

# How Big Is Your God Part 1

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September 18, 2016

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## Review

- finished the *Armor of God* series of sermons
- we're in supernatural conflict, we have supernatural weapons, given by our supernatural God
- ended with most supernatural-sounding aspect of armor, praying in the Spirit, speaking in tongues
- made the point that the supernatural can appear bizarre, John 8-9, spitting used in healing
- we dare not allow the bizarre of the supernatural keep us from seeing, believing and operating in it!

**Question** — *How supernatural is your God? How strong, miraculous, and Big is He?*

**Convinced** — *committed followers of Jesus are going to have to be more aware, hungry and co-operative with the supernatural if we are going to defeat demonic powers and win a weary world to Jesus!*

**Dead, boring, powerless religion isn't going to get the job done — merely complaining about the darkness, without turning on supernatural light, isn't going to get the job done!**

**Non-negotiable** — *we must see God for Who He Is and start believing Him to do what only He can do!*

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## Back to the beginning — first thing God teaches us about Himself...

### • Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

- without form, void, dark — **desolate, empty, miserable**

**Question** — *What did God do with something so completely useless and undesirable?*

- He spoke light to it — He didn't just complain about the darkness
- He stayed with it — He didn't give up on it

**Question** — *What does that teach me about my own challenging circumstances?*

- God is able to work miracles with the worst situations

- God will call us to believe Him to do the miraculous
- I've got to trust God when He speaks about my miraculous need
- this is one of the first revelations of God the scripture gives us, it's important!

**Question** — *What if we started speaking to, instead of complaining about, or giving up on the United States of America?*

- in the spirit, in prayer — repent, return, confess, restored, blessed
- calling things that aren't as though they are —
  - **Romans 4:17**  
God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

**Possible** — *we might just see our nation return to God, **He's big enough to do that!***

**Problem** — *there is a **historical precedence** of God's people losing sight of just how Big He Is... there are too many to list, here are a few to consider...*

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### **The Israelites coming out of Egypt...**

- God picks a murderer with a speech impediment to deliver from slavery—Moses
- 10 miraculous plagues until Pharaoh lets them leave, **God is BIG!**
- Pharaoh pursues, Red Sea, dry ground, Egyptians drowned, **God is BIG!**
- Promised land, milk and honey, enemies there
- Numbers 13, go spy it out, confirmed it's awesome, stayed 40 days, yes grapes, milk, honey...
- **BUT** very large fortified cities, giants there
- **CAN'T** take it, stronger than us, we're grasshoppers...
- Numbers 14, people cried, complained, should have died in Egypt
- **God brought us here to kill us**, let's go back to Egypt, pick some leaders...
- **Joshua and Caleb respond**
  - **Numbers 14:6-10**  
But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them." And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.
- Gods got this, it's about His power, not ours

- **God responds to their unbelief**

- **Numbers 14:11, 22-23**

Then the LORD said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?... because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.”

***Application** — God calls them out for losing sight about how Big He Is, God sees their doubt as rejection of Him and it causes them to wander for 40 years, NOT seeing what He had for them... we are no different... we make God small... we don't see His Bigness!*

**Question** — *How big is your God? Can He take you into your Promised Land — or not?*

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### **Sadducees**

- ruling religious political party of Jesus' time, ran the moneychangers in Temple
- only believed in Pentateuch, no prophets, no resurrection, no angels, no spirits, nothing supernatural
- religious officials devoid of spirit, limited religion to physical senses

- **Matthew 22:23-29**

The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.” Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

***Interesting** — because they couldn't understand how this marriage situation could be worked out in the resurrection, in heaven, they just denied heaven altogether — rather than adjusting their lack of understanding on marriage in heaven, they got rid of heaven altogether! They didn't understand the scripture or the power of God!*

**Question** — *I wonder how many times we make our God smaller, just because we don't know the scriptures or the power of God? Instead of going with the clear teaching of scripture, we adjust the scripture to our lack of knowledge or experience! We become modern day Sadducees — it's sad, you see.*

**I don't want my religion being void of the scriptures or the power of God —  
I want it overflowing with both.**

**I don't want to have a form of godliness — but deny the power of it!**

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## Homies — Jesus' hometown folks

- **Mark 6:1-6**

Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

- "isn't this just the carpenter" — bad place to start when talking about God!
- offended at Him — couldn't figure Him out, made less of Him
- only place without honor is — own country, relatives and house

**Question** — *I wonder if Jesus has become so familiar to us that He has lost honor, wonder and awe in our midst? **Has He become "just" Jesus?** Has He gotten smaller to us?*

**When He does, when we don't believe Who He really is,  
He can do no mighty work in our midst.  
Having a limited Jesus — limits Jesus!**

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## Church

- issue of How Big is Your God, has personal **and corporate** ramifications...

**The corporate atmosphere that we contribute to  
either limits or loosens Jesus' miraculous work in our midst!**

- Jairus, ruler of synagogue, goes to get Jesus, his daughter is dying; Jesus' response is interrupted by woman with issue of blood...

- **Mark 5:35-42**

While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

**Application** — *Jesus puts the weeping, wailing, ridiculing people out of the room; unbelief has to go, allows those believing to stay — miracle happens, overcome with great amazement!*

**Grace Chapel — let's contribute faith and expectancy  
to the atmosphere of our gatherings.  
Let's make sure Jesus is Big to us,  
so He can be Big around us!**

### **Bottom Line**

- we can't let our current challenges steal the Bigness of God from us
- we can't let our limited understanding of God explain away the Bigness of God to us
- we can't let our familiarity with Jesus offend us and keep God's Bigness from us

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### **MY PRAYER FOR US**

*Beloved, if we've let the Bigness of God be taken from us, let's get it back, let's remember Him, learn of Him, trust Him... let's see Him Big again!*

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. God spoke light to the darkness. What does that say to you about your own particular challenging circumstance?
2. Read Romans 4:17. Relate that to praying for the United States of America.
3. If you had been one of the spies sent into the Promised Land, what would your report have been?
4. Discuss: "When we don't believe God, He takes it personally."
5. Is there anything in your life that you are not believing Him for?
6. How does your personal belief in the Bigness of God affect our corporate worship, here at Grace Chapel?