

The Crisis Continues

Jeremiah 9: 24



“But let him who
glories glory in this,
that he understands
and knows Me, that I
am the Lord, exercising
lovingkindness,
judgment, and
righteousness in the
earth. For in these I
delight,' says the Lord”
Jeremiah 9: 24



I. Introduction

Human beings have tendencies of talking with pride about their achievements, wisdom, or track record. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us there is only one area where it is acceptable to be proud of: the knowledge of God.



"If you show off do not
get upset when God
doesn't show up."
Matshona Dhliwayo



"Quoting an old proverb: "An empty cart rattles loudly." she said.
Meaning, one who lacks substance
boasts loudest."
Alan Brennert



“How different would people act if they couldn't show off on social media? Would they still do it?”
Donna Lynn Hope



"God sends no one away
empty except those who
are full of themselves."

Dwight L. Moody



"Perhaps the less we have, the
more we are required to brag."
John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*



"The sin of pride may be considered in one way in its own proper species which it has in regard of its proper object; and in this way pride is a special sin, because it has a special object: for it is an inordinate desire to excel. All sins may arise out of pride... We must observe, however, that all vices may at times arise out of pride, but not so far as that all vices always do arise out of pride. The commandments are not always transgressed out of contempt, but sometimes out of ignorance, sometimes out of weakness."

Thomas Aquinas



"Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God... Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the councils of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?" Leaving his place in the immediate presence of God, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels... But as his dissatisfaction was proved to be without cause, Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong, that the divine claims were just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all heaven. Had he done this, he might have saved himself and many angels... But pride forbade him to submit." Ellen G. White, GC 495.

II. Context



Jeremiah 9: 23 - 24

Three categories
of those who
have tendency of
glorying

The wise man

Glory in his wisdom

The mighty man

Glory in his might

The rich man

Glory in his riches

But let him who glories glory in this

Three things
worthy
of
glorying

That he understands

That he knows Me

That I'm the LORD

Three characteristics
of God

Exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and
righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight"

The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: Structure

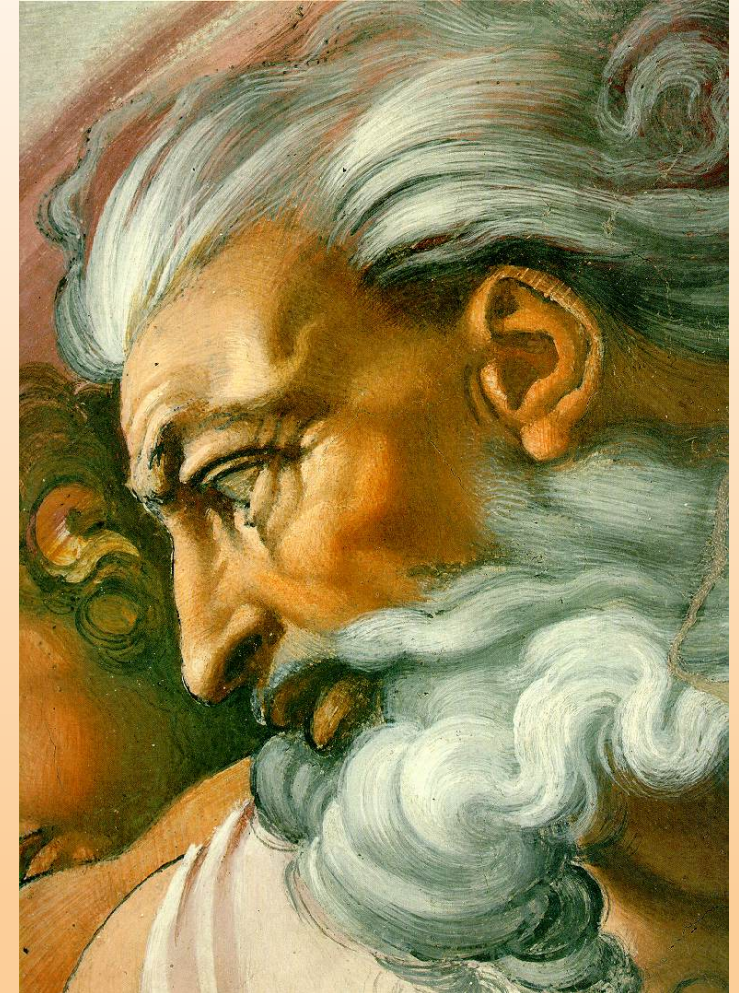
A	Ch. 1	Prologue: Vocation of Jeremiah and prediction about Babylon
B	Ch. 2 - 10	Prophecies regarding Judah
C	Ch. 11 - 20	Confessions of Jeremiah
D	Ch. 21 - 29	Nebuchadnezzar punishing the king Zedekiah and Jerusalem
E	Ch. 30 - 33	The New Covenant and the new Consolation
D'	Ch. 34 - 35	Sin of the king Zedekiah
C'	Ch. 36 - 45	Suffering of Jeremiah
B'	Ch. 46 - 51	Prophecies regarding the Nations
A	Ch. 52	Epilogue: Fall of Jerusalem and fulfillment of the prophecy about Babylon

