



**Be
Thankful**

Psalm 138

Psalm 138

» *Thanks for Faithful Love*

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted
2. Some Thoughts of the Lowly

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» “I will ... give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth” (2)

- Used together 25x in OT
- Meant to modify each other

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Lovingkindness*

- *To bend or bow -> to incline oneself to someone below -> to be merciful*
- How God wants to be known (see Ex. 20:4-5; 34:4-9)

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Lovingkindness*

- *Favor* (Gen. 24:12-14)
- *Forgiveness* (Numb. 14:17-19; Ps. 25:7)
- *Goodness* (Ex. 34:6; 2 Chron. 7:3)
- *Everlasting!* (Ps. 118; 136)

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Truth*

- *Firmness, certainty -> dependability*
- How God relates to what *is*: He knows and see everything w/ perfect accuracy
- *Veracity; faithful to the facts*
- What He communicates to man

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

“As we study its various contexts, it becomes clear that there is no truth in the biblical sense, i.e. valid truth, outside God. All truth comes from God and is truth because it is related to God.”

Theological Wordbook of the OT

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Truth*

- Expressed in God's word
- "Now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant." (2 Sam. 7:28)

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Truth*

- “The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” (Ps. 119:160)
- God’s law (Ps. 119:142)
- God’s commandments (Ps. 119: 151)

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Truth*

- Seen in God's *faithfulness* (Gen. 32:10)
- Ps. 138:2c - "You have magnified Your word [above] Your name" -> *You are faithful beyond our expectations*

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Truth*

- *Everlasting!* (Ps. 117:2)
- Outlines man's response and service to God (cf. Josh. 24:14; 1 Kings 3:6; Ps. 25:2; 26:3; Isa. 38:1-3)

1. Some Thoughts about the Exalted

» *Greatness*

- “great is the glory of the Lord” (5)
- *Size, number, volume, age, importance, position, intensity, magnitude*
- Revealed in His *words* and *ways*
- God is *exalted*, and to be *exalted*

2. Some Thoughts of the Lowly

» God is *great* and *exalted*

» Every human being has two options:

1. See yourself under God (*lowly*)

2. Try to be above God (*haughty*)

» Which does God prefer?

2. Some Thoughts of the Lowly

- » “Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.” (Prov. 16:5)
- » “By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.” (Prov. 16:6)

2. Some Thoughts of the Lowly

- » The lowly say *thank you* (1)
- » The lowly bow down (2)
- » The lowly call for help (3)
- » The lowly promote Someone else (4)
- » The lowly trust God (7-8)

So What?

» Look at your heart: do you see *lowly* or *haughty*?

- “It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly...” (Prov. 16:19)

- “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (1 Pet. 5:5)

So What?

- » We should be very thankful for God's *lovingkindness* and *truth*! (cf. Mal. 3:5-6)
- » God wants us to practice those, too (cf. 2 Sam. 2:6; Ps. 15:2; Prov. 20:28)
- What opportunities do you have in your life right now?

So What?

» “Do not let [loving] kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.” (Prov. 3:3-4)

So What?

» Thanksgiving Service – Tues, Nov. 26

- Would you be willing to share some expression of praise or thanksgiving with the rest of us? (poem, song, paragraph, prayer, etc.)