

# **Jehovah, Our God**

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## Psalms 147:3-5

Psalms 147:3-5, *“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.”*

In the lives of men, we like to see incidents of understanding, sympathy, tenderness, compassion, and pity. When we do, we think of them as genuinely great or powerful.

We admire these qualities in man who is not perfect. We should revere them in God who is perfect and without limit.

In our text we see the power and understanding, the gentleness and love of God.

## Understanding and power

Psalms 147:4-5, *“He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.”*

### The stars

The stars are interesting to most of us.

God to Elihu in Job 38:4-7, *“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”*

God recognizes the stars as great and important.

He knows their number. He knows their names.

The following information about stars was taken from, "The stars" by Sir James Dean, in *“The Universe About Us”*:

The nearest star is 4.27 light years away. Light travels 186,000 miles a second. It takes the light image 4.27 years to travel from that star to the earth.

The most distant star in the Milky Way is 220,000 light years away.

Scientists tell us there are about 1,500 million stars in the Milky Way — about 200 stars for each person on the earth. The Bible tells

us that God knows the exact number of the stars and the name of each one.

The most distant one is 140 million light years away. Multiply that times 5,865,696,000,000 (5 trillion, 865 billion, 696 million) miles it takes light to travel per year and you have how many miles the most distant star is from earth.

The earth is less than 8,000 miles in diameter.

The sun is 860,400 miles in diameter; more than 100 times as large as the earth.

One star, Betelgeuse, is 27 million times as large as the sun.

## **Microscopic forms.**

In the other direction, God takes care of things very small. There are countless things that only can be seen with a microscope, and things even smaller that cannot be seen with an ordinary microscope, such as atoms.

## **The system of the universe has order — it was created**

By faith we are compelled to say, “*God made it all, and He upholds and directs it all.*”

- Psalms 147:5, “*Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*”
- Heb. 11:3, “*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.*”

Here faith joins with reason. There is no other reasonable explanation. With all of the varied theories concerning the creation of the universe, there is only one logical key, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*” (Gen.1:1).

## **The tenderness, love, and gentleness of God.**

Psalms 19:1-11, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His*

*going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”*

God who has declared His power to us in the universe has also declared his love for us by ministering to our needs in His declared word. He has the power to heal our broken hearts and bind our wounds.

We are not lost to God. Among all who live, and have lived, He knows us by name, and He knows our needs.

Matt. 6:8, *“Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”*

When we consider the vastness of the universe, the smallness of our earth, our weakness, and our proneness to fall, we are likely to feel that “God isn’t interested in me.”

David felt like that. Psalms 8:3-4, *“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”*

Then he remembered and said, *“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.”* (Psalms 8:5-6).

## **The significance of man**

You are small; your earth is as a speck of dust; your life on earth is as a fraction of a second compared with the most insignificant star that flames up and then goes out; but you are greater than the stars. God made you so.

The star does not know that it exists, that it flames up and goes out; but you know that you do. God made you in His own image “to know.”

Broken hearts are not as brilliant and visible as the stars, but they are numerous and universal. They appear by way of cruelty, injustice, oppression, hatred, unjust reproach, treachery, failure, and a myriad of other methods.

The faithless become defiant, bitter, without hope, and cynical. The believing are trusting, penitent, and hopeful.

They say, as did Job, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.”* (Job 13:15).

God finds the believing and penitent heart and heals it, Psalms 34:18, *“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*

The Lord Jesus, whose heart was broken in Gethsemane because of our sin, finds each heart that is broken because of its own sin, and heals it.

1 Tim. 1:13-16, *“Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”*

Though a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious, the chief of sinners, Paul says: Gal. 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.”*

He knows you, loves you, and gave himself up for you. Heb. 2:9, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Don't be overly concerned about the problems and cares of the world. God said he will care for us. Matt. 6:24-34, *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is*

cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

## Conclusion

How does your heart react to such unselfish and sacrificial love? Let it lead you to trust and obey the Lord.

Rom. 2:4-6, “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds.”

God has made provision for one to share a far more grander home than this. To enter that realm one must become a Christian. The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 11:18, “... Then hath God also to the Gentiles

*granted repentance unto life.*” If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.

- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*” What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are “**UNTO**” righteousness, life, or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, “*But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:38). Peter, what



did you say the reason of baptism is? “for the remission of sins”. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won’t you consider it today?





