

The Great King

Psalm 95

It is foolish (or worse) to ignore or reject external reality

What about the supernatural reality?



A mature Christian:

With new life from God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we love and join God's works

1) One holy Creator God

Psalm 95

1-5:

God has total authority

6-7a:

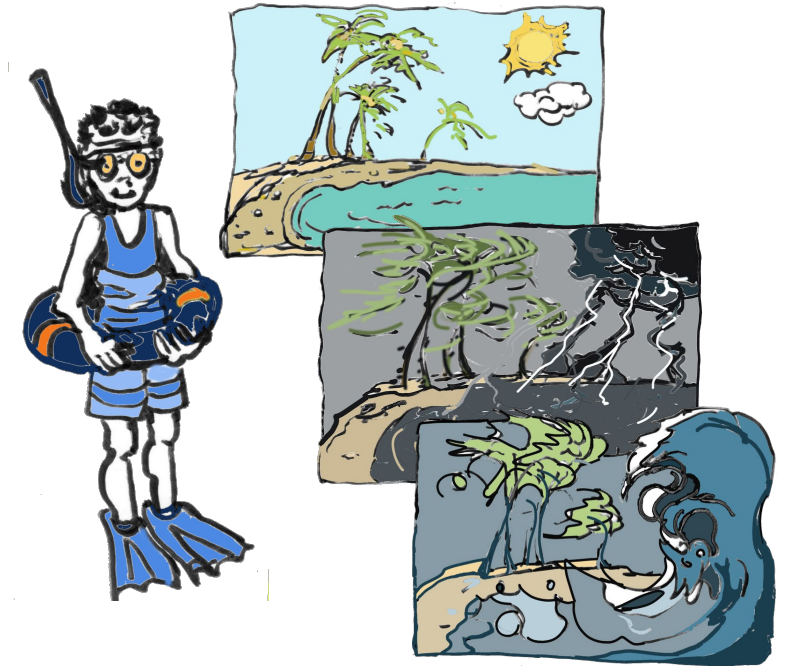
God is completely good

7b-11:

Meribah=quarreling, Massah=testing

They accused God of **not being good**

They treated God as **someone with little authority**



The Big Idea

God is the all good and Sovereign King

(has total authority over everything and everyone)

So in joy we worship and obey

and we must

The problem with absolute kings and queens...

It is not their authority. It is their imperfections.

Every human ruler is flawed

The wisdom of separation of powers. The wisdom of checks and balances

God is perfect in goodness and total in authority

Great joy in both directions!

What should we do?

Joyfully praise God

The character and actions of the all good sovereign King

Not everything makes sense to us

So we trust His complete goodness

and His full authority and joyfully submit

When gathering as God's people

When on our own

➤ **A mature disciple joyfully praises God**

Fully obey God

Love God with our entire being and love our neighbors as ourselves

More concretely: 10 commandments

Plus the commands in the rest of the Bible

“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him.” Titus 1:26

Confession: our hearts don’t want to submit fully

➤ **A mature disciple continually grows in full obedience to God**

What does it look like?

Beginning a new day or season

Encountering trouble

“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.” 2 Timothy 1:12

Encountering goodness

My heavenly Father is

completely good

has total authority

is fully committed to my good

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. When are you tempted to grumble or complain? For the ancient Israelites, their grumbling and complaining indicated that they questioned how good God was and how much authority He had. What does our grumbling or complaining reveal?
2. What might be other expressions of hearts that doubt or question God’s goodness or question God’s authority?
3. Why is it right and good to worship God with great joy? What helps you worship God with great joy?
4. Where do you hesitate or find it hard to obey God completely? Why is that?
5. What is a step of obedience for you today? How will you take seriously the words of the psalm: “Today, if only you would hear my voice, do not harden your hearts”?
6. **Exploring more:** God promises that those who put their hope in Jesus will enter His “rest”, and that those who question His goodness and authority never will. What is that “rest” and why is it such a great promise? What does it look like to “make every effort to enter that rest”? See Hebrews 4:1-13.

Conversation starters

What gives you hope when things are hard, or when the future looks bleak?