



dc 76.¹⁻⁴— meditation

- ¹Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth,
and rejoice ye inhabitants thereof,
for the Lord is God,
and beside him there is no Savior.
- ²Great is his wisdom,
marvelous are his ways,
and the extent of his doings none can find out.
- ³his purposes fail not,
neither are there any who can stay his hand.
- ⁴From eternity to eternity he is the same,
and his years never fail.

It is an interesting and telling beginning to a section that is, ostensibly, about the future happiness and glorification of humankind. But no discussion and no revelation about humankind's future, or happiness, or glorification can begin in any way other than by focusing on God and His magnificence. So it is here. God is "Lord." He is, alone, "Savior." His "wisdom," His "ways," His "doings," His "purposes" are "great" and "marvelous" and incomprehensible and unfailing and unconquerable. He, Himself, is enduring in some way unique to all other enduring beings. The glorification of God in these verses is very psalm-like.

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
and his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall praise thy works to another,
and shall declare thy mighty acts.
I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty,
and of thy wondrous works.
And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts:
and I will declare thy greatness.
They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness,
and shall sing of thy righteousness."¹

But, "though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly."² Indeed, He has huge plans for His children, as we will see in the six verses that follow this section's opening four verses and then again in the visions that follow. While the focus of those visions is on human glorification and progression, God's ultimate hope for His children is "happiness." His "plan" is a "plan of happiness."³ "Men are, that they

¹ Psalm 145.³⁻⁷

² Psalm 138.⁶

³ See Alma 42.^{8, 16}

might have joy.”⁴ One could, I suppose, either think of “happiness” as another way of saying “glorification,” or of “glorification” as another way of saying “happiness.” Either way, God’s plan calls for the happiness of all His children. Indeed, this Section later testifies that God will save and glorify “all the works of his hands,” except an infinitesimally small group that is belligerently uninterested in happiness or salvation or glory.⁵

Given the nature of mortality, any success is amazing. This success rate is truly astounding, nearly incomprehensible.

Mortality can be ugly. Human failure is omnipresent. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”⁶ Sin is universal, abounding from youth to old age and accompanying us into the grave. “For such is the weakness of man, and such his frailties, that he is liable to sin continually.”⁷ God certainly has His work cut out for Him. Thankfully, He is up for the challenge. Failure is not an option. The “works, and designs, and the purposes of God cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught.”⁸ Human sin is no deterrent to His work. His hands cannot be stayed. They reach down into the nethermost regions and draw us out of the grasp of a voracious death and hell and grave, and lift us up into happiness and glorification just as he planned from before the foundation of the world.

So, yes, the decision to begin a discussion of humankind’s joyous glorification with a reminder of God and his power is more than appropriate. It is the only beginning that makes any sense. For, “his name alone is excellent,”⁹ and only “through God shall we do valiantly.”¹⁰ We would do well to never forget this reality.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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⁴ 2 Nephi 2.²⁵

⁵ See DC 76.⁴³

⁶ Romans 3.²³

⁷ Lectures on Faith, Lecture Third, questions and answers.

⁸ DC 3.¹

⁹ Psalm 148.¹³

¹⁰ Psalm 108.¹³