

Psalm 89:5-14

And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints. For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD?

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him. O LORD God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.

You have broken Rahab in pieces, as one who is slain; You have scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm. The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them.

The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Your name.

You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Ignoring Danger

A friend had some anxious moments on the way to work one winter's morning when he saw several teens crossing the Bracebridge Bay close to the falls where the ice was very thin. Although his screams to get off the ice found success, he believes those teens did not appreciate his interference.

We may be tempted to ask how anyone could know the apparent danger and so boldly ignore it. However I'm reminded daily of the inclination of man to know yet ignore danger. The church is no exception! Even among those who have personally acknowledged Jesus Christ as Saviour, there is a tendency to "walk on thin ice". God calls this an absence of "the fear of the Lord before the eyes of His people". The scriptures certainly declare the foolishness of belonging to God and ignoring His warnings: "For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:30-31 NIV).

Christians need to be reminded of A.W Tozer's remark that God is good, but He is not safe. Believers might be wise to think about the following people of God: The unnamed prophet of 1 Kings was told to challenge an evil king then return straight home by another route, instead he stopped to party, ignoring God's warning. As a result he was killed by a lion sent from God. Achan was warned along with all Israel to dedicate the whole spoil of the victory of Jericho to God, instead he stole some wealth and was rewarded by death (Joshua 7). In the New Testament we read of Ananias and Sapphira lying about their gift to the church and dying as a consequence (Acts 5).

These examples are not given to Christians in order to present God as a mean ogre who will always have His way, on the contrary, these are given to demonstrate the loving care of God: "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?" (Hebrews 12:4-7 NIV).

The "Fear of the Lord" which keeps the people of God on the path of obedience is not a dread of the Lord as a mean ogre, but the respect of the Lord as a loving Father. Those that will be lead by that fear will find great reward: "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. (Psalms 34:8-9 NIV).

What is my response:
