

91.1 Oh! Woe! And Whoa!

Sometimes I stop and reflect on God and become caught up in and overwhelmed by the wonder of who He is. Right now, there is a revival spread across the earth that started in Wilmore, KY, at Asbury University. Thousands from all over America have made their way to campus, experienced the wonder of God, and are returning home to keep the revival alive. I am sure you have experienced something similar, and in a state of awe, you cried “Oh!” to Him. David declared it this way in **Psalm 8:1-4** (NKJV):

**O LORD, our Lord,
How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
You have ordained strength,
Because of Your enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.
3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
4 What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?**

When we read the word of God with sincerity and seriousness, God sweeps us up with the magnitude of His knowledge and wisdom in our daily affairs. Listen to the following inspired exclamations (NKJV).

Psalm 139:1-3 – O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

**2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.**

**3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.**

Jeremiah 1:4-6 – 4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

**5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”**

6 Then said I:

“Ah, Lord GOD!

Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”

Ezekiel 37:3 – [at the valley of dry bones] 3 And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.”

Romans 11:33 – 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Our “Oh” of wonder turns to “Woe!” when we recognize God and His greatness. He humbles us in the flood of His presence and power. Isaiah had a vision of God in the temple in **Isaiah 6**, which swept away any arrogance he may have had. Listen to a portion of the prophet’s experience (**Isaiah 6:5**, NKJV):

**“Woe is me, for I am undone!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
The LORD of hosts.”**

When we catch the vastness of God, we cry out, "O LORD!" Then our wonder takes a turn, and we cry out, "Woe is me!" Whenever we compare ourselves to the Holy One, we fall short, for there can be no pretension or hiding in His presence. We see ourselves clearly as we are. It takes courage to make the same request as David in **Psalm 139:23-24** (NKJV), for He will surely reveal who we are.

²³ **Search me, O God, and know my heart;**

Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴ **And see if *there is any* wicked way in me,**

And lead me in the way everlasting.

Seeing God directs us to self-examination, which leads to repentance or rejection. Adam and Eve recognized their nakedness and tried to hide from God after their sin. We often try the same ploy and run from God rather than to Him, though He is anxious for our return. The people at the Asbury revival are not only worshiping the Lord, but they are also lamenting their sins and repenting.

We may feel that keen disappointment in our sins and turn from God in shame, thinking He could never forgive us and that we can hide from Him in the darkness. **Job 22:13** (NKJV) expresses this thought:

¹³ **And you say, 'What does God know?**

Can He judge through the deep darkness?

Of course, God knows everything from the beginning to the end and wants us to see our faults in His light and return to Him.

Samuel Adams knew the OH! and WOE! Of encountering God. He was one of the most devout of our Founding Fathers. Because he was religious, he led the resistance to tyranny. He established the Sons of Liberty, which dumped tea into Boston Harbor at the "Boston Tea Party." He signed the Declaration of Independence, Ratified the Constitution, and was Governor of Massachusetts. Listen to a few of his words:

I . . . [rely] upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.

As Governor, he also called on the State of Massachusetts to pray that . . .

. . . with true contrition of heart to confess their sins to God and implore forgiveness through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior.

There is also the WHOA! Of encountering God. John felt it at Patmos when Jesus gave him the wondrous book of Revelation. John wrote (**Revelation 1:17-18**, NKJV):

¹⁷ **And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

We can treat God flippantly or too casually and forget His place and authority. The revelation of Jesus stopped John in his tracks. He had walked with Jesus for three years and experienced intimate friendship with Him, yet when he encountered Jesus face-to-face, he fell at His feet in awe of Him. There is a time to stop and assess the Holy God so He can raise us to His service.

Let's be filled with OH! at His greatness, WOE! at our sinfulness, and WHOA! at His presence, and receive the power of God into our lives.

Let's Keep The Light *of the Impact of His Presence* Burning!