



Who Is God?

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Does God Really Exist
Major Theological Concepts
The God of The Bible
Different Names of God
The Attributes of God
Who Do We Blame
The Triune God = One

An Analytical
Study of The
Concept And
Reality of A
Being Called
God

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Preface

I am writing this eBook as a study guide for home bible studies and individual study. I do not claim to know all or have any exclusive on doctrine, ideas or concepts relative to the study of God.

I will be looking at three concepts of God and discussing the God of the Bible.

This is a study that is meant to inform, expand and refine one's knowledge of who God is.

Source materials will be the "The Internet", "Quotes From Noteworthy People", "The Bible" and my "Personal Knowledge".



Introduction

It is man's perception of God that keeps him in confusion and causes him to reject the true God. Theology is defined by Webster as, "the study of the nature of God and religious belief"

The world does not agree as to the nature and concept of God. Is "He" really a "She"? Or is God just an "It" that cannot be known? Is the "Force" with us like in Star Wars? " Is God a sinister force out there that causes bad things to enter into our lives? Or is God benevolent?

We will look at who to blame for good and bad experiences, why they happen and how it relates to our destiny.

We will look at religion and its different concepts of God. We will also look at what the bible says about God and discover why we should adjust our thinking to its revelation.

Our analytical study will focus primarily on the nature of God because it is the only true measurement to determine the character of a person or being. We will, however, also look at concepts and origins that established religious beliefs because it is important to discover error as well as truth.



Lesson #1

??? Does God Really Exist ???

Can anyone prove that there is a God? Wouldn't you love for someone to simply show you the evidence for God's existence? If you are looking, there are signs everywhere. As I mentioned in my introduction, theology is the study of the nature of God. This is where we see the signs and draw our conclusions.

The Atheists, those who say that there is no God, believe that when you die, you cease to exist. The Humanists tell us that man evolved and has no need for God. The New-Age folks take evolution to the ultimate, saying that they can become their own gods. All do not believe in a Supreme Being. However, the Agnostic believes in a Supreme Being but says that Being cannot be known, thus impersonal. Who is correct?

We may not be able to look upon the face of God but we can see His handiwork. It reeks of "Intelligent Design." The complexity of our planet points to a deliberate Designer who not only created our universe, but also sustains it. The universe operates by **uniform laws of nature** that could not just have happened. Someone had to establish them.

There is also the "**Theory of Motion**" that says, in effect, that if a thing is in motion it had to be started by someone or thing that is not in motion. The universe is in constant motion, started by God who is not in motion. He is above it all. Even the Big Bang Theory, if true, begs the question, who caused it to happen? Logic dictates that it could not just have happened on its own.

Does God exist? I would say, from all the evidence, YES, there really is a God. However, the real proof is seen when you and I seek Him. He loves to reveal Himself to inquiring minds and is always willing to accept the repentant soul.

With all the evidence available, some folks still say that there is no God. I see it this way...we make up our minds as to the existence of

God or not and interpret the evidence through that pre-determined filter. If we don't want to know God, then we adhere to the notion that there is no God. If, on the other hand, we want to know Him, we seek Him and He reveals Himself to us in a whole lot of ways.

Proof That God Exists... Offered by Marilyn Adamson. Read her complete article, "Is There A God?" at www.everystudent.com.

1. The DNA code informs and programs a cell's behavior. This could never have developed on its own.
2. We know God exists because He pursues us. He is constantly initiating and seeking for us to come to Him. This feeling of being perused by God is universal.
3. Unlike any other revelation of God, Jesus Christ is the clearest, most specific picture of God perusing mankind. (**John 3:16**)

Read what others say about the existence of God...

- "To look into a microscope is to see another universe so small that only the electronic microscope can even find it. For instance, it is revealed that one single snowflake in a snowstorm with millions of other snowflakes is the equivalent of twenty billion electrons. Scientists are learning that the miniature world of a single living cell is as astonishing as man himself. God says that we can learn a great deal about Him just by observing nature. Because He has spoken through His universe, all men are without excuse for not believing in Him." This is why the Psalmist said, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God" (Psalm 14:1). **Dr. Billy Graham**
- "It was necessary for man's salvation that there should be a knowledge revealed by God besides philosophical science built up by human reason ... because man is directed to God as to an end that surpasses the grasp of his reason: "The eye has not seen, O God...what things Thou hast prepared for them that wait for Thee" (Is 66:4). But the end must first be known by men who are to direct their actions to the end. Hence it was necessary for the salvation of man that certain truths about God, which exceed human reason, should be made known to him by divine revelation. **Thomas Aquinas**

