



It is normal for a sense of awe to be inspired in us through nature.

- A mountain
- A valley
- A tree
- A sunset
- A star
- A cloud formation
- A storm
- A waterfall
- A creature
- The waves of the ocean
- Man's creations

When we experience awe, there is a surreal peace that we experience in our soul.

When Sandra and I were in California this summer, as we walked along the boardwalk by the sea, we saw a man in a hospital bed in his living room the bed was positioned so that he could stare out through his living room picture window at the ocean. It appeared to us he was in the final days of his life being cared for by his family and hospice nurses. Apparently, he wanted to spend his final days staring out at the ocean because of the sense of peace it would give him.

There is nothing wrong with experiencing awe that is inspired by nature.

But there is nothing that should inspire awe in us like the wonders of God.

[Psalms 33:8](#)

[8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. NKJV](#)

The word awe means to turn aside from the road. From the word awe, we get our word awesome! Knowing the wonders of God will cause us to stop and gawk. When we do, we will experience His peace.

The bible from Genesis to Revelation is a revelation of God. The bible reveals the wonders of God.

In this series I will do my best to use words and sometimes pictures to help you understand the wonders of God. God wants you to know His wonders. He wants you to experience His peace no matter what circumstances you are experiencing or will experience in the future.

David was a man in the old testament who was the second king of Israel. He lived around 1000 BC. He reigned for 40 years. During his reign he was betrayed by his son Absalom. Absalom had secretly won over the favor of most of the people of Israel and led an insurrection. He had gathered an army that greatly outnumbered David's and he marched on Jerusalem and David's house. David in haste escaped from Jerusalem, traveled east, and crossed the Jordan river. There in that wilderness, he penned the words of Psalm 3.

In these words, David said in verse 5 he laid down and slept.

What was it about the wonders of God that would give David such peace that despite these circumstances, he laid down and slept?

Psalms 3

1 Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me.

2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah

3 But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.

4 I cried to the Lord with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah

5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

7 Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.

8 Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah

NKJV

What is revealed to us in Psalm 3 about God that could cause David to experience such peace that he could lay down and sleep?

What is revealed to us in Psalm 3 about God that could cause David to experience such peace that he could say with such confidence that he was not afraid even if the odds against him were ten thousand to one?

David had received promises from God about the defeat of His enemies. But those promises would be meaningless to David unless He knew that God could fulfill those promises. What gave David that confidence?

The first word of this Psalm David wrote is Lord.

Psalms 3

1 **LORD**, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me.

There are many Hebrew words that are translated Lord in our English bibles. In this verse, the word Lord is the Word Yahweh.

(The ancient Hebrew language that the Old Testament was written in did not have vowels in its alphabet. In written form, ancient Hebrew was a consonant-only language. In the original Hebrew, God's name transliterates to *YHWH*.)

This is known as the tetragrammaton (meaning "four consonant letters"). Because of the lack of vowels, Bible scholars debate how the tetragrammaton *YHWH* was pronounced.

The Jews were so afraid of taking God's name in vain by mispronouncing His name that they began to substitute Adonai for YHWH. Adonai means Lord. In the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, the Jews translated YHWH as Kurios which means Lord. The Hebrew word Jehovah is a 16th century variant of the name YHWH.

It is interesting to me that God would intentionally identify Himself to a people with a language that would leave us wondering how to correctly pronounce His name. That is a part of the wonder of God.)

David was able to lay down and sleep because he understood who God was through the meaning of this name.

In Genesis 1:1 God revealed Himself through the name Elohim.

[Genesis 1:1](#)

[1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.](#)

[KJV](#)

Elohim means the supreme God. It is a plural name that God used first to introduce Himself and to introduce himself as a trinity.

God first revealed Himself as Yahweh in Genesis 2:4.

[Genesis 2:4](#)

[4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,](#)

[KJV](#)

The word Lord is the name Yahweh. The word God is the word Elohim.

The name Yahweh means Self-Existent. By using this name God described Himself as having life within Himself.

[By revealing Himself as Yahweh...](#)

- [He was saying He is self-sufficient and utterly independent of anything or anyone outside of Himself for His life.](#)

By calling Himself Yahweh He was saying He is like an eternal flame of fire that needs no source of fuel outside of himself to burn.

That is why when He first appeared to Moses in a burning bush that was not consumed. The bush was not the source of the fire's existence. When Moses asked God His name, God responded by saying He was Yahweh. "I Am who I Am" is another way God communicated to Moses He is self-existent and independent of anything outside of Himself for His existence.

