

1 Chron. 16:23-29a (LD 52, Q128) "For Thine Is the Glory"

For the Children: When we are really impressed with someone, we tend to praise them and to speak about them to others. Well, we say that there is no one greater than God; that no one has done more for us than the Lord; and that there is no one we are more impressed with than Him. How can we show that we really believe that? By praising Him in our worship; and by telling others about Him. It is also important that we stop treating other people or things as if they were more important to us than He is. When we treat other people or things as if they were greater than God, that is called idolatry. **Questions:** What does the word "glory" mean? In what ways does God's glory show itself? What are some of the common idols that people have – and that often tempt God's people?

Introduction:

First Point: The Glory of His Name

- 1) The Weight of Glory: The word "glory" (vss. 24, 28, 29) refers to "heaviness." God is "heavy" with power, richness, honour and fame. He and His Word are to be treated as "weighty."
- 2) The Glory of His Person and Works: Glory is seen in each of God's attributes and works. David singles out creation (v. 26); salvation (v. 23); His splendour, majesty and strength (v. 27-28) – along with the fact that He is the Cause of joy. See also His "greatness" (v. 25). David was very conscious of these things as the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.
- 3) The Conclusion of the Lord's Prayer: The Lord's Prayer concludes by drawing attention to similar truths – to God's kingdom, power and glory, as the reason ("For Thine is...") why we pray the rest of the prayer. His kingly rule, power and glory remind us that He can answer all our petitions. We also pray with the desire that our prayers will serve His glory..

Second Point: The Contrast with Other Names

- 1) Above All Other "gods": Sinners are called upon to turn from worshipping false gods/idols to give glory to God alone. For He is the only living God, the only One who is willing and able to hear our prayers. See 1 Cor. 8:5-6.
- 2) Above Our Names: If men must turn from honouring false gods, then they should also turn from honouring themselves above the Lord. Q128 therefore reminds us that God alone should receive all the praise. Sinners glorify themselves when they think that they deserve honour from God and man; when they think they can contribute to their salvation by their own deeds; when they praise the creature while ignoring the Creator; and when they rely upon themselves to provide for their needs.

Third Point: Our Response to the Glory of His Name

- 1) All the Earth Fearing God All the Time: The proper response to God's glory is that all men should fear Him all the time (see vss. 23 and 25).
- 2) Glorifying Worship: Fear of the Lord leads to worship as a way to give glory to God. This includes singing, with joy (v. 23); confession of His Person and works – "ascribing glory and strength to His Name (vss. 28, 29a); and prayer (Q128), in which we show that we trust that He is willing and able to help us – and that He will be glorified as He answers our prayers.
- 3) Glorifying Witness: We also glorify God when we give a faithful witness to His Name, before the nations (vss. 23-24). If we believe He is far above all others, we should desire to tell others about Him. Note that in Mt. 28:18-20, the Lord explains that the implication of His universal authority is to make new disciples and to teach existing ones. Worship and witness go together in demonstrating that we wish to glorify the God of all glory.

Conclusion: