

引言 INTRODUCTION

Thanksgiving is four days away. I am sure everyone has mixed feelings about Thanksgiving this year. Fewer people will be traveling for a family reunion. Waving via a screen will substitute hand-shakes and hugs. Big feasts will be downgraded to a better dinner. There will not be any big crowd at football stadiums. Bargain-hunters will go online. Our world seems different, but God will never change. Though our festive mood is at an all-time low, we should always give thanks to God. After all, Thanksgiving is a time for us to pause and recount God's blessings. In the Bible, king David was a man of gratitude. By this time, David was close to the end of his earthly life. He had great accomplishments by any standard. He conquered a lot of places. He had great wealth and prestige. He built a strong and prosperous nation. He was well-loved by his people. He had many children and grandchildren. But David still had two remaining goals. He wanted to build a temple for God, and he hoped that his kingdom would last. For the past four hundred years or so, the Israelites worshipped God at the tabernacle. David felt that it was not right for him to live in a magnificent palace, while God's house was only a cloth tent. God responded David's wishes. He did not want David to build a temple for Him. David was a warrior and he had killed many enemies. Instead, God assigned the task to Solomon. His name is derived from "Shalom," which means peace in Hebrew. Solomon would be a king of peace. God would help him subdue his adversaries. God also promised David that his dynasty would last forever. David must be delighted to hear God's reply. Even though Solomon was chosen to coordinate the construction project, David wasted no time but prepared as much as he could for his son. Many of the parents can echo that. They save up funds for college and even a house for their children and grandchildren. But David did all that for God. He intended to give God his best. But what gift do you give to God who already has everything? Let us ponder on this question as we celebrate Thanksgiving. This passage was a public prayer of David. From David's words, we can understand what God wants from us.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 神超越一切 God Tops It All

David began his prayer by praising God. This king was rich, but he humbly admitted that God tops it all. **Verse 10** tells us that: David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly... It was a public gathering for the countrymen. Imagine the President of U.S. begins his State of the Union Address by praising God. It will surely draw criticism from people who do not believe in the Lord. But it will be well-accepted by many Christians. It shows this leader understands that he is only a servant under God. The same is true for David. An earthly king paid tribute to the Heavenly King. Let us pick up some major themes from David's adoration. First, David praised God for His many attributes. In verse 11, we see greatness, power, glory, majesty and splendor. David also mentioned God's wealth, honor, strength and power in verse 12. When was the last time you praised God for His attributes? Surely God gives us the privilege to pray for our needs. But it also pleases God when we praise Him for who He is. Let us build a habit of giving God praise sincerely every time we pray. God is mighty and autonomous. He is gracious and

patient. But He is not a transcendent being who is distant from us. God interacts closely with us through His works. He created the whole universe and He continues to sustain it by His authority. God provides for all the resources we need to survive. He also protects us from harm. But God is not our servant to keep us happy and satisfied. He is our Lord. God builds an eternal relationship with us through Jesus Christ. He wants us to know Him and obey Him. Besides God's attributes, David also thought of God's sovereignty. David described that God's sovereignty covers the span of time. David praised God in verse 10 that He reigns from "everlasting to everlasting." God's sovereignty also expands in space. David said in verse 11 that God's domain includes "heaven and earth." God is not only the Lord of Israel. He is the King over the whole world. It is just like Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer. He said in [Matthew 6:10](#) – "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We should pray that God's authority will be manifested in our world. We know in our mind that God tops it all. However, we may not feel that way on any given ordinary day. But God never stops to communicate with us through our senses that He is with us. All we need to do is to slow down and experience God's presence. The changing fall colors reminds us that God is a wonderful artist. You cannot find two leaves with the same shape and colors. You do not need to go to an art gallery to see God's work. Sunrise and sunset are always beautiful and free of charge. When you are outside, it is hard for you to miss a chirping bird or a jumping squirrel. You also feel the brushing of cool air on your face. Then once in a while you may have an opportunity to go farther to observe nature. Some people hike high mountains or cruise over flowing rivers. Even in the mundane of everyday life, God is always beside us. In the morning when you rise, you hear the alarm clock or your kids asking for breakfast. You smell the aroma of coffee and food. You can feel that your heart is pumping. Your mind is wrestling about your tasks for the day. You are surrounded by the love of family. You chat about issues that concern them. Through it all, God is saying to you: "Congratulations, you're still alive. I'm here! I'm very much active in your life." We need to find time on a daily basis to meditate on the nature and work of God. We then convert those thoughts into praise toward God. It can even be the few minutes when you are driving, or when you are navigating through the aisles in a grocery store. You can enjoy the tranquility in your heart despite the noisy surrounding. You can pray silently: "Lord, what a wonderful God You are!" We need to constantly look beyond our circumstance. Otherwise, we will be overwhelmed by deadlines, financial stress, instability in the society or the future unknowns. God is always near us and He is active in our world.