III. There is an incredible beauty in the work of God to save human beings. Our mind cannot comprehend the depth of heavenly love. To know this plan of salvation is the most profound and rewarding experience.



1. The best achievement in human life is to have a knowledge of the supreme being in the Universe, our Creator

“But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me”



"The maker of the stars would rather die for you than live without you. And that is a fact. So if you need to brag, brag about that."

Max Lucado, *Traveling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear*



"Knowledge of God cannot be separated from love for God. It is not merely intellectual assent that God exists. To "know" in the language of the Bible indicates intimate knowledge of the person... God shows His *hesed* for his covenant children by the blessings he confers upon them and, similarly, God's covenant children "know God" when they observe the covenant obligations and show their gratitude for God's blessings and return His love. This bond of covenant love between Yahweh and His children, like marital love, it is neither optional nor unconditional, it is obligatory and its intimacy limited to the beloved. This is not to say *hesed* as covenant love is forced or compelled. The covenant partner enters freely into the bond of love. Just as in marriage, love cannot be forced but it is expected in fulfillment of the union."

Michal Hunt

"I call faith the real knowledge of God, to distinguish it from the speculative knowledge of Him by reason or tradition. Speculative knowledge may be of things absent, and by that we know not the things themselves, but our own imaginations about them. The real knowledge I speak of, is only of things present, and those things present are themselves the cause of that knowledge in the mind disposed to receive it... In the real knowledge, God himself enlightens the mind and by the light he defuses there illustrates such truths, moral and divine. The faith is an efficacious knowledge of God. It is an active principle, and naturally productive of all virtue".

John Heylin, Theological Lectures at Westminster-Abbey: With an Interpretation of the

2. Those who know God know that
He is the Lord
“That I am the Lord”



"He wants in His freedom actually not to be without man but WITH him and in the same freedom not against him but FOR him, and that apart from or even counter to what man deserves. He wants in fact to be man's partner, his almighty and compassionate Saviour. He chooses to give man the benefit of His power, which encompasses not only the high and the distant but also the deep and the near, in order to maintain communion with him in the realm guaranteed by His deity. He determines to love him, to be his God, his Lord, his compassionate Preserver and Saviour to eternal life, and to desire his praise and service."

Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God*



"Christ Jesus is Lord to govern all our affairs with wisdom and power. We look to Him both to direct us with his judicious commandments and to defend us by his mighty scepter. In his strength we will be protected from the harm our enemies intend against us. Messiah will sovereignly destroy all his and our foes in due time."
Walter Chantry, Praises for the King,
p. 70-71.



"Sacred scripture means nothing if it is not alive inside the individual. Embodied, fully embraced. The intent of the Bible is to provide context for who we are as human beings, who God is as God; and how God has acted throughout history. It is a testimony to our Lord Jesus Christ."

Eric English



3. Three main
characteristics of
God's immanence
"Exercising lovingkindness,
judgment, and
righteousness in the earth."



"God's 'hesed' endures forever. This characteristic is crucial to Israel's understanding of God's gracious relationship with them and is often repeated, becoming a refrain which resounds in the later books of the Old Testament. (e.g., Ezra 3:11; 2 Chron. 20:21). God's institution of the covenant with the people (Deut. 7:9, 12) and their king (2 Sam. 7:11–16; Ps. 89:28–29) reinforces the gracious and enduring nature of his commitment to them. God is not like a family member whose hesed can be taken for granted. He is vastly superior to the Israelites, and yet, through his covenant, he binds himself to them eternally to do them good."

Will Kynes, God's Grace in the Old Testament: Considering the Hesed of the Lord, University of Cambridge

“The theological importance of the word ‘hesed’ (lovingkindness) is that it stands more than any other word for the attitude which both parties to a covenant ought to maintain towards each other. It combines the twin ideas of love and loyalty, both of which are essential. On the other hand, it does not sufficiently convey the idea of the steadfastness and persistence of God's sure love for his covenant-people.”

Norman H. Snaith, is reproduced from A Theological Word Book of the Bible, edited by Alan Richardson (New York: MacMillan, 1951), pp. 136-7.



