

You Are Worthy – Theology

Dave Barrett

In Acts 17, we see one of the many ways in which God is completely different from all of His creation; He needs nothing outside Himself to be complete and fulfilled. This means that he does not even need us.

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything.” (Act 17:24–25)

So why would God create the world and all that is in it? And why would he put so much care into creating us as humans, special and apart from the rest of creation? He did so simply because he chose to invite creation, and especially us, into the joy of glorifying Him. In short, He wanted to share. Isaiah 43:7 shows us how God speaks of us as “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” He wanted to share the enjoyment in the most amazing and fulfilling thing in the entire universe – His greatness – His glory.

The song, “You Are Worthy [of Your Glory]” by Jon Shirley, is both a recognition of the purpose of God’s creative acts, and an invitation to behold what He has done and respond to it in the way we were designed.

At the very beginning of this song, we are pointed to the breathtaking vastness and beauty of the heavens above and the earth below. God created these heavenly bodies and earthly terrain in order that they themselves beg the question, “who is the being that could have created such vast and lofty things?” God has revealed Himself as the only truly powerful enough.

“The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.” (Psalm 50:1 ESV)

So, in response we consider Him in wonder, and say in humility that ‘we’re all lost in you’, with the same sentiment as David in Psalm 139.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. (Psalm 139:17–18 ESV)

In the second verse of the song however, a closer, more intimate aspect of God’s creation is pondered. The waves of the seas and the flowers of the field are elements of His creation that we can more personally interact with. We can splash our feet in the cool of the surf on a warm day. We can walk among the flowers in a garden in the

spring. Just as in the vastness of God's power, we find the compulsion to worship Him in the intimacy of His creativity. We are reminded that though God is far above us in every way, He still chooses to be near to us.

In the two verses, God's inanimate creation testifies to the wonder of God. Nature itself proclaims God's glory even when it is not observed. But if what is inanimate 'cries out' for His glory in these ways, how much more so do men made in God's image as the pinnacle of His creation have the capacity to do so?

So, in response, the chorus and bridge take us back to confess God's worthiness of glory and our enjoyment from the truth that He and He alone is worthy of it. To our great delight as beings created for worship, in awe of God's power and beauty through what He has fashioned, our souls are 'awakened' to sing a song that will be sung for all eternity:

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you have created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.
Revelation 4:11

In God's grace to us, He allows us to witness and enjoy what He has done in order to remind us both of his great power and of his intimate consideration of us. God describes his own work as "very good" (Gen 1:31), and to witness it is to witness the works of a God who is very good. God created the universe for one primary purpose; to show His glory. And He created us within it for one primary purpose – to enjoy giving Him glory!