- “This sense of wonder leads most scientists to a Superior Being – der Alte, the Old One, as Einstein affectionately called the Deity – a Superior Intelligence, the Lord of all Creation and Natural Law.”—**Abdus Salam**, winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in electroweak theory. He is here quoted in his article entitled *Science and Religion*.
- “The more I study science, the more I believe in God.”—**Albert Einstein** (*The Wall Street Journal*, Dec 24, 1997, article by Jim Holt, “Science Resurrects God.”)
- “God [is] the author of the universe, and the free establisher of the laws of motion.”—Physicist and chemist **Robert Boyle**, who is considered to be the founder of modern chemistry.
- “God created everything by number, weight and measure.” “In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God’s existence.” “I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by those who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.” —**Sir Isaac Newton, who is widely regarded to have been the greatest scientist the world, has ever known.**

All of the above reasons are worthy of consideration. However, here are a few more thoughts to add to this discussion.

The existence of God cannot be proved without using faith. The Bible says that we must accept by faith the fact that God exists: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). If God so desired, He could simply appear and prove to the whole world that He exists. But if He did that, there would be no need for faith. “Then Jesus told him, ‘because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed’” (John 20:29).

That does not mean, however, that there is no evidence of God’s existence. The Bible states, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour

forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world” (Psalm 19:1-4). Looking at the stars, understanding the vastness of the universe, observing the wonders of nature, and seeing the beauty of a sunset—all of these things point to a Creator God. If these were not enough, there is also evidence of God in our own hearts. Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us, “He has also set eternity in the hearts of men.”

Deep within us is the recognition that there is something beyond this life and someone beyond this world. We can deny this knowledge intellectually. However, God’s presence all around us is still obvious. Despite this, the Bible warns that some will still deny God’s existence: “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1). Since the vast majority of people throughout history, in all cultures, in all civilizations, and on all continents believe in the existence of some kind of God, there must be something (or someone) causing this belief.

In addition to the biblical arguments for God’s existence, there are logical arguments. First, there is the **Ontological Argument**. The most popular form of the ontological argument uses the concept of God to prove God’s existence. It begins with the definition of God as “a being than which no greater can be conceived.” It is then argued that to exist is greater than to not exist, and therefore the greatest conceivable being must exist. If God did not exist, then God would not be the greatest conceivable being, and that would contradict the very definition of God.

A second argument is the **Teleological Argument**. The teleological argument states that since the universe displays such an amazing design, there must have been a Divine Designer. For example, if the earth were significantly closer or farther away from the sun, it would not be capable of supporting much of the life it currently does. If the elements in our atmosphere were even a few percentage points different, nearly every living thing on earth would die. The odds of a single protein molecule forming by chance are 1 in 10^{243} (that is a 1 followed by 243 zeros). A single cell is comprised of millions of protein molecules.

A third logical argument for God's existence is called the **Cosmological Argument**. Every effect must have a cause. This universe and everything in it is an effect. There must be something that caused everything to come into existence. Ultimately, there must be something "un-caused" in order to cause everything else to come into existence. That "un-caused" cause is God.

A fourth argument is known as the **Moral Argument**. Every culture throughout history has had some form of law. Everyone has a sense of right and wrong. Murder, lying, stealing, and immorality are almost universally rejected. Where did this sense of right and wrong come from if not from a Holy God?

It's been said that religion is; man seeking God and Christianity is; God seeking man. A study of world religions seems to confirm this premise. Man can really know this invisible God? He seeks us to this end.

I see it this way, some folks know a lot about a famous personality but in reality have never met that person. Being a fan or a follower is o.k. But I'd rather be one that not only knows a lot about God but also walks with Him and talks with Him and gains counsel, wisdom and peace from each encounter.

Yes there is a God, that is, if you want Him to exist. There is a God, even if you do not want Him to exist. He is an eternal being, invisible but ever so close. He now waits in the heavens for that one day when we all will stand before Him, face to face.

Lesson #1

Related Discussion Questions

1. Ok, God exists. What does that mean to me?
2. Why did God create the earth and place man in it?
3. If there was a beginning, what is the end?
4. Why am I here, on the earth, at this moment in time?
5. Why does God want me in His kingdom?
6. Why should I trust God with my life and destiny?

7. Do I really have a specific destiny? How can I know what that is?

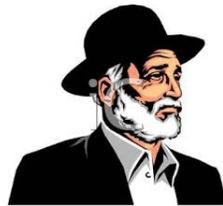
Lesson #2

Major Theological Concepts

We can reduce all the theological concepts of God that various religions teach into three basis categories. They are **Monotheism, Pantheism, and Polytheism**. These three views encompass the majority of all world religions.

