**Lesson: Awesome God**

 Our God is awesome, majestic, and marvelous. We cannot fully grasp the magnitude of His power, glory, and dominion. We only can wonder about His amazing creations, the intricacy of the universe, the miracles of life, and His overwhelming presence.

* EXO 15:11 ~ Who among the gods is like you, oh Lord? Who else is majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, and works such great wonders?
* 1 CH 29:11 ~ Yours, oh Lord, is all greatness, power, glory, victory, and majesty. Everything in heaven and earth is yours, including the everlasting kingdom. You are exalted as head above all creatures.
* JOB 5:9; JOB 37:5,22; JOB 40:10 ~ God performs wonders that cannot be fathomed and miracles that cannot be counted. His voice thunders in marvelous ways; He does great things beyond our understanding. He comes to us in golden splendor and in awesome magnificence. God is adorned with majesty and excellence, with glory and beauty.
* PSA 29:4; PSA 96:6: PSA 104:1; PSA 118:15–16 ~ The voice of the Lord is powerful and majestic. Splendor and grandeur are before Him; strength and glory are His sanctuary. Praise the Lord, oh my soul! He is awesome; He is clothed in brilliance and majesty. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tabernacles of the righteous saying, “The right hand of the Lord is lifted high; His right hand has done mighty things.”
* ECC 5:1–2,7 ~ Trod carefully when you enter God’s house. Listen intently rather than offering the sacrifice of fools who do not realize their error. Do not hasten to speak and when you do let your words be few. Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore, stand in awe of God.

 Because God is so magnificent, we cannot help but marvel at Him. It is proper to fear God and His strength. However, His people fear Him because He is great and powerful, not because they are scared. We are not afraid, for God is our faith and our hope. His great love preserves us and comforts us. In His hands we feel safe, not fearful.

* 1 SA 12:24 ~ Fear only the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart. Consider the wonderful things He has done for you.
* JOB 4:6–7 ~ Eliphaz, who surmised that God was punishing Job, asked Job “Isn’t the fear of God your confidence, hope, and righteousness? Did the innocent ever perish? Were the upright ever destroyed?”
* MIC 5:4–5 ~ He will stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord and in the majesty of His name. And His sheep will live securely and in peace, for His greatness will extend to the ends of the earth.
* 1 JO 4:16,18–19 ~ We know and believe in God’s love for us, because God is love. Those that live in love live in God and He lives in them. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because in fear there is torment. Those who fear are not made perfect in love. We love God because He loved us first.

 God has promised us so many wonderful things, and only He can make them happen. Those who believe in God’s promises will live forever. If we trust in Him for our salvation, we needn’t fear His wrath. Since He is on our side, we have nothing to fear at all. For those who lead a life of sin without repentance there is much to fear, for God will destroy their bodies and souls in hell.

* DEU 28:58–59 ~ If you do not observe God’s Law or revere His glorious and awesome name, He will send horrible plagues, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses upon you and your descendants.
* PSA 23:4 ~ Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not be afraid of any evil, for God will be with me to comfort me.
* PSA 33:8,10 ~ Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord’s unfailing love surrounds those who trust in Him.
* PRO 1:7,33 ~ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise knowledge and wisdom. Those who seek God will be safe and sound from the fear of evil.
* MAT 10:28 ~ Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid of those who can kill the body but not the soul. Fear only God who can destroy both your body and soul in hell.”

 If you do not trust in Christ for your salvation you will experience God’s wrath in a big way. What a terrible fate awaits the ungodly and the wicked. God is both awesome in the magnitude of His love as well as in the gravity of His vengeance.

* ISA 2:10,19,21 ~ Hide in the rocks for fear of the Lord and for the glory of His majesty. For He has risen to shake the earth.
* ISA 28:15,18–19 ~ You brag that you have entered into a covenant with death, and have made an agreement with the grave. Do you think you will escape the overwhelming scourge by making a lie your refuge and a falsehood your hiding place? But your covenants with death and your agreements with hell will be null and void. You will be beaten down by the overwhelming scourge. Then you will understand this message and it will bring sheer terror unto you.
* ROM 13:4 ~ If you do what is evil, be afraid, for God’s minister will not bear the sword in vain, because he is sent to execute wrath upon those who do evil.
* HEB 10:26–27,31 ~ If you deliberately continue sinning after you have received the knowledge of truth, there will remain no sacrifice for sins. All you will receive is the fearful expectation of judgment and a raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Yes, it is a dreadful thing to fall into the vengeful hands of the living God.
* REV 21:8 ~ The fearful, the unbelieving, the murderers, prostitutes, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars will take part in the lake of fire which is the second death.

