

Life, Part 1 | God

I. The existence of a Living God is a powerful, fearful thing.

- Hebrews 10:31 reads, *“It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*
- It doesn't take much imagination to consider that if God exists, and if He is Who He says He is, then that is a very scary reality. An all-holy, all-just, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing, all-righteous, all-demanding being is something that weak, finite, selfish, myopic, hypocritical, sinful men need fear.
- This is why in Deuteronomy 5:26 we hear Moses reminding the Children of Israel how they were afraid for God to speak directly to them. They said, *“For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?”*
- And in Joshua 3:10, *“Joshua said, 'By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite.”* Those who dare to stand against God and His people, no matter how many there are or what they have accomplished, they will not stand.
- In I Samuel 17:26 we read, *“Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, ‘What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?’”* And ten verses later we read *“36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.”*
- In II Kings 19:4 and Isaiah 37:4 King Hezekiah sends envoys to seek Isaiah's guidance. They said, *“Perhaps the Lord your God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the remnant that is left.”*
- And then in II Kings 19:15-16 and Isaiah 37:17 we hear Hezekiah praying, *“O Lord, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 16 Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see; and listen to the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.”* (Isaiah 6:1-5)
- Jeremiah 10:10 says, *“But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation.”*
- And later in Jeremiah 23:36 we see, *“For you will no longer remember the oracle of the Lord, because every man's own word will become the oracle, and you have perverted the words of the living God, the Lord of hosts, our God.”* And because of this, in verses 39-40 we read, *“Therefore behold, I will surely forget you and cast you away from My presence, along with the city which I gave you and your fathers. 40 I will put an everlasting reproach on you and an everlasting humiliation which will not be forgotten.”*
- Hebrews 3:12, *“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.”*
- Because God is exactly Who He says He is, all those who dare to defy Him should be petrified. Of course, they're not. They never are because they don't actually believe that God is Who He says He is. And that's the petrifying thing about being in that situation. They are not afraid of the only One of Whom they should be afraid, and despite their delusion and ignorance, they will still receive the consequence of rebelling against Him.

II. The existence of a Living God is a powerful, joyful thing.

- In Psalm 42:2 the sons of Korah proclaim, *“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?”*
- In Psalm 84:2 these same men who were not afraid of God, but feared Him with a holy fear wrote, *“My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.”*
- In Daniel 6:20, after throwing Daniel in the lion’s den and not being able to sleep all night. The king doubted. He was obviously concerned, but the king also knew Daniel. The king had heard about Daniel’s God, and the King knew that if Daniel’s God was Who Daniel said He was, there was hope that Daniel survived. Daniel 6:26 the king proclaimed, *“I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel.”* In an inverse way and to the same degree that God-haters should be petrified on Him, God-followers should rejoice in the reality that they serve a Living God because He is also all-loving, all-forgiving, all-merciful, all-gracious, all-light, all-good, and an infinite number of joyous attributes.
- Hosea 1:10 tells us, *“You are the sons of the living God.”*
- When asked by Jesus Who He was in Matthew 16:16 Peter could not help but answer, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*
- Acts 14:15 — Only a living God could create all that is seen and unseen. And such a God is worthy of us turning from idolatry and giving that worship to Him.
- II Corinthians 3:2-3 — The Living God Who carved the 10 Commandments into stone and had to punish the Children of Israel who defied Him, that same God has graciously written His grace on our hearts.
- And this is why I Corinthians 6:16-18 teaches that we have been made into the very temple of this Living God!
- Paul touches on the Christians responsibility in I Timothy 3:15 when he wrote, *“but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”* We should act in certain ways because the Living God gloriously deserves it!
- And in I Timothy 4:10 he wrote, *“For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.”*
- In Hebrews 9:13-14 we read, *“For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*
- And Hebrews 12:22-24 proclaims, *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.”*
- And though that would be a glorious place to leave our study today, the last occurrence of the title “Living God” appears in Revelation 7:2-3. *“And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, ‘Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.’”* Here again we see the tension between our two points today. The same Living God Who gave authority to the angels to judge the planet, also loves His people so much that He is going to protect them from the devastation.