

# The God Who Is Real

Sunday, January 22, 2023

## Deuteronomy 4:32-39

32 Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? 33 Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? 34 Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

35 You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other. 36 From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. 37 Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, 38 to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

Moses calls upon the people to acknowledge that God is real. To know it with all their heart and soul. So often the devil comes to cause us to call into question the REALITY of our God. Even though we know, deep down that He is, even though we have seen His mighty works, even though we have heard His voice, even though we have felt His love, even though we have experienced His promises and blessings.

Today I want us to simple reflect on THE GOD WHO IS REAL. I would like for you to help me preach this message today by sharing your favorite stories and testimonies of The God who is REAL

## 1. The God who SEES

Genesis 16:7-16

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

11 The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael (El Shama - The God Who Hears) to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

## 2. The God who HEARS

The story of Hagar and Ishmael also teaches us that God not only sees us but he hears us as well. (Vs 11, 15) He is the God who hears.

God himself declared this truth when he spoke to Solomon

1 Kings 9:1-3

9 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do 2 the Lord appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. 3 The Lord said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

I want to remind you that the New testament says that we are the Temple of The Holy Spirit. If God consecrated the Temple of the Old Testament, how much more has he consecrated the New Temple of our hearts "by putting his name there" and telling us that His eyes and heart will always be there.

That's why Jesus prayed these words at Lazarus' tomb...

**John 11:41-42**

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

**Psalm 17:6**

6 I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

### 3. The God who SPEAKS

**Hebrews 1:1-2**

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

From the very beginning of creation "and God said" and all throughout the scriptures our God has revealed himself as the God who speaks

One of my favorite examples of this is how God spoke to Moses

**Exodus 33:9 (ESV)**

9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses.

**Exodus 33:11 (ESV)**

11 Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...

And it is no different for us today. We can hear his Voice every time we read His Word, He speaks to us when we speak to Him in Prayer, He speaks to us in worship, in Visions, in dreams, through godly preaching, the teaching, conviction and work of the Holy Spirit inside us, prophecies fulfilled. He is real because He speaks.

#### 4. The God who ACTS

God not only sees and hears and speaks - He Acts

How has God acted in your life? What is your favorite example of the God who acts from Scripture or your own life?

Once again we see that from The beginning God has revealed himself as the God who acts... Creation displays the wonders of Gods mighty acts.

Deuteronomy 3:24 (ESV)

24 'O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?

1 Samuel 12:7

Now then, stand here, because I am going to confront you with evidence before the Lord as to all the righteous acts performed by the Lord for you and your ancestors.

Psalm 71:15

My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long— though I know not how to relate them all.

He is not a good who is removed from our lives, but is actively involved

#### 5. The God who FORGIVES, DELIVERS, REDEEMS and RESTORES

Psalm 78:38

38 Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.

Romans 7:25

25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Psalm 103:2-4

2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

Jeremiah 30:17

17 But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the Lord...

## 6. The God who BECAME ONE OF US

John 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 2:14

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

## 7. The God who TAKES OUR PLACE

Isaiah 53:4-6

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## 8. The God who DEFEATS SIN, DEATH, HELL and THE GRAVE

2 Timothy 1:10

10 {Grace} has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Revelation 1:18

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

## 9. The God who PREPARES A PLACE FOR US

John 14:2-3

2 My Father's

house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.