

God is BIGGER!

1 Kings 7-9; Psalm 100; Acts 15

April 30 ~ Gretel Roberts

In 1 Kings 7-9, we find King Solomon in the midst of dedicating the temple he has built to “house” God. In his prayer of dedication, Solomon realizes that even though the Israelites have built a majestic place for God to live among them, God is too big to be contained by a building. Solomon prays in 1 Kings 8:27, “But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built?” We know, theoretically, that God cannot be contained in a building, but we are learning that all the more right now. God is with us in our homes; God is active in our communities; God is present in hospitals and in grocery stores; the list goes on! God is BIGGER than our buildings!

In Psalm 100, the *whole world* is invited to worship the Lord! The psalmist recounts that God is our shepherd and that God is worthy of our thanksgiving and our praise. The psalmist encourages us that God is good and that his love endures *forever* and his faithfulness *through all generations*. We can take comfort that God has been faithful since the beginning of time and will continue to be so. God is BIGGER even than time!

In Acts 15, the new Christian church faces a dilemma of how to bring together Jewish and Gentile believers. After wrestling with which of the Hebrew laws to hold the Gentiles to, Peter states, “We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved”. While we may think it’s our adherence to a set of rules or our good works or our best intentions that bring us closer to God, Peter reminds us that God’s grace displayed in Christ is at the foundation of it all. We are all free to have a relationship with God. The invitation to receive God’s grace is open. God is BIGGER than our human ideas!

If ever we are tempted to think that God is somehow limited by the coronavirus pandemic (or by some other tragedy), the story of Scripture proves us wrong. God is at work in and through all of it. God remains BIGGER than any circumstance we face! And we have no better response than to praise Him...

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Psalm 100