

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I Kings 3:3-4 “And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places. Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.”

Quote: How subtle is the flesh within that worships worship and not Him—the great and glorious God of light Whose grace redeemed me from sin’s night. Oh, Holy Spirit, guide my thoughts that I might worship as I ought, and weigh the word-gift that I bring in homage to the King of kings.

During this time in Israel there was no temple and the people worshipped on high places.¹ This gave them a feeling of being closer to God. Feeling is part of how God made us; however, it should never drive our devotion, our obedience and our worship. God clearly condemned the use of high places when they mimicked the worship of the heathen.² He promised blessing for obedience and punishment for copying the heathen in their forms of worship.³ Solomon failed in this. He went from devotion to God to becoming an idolater, building high places for his heathen wives’ gods, the worship of which included sacrifice of children!⁴ Years earlier, Samuel asked King Saul, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”⁵ Our worship must flow from and focus upon obedience to God’s Word. It must give God the glory for Who He is and for what He has done on our behalf through Christ, and not seek what self-gratification we can get out of it.

If you are a Christian, God’s grace led you to place your faith in Christ and to desire to please Him. Our worship must demonstrate that we are children of the High and Lofty One Whose name is Holy. He has made us “a chosen generation, a *royal priesthood*, a holy nation, His own special people, so that we may proclaim the praises of Him who called *us out of darkness into His*

marvelous light.”⁶ Be careful to praise the Lord as holy nobility should—with awe and adoration. Solomon learned that praise must flow from a heart that trusts and obeys.⁷ He wrote, “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.”⁸ With great care, we must guard the motive, the methods and the message with which we worship—

Our Supreme and Glorious God

Great God, unsearchable, unknown, supreme beyond compare, In rev’rent adoration, Lord, our feeble praise we share. Thy glory is that excellence unique to Thee alone—spectacular in majesty, vast universe Thy throne!

For hungry souls, Thy written Word grants a faint glimpse of Thee. Though dim, the image awes the mind, and bows both heart and knee. Thy grandeur, matchless King of kings and regal Lord of lords, leads saints to meditate on Thee and silently adore.

What blinding light, like dreadful flames, engulfs Thy heav’nly throne that rests upon a sea of glass, the blue of sapphire stone! Bright amber glow, Thy glory draws the heart to holy thoughts; its splendor shames the rainbow’s boast and pales heav’n’s hosts to naught.

Thy whisper mutes the thunder crash of lightning round Thy throne—Jehovah, High and Lofty One, Who calls all things Thine own. Pure worship of the Heav’nly throng envelops me in praise, o’erwhelming me with joy that sets my grateful heart ablaze.

None but Thyself can fully know The glory that is Thine. All tribute saints may offer Thee falls short by Thy design. Yet fearing Thee, and loving Thee, and walking in Thy ways, I’ll serve Thee with a grateful heart beyond my earth-bound days.

Exodus 24:10; Ezekiel 1:26-28; Revelation 4

1 | I Kings 3:2 2 | Lev.26:30; Num.33:52; Deut.12:2 3 | Lev.26 4 | I Kings 11:1-8 5 | Sam.15:22 6 | Pet.2:9-12; Rev.1:6 7 | Eccl.12:13-14 8 | Eccl.5:1