

# GOD IS

Children's Word by:  
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# GREATER THAN

February 17,  
2008,  
Mahomet, IL



# and



*Father, we just want to come before You this morning. We thank You for all of the many blessings that are in our lives. We thank You that You are faithful to us and that You take care of us. Lord, we thank You that You love us and that You sent Jesus to save us. We just want to bless You this day and want to tell You that we love You, Lord. Father, we want to let our lives be a living testimony to Your goodness. Lord, I pray that the Word that comes this morning would be edifying and bring forth life and much fruit in our lives. Father God, we want to thank You today. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Are you ready, children? I have a couple of things for you today. This week I was thinking about God's greatness and His majesty. Do you ever think about how awesome and big and glorious God is? I mean, do you ever think about it? Because you should. You should put your mind on that and wonder about it. Do you ever think about God? Do you ever think about what Heaven might be like or who God is? Do you think like that? I want to encourage you

to do that, because God is so big and He is so faithful to us and He wants us to do His will. Did you know that? Did you know that He has a purpose for each one of us? He created each one of our little lives to do something special. Did you know that even identical twins are not exactly alike? For example, they have different fingerprints. Imagine, God has even thought that we might have an identical twin and yet created us to be something different and to be something for His kingdom. Amen.

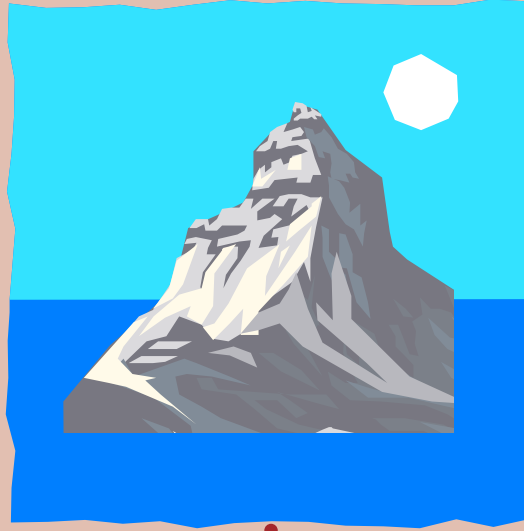
This week I was thinking about David. We all know stories about King David, don't we? He was a pretty amazing man. He did really great things. He was mighty in battle. He did lots of good, great things that you and I would just sit back and say, "Wow, how did he do that?" But he also made some big mistakes. Do any of us ever make mistakes? Yes, all the time. Do you know why we make mistakes? Because we are not perfect. We are going to make mistakes, but I want to tell you something: Did you know that the biggest lessons you learn oftentimes

are through your biggest mistakes? For instance, I might learn that my fireplace is hot by actually putting my hand on it and I will never do that again. Hopefully, I will never make that mistake again. It will be very imprinted on me if I did that, "Ahh, that is hot!" Right?

I just want to tell you today, children, that Jesus loves you. Are you aware that your parents love you? I want you to know that Jesus loves you more than your parents love you and that He has created you to be something in Him. I want you to know that He loves you, because He died for your

sins. He loved you so much even while you were sinners that He gave His life so that you could live. Did you also know that He loves you as much as He loves the lost souls out there? He loves them, too. Keep that in mind that we need to pray for one another and that we need to have a heart of a shepherd to go after the lost ones. Amen.

So, we are talking about David a little bit and I want to ask you a question: How many of you kids watch the news? Do you watch the news daily? Do you read the newspaper to keep up on current events? All right, I want to read Psalm 46 to you out of the Bible, because I really believe that God wants us to understand that He loves us and that He is the Protector of our souls. Psalm 46:1 says, ***God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*** Do you know what that means? What is a refuge? Refuge is a safety. I will just tell you quickly so we can move this along, because there is a story I want to share with you. Refuge is



our safety. It is our safe house. Who is our safety, our refuge and our strength? God is.

Verse 2, ***Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.*** That sounds kind of scary, doesn't

it? The earth quaking and the mountains being moved into the midst of the sea. But it says that we will not fear. Why? Because God is our refuge and our strength.

