

To God Belongs Eternal Praise

AUGUST 10-16, 2015 • TITUS O'BRYANT

MONDAY, AUGUST 10 ~ *Read 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14*

God comes to meet us. God comes to us in our limitations and weaknesses, in our failures and misunderstandings. Solomon discovers this aspect of God's character early in his reign. The royal historian who authored the books of the Kings of Israel notes how Solomon demonstrates his love for the Lord by following David's example—except for his practice of offering sacrifices at pagan places of worship. We know Solomon as a wise man who gives way to the folly of marrying many wives and worshiping many gods. This story indicates the roots of both his great wisdom and his foolish idolatry.

Yet the most striking character in this story is not Solomon at all (or even David) but the God who comes to meet Solomon. God does not wait for Solomon to straighten out every aspect of his life. God has no interest in Solomon's knowing all the right answers or gaining a deeper level of maturity. God meets Solomon exactly where he is—questioning, uncertain, inexperienced, vulnerable, making mistakes, worshiping with pagans.

God meets us in the same way. God is not looking for the holiest of saints to grace with divine presence. God does not wait for us to earn divine favor. God wants to join in our lives exactly where we find ourselves, just as we are. Do you feel hampered by indecision, lost in uncertainty, or weighed down with guilt? God will come to meet you, bringing divine presence—not because of your greatness but because of God's.

Gracious Lord, thank you for joining us in our ordinary, everyday, mistake-filled lives. Open our eyes to see you at work and our hearts to feel your presence. Amen.

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