



## Approaching God

### Begin your time with an opening prayer

Take a moment to quiet your heart and ask God to help you experience his presence today. Ask Him to free you from any distractions as you begin to read and meditate on today's passages.

### Today's Theme: God is Omnipresent

God is present everywhere in His creation but also above and beyond it. This remained true even as Jesus entered our world as a man and remains true as the Holy Spirit takes up residence within believers.

## Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Slowly Read the Following Passages

**Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.**

### **1 Kings 8:22-29**

**22** Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the entire community of Israel. He lifted his hands toward heaven, **23** and he prayed, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven above or on the earth below. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion. **24** You have kept your promise to your servant David, my father. You made that promise with your own mouth, and with your own hands you have fulfilled it today. **25** "And now, O LORD, God of Israel, carry out the additional promise you made to your servant David, my father. For you said to him, 'If your descendants guard their behavior and faithfully follow me as you have done, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.' **26** Now, O God of Israel, fulfill this promise to your servant David, my father. **27** "But will God really live on earth? Why, even the highest heavens cannot contain you. How much less this Temple I have built! **28** Nevertheless, listen to my prayer and my plea, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is making to you today. **29** May you watch over this Temple night and day, this place where you have said, 'My name will be there.' May you always hear the prayers I make toward this place.

### **Psalms 139:7-12**

**7** I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! **8** If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are

there. **9** If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, **10** even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. **11** I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— **12** but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

**18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### **Acts 17:24-28**

**24** "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. **25** And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. **26** From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. **27** God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. **28** 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

## Meditation - GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

### Read the short essay from He Reads Truth

The Bible can be described as the story of God's presence with His people. From walks in the garden with Adam and Eve to the incarnation to the gift of His Spirit at Pentecost, God was there. But the presence of God is not limited to any one location or situation. Using a series of rhetorical questions, God outlines the all-encompassing nature of His omnipresence through the prophet Jeremiah: "Am I a God who is only near... and not a God who is far away? Can a person hide in secret places where I cannot see him?... Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" (Jr 23:23-24).

These verses not only show that God is both near and far, filling the heavens and the earth, but that He is always with us. There is no escaping His presence. At first, we might find this truth unsettling, but when we understand God's heart toward His people, we can find it comforting. We echo the words of the psalmist: "But as for me, God's presence is my good" (Psalm 73:28).

God's omnipresence means He sees us, knows us, is with us, and will never leave us. It's a very practical truth because the greater our awareness of His presence, the more we live with a healthy fear of the Lord. We think twice before giving in to temptation, knowing our sins are not secret. We learn to go through our day with God, abiding in Him moment by moment. We find it a natural thing to pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17), because He is always right there with us.

Upon completing His earthly ministry, and before ascending to heaven, Jesus promised His disciples He would send the Holy Spirit to them. His last words in the Gospel of Matthew are, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (28:20). We experience Jesus's constant presence through His Spirit, who lives in all believers. And one day, when Jesus returns, we will see Him not just with eyes of faith, but "face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

*(from the website: [hereadstruth.com](http://hereadstruth.com))*

## Daily Reflection Questions

1. What 1 or 2 verses of today's scripture passages most stood out to you? What was significant for you in those verses?
2. How would you briefly summarize what it means that "God is Omnipresent" in your own words?
3. In what areas of your life right now do you most need to believe and trust in this particular attribute of God? How might your life be different if you were able to trust and truly believe that God is omnipresent?

## Close in Prayer:

- What can I **REJOICE IN** as a result of today's study?
- What do I need to **REPENT OF** as a result of today's study?
- What do I want to **REQUEST FROM** God today?