Verse 3, ***Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled...*** How many of you, children, have stood on a beach when there is a rip tide and

watched the waves come crashing in? The water is all over the place. There are waves making a crashing sound and it looks like a washing machine, very choppy and not smooth. There is water moving in different directions; some waves are crashing on the shore, some are pulling away from the shore. It makes it very difficult to stand up in the water, because of the strong push and pull; the water is very strong. If you are in the water at this time, you could get hurt, did you know that? ***...though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. <sup>4</sup>There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.*** Now, I want you to scoot down to verse 10. It says, ***Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob***

*is our refuge. Selah.* Is the God of Jacob your God?

So, this Psalm tells us that He is our refuge, He is our safety. I think that is such a wonderful thought. Sometimes we get involved in things that we get scared of or that are bigger than us and we do not know what to do. But God is telling us today that we can have our confidence in Him. Amen.

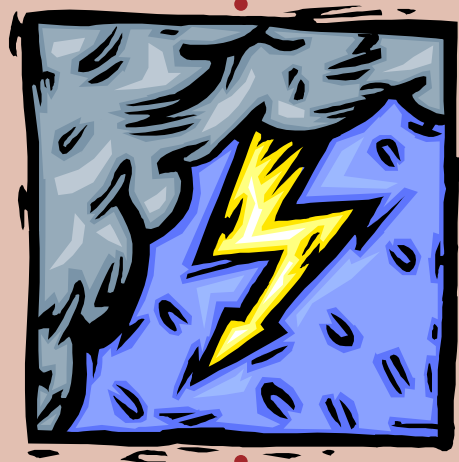
Let me tell you a story. When I was a little child, I was terrified of bad weather. I still deal with it to this day. I remember being in the basement, because that was always my safe place, but I never felt safe until my dad would pray. My mom could pray and my brother and sisters could pray, but it was not good enough until my dad prayed. There was something in me that could feel safe with my dad. Now, God is our heavenly Father and the same way I took safety in my dad, we need to take safety in God, knowing that He controls everything. He is in charge of the rough waters if you are on the sea. He is in charge of the earth moving if you are standing on the ground and it is quaking. He has you right under His wing. He is going to take you in and keep you safe.

Do you know that? Why is He going to do that? Because He loves you and He wants you to be in a safe place. Amen. Are you following me? I want to mainly encourage us this morning that we can rest in God. We can believe that He wants to take care of us. Do you believe that? Do you ever get nervous? When you do, whom do you call? Call on Jesus, because He is always there.

So, the one story I want to point out to you today is David. He was out in the field

watching his sheep and a lion and a bear came and took one of his sheep. You know that he did not go hide in a cave, but he went after the lion and the bear. Now, I do not know about any of you, but if I had my little bag of rocks and a sling shot, I would not be feeling so brave. I would need a big gun or something with a sharp point, because, you know, these animals are really big. I do not know if you have seen them in zoos but they are big. Their paws are huge. Not only did the thief come in the form of the lion and the bear to take from David, but David went right in after the thief and said, "That is not yours and I am taking it back." The Bible says that he smote the lion and the bear and took his sheep. Then, he grabbed the lion by the beard, I am guessing, and ripped him apart. I do not even have muscles to rip a piece of chicken apart with my bare hands, but he ripped the lion apart and killed it right there. Now, do you think that it was in his own strength? I am pretty sure it was not. It was God moving through him to demonstrate the power of God. David had total confidence that God was going to keep him.

I do not know if they had a shepherd school back then for boys like David. I am assuming that when David was a young boy, because his father had sheep, he must have grown up just knowing how to be a shepherd. It was a way of life for him - it was as familiar to him as eating or sleeping. So here he was, a young boy, young David. I can imagine



that having a house full of boys and young men that there were probably some wrestling matches and fights amongst the boys. But no matter how many fights there were

that took place between him and his brothers, there was nothing that was preparing him for lion fighting or bear fighting. No classes were offered to prepare him for what to do if he was in the field and a lion or a bear come to take one of the sheep. I am pretty sure that it all was instinctive; it was God moving through him and him moving in the authority to go and get what was his and bring it back. Amen? I thought that was a pretty amazing story.

Now, just for the sake of time, let us go quickly through the story of David and Goliath. David proclaims, "I am going to take this Philistine out!" Everybody is wondering, "What is this man talking about?" But David says to Saul, "Well, I was in the field and the bear and the lion came and took my sheep and I went back and got them. The same way God gave the lion and the bear into my hand, He is going to give this uncircumcised Philistine into my hand, too." David had a confidence in God. He did not doubt that he would win in the name of God.