2. 神擁有一切 God Owns It All

David praised God not only because He tops it all. Secondly, it is also because God owns it all. David admitted that if God is everything, then he was nothing. We often think that it is harder for a capable person to stay humble. Not so with king David. This public prayer was uttered after David and his people had donated a huge amount of materials for the temple construction. David acknowledged in [verse 14](#) that God owns in all: "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." We can focus on a few things from this statement. David had no doubt that all that he had was from God. Long before David became a king, he was only a shepherd boy and the youngest son in the family. God called David and used him in a mighty way. God blessed the work of David, so that his people had a fruitful and peaceful life. David and his people could be generous in their offering because God was generous to them first.

David thought if God owned it all, then the Lord had full right to use it for His purpose. After all, the intent was to build a temple for God, not a monument to remember David. Look at **verse 16**: “O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.” David repeated the same notion that God owns in all. The temple was primarily a sanctuary for God’s people to worship the Lord. At the same time, the Israelites expected that in the future there would be people from other nations coming to the temple to know God. That was exactly part of Solomon’s prayer when he dedicated the temple at its completion. It was evangelism some 1,000 years before Jesus came to the earth! What David and his people offered was not only to subsidize a building project. They wanted to support a ministry to magnify God’s name. How much did they actually donate? Read **1 Chronicles 22:14** – “I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.” Those were the materials David pulled from the national reserves. When converted to today’s unit, it is 3,750 tons of gold and ten times more for silver. That is a lot of precious metal! All that metal would be used to craft the accessories for worship and as overlaying on the inside walls of the temple. The building would literally be glittering with splendor. In addition to using the treasures from the government storehouse, David also donated from his own pocket. Chapter 29 says that David contributed the equivalence of 110 tons of fine gold and 260 tons of silver. The king then motivated his officials to do the same things. And they did. **Verse 9** records: The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly. No one offered out of compulsion, and everyone was glad to see the great response. The truth that God owns it all should motivate us in our offering. Most of us are first generation Christians. Our parents taught us that we have to work hard to attain prosperity. There is nothing wrong about that. However, after we believed in Jesus, we need to think biblically. God gives us wisdom, talents and opportunities to make a living. Our career is a channel for us to serve God. Our riches are one of the many blessings God bestows. We will be stingy in our monetary offering if we are still ingrained with an “I-earn-it-all” mentality. It is true that our church needs to pay for utilities and maintenance like your home. Our two pastors have families to raise like you do. However, the money you offer is more than covering our internal costs. More importantly, you invest into God’s eternal cause. You should pray constantly that God will use our ministries to save souls and disciple believers. You cannot put a price tag on how much it costs for a non-believer to become a Christian, and what it needs for a new believer to become a mature one. Our church is more than a building. It is a venue for God to bless whoever comes into the doors.