Monotheism

Monotheism is the belief or doctrine that there is only one God. The Jewish Christian and Islamic faiths fall into this category. However, Judaism & Christianity follow the revelation of God as described in the bible. Islam does not.



**Hear, O Israel:
The LORD our God
is one LORD
Deut. 6:4**

Judaism

Judaism is one of the oldest religions in the world that still exists today. Jewish history, beliefs, and traditions were recorded in the Hebrew Bible beginning as early as the 8th century B.C. However, It all started with Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.

Although it never achieved dominant numbers, the faith of the Hebrews—just one of many ancient Middle Eastern tribes—continues to exert a profound influence in the modern western world.

Jewish beliefs center on the conviction that there is only one God. This was a minority view in its time, but monotheism is now dominant in the western world—thanks to the influence of Judaism on the powerful religions of Christianity and Islam.

Today, approximately 14 million people identify themselves as Jews. There are three main branches of Judaism, each with different approaches to religious life: Orthodox; Conservative; and Reform. Jewish life is rich in traditions, rituals and holidays, which commemorate the past, celebrate the present, and express hope for the future.



Christianity

Christianity finds its roots in Judaism. Although it is considered a religion, it is more a relationship with the true and living God, as revealed in the bible...that can only be attained through Jesus Christ. His origins come from God before the foundation of the world. His birth, birthplace, life, ministry and sacrificial death were prophesized by the Old Testament Hebrew Prophets. His claim to be the Son of God and the Jewish Messiah was documented by miracles during His earthly ministry. His resurrection from the dead proved He was who He said he was.

Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. The Jews were told through prophetic word of a “coming one” as early as in Genesis and by other Old Testament prophecies scattered throughout the centuries in multiple O.T. books. Jesus identified Himself as “The Son of Man,” “The Son of God” and the “Savior/King” of the world, fulfilling every prophecy.

Although most Jews did not embrace their Messiah, Jesus became a light to the Gentiles and has followers around the globe. The [Center for the Study of Global Christianity](#) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary estimated 34,000 denominations in the year 2000, rising to an estimated 43,000 in 2012. These numbers have exploded from 1,600 in the year 1900.

The number of Christians around the world has nearly quadrupled in the last 100 years, from about 600 million in 1910 to more than 2 billion in 2010. But the world’s overall population also has risen rapidly, from an estimated 1.8 billion in 1910 to 6.9 billion in 2010. As

a result, Christians make up about the same portion of the world's population today (32%), as they did a century ago (35%).

The Christian religion includes the Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox churches. There are over 300 Protestant denominations in the world today.



Islam

“The source of the word, (Allah), who is the Islamic god, goes back to pre-Muslim times. Islam calls Allah god, which is not the God of the bible. Allah has about 1.6 billion followers worldwide. In 2010, Muslims made up 23.2% of the global population.

According to the Encyclopedia of Religion, Allah corresponded to the Babylonian god Baal, and Arabs knew of him long before Mohammed worshipped him as the supreme god. Before Islam, the Arabs recognized many gods and goddesses; each tribe had their own deity. There were also nature deities. Allah was the god of the local Quarish tribe, which was Mohammed's tribe before he invented Islam to lead his people out of their polytheism. Allah was then known as the Moon god, who had three daughters who were viewed as intercessors for the people.

Polytheism

Polytheism is the worship or belief in more than one god. All other religions, excluding the Judaism, Christian and Islam faiths hold to this polytheistic view. This doctrine usually promotes one god that reigns supreme over all the rest.

Polytheism was the typical form of religion during the Bronze Age and Iron Age. It is well documented in historical religions of Classical antiquity, especially ancient Greek religion and ancient Roman religion, and after the decline of Greco-Roman polytheism in tribal religions such as Germanic paganism or Slavic paganism. Important

polytheistic religions practiced today include Chinese traditional religion, Hinduism, Japanese Shinto, and the neopagan context.

In most religions which accept polytheism, the different gods and goddesses are representations of forces of nature or ancestral principles. Historical Polytheism is best seen in the ancient Greek world. However Buddhism is also a realistic portrait of multiple gods.

Pantheism

Pantheism is the belief that the Universe (or nature as the totality of everything) is identical with divinity, or that everything composes an all-encompassing, immanent god. Pantheists thus do not believe in a distinct personal or anthropomorphic god.

Pantheism is the doctrine that God is the transcendent reality of which the material universe and human beings are only manifestations: it involves a denial of God's personality and expresses a tendency to identify God as nature.

