

Who is like Thee among the gods? (Pt 1)

How well does the average church-goer know his God from among the myriad of gods that the world has to choose from? If a 'Canon' Doctor trained in Greek and Hebrew and teaches at a Bible College believes that the God of the Bible is the same as Allah, then what hope does the average Christian have for discerning the difference? What hope does a babe in Christ have if the 'so-called' teachers and preachers claim they are the same God?

Much of the Old Testament law is Israel's experience of learning the difference between God Almighty and the gods of the nations, and their journeys were written down for future generations to differentiate between God Almighty, otherwise known as the Lord and Jehovah, and the gods of the nations. The Lord would perform miracles so that His fledgling nation would see what He does for His people, compared to what the gods of the surrounding nations do for their people. To ensure the next generation of Christians know the difference between the God of the Bible and the gods of this world, let us consider what made God Almighty different for Moses. Then let us take some learning for us in the body of Christ, that there would be less division and more unity in the body, that we would be able to discern as Paul did (see Acts 17: 23) the difference between the One True God and false gods.

Moses and the children of Israel sang to the Lord after He delivered them out of bondage from their enemies (see Ex.15: 1-21). In this study, let us consider what Moses sang to the Lord as we seek to understand something of the differences between God Almighty and the gods of man-made religions, so that when we and our younger brethren sit down with a Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Jehovah Witness, Mormon, or any one else that worships a false god, believing they are God, we can speak light into their darkness. We will consider three points that establish that the God of the Bible is different to *all* other gods, He is:- (1) glorious in holiness, and (2) fearful in praises, and (3) performs wonders.

Let us add a little detail to our points:-

1. The God of the Bible is different to other gods, in that He is glorious in holiness.

Ex.15: 11 *Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonder?*

First, let us remember that these three characteristics that are listed in this verse, are not spoken by the Lord but rather included as part of a song that Moses and the children of Israel sang before the Lord after He brought them out from under the hand of the Egyptians. So when we establish our point that God Almighty of the Bible is different to other gods, in that He is glorious in holiness, it is because that is what Moses and the children of Israel have discerned of the Lord from their experiences, which included:-

- i) God Almighty speaking to Moses from a burning bush, and
- ii) God Almighty calling Moses to bring out Israel from under the hand of Pharaoh, and
- iii) God Almighty performing ten miraculous acts of destruction upon Pharaoh and his people, animals and land, and culminating with the Passover, where the angel of death killed all the first-born of the Egyptians and passed over the children of Israel, and
- iv) God Almighty covering Israel with a cloud by day and fire by night, and
- v) God Almighty parting the Red sea so that Israel could walk on dry land and escape the Egyptians, only to then see Pharaoh and his army follow on dry land and the sea return to drown them all.

Before we dig into our point, let us establish why would Moses and Israel sing the words, "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?" I suggest that the events that they witnessed were so magnificent, so life-changing, so divine, that it could only be God Almighty who had revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses, that could have performed such miracles. Pharaoh's magicians proved after the third plague that their gods were no match for the Lord God Almighty, and even acknowledged to Pharaoh that "this is the finger of God" (Ex.8: 19). This is an example of worshippers of false gods (Pharaoh's magicians) recognising that God Almighty is "God" and there is none like Him. Perhaps in a similar way to those on the beach whom Paul met when he was shipwrecked and then poisoned by a viper, but God healed him right in front of the Barbarians that showed him "no little kindness" (see Acts 28: 2,3).

Now back to our points, let us consider how Israel and Moses were impacted by what God Almighty did, that made them sing about Him being glorious in holiness.

