

Magnified word

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Psalm 138:2

Although here and in a multitude of references in the Old Testament, especially in Psalms, we see the desire to praise the name of the Lord, in this place David adds the curious statement that “thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” When we consider not only how often the name of the Lord is praised, but also the many facets and variations of the name of the Lord, it prompts wonder about the point of this statement. In what way is God’s word magnified above His name? After all, His name is holy, powerful, to be blessed, and not to be used in vain or blasphemed, to state just a few examples. We are also given many different compound names of the Lord in our Old Testament that reveal to us the facets of His character and power. Yet, above His name, His word is magnified. This statement is made here in conjunction with David praising God’s name for His lovingkindness and His truth. His word reveals His truth. His name identifies Him in His relationship to us, so that we bow in awe. Then His word of truth reveals even more about His nature, as well as God’s will and plan to bring His holiness and goodness to our souls. The magnification of His word above His name does not reduce the glory of His name, but reflects the added depth of knowledge that His word gives us. Before the fall, Adam walked with God in the garden. He had the supreme privilege of not only knowing the Lord by name, but knowing Him intimately, and sharing the overwhelming goodness of God within himself. What an overwhelming loss to man did the fall bring. Yet, through His word, and Christ the living Word as God became man, He offers reconciliation to us that can restore the relationship of paradise that Adam lost. Let us therefore praise His name and seek His truth to be magnified in us through His word.

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