

I Believe in God who is Majestic (崇高的)

Beloved in Jesus Christ: Our Belgic Confession (1561) was written by one man, Guido deBres, 85 years before the Westminster Confession (1646). The Westminster Confession writers learned from and built on the foundation that was laid in the Belgic Confession. In many cases they expanded on what Guido deBres wrote. You can see that expansion in the doctrine of God. Now since the Westminster writers borrowed from our confession we will borrow from theirs! You already saw Chapter 2, paragraph 1 last week when we looked at the holiness of God. Let us read Chapter 2, paragraph 2 this week so we can learn of the majesty of God.

Westminster Confession of Faith 2:2 God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself; and is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, **not standing in need of any creatures which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them.** He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever himself pleases. In his sight all things are open and manifest, his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent, or uncertain. He is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands. To him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience he is pleased to require of them.

二. 上帝拥有一切生命 (约5:26)、荣耀 (徒7:2)、良善 (诗119:68) 和福分 (提前6:15; 罗9:5), 是本乎祂自身, 出于祂自身; 惟独祂本乎自己, 并对自己而言是完全自足的, 不需要祂所造的任何受造之物 (徒17:24, 25), 也不从他们得任何荣耀 (伯22:2-3), 却只在他们里面, 藉着他们, 向着他们, 并在他们身上彰显祂自己的荣耀; 祂是万有惟一的根源, 万有都是本于祂, 依靠祂, 归于祂 (罗11:36); 祂对他们有至高的统治权, 藉着他们, 为着他们, 并在他们身上行祂自己所喜悦的事 (启4:11; 提前6:15; 但4:25, 35)。万有在祂眼前都是赤露敞开的 (来4:13); 祂的知识是无限的, 无谬的, 不依赖任何受造物 (罗11:33-34; 诗147:5); 所以, 对于祂而言, 没有什么事物是偶然的, 或不确定的 (徒15:18; 结11:5)。祂的一切预旨、作为和命令都是至圣的 (诗145:17; 罗7:12)。天使、世人和其它所有受造之物, 都当照祂按其美意所吩咐的敬拜祂, 侍奉祂, 顺服祂 (启5:12-14)。(王志勇牧师译注)

Our headings are:

The Doctrine of God's Majesty explained

The Doctrine of God's Majesty illustrated

The Doctrine of God's Majesty applied.

Our goals are: **That after standing in awe at God's majesty, you will long to worship your majestic Creator and Re-creator!**

The Doctrine of God's Majesty

1. God is majestic.

Look at what that means. What a glorious picture!

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the **greatness, The power and the glory**, The **victory** and the majesty; For **all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours**; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are **exalted** as head over all.

2. God is majestic in his being, his very essence.

That was how David described God's being. **God's name, which represents his who person, is majestic.**

Psalms 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, How **excellent is Your name** in all the earth, Who have **set Your glory above the heavens!**

“Excellent” is an okay translation, but older translations used the word “majestic.” Look at the rest of the verse and you will see the context: glory, power, majesty, kingdom, exalted!

1 Chronicles 16:27 **Honor and majesty are before Him**; Strength and gladness are in His place.

Even when God speaks he is majestic.

Psalms 29:4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; The **voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

3. God is majestic in his work.

Job 37:5 God thunders marvelously with His voice; **He does great things which we cannot comprehend.**

22 He comes from the north as **golden splendor (光辉)**; **With God is awesome majesty.** 23 As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, In judgment and abundant justice...

Remember the picture of Zechariah (Zechariah 1, 3) and what John pictured in Revelation? **Jesus is mounted on a horse in beautiful clothing with a crown on his head**, and he is going out to conquer his enemies. He is the Great Conquering King!

Revelation 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a **white horse**. He who sat on it had **a bow**; and **a crown** was given to him, and **he went out conquering and to conquer.**

And speaking of Jesus' work:

Micah 5:4 And **He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God**; And **they shall abide**, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth;

Where are the kingdoms of the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians (马代波斯), Greeks, and Romans? Gone. But not Jesus'.

The Doctrine of God's Majesty illustrated

1. Let's consider God's majesty in the vision of John which we glanced at last time.

Revelation 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper (碧玉) and a sardius (红宝石) stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...

This description was not just that of a holy God, but it also shows a majestic God.

God is like jasper – showing his transcendent (超然的) brightness.

God is like sardius – a red stone that signifies the justice (公义) of God. As king he carries out true justice!

God is like rainbow that looked like an emerald (翡翠). The rainbow's most common color was a pleasant green. This was a reminder of God goodness. This picture tells a million words!