If you go back to Ex.15: 1 and read the purpose for their singing, it was because "he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea." And then in verse six we read that the Lord is "glorious in power, thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy." To witness such miracles would be something you would never forget, but imagine seeing it after God Almighty brought 10 plagues on the Egyptians! Nothing that has happened in our life-time would be a suitable illustration of the magnitude of the greatness and power of God

shown in these miracles in Exodus. What Moses and the Israelites witnessed was so spectacular that they used the word 'glorious' to describe how their enemy was finally defeated, and not by any of their works, but by God's grace, by His strength, by His might. So the use of the word *glorious* we can understand, but where, in what they witnessed, did they see the *holiness* of God? Moses and Israel must have seen something in those events that identified God's holiness? Perhaps God Almighty's divine judgment on Pharaoh showed His holiness? Perhaps when God Almighty "didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in mighty waters" (see Ex. 15: 10)? And whereas the Egyptians thought to "divide the spoil [of the Israelites, and] my lust shall be satisfied upon them" (verse 9), God destroyed them, He showed His glorious holiness, His willingness and ability to judge evil.

How would the gods of this world compare to God Almighty who gloriously showed forth His holiness? How would Allah compare, how would Buddha compare? How would the gods of the Sikhs compare? Does the Muslim god Allah, perform such miracles? Have you ever heard of *one* such miracle acclaimed by a Muslim that was attributed to his god Allah? Is Allah glorious in holiness? NO! Allah does not judge anyone, even his believers will say they cannot sin against Allah. Allah does nothing to fight for his people, but rather gets them to do the fighting. He has no ability to judge sin, he doesn't even know what sin is, because none of his believers have sinned in his eyes! So how can Allah be glorious in holiness? Remember this important point when you talk to a Muslim. "Who is like unto thee, O LORD?" Who is glorious in holiness like God was to Israel, and like He is to us today through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ? No other god is like Jehovah God, or His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. But if you want some arguments to the contrary, then be encouraged to phone, email and write to every Bible College lecturer that thinks and teaches that Allah is the same God as Jehovah God of the Bible. Because in these two acts from Exodus (the Passover and parting of the Red sea), the Gentile magicians and Israel knew that there was none like God Almighty. And today those who believe the Holy Scriptures know that there is none like Christ, who will come to judge the quick and the dead, and He will do so according to His righteousness (see Acts 17: 31). Because He is glorious in holiness, His judgments are just (see Jn.5: 30).

So, when you next get an opportunity to speak with a Muslim, tell him that God Almighty of the Bible is different to his god Allah, in that He is *glorious* in *holiness*.

2. The God of the Bible is different to other gods, in that He is fearful in praises.

Ex.15: 11 *Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises.*

Given that Ex.14: 31 mentioned that after Israel witnessed God Almighty smite their enemies, they "feared the Lord", how could you not fear the One who miraculously divided the Red sea and then returned the waters to drown your enemies? On that basis it would not be too much to suggest that Jehovah was a 'fearful' God, but how do we understand the use of the word "praises", such that their God was "fearful in praises"?

The only answer I can give is to show a link between the earth that is full of God's praises and Jehovah's use of the earth to bring a person to fear Him.

When a person praises God, they declare the glory of God, just as the Scriptures say that God's creation declares the "glory of God" (Ps.19: 1). Therefore, the heavens and the earth praise God as declared by Habakkuk, "the earth was full of His praise" (Hab.3: 3), and in our miracles in Exodus the Lord God has uses His creation (Ex.14: 21-30) that praises Him, to benefit His people by smiting their enemies. In doing so, His creation praises Him and declares His fearfulness, and therefore, following the miracles of the Passover and the Red Sea, God was characterised by Moses and the children of Israel as being 'fearful in praise'. From that day on Israel and all mankind that read of the account, would know that every one can be consumed by God's fearful wrath, power and might. Israel herself found this to be truth when the earth opened up and consumed those who disobeyed Him (Num.16: 32). His creation again showed that He was a God that was "fearful in praises", declared not by words, but miraculous actions from the creator God! Exactly the same would have occurred at Christ's crucifixion when the "veil in the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose. And came out of the graves after his resurrection" (Matt.27: 51-53). The centurion that saw those events said, "Truly this was the Son of God" (see Matt.27: 54).

