

1 Chronicles 17:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said,
Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou
hast brought me hitherto?

Analysis

David's response 'Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?' exemplifies proper reception of grace - humble wonder rather than entitled presumption. The rhetorical questions acknowledge human unworthiness before divine favor. David's progression from shepherd to king came entirely by God's sovereign grace, not personal merit. This reflects the Reformed doctrine of election and unmerited favor. David's amazement at covenant promises mirrors believers' wonder at salvation in Christ - 'who am I that You would choose me?' This humble posture prepares hearts to receive greater revelation of God's grace.

Historical Context

David's humble origins - youngest son of a Bethlehem shepherd - made his elevation particularly remarkable. Ancient Near Eastern kings typically boasted of their ancestry and achievements, making David's self-abasement counter-cultural and theologically profound.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When you consider God's grace in your life, do you respond with David's humble wonder or a sense of entitlement?
2. How does meditating on your spiritual poverty apart from Christ cultivate appropriate amazement at His grace?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַר	יְהִי הָ	לִפְנֵי	בְּרִיאָת	בְּ	נִ	וְ
came	the king	And David	and sat	before	Who am I O LORD	and said
H935	H4428	H1732	H3427	H6440	H3068	H559
אָנָּב	אָנָּב	בֵּית	בֵּית	כִּי		
H4310	H589	Who am I O LORD	God	H4310	and what is mine house	H3588
		H3068	H430		H1004	
בְּלִם	עַד	בְּרִיאָת	בְּ			
came	me hitherto					
H935	H5704	H1988				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 32:10 (Parallel theme): I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

2 Samuel 7:18 (Kingdom): Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

Psalms 144:3 (References Lord): LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

Ephesians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

1 Samuel 7:12 (References Lord): Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

1 Samuel 9:21 (Parallel theme): And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

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