Pantheism is the view that God is everything and everyone and that everyone and everything is God. Pantheism is similar to polytheism (the belief in many gods), but goes beyond polytheism to teach that everything is God. A tree is God, a rock is God, an animal is God, the sky is God, the sun is God, you are God, etc.

Pantheism is the supposition behind many cults and false religions (e.g., Hinduism and Buddhism to an extent, the various unity and unification cults, and “mother nature” worshippers. See <http://biblestudyguide.org/articles/pantheism/pantheism-nature-is-god.htm> for more detail on this false religion.

Pantheism and Homosexuality **Romans 1:18-32**

Pantheism and homosexuality seem to flow together. Here's what the Apostle Paul said to the church at Rome in the 1st century. His teaching was a direct attack against Pantheism, which was very prevalent in his day even as it is in our generation.

Here are the scriptures so you can read it for yourself.

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things, which are not convenient;

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they, which commit such things, are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also have pleasure in them that do them. **Romans 1:18-32**

- Verse 20 tells us that man is without excuse because God has revealed Himself to them.
- Verse 21 says God darkened their foolish hearts because they would not acknowledge Him.
- Verses 24 & 25 speak to the fact that God gave them up and because of their worship of Pantheism...the creature more than the Creator.
- Finally, see verse 28 where God gave them over to a reprobate mind, which is to condemn strongly as unworthy, unacceptable, or evil.

I am going to eliminate Pantheism and Polytheism from further discussion, as they are clearly not a true representation of who God is. I included them originally so we can understand other religious beliefs as we look into the God of the bible.

Lesson #2

Related Discussion Questions

1. Why are there so many world religions?
2. Why did the Jewish community reject Jesus as their Messiah?

3. Why do people follow after false gods?
4. How can Islam be a true religion when it calls for death and destruction of those who will not convert?
5. Is Allah the same as Jehovah, the Hebrew God?
6. How can God be everything and everything be God?
7. If there are many gods, who's in charge?
8. Why do people deny God to do evil things?
9. Why does God reject Homosexuals?



Lesson #3

The God of The Bible

The Bible is the written revelation of the Hebrew God. It tells us that God is not a “She” but takes the male gender and is referred to as a Father. It also tells us that God is not an “It” but actually has a personality. God is personal, close at hand and compassionate.

The word God, from its most ancient source, means “Invoked One.” It refers to the one (Meaning the deity) that you invoke or call upon. They believed in many gods back then and folks had to invoke the one they wanted for the occasion at hand. Over the centuries the term, “God,” came to mean, ”Supreme Being”, “Supernatural Life-force.”

It was the Hebrews that looked upon God as the only true and living Deity, perfect, unchangeable, morally righteous, and eternal. This viewpoint came as a direct result of God seeking them out and revealing Himself to them. That’s why God is known as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Abraham was the tenth generation from Noah through Shem and was born 352 years after the Deluge, (Flood), in 2018 B.C. Although listed first among the three sons of Terah, at Genesis 11:26, Abraham was not the firstborn. The Scriptures show that Terah was 70 years old when his first son was born, and that Abraham was born 60 years later when his father Terah was 130 years old. (Gen. 11:32; 12:4) Evidently Abraham is listed first among his father’s sons because of his outstanding faithfulness and prominence in the Scriptures, a

practice that is followed in the case of several other outstanding men of faith such as Shem and Isaac.

Different Hebrew Names To Describe God

God chooses to reveal Himself to man by using many different and specific names. Each name represents an aspect of God's nature and character. Here is a list:

EL, ELOAH: God "mighty, strong, prominent" (Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 139:19) – etymologically, *El* appears to mean "power," as in "I have the power to harm you" (Genesis 31:29). *El* is associated with other qualities, such as integrity (Numbers 23:19), jealousy (Deuteronomy 5:9), and compassion (Nehemiah 9:31), but the root idea of "might" remains.

ELOHIM: God "Creator, Mighty and Strong" (Genesis 17:7; Jeremiah 31:33) – the plural form of *Eloah*, which accommodates the doctrine of the Trinity. From the Bible's first sentence, the superlative nature of God's power is evident as God (Elohim) speaks the world into existence (Genesis 1:1).

EL SHADDAI: "God Almighty," "The Mighty One of Jacob" (Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2,5) – speaks to God's ultimate power over all.

ADONAI: "Lord" (Genesis 15:2; Judges 6:15) – used in place of YHWH, which was thought by the Jews to be too sacred to be uttered by sinful men. In the Old Testament, YHWH is more often used in God's dealings with His people, while *Adonai* is used more when He deals with the Gentiles.

