Magnificent Power

Readings, prayers, and hymns

Ken Bible

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Magnificent Power

Oh, Lord God! Behold, You Yourself have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You. (Jeremiah 32:17, NASB)

Who is like You among the gods, Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? (Exodus 15:11, NASB)

~

Father, all that exists is Yours – all power, all wisdom. Without You, our efforts are empty, meaningless, fruitless. We follow You and depend on You today.

Reflection on Habakkuk 3:1-15

Almighty God, I am a speck of dust compared to the mighty elements of Your creation the mountains, the oceans. the uncharted vastness of space. And all this sprawling creation is merely the fringes of Your robe. Its majestic symphony is only a faint whisper of You (Job 26:14). You are awesome beyond my comprehension, wise beyond my understanding, magnificent beyond any earthly comparison, and infinite in time, in mystery, and in goodness. What's more, You are not confined to theories, books, and imaginations. You are living, active, and powerful, sovereign in all time and space, the central player on the stage of history. You conceive, You plan, You work on behalf of those who trust You. I cannot grasp You or explain You, and I dare not limit You to my small, self-centered viewpoint. I stand, I bow in awe of You! I simply, humbly believe that

You will always be who You have always been, You will always do what You have always done, and You will finish all You have started.

Day by day,

in darkness and in light, I confess that You are Almighty God. I look to You. I wait on You. I long for You. I hope in You.

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God of mystery, when all I have is questions with no answers, I trust Your wisdom and rest in Your perfect timing.

 \sim

Hymn recording: <u>I Look to You</u>

I Look to You Psalm 25:1-5; 27:14; 33:20-22; 39:7; 130:5-7; 145:15; John 15:11; 17:13; 2 Peter 3:3-15a 4th time to Coda \oplus $\frac{A^{\flat}}{G}$ Refrain <u>Fm</u> E♭ Eb Db A♭ FmUnison

Cm Eb

E♭

= 56



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God Is in His Temple and on His Throne

Father, when life seems hopelessly unjust, You remind us: The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him. (Habakkuk 2:20, NASB) Your temple reminds us that You are holy perfect in all Your words, Your actions, Your wisdom, Your timing. Your temple reminds us of Your presence with us and in us. We *are* Your temple. No matter how viciously evil threatens us, Almighty God, You never leave us alone. So even when our world seems so very wrong, we remember: The Lord is in His holy temple. When our lives fill with problems and turmoil, Father, You remind us: The Lord has established His throne in the heavens. And His sovereignty rules over all. (Psalm 103:19, NASB) Your throne suggests Your power, Your control, Your unfailing goodness. You are our stability. You are our unshakable certainty in this sea of change. You are perfect strength in all our weakness. All reality bows to You, our Savior, our King, our loving Father. So in this wicked, unstable world, we look to You and remember: The Lord is in His holy temple;

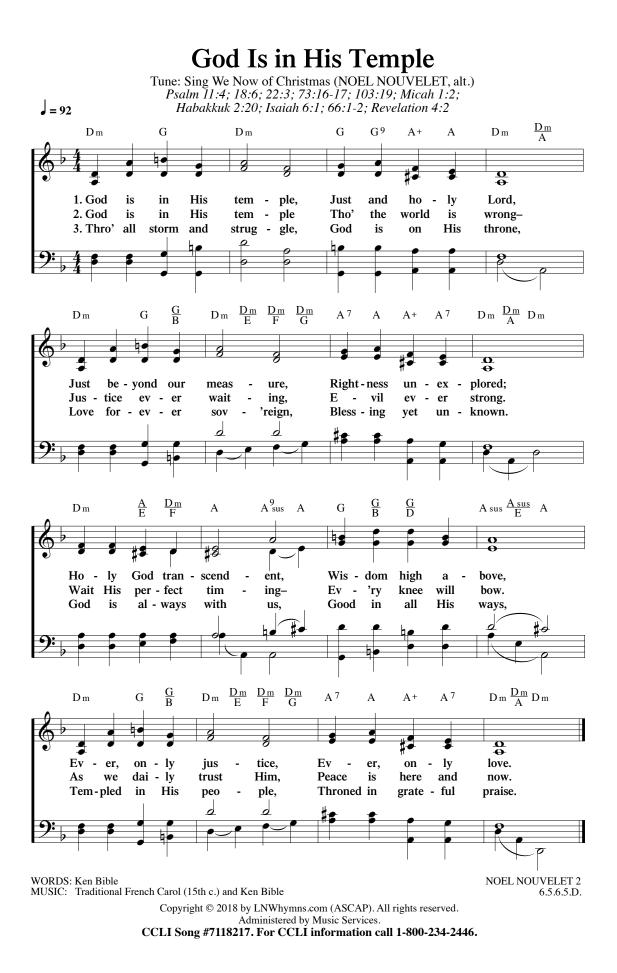
the Lord's throne is in heaven. (Psalm 11:4, NASB)