What can we see there? Can we believe in God? Can we believe that God can move on our behalf and that He will move on our behalf to give us the victory over the lions and the bears that exist in our own lives? You know, we do not have natural lions and



bears that come against us that we physically have to go fight. But we do have to fight things like bad atti-

tudes. We have to fight things like bossing our brother and sister around. How many of us can control these things within ourselves? I know that fear rises up in me and I have a really hard time controlling it. Do you know what I mean? When it comes, I have to talk to God about it. "God, this is overtaking me. I need You to intervene. I need Your help here." Do you understand what I am saying? Then God helps. He comes in. He is my Protector. He wants me to overcome. So when we are talking about lions and bears, I want you to think about the natural things you wrestle with that might be hard.

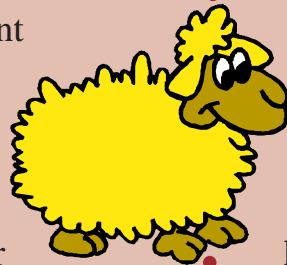
Now, lest we think that God only moved in Bible days, I want to tell you a story that I read out of a book. It is a hunting story and it is evidence that God is still being faithful to us today. It is a current story, not one that happened thousands of years ago. This book is a memoir of a man who is a hunting guide. Do you know what a hunting guide is? Let me tell you: this man had a business in Alaska. People would call him and say, "We want to come hunt in Alaska. Can you show us where to go?" He then would get them all set up, he would set up a camp and take them hunting. This is what a hunting guide means. The man who is telling the story (Rocky is his name), believes that this story was divine intervention. It means that God intervened on his behalf. When I read the story, I thought of David in the Bible.

So, in this story, Rocky had two men that were coming to hunt in Alaska with him. In order for him to be ready for the hunt there were some things that he was responsible to do before his clients got to town. In Alaska, you cannot just drive up the road to these

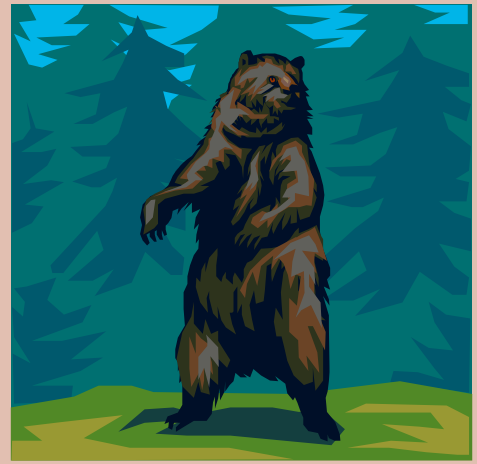


hunting sights; they have to fly airplanes into areas that they call the “bush.” The airplanes that they fly are called “bush planes.” As Rocky was flying over the area he was planning to hunt, he was taking some mental notes about the things he was seeing from the air, like survival elements, water, forested land, clear openings and things of this nature. He looked down and noticed that there was a stream that did in fact have fresh water - but he also knew that he would not use this stream except as a last resort. He also noticed that the terrain was very rough, rugged and rocky. It may have had lots of sticks, branches and things like that. Rocky thought to himself that he had brought enough water for the trip, but he reminded himself to be very frugal with his water supply at the base camp, because he did not want to have to walk to the stream for more water. It would have been a hard trip due to the terrain.

Finally, the two men that had hired Rocky arrived and made their way into the camp that Rocky had prepared for them. At this part of the story they had spent their time hunting and each of the men had gotten the caribou that they had come to Alaska to hunt. Rocky, since he was the guide, was responsible for hauling the animals out of the woods and he had been working all day to pack the meat out. At this point, his clients were back at the camp resting and were all cleaned up from their day of hunting. After a long hard day of work for Rocky, he was tired and very dirty and very thirsty. When he made it back to camp for the night, he was looking to have a nice drink of water. But soon he realized that all five gallons of water that he had brought for this hunt were gone. Now, we



all know that we cannot live without water, right? We need to keep drinking. So, Rocky had no



other choice but to go get some more water from the stream and refill his jug.

After he realized that he had to get water, he was in such a frantic rush to get to the stream and back before it got much later that he rushed out of camp, not realizing that he had forgotten his gun. Remember now, he is in ALASKA! There are wild animals everywhere! In Alaska, if you are going to forget anything, it should not be your gun. You do not go anywhere in the wild without your gun. But for Rocky, he was too far up the trail on his way to the stream before he realized he had forgotten his gun and he had to keep going towards the water. It was getting dark now and he could not waste any time going back for his gun.