3. 神鑒察一切 God Sees It All

In David’s prayer, he did not only acknowledge that God tops it all and owns in all. David also recognized that God sees it all. Among other things, God knows our thoughts and our motives. David said in **verse 17**: “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.” God examines people’s hearts to see if there is any selfish intent. David testified that both he and his people donated everything out of a pure heart. I have been to a church where there is a little plaque on every bench that says who contributed the money for that pew. It really puzzled me if that was the incentive for some

people to offer to the church. Will anyone still remember those donors a few decades after they were gone? Perhaps not. Brothers and sisters: all we should care about is that our names are recorded in God's book of life. David was confident that he and his people gave freely with a clear conscience. Is there joy when you offer to God? God sees your heart before He looks at the amount. Ask God to examine your heart before you drop your check into the collection box. Since God sees it all, David prayed for two things. First, he prayed that his people would continue to have a heart of uprightness. Look at **verse 18**: "O Lord, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you." David addressed God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. It points to the covenantal nature of God. God's promises are conditional. He would bless His people if they kept an undivided heart. Second, David prayed that the future king would dedicate himself to God the same way. Listen to **verse 19**: "And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided." The word "commands" mean some direct orders like the Ten Commandments. The word translated as "requirements" refer to the stipulations that came with God's covenant. Then "decrees" were some prescribed ways to conduct daily life like the dietary laws. The king must lead his people by example. Did Solomon listen? He did when he first ascended to the throne. But it is fascinating to see that one's loyalty to God fizzle in merely one generation! Why? The Bible tells us that later Solomon acquired 1,000 wives. Yes, 1,000! Many of those marriages were results of diplomacy with foreign nations. But the problem was that those pagan princesses brought along the false gods they worshipped. In order to please his many wives, Solomon bowed down to those deities. Parents: God entrusts you a huge responsibility to bring your kids to the Lord. You also have to make sure that they only date Christians. The person they choose may become a future spouse. There will be conflicts if two persons have completely different world-views. It affects how they spend Sunday morning, use money, define success, raise children and all the rest. God sees it all. He wants us and our future generation to stay faithful to Him. It is very easy for us to be complacent about our relationship with God when we feel that we have everything. Many of us knew the Lord after we came to this country. You arrived alone as a poor student or an employee. God blessed you with an education degree and a job opportunity. After many years of hard work, your living standard has much improved. When you become self-sufficient, you may believe that you do not need God anymore. In the past, you prayed fervently when you struggled with finance, immigration status and job security. Now you do not pray much about anything. Perhaps it is time to make an appointment with God for a heart checkup. Ask yourself if you still love God and if you put Him first in your life. Take a good look at your daily schedule and your bank statements. What are the discussion topics when you mingle with fellow believers? Do you only talk about current affairs, kids and entertainment, but never mention about spiritual matters? Do you come to the church to do things, meet your friends or know and worship God?

結論 CONCLUSION

What gift do you give to God who already has everything? God wants our hearts more than anything. The temple was more than a luxurious structure. It was a vivid reminder of God's presence. As for us, our church building, a cross or your Bible should be a token of your relationship with God. You may not have a big turkey for your Thanksgiving dinner. You have everything when you have God. He is always with you because He lives in you.

引言 INTRODUCTION

還有四天就是感恩節了。我相信每個人對今年的感恩節都有不同的感受。有些人將不會和家人聚餐。通過屏幕揮手將代替握手和擁抱。大餐將被降級為比較好的晚餐。到現場看美式足球賽的人會減少。喜歡買便宜東西的顧客轉為網購。我們的世界似乎變得不一樣，但是神永遠不會改變。雖然我們的節日氣氛降低了，但我們仍然應該感謝神。畢竟，感恩節是我們停下腳步來數算神祝福的時候。在聖經中，大衛王是個會感恩的人。到這個時候，大衛在世上的日子快到了尾聲。無論從任何角度來看，大衛都有傑出的成就。他征服了很多地方。他擁有大量的財富和聲望。他建立了一個強大而繁榮的國家。他深受人民的愛戴。他有許多子孫。但是大衛仍然有兩個願望。他想為神建造一座聖殿，並且他希望他的王國能夠延續下去。在過去的四百多年中，以色列人在會幕中敬拜神。大衛覺得自己住在宏偉的宮殿，而神的殿只是一個帳篷是說不過去的。神回應了大衛的心意。祂不要大衛為他蓋聖殿。大衛是個戰士，他生平殺死了許多敵人。神選擇把任務交給所羅門。他的名字來源於“Shalom”，是希伯來文平安的意思。所羅門將是個和平的君王。神會幫助他制服仇敵。神還應許大衛王朝將持續到永遠。大衛聽到神的答覆一定很高興。即使神選擇了所羅門來協調這項建築工程，大衛也沒有擔擱時間，他馬上為兒子開始做好準備。許多父母都可以認同這一點。他們為下一代準備讀大學的經費，甚至還存錢幫他們以後買房子。但是大衛做這一切完全是為了神。他打算把最好的獻給神。但是，你要送什麼禮物給那位已經擁有一切的神呢？讓我們在慶祝感恩節時思考這個問題。這段經文是大衛的一個公開禱告。從大衛的話，我們可以理解神要從我們身上得到什麼。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 神超越一切 God Tops It All

