

# HIGH IN ALL THE EARTH

## But Very Present to His People

God is both above everything and close to us, which is key to Christian beliefs. He is in a position of great power and has control over all that He has created (TRANSCENDENCE), and this same power lets Him be closely connected with us, especially with His followers (IMMANENCE).

### EXALTED BUT WITH US

The terms "transcendence" and "immanence" aren't commonly found in most Bible translations, but they appear often in theological discussions to explain two different ways God relates to people. When we say God is transcendent, we mean He is above and beyond us. On the other hand, when we say God is immanent, we mean He is present in our world and close to us. While there isn't a single biblical word that fully expresses God's transcendence, the idea of immanence is effectively captured by the name Immanuel, which means "God with us."

- Isaiah 7:14 & 8:8
- Matthew 1:23)

### GOD IS TRANSCENDENT

The word "transcendent" isn't in the Bible, but it's a helpful way to group different ideas about God. The Bible describes God in several ways:

- He is exalted (Ps. 57:5; 97:9).
- He lives "in heaven above" (Deut. 4:39; Eccl 5:2).
- He is "above the heavens" (Ps. 8:1; 57:5).
- He is seated on His throne (Ps. 113:5).
- He is the MOST HIGH (Ps. 97:9).

So, transcendence is a good way to show that God is "above us." Some people might think that God's greatness makes it hard to understand or describe Him. But the Bible doesn't connect His transcendence with uncertainty about who He is.

The Bible highlights God's greatness and clearly shows who He is and what He does. When God reveals Himself "from heaven," it's very clear, and those who decide to reject Him are fully responsible for that choice.

- **Romans 1:18-22**

### **GOD'S DWELLING PLACE**

The biblical phrases "on high" or "in Heaven" describe God's royal status. "High" indicates that God's throne is elevated above everyone else, similar to a king's throne. "Heaven" is often understood as God's throne (**Isa. 66:1**). While God exists beyond both space and time, He doesn't sit on a physical throne, as noted by Solomon during the dedication of the Jerusalem Temple (**1 Kgs. 8:27**). However, there are specific places in creation where we can feel His presence more strongly, such as the burning bush in Exodus 3, the inner court of the Temple, and Jesus Christ, who embodies the temple in human form (**Matt. 12:6; John 2:19-22**). Heaven is one of those special places, acting as a real home for God high in the sky, where Jesus went after completing His work on Earth (**Acts 1:11**).

### **GOD'S LORDSHIP**

Saying that God is "high" isn't just about where He is; it's about why He has the right to be there. Those places are His THRONES, and He rules them because He is KING. When we talk about God's transcendence, we should focus on His LORDSHIP—His power and rights as the ruler of all He has created.

His lordship gives Him control and authority.

His Control:

- He is all-powerful.
- He can do anything.
- He fully governs the world He has made.

**(Ps. 2; 47; 93:1; 96:10-13; 97:1; 99:1)**

His authority means He controls everything that happens. His control shows strength, while His authority shows rightness.

- **Lev. 19:1-4**

In Leviticus, the phrase, "I am the LORD your God" is restated fifteen times to emphasize that Israel's laws come from God's authority over them.

## **IT'S HIS PREROGATIVE**

Transcendence can be understood as God's supreme authority over the world, highlighting His control and power. This doesn't mean that He is distant from His people; instead, His transcendence is involved in every part of creation. In fact, according to Romans 1:20, God is the most visible being in the universe.

God's authority is such that He is everywhere, deeply present in all He has created. We should remember that God's presence doesn't contradict His greatness; rather, it flows from how great He is.

While we talk about God's transcendence as His rule over everything, it doesn't suggest that He is beyond our understanding. Rather, it explains how He governs the world, manages the events in nature and history, and oversees our salvation from sin. He shows His authority by sharing His commands with us.

## **HE'S ALWAYS WITH US!**

God's lordship is His special relationship with the world He created, especially with the people in it. This relationship isn't just about control; it's also about being present with those He is connected to. At the core of this relationship is intimacy, and the main promise is that the Lord says, "I will be with you."

This closeness is echoed throughout the Bible. Since He is our God and we are His people, He will always be "with us" forever: Immanuel!