

A person stands on a sandy beach, looking up at the Earth from space. The Earth is a large, blue and white sphere in the upper half of the frame, set against a dark, starry sky. The person is a small silhouette in the lower center, standing on a sandy beach that stretches out to the horizon. The overall scene is a composite image representing the vastness of the universe and the smallness of humanity.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

PSALM 8:3-4



THE

POWER

OF PRAISE

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1Sa 17:19 And Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines.

1Sa 17:20 And David rose up early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper, and got up and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the barricade, and to the army which was going out to fight, and shouted for the battle.

1Sa 17:21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in order, rank to rank.

1Sa 17:22 And David left his baggage in the hand of the keeper of the baggage and ran into the army, and came and greeted his brothers.

1Sa 17:23 And he was speaking with them. And, behold, the champion man, named Goliath, the Philistine of Gath, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke according to these words. And David heard.

1Sa 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

1Sa 17:33 And Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him. For you are but a youth, and he is a man of war from his youth.

1Sa 17:34 And David said to Saul, Your servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock.

1Sa 17:35 And I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb out of its mouth. And when it rose against me, I caught it by the beard, and struck it and killed it.

1Sa 17:36 Your servant killed both the lion and the bear. And this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.

1Sa 17:37 And David said, Yahweh who has delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and may Yahweh be with you.

1Sa 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones out of the brook for himself, and put them in a shepherd's vessel which he had, even in a bag. And his sling was in his hand. And he drew near the Philistine.

1Sa 17:41 And the Philistine came on and drew near David. And the man who bore the shield was before him.

1Sa 17:42 And the Philistine looked and saw David, and disdained him. For he was only a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.

1Sa 17:43 And the Philistine said to David, Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

1Sa 17:44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.

1Sa 17:45 And David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of Yahweh of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

1Sa 17:46 Yahweh will deliver you into my hand today, and I will strike you and take your head from you and give the bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air today, and to the wild beasts of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

1Sa 17:47 And all this multitude shall know that Yahweh does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is Yahweh's, and He will give you into our hands.

1Sa 17:48 And it happened when the Philistine rose and went and drew near to meet David, David hurried and ran toward the ranks to meet the Philistine.

1Sa 17:49 And David put his hand into his bag and took a stone from there, and slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead. And he fell on his face to the earth.

1Sa 17:50 And David was stronger than the Philistine with a sling and with a stone. And he struck the Philistine, and killed him. But no sword was in the hand of David.

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Mat 21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all those who sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of those who sold doves.

Mat 21:13 And He said to them, It is written, "My house shall be called the house of prayer"; but you have made it a den of thieves.

Mat 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

Mat 21:15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things which He did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David, they were angry.

Mat 21:16 And they said to Him, Do you hear what these say? And Jesus said to them, Yes, have you never read, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings You have perfected praise?"

2Ch 19:2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him. And he said to King Jehoshaphat, Should you help the ungodly and love those who hateYahweh? And by this bring wrath on you from beforeYahweh.

2Ch 19:3 But there are good things found in you, in that you have taken away the Asherahs out of the land and have prepared your heart to seek God.

2Ch 19:4 And Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem. And he went out again among the people from Beer-sheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back toYahweh, the God of their fathers.

2Ch 19:5 And he set judges in the land, in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city.

2Ch 19:6 And he said to the judges, Take heed what you do. For you do not judge for man, but for Yahweh, who is with you in the judgment.

2Ch 19:7 And now let the fear of Yahweh be on you. Be careful and act wisely, for there is no iniquity with Yahweh our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

2Ch 19:8 And Jehoshaphat set some of the Levites and of the priests and of the chief of the fathers of Israel in Jerusalem for the judgment of Yahweh, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

2Ch 19:9 And he charged them, saying, And you shall act in the fear of Yahweh, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

2Ch 20:5 and they and the people of Jerusalem gathered in the new courtyard of the Temple. King Jehoshaphat went and stood before them

2Ch 20:6 and prayed aloud, "O LORD God of our ancestors, you rule in heaven over all the nations of the world. You are powerful and mighty, and no one can oppose you.

2Ch 20:7 You are our God. When your people Israel moved into this land, you drove out the people who were living here and gave the land to the descendants of Abraham, your friend, to be theirs forever.

2Ch 20:8 They have lived here and have built a temple to honor you, knowing

2Ch 20:9 that if any disaster struck them to punish them---a war, an epidemic, or a famine---then they could come and stand in front of this Temple where you are worshiped. They could pray to you in their trouble, and you would hear them and rescue them.

2Ch 20:10 "Now the people of Ammon, Moab, and Edom have attacked us. When our ancestors came out of Egypt, you did not allow them to enter those lands, so our ancestors went around them and did not destroy them.

2Ch 20:11 This is how they repay us---they come to drive us out of the land that you gave us.