Genesis 9:13 "I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

Then to further show God's majesty, John pointed out how the people's angels and the 24 elders viewed God.

Revelation 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne...

These 24 elders joined with the angels to praise the Lord and showed submission (顺服) because of his gloriousness. They fell down before God, showing submission. They cast down their crowns before God – what eastern subjects did before a king whom they recognized had power over them. Even the Jews in one of their famous prayers talked of "taking off their crowns" before God because they recognized their sinfulness and wanted his mercy.

God is accompanied by remarkable things: Lightnings, thunderings, voices, fire...

2. Let's consider God's majesty from the vision of Ezekiel.

God was represented by brightness like burning amber and sitting in a jealous rage. In this case it was a warning. Judah was falling into sin before a majestic God and would feel his wrath if they did not improve.

Ezekiel 8:2 Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire — from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber (琥珀). 3 He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy. 4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.

3. Peter and others testified to what he and other disciples personally saw on the Mount of Transfiguration. (登山变像)

2Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

What amazing testimony they must have had when they saw that awesome sight!

The Doctrine of God's Majesty Applied

1. You must take time to think of God's majesty in order for you to grasp it.

Psalms 145:5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.

My old theology (神学) professor met all the US presidents from FD Roosevelt to George H. W. Bush. I asked him why he didn't meet Bill Clinton. He remarked that he didn't want to. Because of Bill Clinton's scandalous 充满丑闻的 life my professor did not want to meet him. On the other hand, when my dad went to Venezuela 委内瑞拉 (before it was a raving socialist success –see my sarcasm 讽刺) he stayed at a hotel where George Foreman, the world heavyweight boxing champion, was staying. He and his buddies made sure they met Foreman and took photographs with him. Foreman had glory so they wanted to be near him. So if you see God's glory, you would long to be with him.

2. After you grasp God's majesty you will get dressed to meet your majestic God.

Job could not dare go before a majestic God with guilt and neither could you. You have to know the Lord Jesus who removes your sins (filthy garments) and restores them with clean white garments!

Job 31:21 If I have raised my hand against the fatherless, When I saw I had help in the gate; 22 Then let my arm fall from my shoulder, Let my arm be torn from the socket. 23 For destruction from God is a terror to me, And **because of His magnificence I cannot endure.**

Job could only go before God with his sins removed and Christ's righteousness (义) counted as his righteousness.

God does not demand fancy dress when you worship him, only modesty. God wants you to be covered with Christ's righteousness when you come to meet him.

3. When you meet your majestic God, cast down your crown before him and show him that he is all-glorious and you are nothing!

Don't go to God and claim a right to be there by virtue of anything you are or what you have done.

4. God's majesty is a source of comfort, for you see him in all his glory and power.

Isaiah 33:20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will **see Jerusalem, a quiet home, A tabernacle (帐幕) that will not be taken down; Not one of its stakes will ever be removed, Nor will any of its cords (绳索) be broken.** 21 But **there the majestic LORD will** be for us a place of **broad rivers** and **streams,** In which **no galley with oars will sail,** Nor **majestic ships pass** by...

Abundance of **waters was a necessity for survival in a dry land** so Judah would have broad rivers. At the same time **God would stop the enemies from bringing their ships in the broad rivers.**

5. Because of God's majesty and power, you can fight and win your battles and conquer all your enemies.

Deuteronomy 33:29 Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help **And the sword of your majesty!** Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places."

Of course you keep in mind that while you are fighting for world dominion for Christ, you are not doing so with earthly weapons but with a spiritual weapon – God's Word.

6. God's majesty drives fear into the non-believer.

Job 39:20 Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror.

Even when you, a Christian, are living in sin, you would hide from him. But not really!

Isaiah 2:10 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty.

Conclusion:

God is majestic in his nature and in his work. This is illustrated for us by Ezekiel, John, the disciples, and as you saw last time, Isaiah. God's majesty makes you drop to your knees and cast your crown before him.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Are you reflecting on God's holy majesty and then casting down your crown before His Holy Majesty? If you think too much of yourself, you wouldn't do it. If you don't submit to him, you won't do his work.

2. You show you recognize God as king when you worship at home and in church and when you work for him in your daily life. Don't let minor things pull you away from worship! Remember who is King!

3. You show you recognize God's as king when you tell others of his majesty. Psalms 145:12 (You must) make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, His Holy Majesty will be your judge. But if you come with the covering of Jesus Christ, with his life and death as your covering, which he offers for free, you can meet His Holy Majesty as your Father. Your choice. Choose well.