

# THE TRANSCENDENCE OF GOD

## I CHRONICLES 29:11

“Thou art exalted as Head above all.”

Introduction: When you think about God, what comes to mind? Do you picture a super human? The Scriptures picture God as One is exalted above all. Unfortunately, at times, we treat God as an old grandpa sitting on His rocking chair. One who is safe & inviting and lives to please us. We want to talk about God’s transcendence.

Read I Chronicles 29:11 and Psalm 113:5.

### I. Definition of Transcend

- A. It means to be above.
- B. Because He is God, His uncreated being is so far above us that no thought can conceive it nor words express it. (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- C. To say that God is far above us is to use an analogy. It’s not talking about God being geographically removed from us like distant stars in the galaxy.
- D. Since God is omnipresent, He is already everywhere. We are not talking about distance.
- E. We are talking about the quality of being.
- F. God is so much greater than all creation that He is just as far above an archangel as He is a worm.
  1. An archangel is a holy creature that we see beside God in His presence. It has never sinned. It is always praising God. (Isaiah 6)
  2. A worm is a low, tiny creature that seems to be pretty insignificant. It can’t even talk.
  3. Why is God just as far above an angel as a worm? Because both are created things, and God is the uncreated One who had no beginning.
  4. The gulf between God & His creation is an infinite gulf because God is infinitely above us and because He is so great.
  5. We must not think about a pyramid that starts with simple cells and then has more complex animals and then people and then angels and then God. This puts God on top of the pyramid of creatures, but God isn’t a creature.
  6. God is a substance wholly unique.
- G. How can we speak of that which escapes all human speech? How can we think about that which is above all thought? (Psalm 145:3)

Imagine if one came from heaven and was able to describe God to us that gave us glimpses of his transcendence. How much greater He is than us! We might never want to hear words again but ones that speak of God.
- H. We need to remind ourselves that it is God who puts it in our hearts to seek Him and makes it possible in some measure to know Him, and He is pleased with even the feeblest effort to make Him known.
- I. It is because of the transcendence of God that we should have a fear of God.

1. Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

2. The fear of God doesn't mean that we don't have a close intimate relationship or pray bold prayers. It does mean we have a deep reverence & awe of God, a deep feeling of personal insufficiency in His presence.

J. Whenever God appeared to men in the Bible, there was an overwhelming sense of terror & dismay.

1. Moses, at the burning bush, hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. (Exodus 3:6)

2. Isaiah's vision of God caused him to cry out, “Woe is me. I am undone. I am a man of unclean lips.” (Isaiah 6:5)

3. John, on the island of Patmos, when he came into the presence of God, fell at God's feet as though dead. (Rev. 1:17)

## II. The Implications of God's Transcendence

A. There is someone higher than humans. We are not final measure of all things or the judge. It is not our estimation of ourselves, but the judgment of the holy God that gives us value.

B. God will never be completely understood by us.

1. When things happen in your life that you don't understand, and you get upset with God, and you want an explanation, could it be possible that the reason that God seems silent is not because He isn't there but because if He tried to explain, we wouldn't begin to understand?

2. For example, a two year old child who wants to play on the street, and the parent says No. The child may conclude the parent doesn't want them to have fun when the reality is the parent doesn't want them to get hit & die. The parent doesn't try to explain this to the two year old because they wouldn't understand.

3. Our salvation is not our achievement. Even the fact that we can know God is only because He has revealed Himself to us. If He chose not to, we would never know God.

4. Reverence & obedience is an appropriate response to God.

a. While it is okay to have a joy & confidence in our relationship with God as our heavenly Father, it is never okay to treat Him like an equal.

b. There should never be a loss of respect for God but a sense of awe & wonder.

c. He is God; we are not. He is the Sovereign Lord; we are His humble followers & servants.

d. This means that we don't come to God for advice and then follow it if we like it. We come to God to submit our wills and obey. “Not my will, but Thy will be done.”