaven He sees that all have turned away; no one knows God. In the first few chapters of Romans, Paul argues that same thing using Psalm 14 (see: Rom. 3:10-12). Paul is not only saying mankind has wilfully turned away and suppressed their knowledge of God, but that every single person is stuck in this place of ignorance and darkness.

Chew It Over...

How does a person become unstuck from this sinful ignorance? How is it that a person can come to know God and confess Him as Lord? (Consider what suggestions both passages give).

Prayer Suggestion

Praise God for His gifts to you: the gift of justification, righteousness, and the gift of faith in the Lord Jesus. Praise God for His mercy in revealing Himself to you.



The Lakes

THURSDAY 07 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Psalm 63

Plug In...

Characteristic of the psalms is that they are uttered by a person who is experiencing a really ordinary (awful) situation. Equally characteristic is that the utterances from the psalmist is one of continued trust in God throughout the experience. The psalmists often give expression how through this experience they see God and know God more clearly than before. Each psalm in the Bible has a distinct verse which is a turning point where God acts for the person in the awful situation. The psalmist reflects either on an action God did in the past for them, or expresses confidence of an action in the future God will do for them.

This psalm is about the king's situation. If the king is saved, then the king's people are saved too.

Chew It Over...

What actions will God undertake to protect the relationship with the king? What from Psalm 63 can be listed as reasons for why you would want to know God?

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that our relationship with God, who He is, what He has done, and what He will do, frames up every situation we experience.



The Lakes

FRIDAY 08 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Deuteronomy 32:39 & Isaiah 43:10-13

Plug In...

God is LORD. Every time we read His name in the Bible it communicates that God has all *control*; He directs every single thing in existence: nature/the world, history, each individual (including each and every one of their decisions). Such complete control entails absolute *authority*. He is the owner of everything (including every person) and He is the standard by which everything is evaluated. Complete control and absolute authority entails 'efficacy' (every action produces the exact desired effect and result) and 'infallibility' (completely trustworthy). This is the *lordship* of God. And God was pleased to have all of His lordship dwell in Jesus Christ.

Chew It Over...

Given we now know the lordship of God and know that Christ sits on God's throne of control and authority (Rom. 8:34), how must this knowledge then effect what we pray about and our attitude in prayer?

Prayer Suggestion

Pray about the little things God has control over; pray about the big life & death matters God has the control and authority over. Pray knowing He can do what you ask for and hears our prayers through Jesus.



The Lakes

WEEKEND 09-10 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Psalm 90 & Hebrews 1:10-12

Plug In...

We've seen this week that God has complete control, and absolute authority. Here we see these attributes are not for a moment, but are eternal, and will never change.

Chew It Over...

Think about what differences these truths about God make for life?

Prayer Suggestion

Lord, satisfy us with your very self. You love us and it will never fail. In your love you have all control and authority to establish the work of our hands. We ask you to make us glad and may your favour rest on us and our children. We know that because of the work of Jesus you hear our prayer and we come to you and ask these things for you are "LORD"!