~

Father, how do we praise You for all You are and all You do? Where do we start? Your greatness and goodness encompass all we are and all we experience

~

Hymn recording: God Is in His Temple



God of the Exodus

Exodus 1:1 – 15:21

The exodus started centuries before

Moses met God at the burning bush.

God's plan was already in motion

when He called Abraham to leave his homeland and

start off for a land God would show him.

He relayed some of the details to Abraham

500 years before they happened:

"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions." (Genesis 15:13-14, NASB)

God was working when

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery,

only for God to exalt him to

rulership in Egypt.

Then from the beginning of the exodus process,

God told Moses plainly that

the exodus would not happen quickly nor painlessly:

"But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So I will reach out with My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go." (Exodus 3:19-20, NASB)

God was in charge from the outset.

He intentionally prolonged the process

by repeatedly hardening Pharaoh's heart.

His intent was to

fully,

undeniably,

unforgettably

act out His saving power

on the world stage.

And His plan worked.

God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt became

a touchstone for their entire relationship.

The memorial celebration of the Exodus,

the Passover,

is still at the heart of Israel's worship.

Over 40 years later and far away from Egypt, we are given a tiny glimpse of the impression the Exodus had made on the entire world. In the conquering of Jericho, Rahab the prostitute gave this explanation for why she turned against her own city to aid the invading Israelites:

"I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt...When we heard these reports, our hearts melted and no courage remained in anyone any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth below." (Joshua 2:9-11, NASB)

Then when Jesus came,

He fulfilled the Passover in the Lord's Supper and made it a celebration of salvation for all believers.

The Exodus is a dramatic demonstration of the unchanging power and

love of

the sovereign God who is

determined to deliver His people completely from all that oppresses them.

God rules over all the chaos of your world and your life

(Psalm 29:10).

~

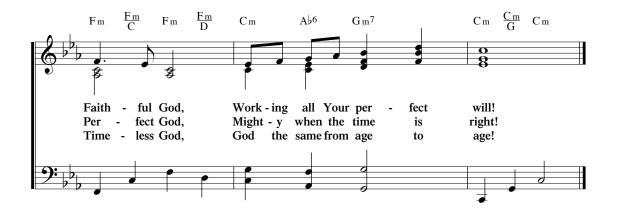
Hymn recording: God of the Exodus



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) and Ken Bible

HUMORESQUE 1 6.7.10.7.6.7.

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Eternal God

They said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." (John 6:29, NASB)

Eternal God, You overflow all the vast universe and all human thought and imagination. Though You are consistent, You consistently stretch every comfortable understanding of You.

But what you require of us is amazingly, stunningly simple: Trust Me.

As we trust You,

we live in the comforting truth of Your greatness and our smallness.

As we trust You, we fear You and fear nothing else.

As we trust You,

our horizons are as vast as You are. We share Your character, Your power, Your goodness, and Your unlimited future.

As we trust You,

we are unmoved by threats and unconcerned about unknowns. We look beyond today's ups and downs. Fruitless worry disappears into peace when we see only You.

