

God of Wonders

Read Judges 13, Psalm 139

***“God of wonders, beyond all galaxies,
You are holy, holy,
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy.”***

-- Marc Byrd & Steve Hindalong

The Scriptures (not to mention all of Creation!) over and over again declare the wonders of God, awakening our hearts to respond to Him in praise. Following the thread of just one Hebrew word translated “wonderful” throughout the Old Testament, first in the story of Manoah and his wife in Judges 13 and then in Psalm 139, leads to three truths about our God that provide a focus to draw us into a fresh experience of worship.

1. His Name is Wonderful

*And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?” But the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is **wonderful**?” Judges 13:17, NASB*

The Hebrew word that is translated “wonderful” in this verse can also be translated “incomprehensible”, or beyond human understanding. In Jewish tradition, the name of God was considered too sacred to utter; instead they often used the word “Ha-shem” to refer to God, which simply means “The Name”. The wonder of His name alone should draw us into worship, as expressed by the first line of the Lord’s Prayer, “Hallowed be Your name”. John Piper says, “To hallow God’s name means to put it in a class by itself and to cherish and honor it above every claim to our allegiance or affection. Jesus’ primary concern—the very first petition of the prayer He teaches—is that more and more people...come to hallow God’s name.” (“Let the Nations Be Glad”, p. 39).

2. His Nature is Wonderful

*So Manoah took the kid with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the LORD, and He **performed wonders** while Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came about...that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. Judges 13:19--20, NASB*

A variation of the same Hebrew word from verse 17 is used here, to tell us that not only is the Lord’s *name* wonderful, but He also *performs* great wonders. God is sovereign over all. He is not bound by the laws of man or nature, but rather is the Creator of them. Manoah and his wife fell to the ground in worship as they came face-to-face with the incomprehensible wonder of the Lord’s nature. Does my worship reflect the awesome wonder of His nature?

3. His Nearness is Wonderful

*O LORD, Thou hast searched me and known me...Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, and art intimately acquainted with all my ways...Such knowledge is too **wonderful** for me...” Ps. 139:1-6, NASB*

Moving into the Psalms, again we see another form of this same word translated “wonderful”. We noted above the wonder of God’s sovereign nature. Sovereignty inspires reverence and obedience, but sovereignty alone is not enough to inspire my trust and devotion. The *wonderful* truth is that God is not only sovereign, but He is good; not only all-powerful, but full of love. He is the God who draws near, the God whose Name is incomprehensible...yet who knows my name. He is truly a God of wonders, and He is holy.