

Stand in Awe of God

Ecclesiastes 8:10-17

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You need to begin where Scripture begins—with God Himself. If your view of God is small, everything else in life will be distorted. But when you see Him as He truly is, everything else starts to fall into place. God is not “awesome” in the shallow way people use that word today. He is awesome in the truest sense—He inspires awe. He is majestic, sovereign, terrifying in holiness, perfect in all His ways. There is no one like Him. He is the Creator, the self-existent One, the great I AM. He does not derive His being from anything else. He simply is—eternal, unchanging, and supreme.

Scripture consistently reveals this God in ways that overwhelm human beings. When He descended on Mount Sinai, the people trembled and begged that He would not speak to them directly. When Isaiah saw Him high and lifted up, surrounded by angelic beings declaring His holiness, he was undone and cried out in awareness of his own sinfulness. When Ezekiel saw even a vision of His glory, he collapsed in awe. And yet this same God, who is utterly transcendent and beyond comprehension, also draws near. He speaks in a whisper, as He did to Elijah. He reveals Himself in ways that are personal and relational. This is the God you are dealing with—infinately great, yet near.

You must hold on to that truth as you come to Ecclesiastes 8:10–17. If you lose sight of who God is, this passage will not make sense to you. Solomon writes from a position of recognizing God’s supremacy. Despite his failures, he understood that God alone remains sovereign over all things. And that is the lens through which you must see everything in this life.

As you look at the world, you will notice something troubling. Wicked people often seem to prosper. They move in and out of places of worship, appearing righteous on the outside, yet inwardly they are corrupt. They live their lives, and when they die, they are either forgotten or even praised. Justice does not always come swiftly. And because judgment is delayed, people become bold in their sin. When consequences are not immediate, the human heart—already inclined toward evil—runs freely into greater wickedness.

You see this all around you. People redefine sin to make it acceptable. They excuse what God condemns. They pursue their desires and justify themselves along the way. And often, it looks like they are getting away with it. That can be deeply unsettling if you are trying to live righteously. It may even tempt you to question whether fearing God really matters.

But you must not lose sight of what is true. Solomon reminds you that although a sinner may do evil repeatedly and even seem to live long, it will ultimately be well with those who fear God. That is the dividing line—not outward appearances, not temporary success, but whether a person truly fears the Lord. To fear God is to stand in awe of



Him, to recognize His authority, to submit to His Word, and to live in reverence before Him. And this is not something hidden or private only—it is to be evident in how you live.

For the one who does not fear God, the end will not be good. No matter how long they seem to prosper, their life is like a shadow that will eventually disappear. They cannot escape God's judgment. Their apparent success is temporary and ultimately meaningless.

So you must anchor yourself here: fearing God is not optional—it is essential. It is the beginning of wisdom, and it is the path of blessing. Even when everything around you seems unfair, you hold fast to this truth.

Now, as you continue to observe life, you will encounter another reality that is difficult to understand. Sometimes righteous people suffer as though they were wicked, and wicked people receive what seems like the reward of the righteous. This reversal challenges your sense of justice. You expect life to operate according to clear moral cause and effect, but often it does not.

You may think of real situations where this happens—faithful believers enduring deep loss, while others who care nothing for God seem to thrive. These moments are painful and confusing. They press you to ask why. Why would God allow this? Why does He not intervene more visibly?

Solomon does not give you a detailed explanation for every instance of injustice. Instead, he directs you toward a posture of trust. He tells you to receive the life God has given you and to enjoy the daily gifts that come from His hand—your work, your food, your relationships, the ordinary rhythms of life. This is not a call to shallow pleasure or escapism. It is a call to trust God's sovereignty in the midst of life's uncertainties.

When you wake up each day, that day is a gift from God. You are not in control of all the outcomes, but you are called to live faithfully within what He has given you. You trust Him not by figuring everything out, but by walking in obedience and gratitude in the present moment. You acknowledge that He knows what you need, and you rely on Him to provide.

This aligns with what Jesus taught—that you are not to be consumed with anxiety about tomorrow. Your responsibility is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting that He will take care of the rest. Each day has enough trouble of its own, and each day is also an opportunity to trust Him.

But even with this perspective, you may still wrestle with deeper questions. Why does God allow injustice at all? Why is the world so difficult to understand? Why can't you make sense of everything that happens?

Here is where Solomon brings you to an important conclusion: you are limited in your understanding. No matter how much you pursue wisdom, no matter how diligently you



try to grasp the workings of the world, you will not fully comprehend what God is doing. His ways are beyond you.

You can spend your entire life seeking answers, exhausting yourself in the process, and still come to the end without fully understanding. Even the wisest person cannot claim complete knowledge. That is not a failure—it is a reality of being human.

And this is where you must learn to rest. You are not called to understand everything. You are called to trust the One who does. God's greatness is unsearchable. His thoughts are higher than your thoughts, and His ways higher than your ways. There will always be aspects of His plan that you cannot grasp.

But this does not mean you are left in the dark. While you cannot fully comprehend God, you can truly know Him. He has revealed Himself in His Word. He has shown you that He is holy, righteous, just, and good. And most clearly, He has revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.

In Christ, you see the clearest expression of God's character. You see His justice and His love meeting at the cross. Jesus endured the greatest injustice—the sinless One suffering in the place of sinners. And through that, God accomplished salvation for those who believe.

This is what you must hold on to when life does not make sense. If God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for you, then you can be sure that He is working all things for your good. That does not mean everything will feel good or look good, but it means nothing is outside His sovereign purpose.

So when you face suffering, when you encounter injustice, when you are overwhelmed with questions, you do not collapse under the weight of needing answers. Instead, you rest in God. You entrust yourself to Him, knowing that He is in control, that He is good, and that He will bring all things to their proper end.

There will be moments when you, like others before you, ask "Why?" And sometimes, you will not receive an answer in this life. In those moments, your hope is not in understanding but in Christ. Your assurance is that one day, all things will be made clear, and all things will be made right.

Until then, you live with the right posture. You fear God, recognizing His holiness and authority. You trust Him, embracing the life He has given you each day. And you rest in Him, accepting your limitations and relying on His perfect wisdom.

This is how you navigate a world filled with injustice and uncertainty. Not by figuring everything out, but by fixing your eyes on the God who is over all things. And if you belong to Him through faith in Christ, then you can be confident that nothing—no suffering, no confusion, no trial—will separate you from His love.



So continue to stand in awe of Him. Continue to trust Him in the ordinary and the difficult. And continue to rest in Him, knowing that He is working out His purposes, even when you cannot see how.