

# WHERE IS GOD IN THE STORMS? MK 8:24

So, where is God? **How** do we experience God during those times? **How should** we experience God during those times?

We will begin with several **foundational & essential beliefs** (When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace...):

## 1. The **sovereignty** of God: God is in control.

**Ephesians 1:11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh **all things after the counsel of his own will**:

**Psalms 103:19** The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; **And his kingdom ruleth over all.**

**Psalms 115:3** But our God is in the heavens: He hath done **whatsoever he hath pleased.**

**Psalms 135:5** For I know that the LORD is great, And that our Lord is above all gods. **Psalms 135:6** **Whatsoever the LORD pleased, That did he in heaven, and in earth, In the seas, and all deep places.**

**Isaiah 40:11** He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with his arm, And carry them in his bosom, And shall gently lead those that are with young.

**Isaiah 40:12** Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, And meted out heaven with the span, And comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, And weighed the mountains in scales, And the hills in a balance? **Isaiah 40:13** Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or being his counsellor hath taught him? **Isaiah 40:14** With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, And taught him in the path of judgment, And taught him knowledge, And shewed to him the way of understanding? **Isaiah 40:15** Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, And are counted as the small dust of the balance: Behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. **Isaiah 40:16** And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. **Isaiah 40:17** All nations before him are as nothing; And they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

## 2. The **providence** of God: God is actively working out his plan.

**Genesis 50:19** And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? **Genesis 50:20** **But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.**

**Acts 4:27** For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, **Acts 4:28** **For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.**

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things **work together** for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**Psalms 57:2** I will cry unto God most high; Unto God that performeth **all things for me.**

## 3. The **love** of God: God loves finite, fallen / sinful humans in **all** of our messiness.

**Deuteronomy 7:6** For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: **the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.** **Deuteronomy 7:7** The LORD did **not** set his love upon you, **nor** choose you, **because** ye were more in number than any people; **for** ye were the fewest of all people: **Deuteronomy 7:8** **But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers,** hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **John 3:16** **For God so loved the world,** that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, **even as Christ also loved the church,** and gave himself for it;

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

## 4. The **goodness** of God: God is good to all and all good to His own.

**Matthew 5:45** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil **and** on the good, and sendeth rain on the just **and** on the unjust.

**Psalms 145:9** The LORD is good to **all**: And his tender mercies are over **all** his works.

**1 Timothy 4:10** For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **who is (ἐστιν σωτήρ) the Saviour of all men, specially (μάλιστα) of those that believe.**

**Galatians 6:10** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto **all** men, **especially (μάλιστα) unto them who are of the household of faith.**

## 5. The **immanence** of God: God hears & answers prayer and involves Himself in our messiness.

**Philippians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**1 Peter 5:7** Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

**Matthew 10:29** Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. **Matthew 10:30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

**What is the transcendence of God? – God is totally, wholly other / different than us.**

**What is the immanence of God? God is fully present.**

**Where is God in the storms of life?**

**1. God is center-stage - sometimes / a few times**

When was this true?

Creation	David / Solomon	Pentecost
Exodus	Virgin birth	Rapture
Crossing Jordan	Jesus' miracles	Tribulation / 2 <sup>nd</sup> coming
Conquest	Resurrection	Eternity

And sadly, in far too many preacher stories – especially about themselves!

**2. God is on the stage but... - many times / most times**

**Acts 6:7** And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. **Acts 6:8** And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

**Acts 6:15** And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

**Acts 7:54** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

**Acts 7:55** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, **Acts 7:56** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. **Acts 7:57** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, **Acts 7:58** And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. **Acts 7:59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. **Acts 7:60** And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**3. God is off-stage - more times than we care to admit**

**Matthew 27:45** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. **Matthew 27:46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**

**2 Kings 22:1** Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. **2 Kings 22:2** And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

**2 Kings 23:25** **And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.** **2 Kings 23:26** **Notwithstanding** the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.

**2 Kings 23:29** In his days Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: **and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.**

**2 Kings 23:30** And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.

**Acts 12:1** Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. **Acts 12:2** **And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.**

**Acts 12:5** Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

**Acts 12:21** And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. **Acts 12:22** And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. **Acts 12:23** **And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.** **Acts 12:24** But the word of God grew and multiplied.