## Where Is Your God?

## Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1985

## Psalm 115:1-3

"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. Wherefore should the heathen say, where is now their God? But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."

I have a verse of Scripture found in the book of Psalms, Psalm 115:2. I would like to share this with you. I would like very much for you to open your Bible to this Scripture. David wrote in Psalm 115:2; "Wherefore, should the heathen say, where is now their God? Our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased."

This is my subject for today and it is a question; "WHERE IS YOUR GOD?"

This is not the first or only time that this question is asked in the Word of God: "Where is your God?" Job, in the midst of the darkness, suffering, sorrow, and trial asked this question; "O that I might know where I can find Him that I might come even to His throne and plead my cause before Him."

David wrote these words, while fleeing from King Saul and hiding among the caves (before he became king of Israel); "As with the sword in my bones, my enemies reproach me and daily say unto me, where is your God?"

Then, there was the prophet Elijah who had been taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire. While Elisha was standing alone on the banks of the Jordan River, he took the cloak of Elijah and smote the Jordan crying, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"

Here in our text (in Psalm 115), the idolaters said to David; "Our gods are where we put them. Our gods are what we make them. Our gods do what we allow them to do; they are the work of our hands."

Then, the idolaters asked David, "Where is your God?" David replied, "Our God is in the heavens and He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased." In Psalm 135, he says practically the same thing; "Our God is in the heavens and whatsoever the Lord pleased that did He in heaven, in the earth, in the seas, and in all deep places."

This is my title for the message today; "Where Is Your God?" Let me answer this question as if you were asking me, "Where is your God preacher?" "Where is your God Brother Mahan?"

I reply first of all with David; "Our God is in the heavens." When I say that our God is in the heavens I am speaking of His majesty and I am speaking of His sovereignty. Isaiah said in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah; "I saw the Lord high and lifted up seated on a throne and His train (His glory) filled the temple."

Our God is in the heavens. and being in the heavens "He doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth. The Lord reigneth; let all the earth rejoice, the Lord is in the heavens and thou art upon earth; let thy words be few."

Being God of the heavens He is sovereign in creation and He is sovereign in providence and He is sovereign in salvation. "He doeth according to His will, and whatsoever pleases Him, not only in heaven, but in the earth and in the seas and in all deep places."

Where is my God? God is in the heavens and being in the heavens, He is an almighty, sovereign and majestic God.

Secondly: "Our God is in the heavens" speaks of His omnipresence; our God is everywhere. David, writing in Psalm 139, said this; "Wither shall I flee from thy presence? If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shalt thy hand lead me. If I ascend into heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in the grave, thou art there."

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere beholding the evil and the good." Our God is omnipresent. David said, "I want to build a house for the Lord." The Lord said; "Shall the Lord of heaven dwell in a house made with hands? Even the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him and the earth is His footstool."

Our God is in the heavens and He is omnipotent, almighty, and sovereign. Our God is in the heavens and He is omnipresent; He is everywhere. When we say that our God is in the heavens, this speaks of His holiness.

There is one attribute of almighty God which is prominent in every attribute of God, and that is His holiness. His love is a holy love. His mercy is a holy mercy. His grace is a holy grace. His justice is a holy Justice. His wrath is a holy wrath. His righteousness is a holy Righteousness.

So, the primary attribute of God, the primary characteristic of God is His holiness. Our God is in the heavens and He is Holy. "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts," that is what the seraphim said; "The Lord is in His Holy temple."

We read of His holy angels. We read of His holy Word. We read of His Holy Spirit and we read of His tabernacle which is the Holy of Holies. When the priest went into the Holy of Holies to make the atonement once a year, he wore a miter which said; "Holiness to the Lord."

So, where is my God? "My God is in the heavens" and being in the heavens He is a sovereign and omnipotent God. "He has all authority and all power over all creation."

Not only is He omnipotent, but He is omniscient. The Scripture says, "Wither shall I flee from His presence? If I ascend into heaven He is there. If I make my bed in the grave He is there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there, shall His hand hold me." He is omnipresent. Our God is Holy, the Lord God is Holy.

All right, here is the second answer to that question, "Where is your God?" My God is in the Scriptures. In Acts 10:43, the Scripture says this; "To Him give all the prophets witness." This Bible is the Word of God.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the Word of God."

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Moses wrote of me." Our God is not only in the heavens. but our God is in the Scriptures. From the opening words of Genesis 1:1 when it says, "In the beginning God," to the closing words of Revelation 22:21, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

All the way from that first verse that says, "In the beginning God," to the last verse, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus," it is His Word. His Word is the Word of His mighty works; it is His Word concerning His eternal glory revealed in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you take the Bible and compress it until you get to the heart of it, the substance of it and the essence of it, you will have one word and that word is Jehovah which means Saviour and God, "A just God and a Saviour."

He is what the Bible is all about. The Bible is a Him Book, it is about Him. In Genesis you will find Him there as the Woman's Seed. In Exodus you will find Him as the

Passover Lamb. In Leviticus, He is our Atonement; "I have given you the blood upon the altar to make an atonement for your soul."