大衛以讚美神開始他的禱告。這位君王很富有，但他謙卑地承認神超越一切。第 10 節告訴我們：...大衛在會眾面前稱頌耶和華... 這是國民的公開聚會。想像一下，美國總統在發表全國演說中以讚美神為開始。這肯定會引起不信主的人的批評。但許多基督徒卻樂於接受。這位領袖明白他只不過是神的僕人。大衛也是如此。一位地上的君王向天上的君王致敬。讓我們從大衛的頌讚中挑選一些重要主題。首先，大衛讚美神的許多屬性。在第 11 節中，我們看到了**尊大、能力、榮耀、強勝和威嚴**。大衛在第 12 節中也提到了神的**豐富、尊榮、大能和大力**。請問你上一次讚美神的屬性是在什麼時候？當然，神賜給我們特權，可以為自己的需要

禱告。但是當我們讚美神之時，祂的心會感到喜悅。讓我們養成每次禱告時都真誠地讚美神的習慣。神是偉大而獨立自主的。祂滿有恩慈和忍耐。但是，他不是與我們遙不可及的。神通過祂的作為與我們有緊密的互動。祂創造了宇宙，祂繼續通過祂的權威來維持萬有。神供應我們賴以生存的所有資源。祂還保護我們免受災害。但是神不是帶給我們快樂和滿足的僕人。祂是我們的主。神通過耶穌基督與我們建立了永恆的關係。祂希望我們認識祂並順服祂。除了神的屬性之外，大衛還想到了神的主權。大衛描述神的主權涵蓋了整個時間。大衛在第 10 節中讚美神，因為祂掌權「直到永永遠遠」。神的主權也擴展至整個空間。大衛在第 11 節說，神的領域包括「天上地下」。神不僅是以色列的主。祂也是全世界的王。就像耶穌在主禱文中教導我們一樣。祂在馬太福音 6:10 中說：「願你的國降臨；願你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。」我們應該祈求神的權柄彰顯在我們的世界中。我們在心中知道神是至高無上的。但是，在平常生活中，我們不一定會有這種感覺。但是神從來沒有停止透過我們的知覺來與我們交流，使我們知道祂的真實。我們所要做的就是放慢腳步，體驗神的同在。不斷變化的秋天色彩提醒我們神是一位奇妙的藝術家。你找不到形狀和顏色相同的兩片葉子。你無需去美術館看神的傑作。日出和日落總是美麗而免費的。當你外面時，你很難錯過小鳥的叫聲或蹦蹦跳的松鼠。你還會感受到冰涼的空氣吹到臉上。然後，你可能偶爾會有機會去更遠的地方觀察大自然。有些人爬上高山或在河流上泛舟。就算是在平凡的生活中，神始終在我們身邊。早晨起床時，你會聽到鬧鐘或孩子喊著要吃早餐的聲音。你聞到咖啡和食物的香氣。你感覺到自己的心臟在跳動。你的腦袋計劃當天要完成的事務。你被家人的愛所包圍，大家談論一些切身的問題。通過這一切，神在對你說：「恭喜，你還活著。我在這！我一直在你的生活中非常活躍。」我們需要每天找時間思考神的本質和作為。然後，我們將這些意念轉化為對神的讚美。甚至在你幾分鐘的開車或在超市繞圈子時，雖然周圍嘈雜，你仍可以享受內心的寧靜。你可以默默地向神說：「主啊，你真是一位了不起的神！」我們需要不斷超越現實環境。否則，我們很容易被手上的事情、經濟壓力、社會不穩定或前面未知的因素所壓倒。神一直在我們身邊，祂活在我們的世界中。

