

Our Incredible, Infinite God

1 Kings 8

- **GOD IS BOTH CLEAR AND MYSTERIOUS.**

When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark,⁴ and they brought up the ark of the LORD and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. . . .⁶The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. . . .⁹There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt. ¹⁰When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. ¹¹And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple. ¹²Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; ¹³I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever." 1 Kings 8:3-6, 9-13 (New International Version)

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable"
Psalm 145:3 (English Standard Version)

Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. ⁷Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. . . .⁸You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him. . . . 1 Peter 1:6-8 (Good News Bible)

See also 2 Corinthians 5:7.

- **GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**

. . . "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. ²⁴You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today. 1 Kings 8:23-24 (NIV)

"Now LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful in all they do to walk before me as you have done.' ²⁶And now, O God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true." 1 Kings 8:25-26 (NIV)

- **GOD IS BOTH IMMENSE AND INTIMATE.**

"But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! ²⁸Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day." 1 Kings 8:27-28 (NIV)

"Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive." 1 Kings 8:30 (NIV)

- **GOD IS BOTH SEVERE AND MERCIFUL.**

"When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, and when they turn back to you and confess your name, praying and making supplication to you in this temple, ³⁴then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their fathers. 1 Kings 8:33-34 (NIV)

"If they sin against you—and who has never sinned?—you might become angry with them and let their enemies conquer them and take them captive to their land far away or near. . . .⁴⁸If they turn to you with their whole heart and soul in the land of their enemies and pray toward the land you gave to their ancestors—toward this city you have chosen, and toward this Temple I have built to honor your name—⁴⁹then hear their prayers and their petition from heaven where you live, and uphold their cause. ⁵⁰Forgive your people who have sinned against you. Forgive all the offenses they have committed against you. 1 Kings 8:46, 48-50a (New Living Translation)

. . . God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance . . .
Romans 2:4 (ESV)

- **GOD IS LORD OF THE LAST DAYS, BUT ALSO OF EVERY DAY.**

When Solomon had finished praying this entire prayer . . . ⁵⁵And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying: ⁵⁶"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant. ⁵⁷"May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us, ⁵⁸that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, which He commanded our fathers. ⁵⁹"And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day requires, ⁶⁰so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no one else. 1 Kings 8:54-60 (New American Standard Bible)