

Conceptions of God

Nehemiah 9:6-31

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible does not define God.
 - a. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5).
 - b. "God is love" (1 John 4:8).
2. God may be known but not comprehended.
 - a. Paul speaks of "what can be known about God" (Rom. 1:19).
 - b. Yet, Job said that God "does great things beyond searching out" (Job 9:10; cf. Rom. 11:33).
3. The Bible tells us more of what God does than what God is. Neither does it attempt to prove His existence.
4. The ancient Hebrews saw God in all things.

DISCUSSION: They saw God...

I. In the voices of nature.

- A. "You have made heaven...the earth...the seas...and you preserve all of them" (v. 6).
- B. Of Jesus Paul wrote, "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth...all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col. 1:15-17).
- C. Even the rock spoke of the strength, patience, and endurance of God (cf. Psa. 89:26).
- D. The clouds did not merely collect the waters to pour down on the earth; they were the treasure houses of God (Deut. 28:12).

II. In the movements of history.

- A. A psalmist asks, "Who can utter the mighty deeds of the Lord, or declare all his praise?" (Psa. 106:2).
- B. The pages of Moses, the songs of David, and the prophecies of Isaiah literally teem with references to the presence of God in the movements of history.
- C. "And you...performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh..." (v. 9).
- D. "And you divided the sea before them..." (v. 11).
- E. "Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness..." (v. 21).
- F. "And you gave them kingdoms and peoples and allotted to them every corner" (v. 22).

III. In the lives of men.

- A. He chose Abram (v. 7).
- B. He was against Pharaoh (v. 10).
- C. He took possession of "the land of Sihon...and Og..." (v. 22).
- D. Of God Daniel said, "He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings" (Dan. 2:21).

CONCLUSION:

1. God should be joy, providence, and help.
2. Through Christ approach God...
 - a. The King, with reverence.
 - b. The Father, with a child's unfaltering trust.
3. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (Heb. 10:22), for "our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).