He had to walk down through some thick brush. It was a long distance for him to travel to get the water. The terrain was open in some places, but he had to traverse a number of ravines that contained alders. He says that alders are God’s way of playing “pick up sticks” in the far north. Do you know the game of “pick up sticks?” You drop sticks and they are all tangled. This is what he is saying about the alders. This is how they are, like pick up sticks. They grow together in a tangled mass and are eight to twelve feet tall and average about an inch in diameter with green leafy foliage. North-

ern animals use alders in the same way that southern animals use briar patches and bramble bushes, for refuge and ambush points. These alders are certainly favorite hiding and attacking places for black bears and grizzlies. We also have to realize that bears have a very good sense of smell.

On this particular day, Rocky smelled like a caribou. Hunters really take a lot of effort to not smell human. I am married to a hunter, so I know that they have a bin for all of their hunting clothes and gear. Within that bin, it all smells like dirt and deer. Hunters take almost extreme efforts to hide and cover up their scent. So, Rocky had been hunting all day and had taken great efforts to not smell like a human. He was gunless and it was now growing dark, all while he was walking along trails that had alders.

He said that the sky was getting darker and his mood was getting darker with it. He began to hear every noise in the woods and each one sounded increasingly more like a heavy animal stalking him. He started to shake off his fears and told himself he was imagining things. Finally, he reached the creek without incident and began to fill the water container. But his fear was growing and it energized him. He knew he would return up the mountain faster than he had come down. Suddenly, he felt a presence near him. His ears twitched, his scalp tingled, the hairs on his arms and neck rose, all five senses came acutely alive. He doesn't recall hearing anything or seeing anything unusual, but he believes that ev-

ery person has senses that he rarely taps into, that often flare to life in times of need. He strained to see, to smell or to hear what there



was - but without success. He still knew that something was wrong. He quickly finished filling a container and put it into his pack. Then he started back up the bank. Curiously, his previously aching legs and back no longer hurt.

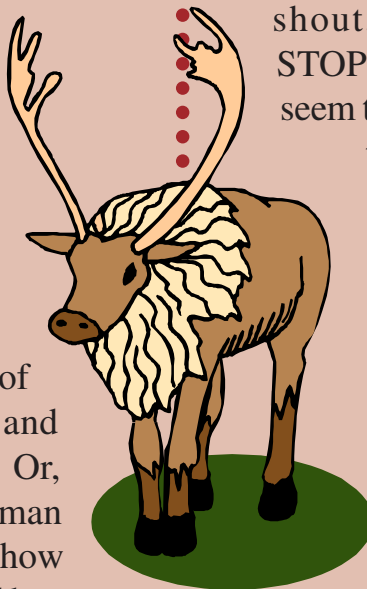
“Crack,” he heard the sharp snap of an alder off to his right. He hustled up the bank through the outer patch and headed for the large clearing. When he got to this open “window” in the bush, he began to relax and feel safer. “I am out of the woods,” was his thought. He was in the open clearing. You see, children, a bear has poor eye sight, but in the open, one could clearly tell that Rocky was not a caribou. At least, he hoped so. His pack now weighed about forty-five pounds so he concentrated on a good solid pace to get him back to camp. Just imagine it: he carried this big water jug and was trying not to think about what was going on.

Then the weirdest thing happened. He realized later that it was divine intervention (that means that God moved on his behalf). Seemingly, without reason, the strap under his right arm came loose, causing the backpack to become unbalanced. He said his nerves were already unbalanced. He was already nervous. He did not want to stop to make a full repair of his pack so he simply bent over and began tying the loose pieces together. In the bent over position he could see behind him. It was then that he saw a

huge, brown, massive flash. It was a grizzly bear charging across the meadow directly at him. Rocky turned around, facing him. You see, bears can move at amazing speeds for short distances and this bear was about forty yards away and coming fast.

Rocky said that there are moments when complex things become very simple: it is life or death. He knew that the bear thought that he was a caribou. His mind filled with thoughts as he faced this mass of muscle and fury. He knew he had to convince the bear that he was not a caribou. He thrust his arms forward with his palms open and his fingers waving in a classic pose used to tell somebody, "STOP!!!" He held his hands over his head and in a purely instinctive moment he started screaming with a high voice. At the top of his voice he screeched, "NOOOOO!!! NOOOOO!!!" Imagine the world's largest football linebacker coming at you at top speed just about to hit you at full blast!