~

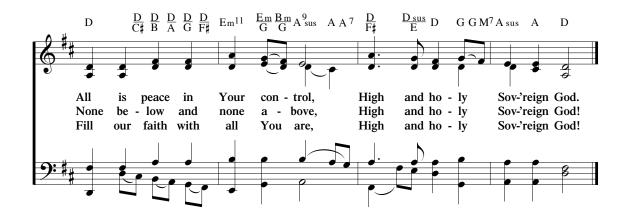
Father, as we begin to know You better, as mental beliefs become personal reality, more and more life is simple faith. We simply rely on You being You.

~

Hymn recording: High and Holy Sovereign God



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Fearing the Father

Isaiah 11:1-5; Luke 12:4-7

Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29, NASB)

What does it mean to fear God? From scripture, it seems that fearing God is something other than being terrified of Him, and something more than simply respecting Him.

Whenever you want to understand God's will for our lives, look to the example of Jesus. This is how Isaiah described Him over 700 years before His birth:

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And He will delight in the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-3a, NASB)

Read the gospels and look at Jesus' life, and you'll see what it means to fear God. Jesus responded to His Father wholeheartedly, completely, constantly. He trusted Him. He revered Him. He obeyed Him. He lived for His Father alone. For Jesus, His Father was the ultimate reality, the ultimate source, the ultimate goal.

In short, Jesus treated God as God. That is what it means to fear God. That is what the Old Testament refers to when it repeatedly says:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Proverbs 9:10, NASB. See also Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 15:33)

Jesus taught His disciples not to fear evil, or persecution, or Satan, or death. There is only one thing in all creation that God's children need to fear:

"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has the authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" (Luke 12:4-5, NASB)

If we fear the Father as Jesus did, if we treat Him as God, if we trust that He is allpowerful, all-wise, and all-loving, why should we ever be anxious or fearful about anything that life or death can hold? God has given us the freedom to fear only Him.

~

Hymn recording: Holy Father, Only You

Holy Father, Only You

John 4:34; 5:19, 30; 6:38; 14:10



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven and Ken Bible

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Fear God Alone

The Lord spoke to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people. He said..."Do not fear what they fear...The Lord Almighty is the one You are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear." (Isaiah 8:11-13, NIV)

Father, You are Almighty God,

the sovereign Lord over all reality.

Fearing You,

I need fear nothing else.

You are wisdom and love,

so I want only Your will.

You are truth.

Everything else is false and fading,

unworthy of my desire and trust

You are all-in-all.

Outside You is only emptiness and nothingness.

Outside You, all will change and die.

You are forever.

You are unchanging.

You are complete, and

I am complete only in You.

~

Father, often I come to You so anxious that I ignore the comforting truth I crave, even as You sing and dance and paint it all around me. It is the unchanging truth that You are all power and beauty, wisdom and love, and that I have absolutely nothing to fear.

~

Hymn recording: The Fear of God

The Fear of God



TUNE: House of the Rising Sun Isaiah 6; 8:12-13; Jeremiah 5:22; 10:2-7; Malachi 4:2; Matthew 10:26-31; Luke 12:4-7

WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible RISING SUN C.M.

Alt. Tunes: AZMON, MAITLAND, MARTYRDOM

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No Fear

The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? (Psalm 27:1, NASB) When nagged by uncertainties big and small no fear. In the grip of illness no fear. In need no fear. In loss – no fear. In change no fear. In all my weakness and boundless ignorance no fear. In the darkness no fear. When opposed by forces far stronger than myself no fear. When assaulted by temptation no fear. When threatened by suffering no fear. In the valley of the shadow of death no fear. For my life is hidden with Christ in You, my Father, my loving Savior, my mighty Rock, my sovereign Lord and my everlasting God.

Nothing in this world, seen or unseen, can make us afraid as we simply trust our Father.

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Hymn recording: If God Is on Our Side



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Reflection on Psalm 33

You speak, and it is so. Everything that exists, seen and unseen, exists because You spoke it into being. Your Word is creative and sovereign. Human words are empty and powerless. We put all our trust and hope in You. When You purpose to do something, You do it, surely, completely, no matter what it takes. What You plan, You accomplish. What You start, You finish. Human plans are weak and unreliable. Our plans are as temporary as the breath in our nostrils. We put all our trust and hope in You. In the end, those who succeed, those whose work endures, are not the powerful or the ambitious. Those who succeed and endure are those You bless. And You bless those who fear You, those who put all the trust and hope in You.

~

O Father, all reality overflows with Your goodness! Everything You do is right, and everything You say is truth. I trust Your absolute dependability! I rest in Your unfailing love! As every other supply fails, I rejoice in You and patiently wait on YOU.

 \sim

Hymn recording: Our Hope Is All in You

Our Hope Is All in You TUNE: When Morning Gilds the Skies (LAUDES DOMINI) Psalm 33 **=** 92 $\frac{G_{sus}^7}{D}$ $\frac{G7}{B}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ С C E G 7 F A $\frac{Am}{C}$ D 7 F Dm^7 Am^7 Em^7 0 0 A - bove, be - yond, be - low. 1. You speak, and it is so 2. Our hu - man plans are vain. This world is Your do - main. 3. You love and un - der stand Those rest - ing in Your hand. -4. Our strength, our help, our shield, Tran-scend-ent love re - vealed, $\frac{G7}{B} \frac{Fadd^9}{A} \frac{Em}{G}$ <u>D</u>7 F♯ $\frac{G}{F}$ C E $\frac{G7}{D}$ F A D⁷_{sus} D⁷ G С G 7 Our You! Cre - a - tor, Breath of all. hope all in is hope You give all You! and You con trol. Our is in -You! We look Our hope is all in in rev - 'rent fear. Our hope is all in You! 0 joy of all our songs, <u>G</u> F C E <u>Bm</u> D $Em \frac{G^7}{D}$ C C sus $\frac{C}{Bb}$ <u>F</u> A С D 7 G G G⁷_{sus}G⁷ С 0 May we, SO brief and small, Put all our trust in You! You fill and rule the whole. Our trust is all in You! You smile and draw near. Our trust is all in You! us То You our breath be longs. Our trust is all You! in 6.

WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Joseph Barnby (1838-1896) LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.6.6.6.

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Reflection on Psalm 95

Consider who He is: Yahweh, I AM, source of all being; our Rock; the one who saves us from all that threatens and oppresses us; ultimate ruler over all rulers: Creator and sustainer of all reality. The most magnificent heights, the most mysterious depths, and the infinite variety of creation all that is beyond our imagination are encompassed in His hand, resting in His effortless control. How should we respond to the simple reality of all He is? Sing! Shout for joy! Praise Him jubilantly! Bring Him our exuberant thanksgiving! Bow down in worship. But bowing to Him means more than repeating the right words or assuming a physical posture. Bowing to Him means fully giving ourselves to His complete authority unreservedly, in full obedience. without resistance. It means focusing our hearts and minds, not on our own desires, not on our own resources, but on Him. Bowing means trusting Him and following Him like sheep follow their shepherd. It means keeping our hearts pliable in His hands, fully responsive to His will,

like clay in the hands of a potter.

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. (Psalm 95:6, NASB)

~

Almighty God, my Shepherd, my Father, I come to You joyfully, for no truth is sweeter than who You are and who I am in You!

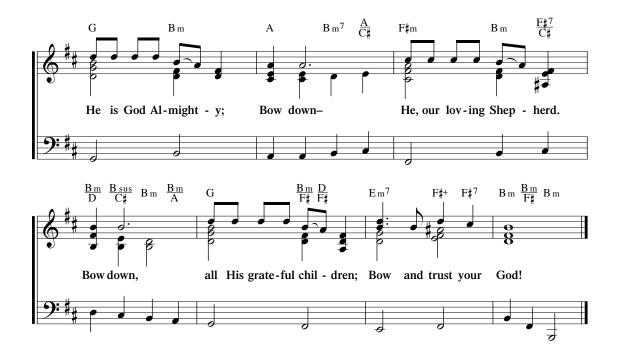
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Hymn recording: Psalm 95

Psalm 95



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Reflection on Psalm 100

Great I AM, Creator, Shepherd, You rule all that is for all time. You are the Source of all existence and everything good. You are truly the All-in-all! You are grace and truth unfailing love and absolute dependability, We rejoice in all You are! We sing *to* You and of You. Graciously invited, we come before You together, as Your people. We serve You gladly and eagerly. We reflect on Who You are and who we are – humble creatures of dust, yet glorious in You.

