

## Mine, All Mine!

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by Wayne Goff

Repeatedly in the Bible God affirms that everything belongs to Him and to Him *alone*. He tells Israel at the beginning of their nation, “Now, therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; **for all the earth is Mine**” (Ex. 19:5). In making Israel a special nation, God was not precluding ownership of all people and things on the earth. On the contrary, He was *magnifying* the honor bestowed upon Israel! He was saying, in effect, the Sovereign God of the Universe desires to make a special covenant with you!

All the nations belong to Jehovah because He is our Maker and Sustainer. “The earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein” (Ps. 24:1). “If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness” (Ps. 50:12; 1 Cor. 10:26, 28). In Lystra, the apostle Paul said to the men of that city: “...(we) preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them” (Acts 14:15). “For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills” (Ps. 50:10).

Yet, rather than state these things in a bragging manner, the statements are always made in a plea to bring man closer to God! For all that God has and is, He desires to be *in fellowship* with lowly man. The nation Israel was impressed with God’s offer. When the nation went astray (Ps. 50), God reminded them that He was **not** in need of them, but on the contrary, He was self-sustaining. Israel would see the day when they needed Him! Paul spoke to those in Lystra in order to lead them back *logically* to the one, true God. Psalm 50 is quoted twice in 1 Corinthians 10 to convince those who *ate meat* that such was acceptable because everything belongs to God and He authorized such eating.

Yes, everything belongs to God. He is gracious, benevolent, and kind. He **deserves** our homage, but He *asks* it of us because He loves us so. Can you not find it in your heart to love Him in return?

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