

THE GOD OF HEAVEN

Is there really a God? If so, what is He like? Where can I find accurate information about His nature and His will for mankind? How can I be sure that He cares about me? If you have ever asked these or similar questions about God, you certainly are not alone. Through the ages men and women have continuously searched for answers to questions about God.

From beginning to end the Bible speaks about God. One that reads the Bible finds out in a hurry that God is at the very center of the Bible's message. In fact, in the very first chapter of the Bible the word "God" is used about thirty times. In this brief tract we want to look at evidence for God's existence, then consider what the Bible teaches about Him, His nature, and His attributes.

GOD'S EXISTENCE – HE IS!

The Bible does not set forth a formal proof that there is a God. Rather, it just begins by declaring that He *does* exist: "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1). That is not to say, however, that there is no evidence for God's existence.

One forceful argument that helps us see that there must be a God is based on design. Think about some material objects that we are accustomed to seeing or using in life. For instance, in a house we see design. We notice the floors, walls, ceilings, doors, windows, light switches, etc. Suppose you ask someone, "I love your house. Who built it?" What if the answer is, "No one built it, it just happened. The windows, rooms, and everything else just fell into place by themselves." Would you believe this explanation? Of course not. Why? Because we know that where there is design, there must have been someone with intelligence that did the designing. Such a one is called a "designer." Again, in a dictionary, computer, and wristwatch, we see design. If they demonstrate design, then someone must have designed them. We all know that such things do not come about by accident.

Now, let us apply these same thoughts to the world in which we live. The Bible says it this way, "*For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God*" (Hebrews 3:4). What is the point? If there is a building, then the building had to have been designed and constructed. Buildings don't just fall into place. In the same way, our universe had to have had a great designer. Why? Because the universe demonstrates design, and design can exist only when an intelligent designer has been at work.

What types of design are evident in our universe? For starters, the distance from the earth to the sun is 93 million miles – just the right distance. We wonder, is this arrangement just an accident? And what about the fact that the earth, as it orbits the sun, is continuously spinning on its axis? This allows one side of the world to have daylight while the other side has darkness. Again, is the earth's spinning on its axis just an accident?

As our planet orbits the sun, it has a tilt of 23½ degrees. Scientists say that this is the ideal tilt for the earth. Did the earth just accidentally tilt itself over to 23½ degrees?! There is also the earth's predictable orbit around the sun. It is so precise that scientists can predict exactly where the earth will be in the universe at any given time on any given day. Amazing! These simple examples of design point to the fact that our universe could not have come about by accident. It had to have had an intelligent designer behind it. The Bible calls this great Designer "God."

Our world exists. This is an undeniable fact. How did it get here? We all admit that humans, as intelligent and ingenious as they are, could not have made it. Likewise, it is not possible that animals or vegetation could have made it. There is no way that the world built itself, and it certainly did not come into existence by accident.

The Bible declares that "*the things that are made*" show God's existence and power (Romans 1:20). This simply means that one can check out the universe ("*the things that are*

made") and properly conclude that it must have been made by a powerful Being that is superior to mankind. Who is that Being? God. The Bible says, "*The heavens declare the glory of God*" (Psalm 19:1). It is as if the heavens scream out to all who view them that they were created by God.

GOD'S UNIQUENESS -THERE IS ONLY ONE

While a person that observes the universe can come to the correct conclusion that there must have been a God that created all things, one cannot fully understand the God of heaven without turning to the Bible. The Bible gives us the only fully accurate information about our Creator.

In plain terms the Bible says, ". . . *there is but one God*" (1 Corinthians 8:6). God described His uniqueness this way: "*I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God*" (Isaiah 44:6). While men may bow down before and worship many things that they call "God," this truth is clear: there is only one true God, and He is not an idol or any other man-made object.

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES – WHAT HE'S LIKE

The Bible portrays God as an infinite, perfect Being. To say that He is infinite means that in every aspect of His being, He is not subject to any limitation. Concerning His perfection, the Bible says, "*For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth*" (Psalm 33:4). This simply means that all that God says and does is right. That is what we call perfection!

In what other ways does the Bible describe the nature of God? Consider these characteristics or attributes that the Bible says He possesses:

He is *eternal* – God had no beginning and will have no end. ". . . *even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God*" (Psalm 90:2).

He is the *self-existent Creator* – He does not depend on any other being for His existence. As Creator, He was before all and created all. "*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth,*

dwelleth not in temples made with hands . . . as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things” (Acts 17:24,25).

He is a **spiritual Being** – He is not flesh and bones like humans, nor is He a material object. *“God is a spirit”* (John 4:24).

He is **unchanging** – In every era God’s nature has been the same, and always will be. *“For I am the LORD, I change not”* (Malachi 3:6).

He is **all-powerful** (“omnipotent”) – He can do anything that is capable of being done and that is in harmony with His nature. He is called *“the Almighty God”* (Genesis 17:1), *“For with God nothing shall be impossible”* (Luke 1:37).

He is **all-knowing** (“omniscient”) – God knows everything, including what has already happened, what is taking place at the present, and all that will transpire in the future. *“. . . his understanding is infinite”* (Psalm 145:7). He truly *“knoweth all things”* (1 John 3:20).

He is **present everywhere** at once (“omnipresent”) in that He is not limited to place or time – *“Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD”* (Jeremiah 23:24).

He is **holy** – God is above all that He created, and at the same time He is totally separated from that which is morally evil. *“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts”* (Isaiah 6:3).

He is **righteous** or **just** – God always does what is right and in harmony with His perfect will. According to that will His judgments are always just in that He blesses those that should be blessed and punishes those that should be punished. *“The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works”* (Psalm 145:17).

He is **impartial** – God shows no favoritism and is totally fair and unbiased in His dealings with mankind. *“. . . God is no respecter of persons [‘shows no partiality,’ NKJV]”* (Acts 10:34).

He is **faithful** – God is always true to His perfect character and always fulfills that which He promises. *“God is faithful”* (1 Corinthians 1:9), and thus He is *“the faithful God”* (Deuteronomy 7:9).

He is both **good** and **severe** – God is loving, kind, and merciful. *“God is love”* (1 John 4:8), and *“The LORD is good to all”* (Psalm 145:9). The Bible also says, *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God”* (Romans 11:22). Because of God’s justice, He cannot tolerate sin, and His severity will cause Him to punish man’s rebellion against His will.

GOD’S COMMUNICATION WITH MAN

God speaks to mankind today through the message of His word, the Bible. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable . . .”* (2 Timothy 3:16). It is through the gospel (“good news”) message that God calls men to Jesus to be saved by His eternal plan (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

GOD’S CONCERN FOR US

God cares about each person that lives on the earth, including you and me (1 Peter 5:7). He provides rain and sunshine for all people, regardless of whether they are righteous or unrighteous (Matthew 5:45). God showed His great love for all of us when He sacrificed His Son Jesus in order that we might be saved. *“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him . . . The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world”* (1 John 4:9,14). God’s grace makes our salvation possible because He does not want even one single person to be lost (2 Peter 3:9).

It is wonderful that the Bible reveals the perfect God of heaven to us. All of us have the responsibility to learn His will that is recorded in the Bible, then live our lives according to it. May each of us take this matter seriously.

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