



Sunday Sermon

**Prepared and Presented
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September 2020**



Overarching Theme:



***What kind of God
do you Serve?***





Introduction

- **The central theme we are considering as a church this month is ‘What Kind of God do you serve?’**
- **There have been several considerations of this deep and insightful question.**

We’ve heard that:

- **The God we serve is great and awesome God;**
- **The God we serve should influence our view of Him, our characters and behaviours; and**
- **The God we serve anoints His servants.**



Introduction

- **Based on the current state of the world or our nation, the uncertainties around or our personal life's challenges, requires us to take a pause and ask the question - "What kind of God do you serve"?**
- **The pandemic and its devastating effects on people's lives are making people and even Christians to ask the following questions:**
 - ***Where is God in this pandemic?***
 - ***Can't God see my pains and troubles?***
 - ***I've been praying for too long and my life's challenges are not shifting. Does God still answer prayers?***
 - ***Does God really care?***



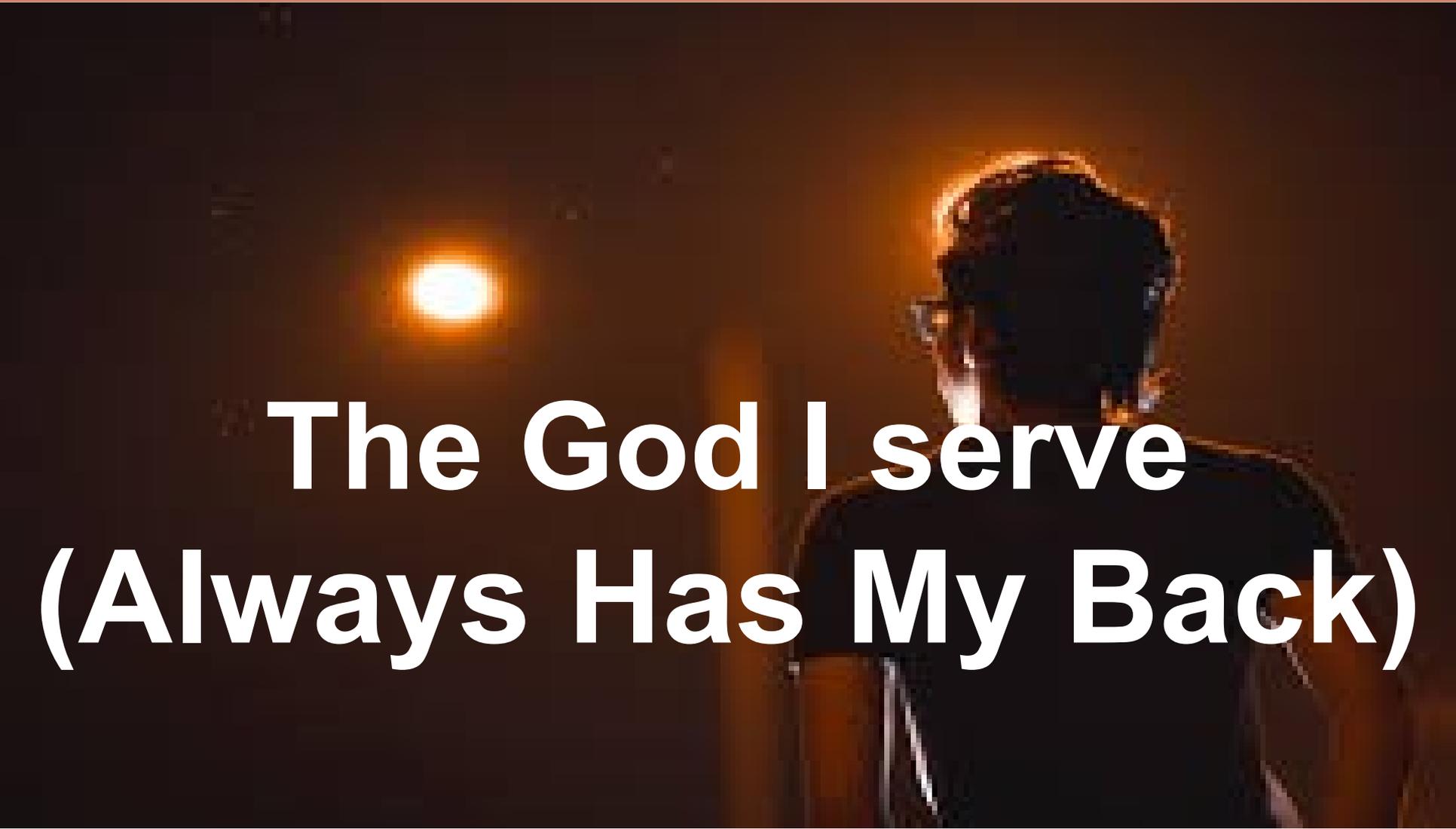
Introduction

- **What kind of God do you serve? - This question is timely and requires Christians to deeply consider it.**
- **Our response to this question will determine how successfully we will navigate the period of uncertainty that lies ahead and how successful we will be in our pilgrims' journey.**

Targets of the message

- *This message is targeted at Christians that are facing life's challenges, hurting or thinking that God has forsaken them or seeking for answers regarding their present predicaments.*
- *The message is also targeted at non-Christians, for them to know what they stand to gain if they are in relationship with God.*

Sub-theme:



The God I serve (Always Has My Back)



- i. To let us know that God has our backs because He cares and He is interested in us**

- ii. Let us know what the God we serve, requires of us?**

The God I serve - Always has my back



Description - God always has our backs because He is:

- Prepared and ready to defend us and provide assistance whenever we need it;
- There to take care of us and watch over us; and
- Ready to stand by us no matter what we are going through.

The Urban dictionary had an interesting definition of what it means for someone to have another person's back - *To recognise the goodness and greatness in that person, especially during the moments when that person cannot see because of what they are going through.*

Text: Genesis 12:1-3



1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

The God I serve - Always has my back



- **Abraham is an example of a man that God had His back.**
- **God recognised the goodness and greatness in him, especially during the challenging moments of his life.**
- **At the age of 75 years old, God made a covenant with him that he will be the father of many nations at a time he was old and had no child of his own.**