Is it any wonder that Moses and the children of Israel sang to the Lord asking “who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods, who is like unto thee...fearful in praises”?

Did Allah ever raise Mohammed from the dead? Is it ever recorded that any other god, ever used his creation to benefit his believers, such that they knew he was a fearful god, and a god in whose creation declared his glory and so spoke forth his praises through his creation? NO!

And when the Jehovah Witness deny that Christ is the true God, they not only deny 1Jn.5: 7, 8 (see Heb.1: 8 & Jn1: 3), but they deny Christ’s involvement in the creation, they deny that God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are ‘fearful in praises’.

Which of the other gods are like Jehovah God of the Old Testament, and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament? Ps.136: 2 affirms the answer, that God Almighty, Jehovah God is “God of gods”, in other words, there is none like Him. Let us remember that the God of the Bible is different to other gods, in that He is “fearful in praises”.

3. The God of the Bible is different to other gods, in that He performs wonders.

Ex.15: 11 *Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*

The last in our group of three, is the comparison of the Lord’s wonders, the Lord’s miracles. Something that science could not explain. Perhaps similar to when the Lord held the sun still upon Gibeon and the moon also in the valley of Ajalon (see Josh.10: 12)? Or perhaps similar to when the sun was darkened at the time of Christ’s crucifixion (see Lk.23: 45)? But do not refer to Lk.23: 45 in the corrupted versions of Holy Scripture, because some like the NIV either use “the sun having been eclipsed” or “stops shining”, which is a physical impossibility, and hence the miracle of the sun being darkened is lost. But Jehovah God of the Old Testament and the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament do perform *many* wonders.

Today the wonders that He performs, include changing a lost sinner into a new creature every time a person gets saved and believes the gospel of Christ crucified. Every time God does a work in a lost man’s heart and makes him into a new creature, God performs a wonder, that is just as miraculous as when Jehovah God parted the Red sea and smote all the Egyptians and saved all the Israelites. Jehovah God was as much a God of salvation (see Ex.14: 30), as the Lord Jesus Christ is today, when he went to the cross, and bore our sin on Himself.

Today, as during the time of the Old Testament, there was no other god that saves His people as Jehovah God did and the Lord Jesus Christ does. No other god performs such wonders.

If you do not believe me, ask the next Muslim you meet, if Allah saves him from his enemies or saves him from the fires of eternal hell.

If you do not believe me, ask the next Buddhist you meet if Buddha saves him from his enemies, or has ever saved any other Buddhist from their enemies.

If you do not believe me, ask the next Hari Krishna you meet, if Krishna has performed any wonders, that can only be attributed to Krishna. Ask any religious cult if their god has ever held back the waters of Jordan when the feet of their believers touched the water, as was the case of another wonder performed by Jehovah God for the children of Israel (see Josh.3: 13-17). NO, there are no other gods like the Lord, there are no other gods that performs wonders like Jehovah of the Old Testament or the Lord Jesus of the New Testament. Praise and glory to the our God, the only true and living God!

Let us use these wonders as Joshua commanded Israel, let us use them as a memorial (see Josh.4: 7), to proclaim, in a world where there are many choices for gods, - Greek gods, unknown gods, wooden idols and Allah. They all have one thing in common, none are like Jehovah God who is God of gods, He performs all the wonders. The best the other gods can do is similar to Pharaohs magicians who mimicked the first three plagues, but then could do nothing else. And even in the first plague their serpent was eaten by Moses’ serpent, because their gods are nothing, can do nothing and therefore, are not glorious, not fearful and do not perform wonders.

In this our first study on knowing the difference between God Almighty and other gods, we have covered three points, and established that the God of the Bible is different to *all* other gods, He is:- (1) glorious in holiness, and (2) fearful in praises, and (3) performs wonders.