

Praying to a BIG, BIG God

BIG BIG GOD – Part 7 of 7

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

The power of the LORD came over me and brought me out by his Spirit and put me down in the middle of a valley. The valley was filled with bones. He led me all around them. **I saw** that there were very many bones at the bottom of the valley, and they were very dry. Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

...suddenly there was a rattling noise, and the bones came together, one bone *attaching itself* to another. As I looked, **behold**, ligaments were on them, muscles were on them, and skin covered them. ... Then they came to life and stood on their feet. There were enough of them to form a very large army.

The LORD also said to me, "Son of man, all my people are like these bones. The people say, 'Our bones are dry, and our hope has vanished. We are completely destroyed.' This is what the Almighty LORD says: '**Behold**, my people, I will open your graves and take you out of them. I will bring you to the land I have promised. Then, my people, you will know that I am the LORD, because I will open your graves and bring you out of your graves. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will come to life.'" **(Ezekiel 37:1-14)**

"What do you 'see'?"	<i>versus</i>	"What do you 'Behold'"
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Praying to a BIG, **BIG GOD**—our _____ and _____ are important.

Not our "_____" BUT His "_____"

Because we are small and GOD is **BIG**, Let's talk about first

What it DOES NOT mean:

Because we are small and GOD is **BIG**, We do NOT have to—

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Even though we are small and GOD is **BIG**, Let's talk about first **What it DOES mean:**

Because we are small and GOD is **BIG**, We CAN [& Should] —

- _____

The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends. You are my friends if you obey my commandments. **(John 15:13-14)**

- _____

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What can we say about all of this? If God is for us, who can be against us? God didn't spare his own Son but handed him over *to death* for all of us. So he will also give us everything along with him. Who will accuse those whom God has chosen? God has approved of them. Who will condemn them? What will separate us from the love Christ has for us? Can trouble, distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or violent death separate us from his love?

(Romans 8:31-35)

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The LORD is my light and my salvation. Who is there to fear? The LORD is my life's fortress. Who is there to be afraid of? Evildoers closed in on me to tear me to pieces. My opponents and enemies stumbled and fell. Even though an army sets up camp against me, my heart will not be afraid. Even though a war breaks out against me, I will still have confidence *in the LORD*. ...He hides me in his shelter when there is trouble. He keeps me hidden in his tent. He sets me high on a rock. Now my head will be raised above my enemies who surround me. I will shout for joy. I will sing and make music to praise the LORD. **(Psalms 27:1-14)**

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It is in just such times that we should make an effort to remember in our prayers how much we have to be thankful for. Above all, we should never allow ourselves to be consumed by the present moment, but should foster that calmness that comes from noble thoughts, and measure everything by them. The fact that most people cannot do this is what makes it so difficult to bear with them. It is weakness rather than wickedness that perverts people and drags us down, and it needs profound sympathy to put up with that. But all the time God still reigns in heaven.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison, 204-205.)

A fitting conclusion to this series on the **BIG BIG GOD**

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, my soul! Blessed are those who receive help from God. Their hope rests on the LORD their God, who made heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in them. The LORD remains faithful forever. He brings about justice for those who are oppressed. He gives food to those who are hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free. The LORD gives sight to blind people. The LORD straightens *the backs* of those who are bent over. The LORD loves his people. The LORD protects strangers. The LORD gives relief to orphans and widows. He is the one who gathers the outcasts of Israel together. He is the healer of the brokenhearted. He is the one who bandages their wounds. He determines the number of stars. He gives each one a name. Our Lord is great, and his power is great. There is no limit to his understanding. The LORD gives relief to those who are oppressed. Sing to the LORD a song of thanksgiving. The LORD is pleased with those who revere him, with those who wait with hope for his mercy. He blesses your children. He is the one who brings peace and satisfies your *hunger*. He keeps his promises, and there is nothing like what he has done for his people. Hallelujah!

(Psalms 146-147)