"There can never be too much
loving kindness or 'hesed'."

Heather Wolf



"Judgment; exercising it on Christ, sin being laid, found, and condemned on him; and through Christ protecting and defending his people; and by Christ at the last day."

John Gills



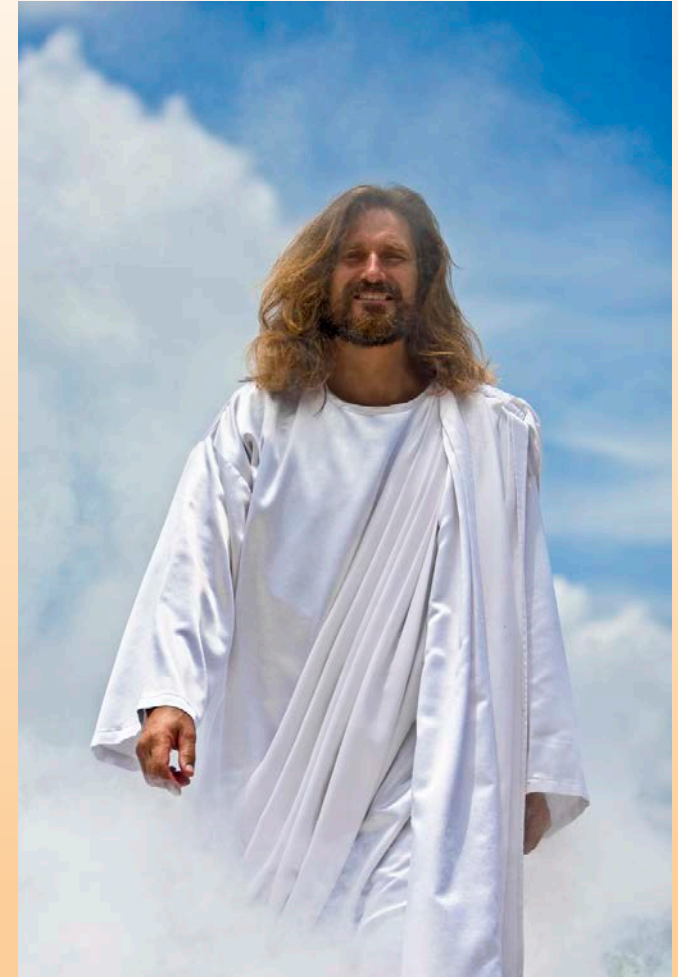
"Righteousness is the God-given ability to stand in the presence of God without any sense of guilt, condemnation, shame, or unworthiness and to stand in the presence of Satan without any sense of inferiority, weakness, fear, or cowardice. Righteousness is to be legally brought into a right relationship and standing with God that will last forever. Righteousness is part of our salvation in Christ and rests upon God's act of justification, where he legally declared us free from the penalty of sin and judicially delivered us from everything that stands in the way of us being declared righteous." Timothy Rowe, The Magnificent Goodness of God and How It Will Transform Your Life

4. God's pleasure is to be who He is
"For in these I delight," says the Lord"



"In these things I delight, says the Lord, both in doing them myself, and in seeing them done by others."