- **Some of the reasons we can emphatically declare that the God we serve, always has our backs are because of what He revealed through His acts.**
- **In the bible God's nature (who He is) and characters (attributes) are seen in the revelation of His names.**

The God I serve - Always has my back



**Supporting evidence
that God always has
our backs**



Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



1. God always has our backs because He is El Elyon - The most high God, creator and possessor of heaven and earth

Genesis 14:17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). **18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. **19** He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

- **El Elyon – means that God has everything and He is in control of everything.**
- **In challenging situations it is comforting to know that the God that has our backs is the most high and He is in control.**

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



2. God always has our backs because He is Jehovah Berit - The God that keeps covenant.

- This character of God talks about His ability to keep His word, which is essential to having somebody's back.
- The God we serve keeps His promises and words. No matter the situation we may find ourselves, we must believe that when God says He has our backs, we must believe it.
- In Chapter 12 of Genesis when called Abraham, and made a covenant with Him about how great he was going to be but many years later it seems nothing has happened regarding the promise. God came to reinforce His promise in chapter 15.

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



2. God always has our backs because He is Jehovah Berit

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” 2 Abram said, “O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.” 4 Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



2. God always has our backs because He is Jehovah Berit

- Abraham made the point to God he had no child of his own and how can the promises come to pass. He was rationalising a divine promise using human logical thinking.
- However, God made the point of what He can do.
- The bible says that Abraham believed God who is able to keep His word. We must believe that God has our backs because He is able to do that which He promised us.
- God's word should be sufficient for us.
- Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



3. God has our backs because He is El Rohi - The Lord who sees

Genesis 16:13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God who sees”; for she said, “Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?”

- Again God showed he had Abraham's back when the life of Ishmael was preserved when his mum was sent away by Sarah.
- God brought deliverance and comfort to Hagar and she concluded that God sees.
- This is an important point that we should know as Christians that the God we serve, sees our plight and acts (he may take a while sometimes in order for His purposes to be accomplished).