- He was saying He has always been, and He will always be.
- He was saying that everything else that has life receives life from Him.
- He was saying all life that exists still exists because He sustains it.
- He was saying that all that exists is by comparison to Him as nothing.

What causes a sense of awe in us in the natural realm is nothing when compared to the source of its existence.

I found this to be true observing the birth of my children. I was overwhelmed with awe as the came forth from their mother. But they were nothing to me when compared with the source of their existence.

All that we are amazed by in the world and in the galaxies is, compared to Yahweh, as nothing.

- He was saying that He is constant.
- He was saying He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- He was saying He could not be improved.
He is not becoming anything. He is who he is.
- He was saying He is the absolute source of truth for life since all life has its origins in Him.

There is no law-book to which He looks to know what is right. No almanac to establish facts. No guild to determine what is excellent or beautiful. He was saying His nature is the standard of what is right, what is true, what is beautiful.

- He was saying that He is sovereign and can do whatever He pleases as the beginning of all things.
- He was saying He is utterly free from any constraints that don't originate from the counsel of his own will.
- He was saying that He is the most important and most valuable reality and person that exists.

He is more worthy of interest and attention and admiration and enjoyment and awe than all other realities, including the entire universe.

- He was saying that in a pluralistic world that believed in many gods, He was above all gods and all nations.

Now let's read this Psalm again with the understanding that the very first word in the Psalm is Yahweh and with an understanding of what Yahweh means.

Psalms 3

1 Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me.

2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah

3 But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.

4 I cried to the Lord with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah
5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.
6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.
7 Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.
8 Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah
NKJV

Is it any wonder that David found peace and he lay down and slept?

He knew the God He prayed to was Yahweh!

- He knew that if Yahweh was on His side, it did not matter how many enemies were on the other side.
- He knew that if Yahweh was His shield, no arrow could reach him.
- He knew that if Yahweh honored him, no one could take his honor.
- He knew that if Yahweh wanted Him to rise up, no man could hold him down.
- He knew that if Yahweh heard His cry, it did not matter if anyone else came to His aid.

I can picture David off by himself in the wilderness lost in the wonder of Yahweh. Then He laid down and slept.

Because God loves us, God gave us this Psalm to show us what we should do when Absalom is threatening us.

What is your Absalom right now?

- It may be a circumstance that you cannot change.
(illness, financial, job, transportation)
- It may be a person that you cannot change.
(spouse, child, friend, co-worker, classmate)

You are either in the fire, just coming out of the fire, or about to enter the fire. This is the cycle of life in a fallen world.

Is your God Yahweh? Do you know Yahweh?

Whatever you go to for peace is your God?

- Is it a person you are expecting to give you peace?
- Is it some pleasure you are expecting to give you peace?
- Is it some substance you are expecting to give you peace?

I have been amazed at the number of marijuana dispensaries and CBD oil adds on storefronts that I have seen pop up all over our city since the drug was made legal in our

state. I know that this drug can be used as a pain killer for those suffering from chronic physical pain.

But the main use of marijuana has not changed. It is a mood-altering drug. People use it to relax, just like they do alcohol. For many people, it is their God! If it is yours, how is that working out for you? I can tell you how it is going to work out for you. You are going to lose everything that is important to you.

Isn't it time for you to put your hope in Yahweh instead of medicating yourself with other things?

In order to have a relationship with Yahweh Jesus claimed we must go through Him.

- Jesus claimed to be Yahweh

John 8:48-59

48 Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.

50 And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges.

51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.'

53 Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

54 Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.

55 Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

NKJV

- Jesus claimed He was the only way to have a relationship with Yahweh.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

NKJV

- Jesus claimed He was the only way avoid the judgment of Yahweh.

John 3:17-18

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

NKJV

Have you received Jesus? Will you receive Jesus as Yahweh and your savior?

After you receive Jesus you must have a strategy that you are going to use to exercise your faith like David did whenever you are dealing with an Absalom. Your strategy should be to get alone with Yahweh and remind yourself who He is and who He is to you.

If you do, you will see like David that...

- It does not matter how many enemies are on the other side.
- He is your shield and no arrow can reach you.
- He is your glory, and no one can take your honor.
- You will rise up and no man can hold you down.
- Because Yahweh hears your cry, it does not matter if anyone else comes to your aid.

You will lay down and sleep, because you know God as Yahweh.

How do you follow this strategy?

- Hang out with those that follow it.
- Start out each day beholding the wonder of Yahweh