YHWH / YAHWEH / JEHOVAH: "LORD" (Deuteronomy 6:4; Daniel 9:14) – strictly speaking, the only proper name for God. Translated in English Bibles "LORD" (all capitals) to distinguish it from *Adonai*, "Lord." The revelation of the name is first given to Moses "I Am who I Am" (Exodus 3:14). This name specifies an immediacy, a presence. Yahweh is present, accessible, near to those who call on Him for deliverance (Psalm 107:13), forgiveness (Psalm 25:11) and guidance (Psalm 31:3).

YAHWEH-JIREH: "The Lord Will Provide" (Genesis 22:14) – the name memorialized by Abraham when God provided the ram to be sacrificed in place of Isaac.

YAHWEH-RAPHA: "The Lord Who Heals" (Exodus 15:26) – "I am Jehovah who heals you" both in body and soul. In body, by preserving from and curing diseases, and in soul, by pardoning iniquities.

YAHWEH-NISSI: "The Lord Our Banner" (Exodus 17:15), where *banner* is understood to be a rallying place. This name commemorates the desert victory over the Amalekites in Exodus 17.

YAHWEH-M'KADDESH: "The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy" (Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28) – God makes it clear that He alone, not the law, can cleanse His people and make them holy.

YAHWEH-SHALOM: "The Lord Our Peace" (Judges 6:24) – the name given by Gideon to the altar he built after the Angel of the Lord assured him he would not die as he thought he would after seeing Him.

YAHWEH-ELOHIM: "LORD God" (Genesis 2:4; Psalms 59:5) – a combination of God's unique name YHWH and the generic "Lord," signifying that He is the Lord of Lords.

YAHWEH-TSIDKENU: "The Lord Our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16) – As with YHWH-M' Kaddesh, it is God alone who provides righteousness to man, ultimately in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who became sin for us "that we might become the Righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

YAHWEH-ROHI: "The Lord Our Shepherd" (Psalms 23:1) – After David pondered his relationship as a shepherd to his sheep, he realized that was exactly the relationship God had with him, and so he declares, "Yahweh-Rohi is my Shepherd. I shall not want" (Psalms 23:1).

YAHWEH-SHAMMAH: "The Lord Is There" (Ezekiel 48:35) – the name ascribed to Jerusalem and the Temple there, indicating that the

once-departed glory of the Lord (Ezekiel 8—11) had returned (Ezekiel 44:1-4).

YAHWEH-SABAOTH: "The Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 1:24; Psalm 46:7) – *Hosts* means "hordes," both of angels and of men. He is Lord of the host of heaven and of the inhabitants of the earth, of Jews and Gentiles, of rich and poor, master and slave. The name is expressive of the majesty, power, and authority of God and shows that He is able to accomplish what He determines to do.

EL ELYON: "Most High" (Deuteronomy 26:19) – derived from the Hebrew root for "go up" or "ascend," so the implication is of that which is the very highest. *El Elyon* denotes exaltation and speaks of an absolute right to be Lord with all the honor of lordship.

EL ROI: "God of Seeing" (Genesis 16:13) – the name ascribed to God by Hagar, alone and desperate in the wilderness after being driven out by Sarah (Genesis 16:1-14). When Hagar met the Angel of the Lord, she realized she had seen God Himself in a theophany. She also realized that *El Roi* saw her in her distress and testified that He is a God who lives and sees all.

EL-OLAM: "Everlasting God" (Psalm 90:1-3) – God's nature is without beginning or end, free from all constraints of time, and He contains within Himself the very cause of time itself. "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

EL-GIBHOR: "Mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6) – the name describing the Messiah, Christ Jesus, in this prophetic portion of Isaiah. As a powerful and mighty warrior, the Messiah, the Mighty God, will accomplish the destruction of God's enemies and rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15).

Recommended Resources: The Names of God by Ken Hemphill and Logos Bible Soft

God is constantly showing us His majesty and is continually revealing His nature to the world. **Romans 1:20** says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood

by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”

Lesson #3

Related Discussion Questions

1. Why does God have so many names?
2. Why did it take so long for the Bible to reveal the nature of God?
3. How did God get to be perfect?
4. If God is a Spirit, what does He look like?
5. Doesn't God get tired of a continual revelation of himself to man?



Lesson #4

Attributes of God

The Bible tells us what God is like and what He is not like. Without the authority of the Bible, any attempt to explain God would be nothing more than a misguided opinion.

Only what God has chosen to reveal of Himself can be known. One of God's attributes or qualities is “**light**,” meaning that He is self-revealing in information of Himself (Isaiah 60:19; James 1:17). The fact that God has revealed knowledge of Himself should not be neglected (Hebrews 4:1). Creation, the Bible, and the Word made flesh (Jesus Christ) will help us to know what God is like.