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



4. God always has our backs because He is El Shaddai - Almighty God

- **Genesis 17:1** Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. 2 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.”
- **Almighty God who keeps His word. His promises will come to pass.**
- **El Shaddai is about God being the All-powerful and All-sufficient.**
- **Many times we tend to focus on the impossibilities rather than focus on the ability and capability of God to do the impossible.**



4. God always has our backs because He is El Shaddai - Almighty God

- When Abraham was 99 years, He was looking at his wife and himself. They were old for God's promises to be fulfilled.
- When God revealed Himself as El shaddai (Almighty God) to Abraham, this gave him great assurance.
- Romans 4:20-21 captured this information that we need to come to the place of being fully persuaded that God has the power to do the impossible.
- God has our backs because is all-powerful and all-sufficient.

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



5. God has our backs because He is Jehovah Jireh - God who provides

- God is able to provide and supply all our needs.

Genesis 22:11-14 shows the test of Abraham's faith was tested when God asked him to sacrifice his only son.

- When Isaac asked his father, where is the ram for the sacrifice, Abraham said God Himself will provide.
- The God that has our backs is the great provider and a generous God.
- **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



6. God has got our backs because He is Jehovah Rohi - The Lord our shepherd

- Psalm 23 – is one of the greatest scriptures that emphatically proves that the God we serve has our backs. The Psalm portrays God as our shepherd.
- Psalm 23 describes the caring and loving heart of God.
- God is our shepherd and we shall not lack anything good.
- The picture of God having our backs is seen in the poetic description of the Psalm: He nourishes, restores, guides, ever present and comforts His own.
- Isaiah 40:11 - Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

Supporting evidence that God always has our backs



6. God has got our backs because He is Jehovah Rohi - The Lord our shepherd

- God loves us like the shepherd loves the sheep.
- God's love encompasses His mercy (Ephesians 2:7 God is rich in mercy), grace (It is undeserved, unearned, and unmerited favour of God bestowed upon His people), kindness (Gentle benevolence of God), compassion (that which moves God to help us when we are in need), faithfulness (the reliability of God i.e. His loyalty, trustworthiness and being true to His word) and goodness (i.e. God's providential care for His people).
- God is the good shepherd that knows us by name John 10:14, 27-28, and no one can pluck us from His hand. God's great love towards us was demonstrated in Jesus Christ dying on the cross of calvary for our sins - John 3:16. The shepherd has the backs of the sheep, hence God has our back as the Good Shepherd.

The God I serve - Always has my back



Key point on God always has our backs



Key point on God always has our backs



- **When a message like the God we serve has our back is preached, people tend to approach the subject from a philosophical or logical perspective.**
- **This is the same approach Gideon adopted in Judges 6:13 Then Gideon said to him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”**
- **Some people tend to believe that if God has their backs, then why are they going through life's challenges?**
- **When we approach life’s issues from a logical perspective, we tend to conclude that God does not have our backs or cares about our plights, so they stopped serving Him.**



- **When I was preparing for the message, I was going to title it ‘The God I serve has my back’. But then the spirit of the Lord prompted me and said “I always have the back of my people.**
- **Then I was reminded of the beautiful poem THE FOOTPRINT.**

Conclusion



FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I dreamed I was walking
along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed
across the sky. In each scene I
noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of
footprints, other times there was one
only. This bothered me because I
noticed that during the low periods of
my life, when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints,
so I said to the Lord,

"You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you, you would walk
with me always. But I have noticed
that during the most trying periods of
my life there has only been one set of
footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most, have
you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The years when you have seen only
one set of footprints,
my child, is when I carried you."



- In the challenging times of our lives, God has our backs.
 - Let us not think that He is not there, God always has our backs.
 - I will lift up me eyes to the hills, from where comes my help; my help comes from God who always has my back because He is:
- ★ El Elyon - The most high God, creator and possessor of heaven and earth
 - ★ Jehovah Berit - The God that keeps the covenant.
 - ★ El Rohi - The Lord who sees
 - ★ El Shaddai - Almighty God
 - ★ Jehovah Jireh - God who provides
 - ★ Jehovah Rohi - Lord our shepherd

Conclusion:

What does the God we serve requires of us



- **The God that always have our back will wants us to:**
 - **Fear Him (reverential fear - honour)**
 - **Walk in all His ways**
 - **Love Him**
 - **Serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul**
 - **Keep His commandments**
 - **Be loyal to Him**
- **So do all these things and God will always have your back!**

Quote