Suddenly, Rocky remembered that his backpack extended above his shoulders. He thought the frame would cover his neck. If he dropped to his stomach, curled up tightly and pulled in his arms and legs, maybe the bear would just bite into the canister. Rocky was not exactly sure why, but the bear began to slow down. He may have been puzzled at the antics of this "caribou" hopping around and screaming, "SLOW DOWN!!!" Or, he may have gotten a smell of human scent, but Rocky did not know how that would be the case since he had been down wind of the bear the entire time. The bear should have smelled him already if he was going to smell him. Whatever the rea-



son, when the bear got about four yards away, he came to a complete stop and reared up on his hind legs facing him. This magnificent bear was towering above him. He was probably nine feet tall and must have weighed between 650 to 700 pounds. He was a true interior grizzly bear.

Let me just explain to you that in Alaska they have a classification of interior bears and grizzly bears. The interior bears live within the thick brush and are really grumpy. They are the dangerous ones; they will attack anybody. A lot of times you will hear that mommy bears are really grumpy for they are protecting their babies. Well, the interior bears are all grumpy. They can have babies or no babies; they are all grumpy and all ready to fight. These bears have dark brown legs and golden blond backs. I am sure they are beautiful.

Rocky's vision was instantly clearly focused and sharp and he could see every detail of the bear's large head and massive teeth. He honestly did not know what to do so he continued to hold up his palms and shout, "NO, NO, NO!!! STOP!!! STOP!!!" The puzzled grizzly did not seem to know what to do either. He continued standing on his back legs and started shuffling from side to side. As he began to circle the man, he shuffled with him. Let me quote for you what Rocky says, "With surprise for a brief moment I became aware of the full moon visible in the darkening evening sky just beyond his shoulder. His eyes locked on to mine. They were intense and surreal and I was transfixed. Time stood still as we continued our strange dance in the moonlight." The bear then suddenly

startled Rocky back to present when he began snapping his jaws together, creating this loud clicking sound, “Clack, clack, clack!” When bears clack their teeth, they are agitated, confused and totally unpredictable.

Let us flash back to David. Do you think that the bear that he was going to take that lamb from would have been excited to give it up? I am guessing he was probably a little agitated, too, a little unpredictable, clacking his jaws, and maybe even growling.

When Rocky’s bear snapped his jaws, he also made a bark-like growling sound. As if the clacking would not have been bad enough! (Tell me, children, how many of us have these mean things which are in our face all the time?) The growling made it even worse for Rocky. As the bear circled him, he finally got directly downwind and for the first time got his scent. He casually stopped and gracefully dropped down to all fours. The man froze, waiting for the bear to make the call. The bear looked at him for a few moments that seemed like a lifetime and then as calmly as if he was strolling on a sunny beach, he slowly turned his huge golden blond back to him and walked away. He knew that he did not have to hurry or fear the man; he had won this round.

Rocky does not remember the hike back to camp. His body and his mind were shocked with relief and adrenaline that had been surging through him. When he got back to camp, he told the hunters all that had happened, how he had forgotten his gun and how he danced with this huge bear. They could hardly believe it. He said, “I had emo-

tionally, physically and mentally endured one of the most intense moments of my life. I knew that I had looked death in a face and it stirred my heart. We stayed up a little while longer; my guests were electrified by the story. As they began to tire, I began to internally reflect on what had happened that day. I knew that I had not done anything special or clever and believed in my heart that God had intervened and saved my life. What a day!” Amen.

Children, even today God saves people. Did you know that? Isn’t that an exciting story? As scary as things can be, God is able. He is able. Amen! I think of this man. He takes people into the wilderness for a living, but in a moment when it hit him, when he was faced with what to do, his own knowledge did not serve him. It took the hand of God intervening. I want you to know, children, as we leave this place today, that God wants to move mountains for us.

You just have to believe.

The memory verse for us today is I John 4:4. I know you all know it, but I want you to

appropriate it this week. It says, ***Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*** As you are going through this week, I want you to consider the things that you struggle with and apply that scripture verse to the things that you need to overcome, for example, fighting with your sister. In a situation like that you can say, “No, the Bible says I am of God and I have overcome, because greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.” Amen.