2Ch 20:12 You are our God! Punish them, for we are helpless in the face of this large army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but we look to you for help."

2Ch 20:13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children, were standing there at the Temple.

2Ch 20:14 The spirit of the LORD came upon a Levite who was present in the crowd. His name was Jahaziel son of Zechariah; he was a member of the clan of Asaph and was descended from Asaph through Mattaniah, Jeiel, and Benaiah.

2Ch 20:15 Jahaziel said, "Your Majesty and all you people of Judah and Jerusalem, the LORD says that you must not be discouraged or be afraid to face this large army. The battle depends on God, not on you.

2Ch 20:16 Attack them tomorrow as they come up the pass at Ziz. You will meet them at the end of the valley that leads to the wild country near Jeruel.

2Ch 20:17 You will not have to fight this battle. Just take up your positions and wait; you will see the LORD give you victory. People of Judah and Jerusalem, do not hesitate or be afraid. Go out to battle, and the LORD will be with you!"

2Ch 20:18 Then King Jehoshaphat bowed low, with his face touching the ground, and all the people bowed with him and worshiped the LORD.

2Ch 20:19 The members of the Levite clans of Kohath and Korah stood up and with a loud shout praised the LORD, the God of Israel.

2Ch 20:20 Early the next morning the people went out to the wild country near Tekoa. As they were starting out, Jehoshaphat addressed them with these words: "People of Judah and Jerusalem! Put your trust in the LORD your God, and you will stand your ground. Believe what his prophets tell you, and you will succeed."

2Ch 6:18 "But can you, O God, really live on earth among men and women? Not even all of heaven is large enough to hold you, so how can this Temple that I have built be large enough?

2Ch 6:19 LORD my God, I am your servant. Listen to my prayer and grant the requests I make to you.

2Ch 6:20 Watch over this Temple day and night. You have promised that this is where you will be worshiped, so hear me when I face this Temple and pray.

2Ch 6:21 Hear my prayers and the prayers of your people Israel when they face this place and pray. In your home in heaven hear us and forgive us.

2Ch 6:34 "When you command your people to go into battle against their enemies and they pray to you, wherever they are, facing this city which you have chosen and this Temple which I have built for you,

2Ch 6:35 listen to their prayers. Hear them in heaven and give them victory.

Act 16:20 They brought them before the Roman officials and said, "These men are Jews, and they are causing trouble in our city.

Act 16:21 They are teaching customs that are against our law; we are Roman citizens, and we cannot accept these customs or practice them."

Act 16:22 And the crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas. Then the officials tore the clothes off Paul and Silas and ordered them to be whipped.

Act 16:23 After a severe beating, they were thrown into jail, and the jailer was ordered to lock them up tight.

Act 16:24 Upon receiving this order, the jailer threw them into the inner cell and fastened their feet between heavy blocks of wood.

Act 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Act 16:26 Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, which shook the prison to its foundations. At once all the doors opened, and the chains fell off all the prisoners.

Act 16:27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he thought that the prisoners had escaped; so he pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself.

Act 16:28 But Paul shouted at the top of his voice, "Don't harm yourself ! We are all here!"  
in God.

Act 16:29 The jailer called for a light, rushed in, and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas.

Act 16:30 Then he led them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Act 16:31 They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved---you and your family."

Act 16:32 Then they preached the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in the house.

Act 16:33 At that very hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; and he and all his family were baptized at once.

Act 16:34 Then he took Paul and Silas up into his house and gave them some food to eat. He and his family were filled with joy, because they now believed.

Psa 18:1 How I love you, LORD! You are my defender.

Psa 18:2 The LORD is my protector; he is my strong fortress. My God is my protection, and with him I am safe. He protects me like a shield; he defends me and keeps me safe.

Psa 18:3 I call to the LORD, and he saves me from my enemies. Praise the LORD!

Psa 18:31 The LORD alone is God; God  
alone is our defense.

Psa 18:32 He is the God who makes  
me strong, who makes my pathway  
safe.

Psa 18:33 He makes me sure-footed as  
a deer; he keeps me safe on the  
mountains.

Luk 10:17 The seventy-two men came back in great joy. "Lord," they said, "even the demons obeyed us when we gave them a command in your name!"

Luk 10:18 Jesus answered them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Luk 10:19 Listen! I have given you authority, so that you can walk on snakes and scorpions and overcome all the power of the Enemy, and nothing will hurt you.

Luk 10:20 But don't be glad because the evil spirits obey you; rather be glad because your names are written in heaven."

Luk 10:21 At that time Jesus was filled with joy by the Holy Spirit and said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned. Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen.

Luk 10:22 "My Father has given me all things. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Luk 10:23 Then Jesus turned to the disciples and said to them privately, "How fortunate you are to see the things you see!

Luk 10:24 I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see, but they could not, and to hear what you hear, but they did not."