In Numbers, "He is the Brazen Serpent which Moses lifted up." In Deuteronomy, "He is the Cities of Refuge." In Joshua, "He is Rahab's Scarlet Line." In Judges, "He is the Angel of the Lord." In Ruth, "He is our Kinsmen Redeemer." In Job, "He is my Redeemer and my Ransom."

In Psalms, "He is my Shepherd." In Proverbs, "He is the Wisdom of God." In Song of Solomon, "He is the Bridegroom." In the Book of Isaiah, "He is the Substitute." In Jeremiah, "He is the Branch, the Lord our Righteousness." In Ezekiel, "He is the Glory of the Lord."

In Daniel, "He is the Beloved." In Hosea, "He is the Forgiving Lover." In Jonah, He is the sovereign Deliver; "Salvation is of the Lord." In Micah, "He is Bethlehem's Infant." In Habakkuk "He is the Faithful One." In Haggai, "He is the Desire of all nations" and in Zachariah, "He is the Foundation Stone."

Where is my God? My God is in the Word and it is called "*The Word of God*." Christ is the Incarnate Word and the Scriptures are the written Word and the Living Word. If you would see the Lord God in His glorious character, if you would understand His redemptive purposes, you must go to the Word of God. You must believe the Word of God because our God is in the Word.

This is the third answer that I would give if you would ask me, "Where is your God?" My answer is "He is in the Heavens." He is omnipotent and Almighty, omnipresent and holy. Where is your God? He is in the Scriptures. In the Scriptures He reveals Himself. In the Scriptures He reveals His grace, mercy, and love in Christ Jesus.

Where is your God? "Our God was in the world." I want you to listen to this in John 1:1; "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." The word "the" can be left out of the phrase. We can read it this way "In beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

"The same was in the beginning with God and all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. And the Word of God, who was with God, who was God, by whom all things were made; the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

John 1:6 says, "He was in this world." Who is this talking about? This is speaking of the same One who was spoken of in verse 1; "The Word of God who was God and with God and by whom all things were made."

He was actually, in reality, in this world. The Word, the Son of God, the second person of the blessed Trinity "was made flesh and dwelt among us." We actually, "beheld His glory." John said, "I saw Him and I heard Him and my hands touched Him."

Who is Jesus Christ? Who is Jesus of Nazareth? Who is this man called Jesus? This man is God. He is the God that I am talking about "who is in the heavens." He never left the heavens and yet He came to this earth. He is the only begotten who is in the bosom of the Father. He never ceased to be God and yet He became a man.

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus, Emmanuel, (God with us)." Isaiah said, "Unto us a child is born; a Son is given and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

"Unto the Son, He saith; thy throne O God is forever." Yes, God was actually in Christ, "reconciling the world unto Himself." When the disciples asked Him to "show them the Father," he said; "You are looking at Him. He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? He is God Almighty. Where is your God? Believe it or not, He was walking on this earth, clothed in human flesh; He was bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh. "He was numbered with the transgressors, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief. He was despised and rejected of men." Where is your God? Our God was in the world.

What did this Jesus Christ do, this Son of God? He came into the world. He actually robed Himself in human flesh. What am I saying? I am saying, He who made the world was actually in the world.

Men find this, actually, hard to believe. In fact, they find it impossible to believe apart from divine revelation. He who made the word was in the world. He who made woman was made of a woman. He, who walks upon clouds, now walks upon the sand. He became, actually, a human being in such a way that He never ceased to be God, yet; He was a perfect man.

Where is your God? He is in the world. Why did He do this? Why did He come into this world? The apostle Paul says in 1 Timothy; "This is a faithful saying and it is

worthy of all acceptation (by all men), that Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners."

Why did He do all of this? He did this to save sinners "of whom I am the chief." Luke 19:10, the Lord Jesus Christ said Himself; "The Son of Man is come into the world to save sinners, to seek and to save that which was lost."

You see; "The first Adam is of the earth, earthy." Through Adam we fell; by him we sinned, and through him, "Sin and death passed upon all men." The second Adam, the second man, is the "Lord from Heaven."

"As we bore the image of the earthy, we shall bear the image of the heavenly." As by one man's sin, death came into the world and by his disobedience we were made sinners and death came by that man, (Adam) so life came by this man Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:17 says this; "Wherefore, in all things it behooved Him, (or was necessary) for Him to be made like unto His brethren." He had to be made just like we were, "Made of a woman, made under the Law, (born under that Law), that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

Where is your God? He was actually on this earth. God, who is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, was actually on this earth. God who made all things, God in whom everything lives and moves and has its being, God by whom all things consist, was in this world. Jesus of Nazareth is God! Why did He do this? God did this to redeem a people from their sins.

Where is your God? God is in the world, but He is on a cross. He is in this world in human flesh, made of a woman, made under the Law, that by a perfect obedience in every jot and tittle of God's Law, He might, for every believer, accomplish a perfect righteousness. Did you hear what I said?