The Preacher's Complete Homiletical
Commentary on the Old Testament: Jeremiah

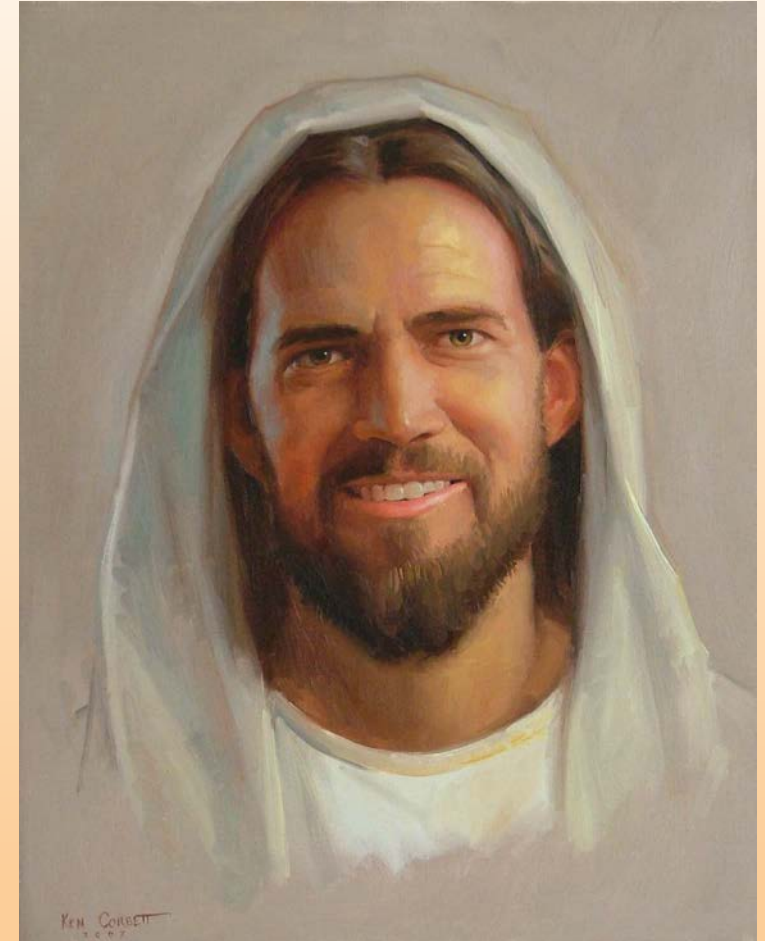


"In these things I delight, says the Lord." In other words, people who understand and know Yahweh, put into practice love, justice, and righteousness."
Louis Stulman



"God delights to show kindness, and to execute judgment himself, and is pleased with those who herein are followers of Him as dear children."

Matthew Henri, Commentary on the Whole Bible Volume IV (Isaiah to Malachi)



V. Conclusion



"This is life eternal," Christ said, "that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3. And the prophet Jeremiah declared: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 9:23, 24. Scarcely can the human mind comprehend the breadth and depth and height of the spiritual attainments of him who gains this knowledge."

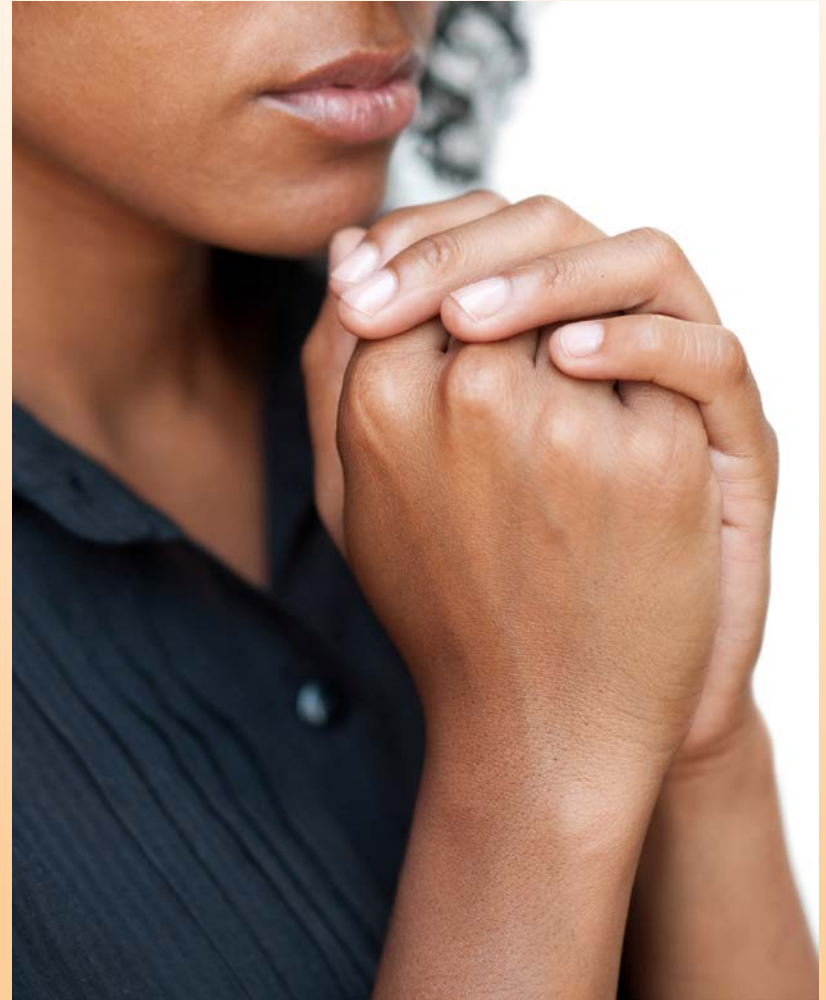
Ellen G. White, Peter's Counsel to Parents, p. 57.

“Let the workers study the Bible with them, pressing sacred truth home to their hearts. Read to them the words of God: “But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” “Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom... but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me.” Ellen G. White, Testimony Treasures, vol. 2, p. 495.



“Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.”

J.I. Packer



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Jeremiah 9: 24