2. 神擁有一切 God Owns It All

大衛稱讚神不僅是因為祂超越一切。其次也是因為神擁有一切。大衛承認如果神擁有一切，那麼他就什麼都不是。我們經常認為，有才幹的人要保持謙卑是困難的。這對大衛來說並不是問題。這個公開的禱告是在大衛和他的子民為聖殿工程捐贈了大量材料之後所發出的。大衛在第 14 節中承認神擁有一切：「我算什麼，我的民算什麼，竟能如此樂意奉獻？因為萬物都從你而來，我們把從你而得的獻給你。」我們可以從這句話看幾個重點。毫無疑問，大衛明白他所有的一切都來自神。在大衛成為君王之前，他只是一個牧羊人，是家中最小的兒子。神呼召大衛，並且重用他。神祝福大衛的工作，使他的人民過著富足和平靜的生活。大衛和他的子民可以

大方地捐獻，因為神首先大大地祝福他們。大衛認為如果神擁有這一切，那麼主就有絕對的權利使用任何東西作祂的用途。畢竟，最終目的是為神建聖殿，而不是為大衛建一座紀念碑。請看第 16 節：「**耶和華我們的神啊，我們預備這許多材料，要為你的聖名建造殿宇，都是從你而來，都是屬你的。**」大衛重申神擁有一切。聖殿主要是給神的子民敬拜主的場所。同時，以色列人期望將來會有其他國家的人來聖殿認識神。當所羅門奉獻聖殿時，那正是他禱告的心願之一。那是在耶穌降世大約一千年前傳福音的方式！大衛和他的子民不只是贊助一個建築項目。他們想要支持一個事工來傳揚神的名。他們實際上捐了多少東西？閱讀歷代志上 22:14 – 「**我在困難之中為耶和華的殿預備了金子十萬他連得，銀子一百萬他連得，銅和鐵多得無法可稱；我也預備了木頭、石頭，你還可以增添。**」這些材料是大衛從國庫中拿出來的。換算成今天的單位，就等於 3,750 噸黃金，再加上十倍多的白銀。那是很多貴重金屬！這些金屬將用於製作敬拜用的器具，並貼在聖殿的內牆上。試看看，這座建築物真的是金碧輝煌。除了使用政府倉庫中的珍寶外，大衛還自掏腰包。第 29 章說，大衛貢獻了 110 噸精金和 260 噸白銀。王然後激勵他的官員們效法他的榜樣。他們實在也做到了。第 9 節記載：**因這些人誠心樂意獻給耶和華，百姓就歡喜，大衛王也大大歡喜。**沒有人是被強迫的，每個人看到熱烈的反應都很高興。神擁有一切的這個真理應該也激勵我們奉獻。我們大多數人都是第一代的基督徒。父母告訴我們必須努力工作致富。這一點都沒有錯。但是，在我們相信耶穌之後，我們需要按照聖經的原則來思考。神賜給我們智慧、才能和機會謀生。我們的工作是我們事奉神的方式。我們的財富是神賜予的眾多祝福之一。如果我們仍然根深蒂固保留「這是我親手勞力得來的」心態，那麼我們在金錢奉獻上便會很小氣。我們的教會像你的家一樣需要支付水電和維護的費用。我們的兩位牧師也都一樣要養家。但是，你的奉獻不只是支持教會內部的需要。更重要的是，你投資於神的永恆事業。你應該不斷祈求神會使用我們的事工來拯救靈魂和建造門徒。你無法定一個價目，計算帶領一個人信主或是栽培一個初信者成為一個成熟的基督徒需要花費多少。我們的教會不僅是一座建築物。神要繼續使用這個地方祝福凡進來的人。