 We know that God has shown Himself to us through Jesus Christ and that Christ is the instrument of God’s Holy Spirit. He is our Savior who will return someday and bring us home to our Heavenly Father. Christ revealed to all people the salvation God grants to anyone that follows Him. What a fabulous plan God developed to ensure that we could live with Him forever in a state of purity, righteousness, and blessedness.

 Christ, then, is the administrator of God’s plan of salvation. He is the right hand of God who performed God’s will and wielded His mighty power here on earth. And His Holy Spirit remains with us to ensure we continue our mission on earth and emerge victorious.

* PSA 17:7; PSA 45:4; PSA 98:1 ~ Show us your wonderful loving kindness, Lord, who saved us by your right hand, those who trust in your protection. In your majesty, Lord, ride forth victoriously on behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness. Let your right hand display your awesome deeds. Sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. The right hand of His holy arm has won for Him the victory.
* PSA 80:14–19 ~ Return to us Almighty God! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vineyard that your right hand has planted, and the Branch you have raised up for yourself. The vine has been cut down and burned in the fire; at your rebuke your people perish. Let your hand rest on the man at your right, the Son of Man who you have raised for yourself. Do this so we will not turn our backs on you. Revive us so we can call on your name. Turn us back, Lord of hosts, and let your face shine on us so we can be saved.
* PSA 110:1 ~ The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand and I will make your enemies your footstool.” [This verse is quoted many times in the New Testament by Christ and the apostles. For example, see MAR 12; ACT 2; HEB 1.]
* ISA 41:10 ~ God says, “Fear not for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you; I will hold you up with my righteous right hand.”
* MAR 12:35–37 ~ Jesus was teaching in the temple. He asked the people why the teachers of the law insisted that Christ was the son of David. David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand and I will make your enemies your footstool.” Jesus continued, “If David calls him Lord, then how can He be David’s son?”
* MAR 14:61–62 ~ The high priest asked Jesus, “Are you the Christ?” Jesus replied, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”
* ACT 2:22–35; ACT 5:31–32 ~ Peter preached to the crowds about the miracles of Christ, including His resurrection. Peter reminded them about the prophecies of David concerning Christ. Peter taught them, “God raised Jesus to life, and we are witnesses of that fact. He has been exalted to the right hand of God. God exalted Him as Prince and Savior to His own right hand, so that He might give repentance and forgiveness to Israel. We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”
* ACT 7:55–56 ~ Stephen, being enthralled by the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at His right hand. And Stephen proclaimed, “Behold, I see an opening in the heavens and the Son of Man standing at God’s right hand.”
* ROM 8:34 ~ Who is He that condemns? It is Christ who died, and more than that, who rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God, and who also intercedes for us.
* EPH 1:19–20 ~ God’s incomparably great power, like the working of His mighty strength, was exerted through Christ when He arose from the dead, and took the seat at God’s own right hand in the heavenly places. His reign is far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given in the present age and in the age to come.
* HEB 1:3; HEB 8:1–2; HEB 10:12; HEB 12:2–3 ~ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of His Majesty in heaven. To summarize, we have a High Priest, who sits at the right hand of God’s throne in heaven and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle, set up by the Lord and not by man. This Priest offered one sacrifice for sins that will last forever. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning the shame, and now sits at God’s right hand. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

 Because we have claimed Christ as our Lord and Savior, God has claimed us as His people. It is our duty to declare Him to the world, and to be witnesses in our lives for Him. We show our appreciation for His many blessings by giving Him the credit, the thanks, the praise, and the glory. Even as Christ was the instrument of God’s right hand, so are we to be His instruments. He is the conductor and we are the orchestra, and together we will make beautiful music in His name. Like a perfectly calibrated machine, the body of Christ collectively turns out works of praise which will bring greater glory to the Father, who will glorify us in the end along with His Son.

* 1 CH 16:12,24–25 ~ Remember God’s marvelous works, His wonders, and His judgments. Declare His glory among the heathen, and His amazing works among all nations. For the Lord is great, and He is worthy of our praise.
* PSA 9:1–2 ~ I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. I will speak of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice. I will sing praises to your name.
* 1 PE 2:9 ~ You are a unique, chosen generation, a priesthood and holy nation, because you praise Him who called you from darkness into His marvelous light.
* JDE 1:25 ~ To the only wise God our Savior be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and forevermore, Amen.
* REV 15:3 ~ They sing the song of Moses, God’s servant, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are your ways, oh King of saints.”

 God has promised us many things, including the kingdom, if only we believe. He gives us the power to do His will, to minister to others, to overcome the world, and to possess the kingdom. The forces of evil, as well as certain unbelievers, will be obstructions in our path. However, no impediment is too great that we cannot achieve what God has guaranteed. It is His Spirit living in us which gives us the power to make things happen; we can do nothing without Him. With Him, we can do everything. Therefore, we needn’t be afraid or dismayed when we are threatened or the odds are against us, because God and His angels will be fighting on our side.