Let's start by understanding that God is our Creator and that we are a part of His creation (Genesis 1:1; Psalms 24:1) and are created in His image. Man is above the rest of creation and was given dominion over it (Genesis 1:26-28)

God is Eternal, meaning He had no beginning and His existence will never end. He is immortal and infinite (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17).

God is Immutable, meaning He is unchanging; this in turn means that God is absolutely reliable and trustworthy (Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 102:26, 27). God is incomparable; there is no one like Him in works or being. He is unequalled and perfect (2 Samuel 7:22; Psalm 86:8; Isaiah 40:25; Matthew 5:48).

God is Inscrutable, unfathomable, unsearchable, and past finding out as far as understanding Him completely (Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 145:3; Romans 11:33, 34).

God is Just; He is no respecter of persons in the sense of showing favoritism (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30).

God is Omnipotent; He is all-powerful and can do anything that pleases Him, but His actions will always be in accord with the rest of His character (Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 32:17, 27).

God is Omnipresent, meaning He is present everywhere, but this does not mean that God is everything (Psalm 139:7-13; Jeremiah 23:23).

God is Omniscient, meaning He knows the past, present, and future, including what we are thinking at any given moment. Since He knows everything, His justice will always be administered fairly (Psalm 139:1-5; Proverbs 5:21).

God is One; not only is there no other, but He is alone in being able to meet the deepest needs and longings of our hearts. God alone is worthy of our worship and devotion (Deuteronomy 6:4).

God is Righteous, meaning that God cannot and will not pass over wrongdoing. It is because of God's righteousness and justice that, in

order for our sins to be forgiven, Jesus had to experience God's wrath when our sins were placed upon Him (Exodus 9:27; Matthew 27:45-46; Romans 3:21-26).

God is Sovereign, meaning He is supreme. All of His creation put together cannot thwart His purposes (Psalm 93:1; 95:3; Jeremiah 23:20).

God is Spirit, meaning He is invisible (John 1:18; 4:24). God is a Trinity. He is three in one, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

God is Truth, He will remain incorruptible and cannot lie (Psalm 117:2; 1 Samuel 15:29).

God is Holy, separated from all moral defilement and hostile toward it. God sees all evil and it angers Him. God is referred to as a consuming fire (Isaiah 6:3; Habakkuk 1:13; Exodus 3:2, 4-5; Hebrews 12:29).

God is Gracious, and His grace includes His goodness, kindness, mercy, and love. If it were not for God's grace, His holiness would exclude us from His presence. Thankfully, this is not the case, for He desires to know each of us personally (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 31:19; 1 Peter 1:3; John 3:16, 17:3).

Recommended Resources: Knowing God by J.I. Packer and Logos Bible Software.

Here are a few more references that will further reveal the nature and character of God.

"For God is greater than our hearts, and **he knows everything.**"
(1 John 3:20)

"To God belong **wisdom and power; counsel and understanding** are his." (Job 12:13)

"...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, **who does not lie**, promised before the beginning of time..." (Titus 1:2)

"For the LORD is **good** and his love endures forever; his **faithfulness** continues through all generations." (Ps. 100:5)

"...**God is love**. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." (1 John 4:16)

"The LORD, the LORD, the **compassionate and gracious** God, **slow to anger**, abounding in love and **faithfulness**..." (Ex. 34:6)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the **God of all comfort**..." (2 Cor. 1:3)

"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, **abounding in love**." (Ps. 103:8)

"**Holy**, holy, holy is the LORD **Almighty**; the whole earth is full of his glory." (Is. 6:3)

"The **God of peace** be with you all. Amen." (Rom. 15:33)

"He is the Rock, **his works are perfect**, and **all his ways are just**. A **faithful** God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." (Deut. 32:4)

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is **perfect**." (Matt. 5:48)

There are more references but these will give you a pretty good idea about who God is. He does not tempt us with evil (James 1:13). Nor does He cause bad things to happen. (James 1:17) They happen as a result of the Fall of Man into Sin and Man's misguided free will.

God is not the author of confusion. (**1 Corinthians 14:33**)_He does not bring sickness, disease, and death of loved one, or other bad

things. Yet lots of folks blame God for their loss or other bad happening. Why is that?

Lesson #4 Related Discussion Questions



1. Why does God allow bad things to happen?
2. Why should God be faithful to us who fall into sin all the time?
3. If God can get angry at evil, can He also get angry with me when I do not keep His commandments?
4. If God is Sovereign, where does that leave my “Free Will” and me?
5. If God knows the past, present and future, why should I strive to accomplish anything?
6. If God is the creator, why didn’t He create a world without evil?