Jesus Christ didn't come into this world just to set an example. He didn't come here to show us how to live and how to behave, although He is our example. He came into this world because back before the foundation of the world, God determined to save a people.

The Lord God of Heaven "determined to have a new earth and a new heaven wherein dwelleth righteousness." He wanted to populate that new heaven and that new earth with a people, a people like His Son, a perfect and holy people.

He chose those people out of this fallen race. In order to remain holy and still be God, to honor His Law and satisfy His justice (which He must do to be God), He sent His Son down here in the "likeness of sinful flesh." He lived on this earth under every requirement of God's Holy Law and kept it perfectly.

Then, He went to the cross. Isaiah said that He went there as a Substitute; He went there in our stead and in our place. For Isaiah said, "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was laid upon Him and by His stripes we are healed."

He went to the cross as our Substitute, cursed of the Law, guilty before God's justice, in order that our sins and our iniquities might be paid in full. He took upon Himself our sins. He actually "bore our sins in His body on the tree." There, the justice of God was fully satisfied in the death of the Son of God.

The infinite, eternal, Son of God, "By one offering hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."

"Jesus paid it all,
All the debt I owe,
Sin has left a crimson stain,
But He washed it white as snow."

He blotted out our sins and He purged our sins; "By Himself He purged our sins." He took all the judgment and wrath of God on our behalf. Our records are clear because Christ paid the debt. "He died that God may be just and the justifier of all who believe in Christ."

Where is your God? He is in the world, on the cross, and then, as our scapegoat, He is in the tomb. He bore our sins to the tree and paid the debt. Then, He was laid in a tomb. Our Lord was actually buried, and in reality, He died. His body rested in a tomb.

Then, He arose! Because He lives, we live. You see, His resurrection reveals this, that all the work that He did, all the work that He took upon Himself to perform, (which He did as the Surety of the covenant, this person and work of Christ) was no sudden decision.

This was not something that God intended to put together when man fell. Before the world was ever created, "He was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world." All

of this was ordered of the Lord, purposed of the Lord and planned before the world began.

The Book of Life was written before the foundation of the world. Christ was our Surety of an eternal covenant. "His blood was the blood of an everlasting covenant." The Lord Jesus Christ came down here fulfilling the offices of Prophet, Priest, King, Surety, Redeemer, Christ and Messiah, all of that office.

He accomplished it and the last work was the death on the cross. He was put into the tomb and laid there three days, and then on the third day He arose. By that resurrection, by Him being raised by the Spirit of God and the power of God, God is declaring this; that all He took upon Himself to perform and all the work that He took upon Himself to accomplish, was complete.

Not only was the work complete, but it was accepted of the Father. If the Father had not accepted the Son's work, if the Father had not accepted the Son's righteousness, if the Father had not accepted the Son's satisfactory death, He would still be in that tomb.

He arose! His resurrection reveals that He is all that He says He is. You see; all of the religions of this world have a messiah. The Buddhists have a messiah called Buddha. The Confucius has a messiah called Confucius. The Muslims have a messiah called Mohammad.

All of these are their messiahs, leaders of religion, but they are all in the tomb. You can visit the grave of Buddha, Confucius, and Mohammad. You can visit the grave of any so-called, great, religious, leader. There is no need to go to the tomb of Christ.

One morning some women came to that tomb and an angel met them outside and said; "Why do you seek the living among the dead; He is not here?" He is a living Lord. He is a risen Lord. He is a triumphant Lord. He is a victorious Lord. His resurrection says that all He came to do is done. His resurrection is our resurrection. He said, "Because I live; you shall live."

Where is our God? He was on this earth in human flesh. He was on that cross outside the walls of Jerusalem. He was in that tomb but He is raised.

You might ask me, "Where is your God now, preacher?" The Scripture says, "He is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High." He arose and "He is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High."

The almighty God, the Heavenly Father says; "Let all the angels of God worship Him." He said, "Sit Thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies Thy footstool." Paul said in Romans 8:34, "Who is he that condemneth; it is Christ that died? Yea rather, who is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us."

My friend; God is still God. He is Holy, Omnipotent and Almighty. God is still God and is an unchanging God. He is unchanging in His Holiness and unchanging in His justice.

Unfortunately, we are still people. We are still human beings. We are still men and we are still sinners. That God in His immaculate, infinite holiness cannot look upon us, receive us or love us in this sinful state; we need a Substitute, we need an Intercessor and a Mediator.

We need someone to pray for us. We need someone to enter the Holy of Holies. We need someone to put an atonement on the Mercy Seat; that someone is Christ; "He ever liveth to make intercession for us."

All of His work is in perfect agreement and conformity to the will of God. Those He prays for now, He prayed for on earth. Those He prayed for on earth, He prayed for in eternity past.

Those He died for and for whom His blood was shed, (Christ died for them in time), He was their "Lamb slain before the world began." He is a sufficient Saviour.

Where is your God? He's coming again. Christ said, "I go to prepare a place for you and if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am you may be also."

Those angels stood that day after He had ascended to heaven and said to the disciples, "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into Heaven, will so come in like manner as you have seen Him go."