 How awesome is our God who performs mighty deeds, and enables us to do amazing things according to His purpose and desire. The following is but a sampling of the great things God did through the lives of His people.

* GEN 6—7 ~ Noah built the great ark and gathered all the animals.
* EXO 14; EXO 17; NUM 20 ~ Moses parted the Red Sea and brought water from the rocks.
* NUM 13—14; JOS 14 ~ Moses sent spies into the land expecting them to return and report on their findings. Of the twelve spies, ten returned with an unfavorable report that generated fear concerning the strength of the inhabitants there. Two returned with a favorable report, namely Caleb and Joshua. They believed God’s words and were eager to take the land that God had promised Israel. Caleb quieted the people and said, “Let’s go immediately and possess the land, for we can overcome those people.” But the others were afraid, and saw themselves as grasshoppers compared to the mighty giants that lived in the land. Joshua and Caleb pleaded with the people saying, “This is a great land, flowing with milk and honey. Let us not rebel against the Lord or be afraid of the inhabitants there, for we will eat them alive.” But the people did not listen. And God cursed Israel, telling Moses how the adults would never make it to the Promised Land except for Joshua and Caleb. God said, “My servant Caleb has another Spirit within him, and because he followed my advice completely, he will enter the land and possess it.” And forty-five years later at the age of eighty-five Caleb was still eager for the Lord, and in his patience, he inherited the land God promised.
* 1 SA 17:36–37,45–47 ~ David told King Saul, “I have killed a lion and a bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine (Goliath) will join them, since he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord that delivered me from the lion and the bear will deliver me from this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and may the Lord be with you.” Upon arriving at the battleground, David told Goliath, “You have come with a sword, a spear, and a shield, but I come in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will deliver you into my hand, for I will strike you down and take your head as a trophy. And everyone will know that there is a God in Israel who saves, not with a sword or spear. This battle belongs to the Lord, for He will give you to us.”
* 1 KI 17—18 ~ Elijah raised a boy from the dead and brought fire down from heaven.
* ACT 3; ACT 9; ACT 14; ACT 20 ~ The apostles healed the lame and raised the dead.
* HEB 11:7–38 ~ Because of their great faith, men of God were able to endure anything and performed remarkable feats, such as subduing kingdoms, escaping certain death, overcoming incredible odds, healing the sick, and even raising the dead.

 Believers have nothing to fear, for our trust is in the Lord. God gives us the power of His Holy Spirit to subdue our enemies, both physical and spiritual. With Christ living within us, we can thwart the devil and drive out the evil from our midst. Without His power and presence in our lives we become vulnerable to a myriad of worldly and spiritual threats.

* LUK 10:19–20 ~ Jesus said to His disciples, “I have given you power over snakes and scorpions, and over all the strength of the enemy. Nothing can hurt you. But do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”
* JAM 4:7 ~ Submit to God and resist the devil, and he will run from you.
* 1 JO 4:2–6 ~ Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh is of God. Those spirits that do not confess are not of God, but are spirits of the antichrist, which you have heard about and which is in the world. You belong to God and have overcome these spirits of malice. For greater is He that is within you than he that is in the world. They are of the world, and therefore speak of worldly things, and the world listens to them. We are of God. Those who know God will listen to His messengers, and those who are not of God will not listen. We know the difference between the Spirit of truth and the spirit of untruth.

 We depend on God for everything, and because of Him we lack nothing. We are covered by His righteousness like a blanket (ROM 4), protected from all evil like a suit of armor (EPH 6), and given a freedom that will last for eternity (ISA 61; ROM 8). Indeed, it would take a lifetime to count the many blessings the Lord has poured out upon us. It is unfortunate that so many people waste their lives away enumerating their hardships and absorbed in their sorrows.

Take a few minutes to ponder some of the miracles God has performed in your life, such as delivering you from danger or certain death; curing a loved one of a fatal disease or injury; converting a lost soul by changing his or her heart; opening a window of opportunity when you least expected it; or making your dreams come true when everything seemed hopeless. If you ever have found yourself amazed at the wonders of life, astounded at the accomplishments of humanity, or bewildered about how miracles happen, just remember they never could have occurred without God’s intervention.

* JER 32:27 ~ Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me?
* MAT 17:20 ~ Jesus told them, “I tell you the truth, if you had faith the size of a mustard seed you could command the mountain to move; nothing would be impossible for you.”
* ACT 3:12,16 ~ Peter answered them, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, and look with earnest upon us as if, by our own power, we enabled this lame man to walk. By faith in the name of Jesus was this man healed, a man whom you have seen and known. Yes, it was faith in Christ which made him whole in the presence of you all.”
* PHP 4:13 ~ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.