O our God,

we praise You! We thank You! We bless You!

~

O magnificent Creator,

our Shepherd, we sing for joy to You! We thank You for Your unfailing love and absolute dependability. Praise to You, our Father!

~

Psalm 100



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O wonderful God, my Father, send Your faithful Spirit to help my mind to recall and my heart to savor all the wonders of Your power, all the depths of Your wisdom, and all the riches of Your love. You are just and true, gracious and compassionate, wholeheartedly generous, and deeply, unfailingly good.

Today,

help me to remember, rejoice, and truly worship You, O glorious God!

~

O my Father, recognizing You for Who You are is the beginning point of all wisdom. So this morning I stop and thank You. You are forgiveness, cleanness, transformation, teaching, indwelling life, faithful enabling, and so very much more! Praise to You!

Psalm 111

ALT. TUNE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD 100TH)

See also the hymn "Psalm 112," written as an optional sequel to this hymn, sung to the same tune.



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by *The Sacred Harp*, 1844 EALES L.M.

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Father, You alone are worthy of all honor, glory, and trust. For You alone are Yahweh, source of all being, Sovereign Creator, unfailing love, and absolute dependability. You are the Maker. You are the Almighty Doer. You speak. You listen. You touch. You feel. You move. Sovereign and unhindered, You do everything You desire, and always in perfect love. All other "gods", everything else we trust. seek, and desire, are nothing. They are simply earthbound delusions, born of our weakness and ignorant self-centeredness. As we trust them, seek them, and desire them, we pour our lives into emptiness and vanity. We join our idols in their complete nothingness and eternal silence.

> Not to us, O Lord, not to us,

but to You be all glory. (Psalm 115:1, para.)

~

Maker of all that is, Father of unfailing love and absolute dependability, as we trust You, You bless us with Yourself.

~

Psalm 115



MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) and Ken Bible

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Sovereign God is for us.

Otherwise sin and death would have swallowed us whole. as a voracious beast would gulp down a tiny, helpless creature. This evil world would have swept in like a typhoon and swamped us. Its raging winds and mountainous waves would have buried us forever in the murky depths. The master tempter would have easily trapped us in our weakness, ignorance, and selfishness. His teeth would have torn our fragile flesh and crushed the life from us. But Sovereign God is for us. The Almighty One, the Lord of all the heavenly armies, is our Creator. our Keeper, our Deliverer, our Father. He claims us as His very own and places His own Magnificent Being between us and anything that would threaten us. His power is absolute. His love is unconditional. He overwhelms every enemy in heaven and earth. Our life is His life. untouchable,

indestructible, pulsing forever within us. As long as He is our Lord, our eternal safety is absolutely certain.

Praise to You! Praise to You, Almighty Lord and Savior!

> Through every trouble, every overwhelming situation, every unknown, every tiny concern, You are with us, Almighty God! We rest in You! We rejoice in You!

> > ~

Psalm 124 TUNE: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty (NICAEA) Psalm 124; Romans 8:31



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: John B. Dykes (1823-1876); arr. by Ken Bible NICAEA 6.6.7.6.6.6.5.5.

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O Almighty God, Great and Good,

Glory of all glory and Splendor of all splendor,

Creator, Father, Source and Goal of all life, all longing, all being and doing, Light of all Truth and Wisdom and Justice. Absolute Faithfulness and Unending, unfailing Love how can we respond to all You are and all You do? We worship You, we love You, we lift You up,

we lift You up, we glorify You with every act every thought, every word, and every breath.

~

O Almighty, Magnificent Father, Your goodness and greatness are beyond our full comprehension! You are unfailing love and absolute dependability. All praise to YOU!

~



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