Lesson #5 Who Do We Blame?

I think we blame God because He is All-Powerful, All-Seeing and Sovereign. He could have stopped a thing from happening but instead; He sat back and did nothing. Isn’t that how most of us feel when we fall into a difficult life situation?

The truth of the matter is...God gave us “Free Will”. This means we can do whatever we want and He will sit back and let us shape our own destiny. He has chosen to put His power and sovereignty on hold, making them subject to our Free Will. He wants us to be free to come to Him. He does not take prisoners or twist arms to gain followers. He is interested in a relationship, not a robotic trophy.

Bad choices will bring bad things into our lives and we should really own up to them and not blame God. Here are a few scenarios.

1. Man gets drunk and crashes into another car and kills three people. Who's at fault?
2. Lady smokes for years and gets lung cancer. Who's at fault?
3. Elderly man crosses a busy highway without looking both ways and gets hit by a truck. Whose fault is it?

I can go on and on but it will always fall back to one central thing..."Free Will". We are held accountable for our actions and made to live out the consequences of what we do in life.

I know what you're thinking...what about so called "Acts of God?" Things like Earthquakes, Floods, Tornadoes and other events that are beyond our control?

An "Act of God" is an Insurance term. It is an event that is caused solely by the effect of nature or natural causes and without any interference by humans whatsoever.

Why do we automatically assume that a hurricane or flood is a direct act of God? The Bible says, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." **Romans 8:22**

The whole creation is in a state of turmoil. No wonder there are violent acts of nature occurring around the world. That is not to say that they are a direct and vicious attack by God.

We have already seen the nature of God through His attributes and how He is compassionate, merciful, loving...all of which are good. The so-called "Acts of God" would be out of character. They do not line up with who God is and His care for mankind.

Let's look at the fruit of God's Spirit. **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit** is a biblical term that sums up nine attributes of a Christian life according to St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians "But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." **Galatians 5:22-23**. Does this personality fit with destruction and pain? I don't think so...not in an

So, what do we do when bad things happen to us? Here are a few thoughts.

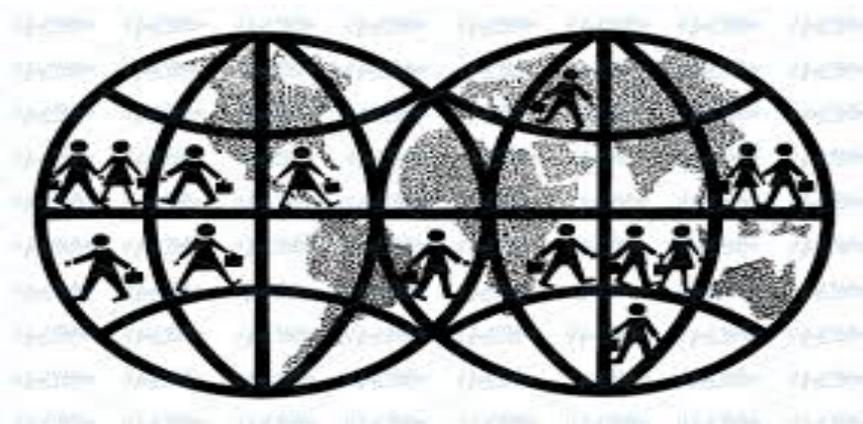
1. Seek the Lord, applying **Proverbs 3:5-6** ("Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.") No matter what has happened, God will direct your paths if you trust in Him. He will lead you out of the sorrow, stress and heartaches.
2. Let the Lord comfort you. ("Blessed be **God**, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the **God of all comfort**") **II Corinthians 1:3**
3. Know that Jesus is always with you. ("lo, I am with you always, even unto the **end of the world**. Amen." **Matthew 28:20b**)
4. Realize that God will work everything together for good. ("And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.") **Romans 8:28**
5. Refocus your eyes upon those things that you cannot see for they are eternal. "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal." **II Cornithians 4:18**

6. Rest in the Lord, knowing that He will deliver you. (“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”) **Psalm 34:7**
7. Think on things that are positive, not negative. (“whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.”) **(Philippians 4:8)**

Finally, God is a Spirit. (God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.) **John 4:24**

Lesson #5 Related Discussion Questions

1. If God is all knowing, why does He allow bad things to come into our lives?
2. Can thinking positive during stressful times really help?
3. What does creation being in turmoil have to do with bad things affecting us?
4. Can the Sovereignty of God and my “Free Will” exist together in the same life situation?
5. Does God really just sit back and watch as bad things happen to us?
6. Do our choices really affect our destiny?
7. If God does not cause bad things to enter our lives, who does?