3. 神鑒察一切 God Sees It All

在大衛的禱告中，他承認神超越一切，而且祂擁有一切。第三，大衛也明白神鑒察一切。其中包括神知道我們的心思和動機。大衛在第 17 節說：「**我的神啊，我知道你察驗人心，喜悅正直；我以正直的心樂意獻上這一切物。現在我喜歡見你的民在這裡都樂意奉獻與你。**」神鑒察人們的內心，看看是否有任何私心。大衛作見證說，他和他的子民都是出於單純的心獻上一切的。我去過一所教堂，那裡的每張長凳上都有一塊小牌子，上面寫著誰捐獻那張凳子。我感到困惑，那是否一些人奉獻的唯一動機？幾十年後還會有人記得他們的名字嗎？也許沒有。弟兄姐妹：我們最關心的應該是自己的名字記錄在神的生命冊上。大衛確信，他和他的子民都是帶著清潔的良心自由地奉獻的。當你奉獻給神時，你的心中充滿喜樂嗎？神看到那個數

目之前先看到你的心。因此你將支票投入奉款箱之前，請你先讓神鑒察你的心。既然神看到一切，大衛就為兩件事禱告。首先，他祈求他的子民繼續保持正直的心。請看第18節：「耶和華我們列祖亞伯拉罕、以撒、以色列的神啊，求你使你的民常存這樣的心思意念，堅定他們的心歸向你。」大衛稱神為亞伯拉罕、以撒和以色列的神。它強調神是立約的神。神的應許是有條件的。如果神的子民保持專一的心，神就會祝福他們。第二，大衛祈求將來的君王能同樣地效忠予神。請聽第19節：「又求你賜我兒子所羅門誠實的心，遵守你的命令、法度、律例，成就這一切的事，用我所預備的建造殿宇。」「命令」是指一些直接的吩咐，例如十誡。「法度」是從神的約所附帶的規定。然後，「律例」是一些日常生活的要求，例如飲食方面的規條。王必須以身作則。所羅門聽了嗎？他剛登基時有做到神的要求。但是令人驚訝的是，他對神的忠誠只維持了一代就消失了！為什麼？聖經告訴我們，所羅門後來娶了1,000個妻子。是的，一千個！其中許多婚姻是外交關係的結果。但問題是那些相信異教的公主把她們崇拜的假神也帶進來。為了取悅他的許多妻子，所羅門也供奉那些神明。家長們：神託付你們一個很重要的責任，就是把孩子帶到主面前。你還必須確保他們只跟基督徒交往。他們選擇的對象可能會成為未來的配偶。如果兩個人的世界觀完全不同，就會發生衝突。它會影響他們週日早上做什麼、使用金錢、對成功的定義、教養孩子以及其他方面。神鑒察一切。祂希望我們和我們的後代對祂保持忠誠。當我們覺得自己已經擁有一切時，很容易與神的關係就甘於安逸。我們許多人是來到這個國家後才信主的。可能你一個人來的時候是個窮困的學生或員工。神給你教育或工作機會。經過多年的奮鬥，你的生活水平大有改善。當你變得一無所缺時，你可能會認為不再需要神了。過去，當你在經濟、身份和工作方面苦苦掙扎時，你會迫切地禱告。現在，好像沒有需要為任何事情禱告。也許該是時候讓神給你檢查心臟。你要問問自己，你是否仍然愛神，是否把祂放在生命的首位。好好看一下你的時間表和銀行月結單。當你與其他信徒聊天時，你們談論的話題是什麼？你是否只討論時事、孩子和娛樂，卻從來不提及屬靈的事？你來教會只是為了做事、見朋友或是為了認識神和敬拜祂而來？

結論 CONCLUSION

對於擁有一切的神，你可以獻上什麼禮物給祂？神最想要的是我們的心。聖殿不僅僅是一座豪華的建築物。它象徵神的同在。對於我們而言，我們的教會、十字架或聖經是你與神關係的標誌。這個感恩節可能沒有火雞大餐。當你認識神之時，你已經擁有一切。神永遠與你同在，因為祂住在你的心裡。