Lesson #6

Father Son & Holy Ghost

Tri-Unity = The Trinity

You and I live in a three-dimensional world. All physical objects have a certain height, width, and depth. One person can look like someone else, or behave like someone else, or even sound like someone else. But a person cannot actually be the same as another person. They are distinct individuals.

God, however, lives without the limitations of a three-dimensional universe. He is spirit. And He is infinitely more complex than we are.

That is why Jesus, the Son can be different from the Father and yet the same.

The Bible clearly speaks of: God the Son, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. But emphasizes that there is only One God.

If we were to use math, it would not be, $1+1+1=3$. It would be $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. God is a triune God.

Thus the term: "Tri" meaning three, and "Unity" meaning one, Tri+Unity = Trinity. It is a way of acknowledging what the Bible reveals to us about God, that God is yet three "Persons" who have the same essence of deity. Some have tried to give human illustrations for the Trinity, such as H_2O being water, ice and steam (all different forms, but all are H_2O). Another illustration would be the sun. From it we receive light, heat and radiation...three distinct aspects, but only one sun.

No illustration is going to be perfect.

But from the very beginning we see God as a Trinity. Notice the plural pronouns "us" and "our" in Genesis 1:26 -- Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Though not a complete list, here is some other Scripture that shows God is one, in Trinity:

- There is no God but one. (1Cor. 8:4)
- And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matt. 3:16-17)
- "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)
- Jesus said: "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)
- "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)
- "He who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me." (John 12:45)
- If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (Rom. 8:9)

- "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 1:20)
- And the angel answered and said to her Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

[**Jesus speaking to His disciples**] "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you." ... "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him." (John 14:16-17, 23) Article taken from.....



Here's what we know so far. Islam follows Allah, which was the pagan god of the Babylonians. Buddhist and other religions that attest to many gods are polytheist. Pantheism is the belief that God is everywhere and is everything...so to worship a tree is to worship God.

The Bible is the only true account that reveals the nature of God. All other doctrines and religions are false and should be set aside from any serious investigation. If this conclusion seems to be narrow-minded, lets reason together.

Are trees and wind and fire really on the same level as God? What power do they have to shape our destiny or answer our prayers? Logic tells us that this is nothing more than the theological doctrine of fools.

What about Polytheism, the belief in many gods? Does it seem to make sense that life and eternity is governed by many gods? Mormonism thinks so. They believe that a man, not a woman, can ascend to a status of a god and have many wives. India boasts more than a million gods. Which one can help me find peace, joy or love?

The premise of this theology is way off base. Christianity is the only theological doctrine that shows man as a sinner, why, and how God so loved him that He sent His only Son as a sacrifice to justify us and give us access into His grace.

God is pictured in the Bible as a Spirit and we are to worship Him in spirit and in truth. (“God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.”) **John 4:24** He is one God that manifest Himself to us as The Father of Creation, The Son of The Living God, and The Holy Ghost. This is glorious in all of life, to know God and to fellowship with Him in a day-by-day walk of Faith.

Are you like many modern religious folks...knowing about Jesus but not knowing Him personally? If you are, you will not see the kingdom of God. Nor will you find peace of mind here on this earth because you will miss out on the fruit of God’s Spirit, which Peace is one.

I can say this because Jesus said it and the apostle John recorded it. (“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”) **John 3:3**. He was talking to a religious leader, not just the average Joe.

Lesson #6

Related Discussion Questions

1. Are there three thrones in heaven, one for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. If Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, the Father, where is the Holy Spirit seated?
3. If being, “Born Again” is the only way to see the Kingdom of God, how do I get born again?
4. If Jesus is in heaven, at the right hand of God, how can I know Him personally?

5. How will I know when Jesus and the Father God have arrived to live with me in my world here on earth as John 14:16,17 & 23 says?
6. What makes the Bible the only true account of the revelation of the nature and character of God?

Conclusion

Who is God? He is the only true and living God. There is no other like Him. He is all knowing and sovereign. He is the Creator of all things and does not change in character or stature. He is a Spirit yet shows Himself as the Father of all creation and the Son who became the Savior of mankind. He is compassionate, longsuffering and kind. He is full of grace, peace, and great Joy. He is described as Love.

He is not a mystical force that portrays itself in and through everything. He is not a tree or a cloud. Everything is not God. It is rather His handiwork being full of intelligent design.

He is not one of many, "Do Nothing," gods that man has made up for his own purposes. He is our Creator, our Sustainer, our Lord and Savior. He alone is worthy of our trust, love and worship.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace through all the days of your life.

**HAVE
FAITH
in
GOD**