

**WHO IS GOD?
WHAT IS HE LIKE?
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. That God is, I have no doubt! I believe and accept to the fullest the importance of what Heb.11:6 says.
2. I also believe it is one thing to accept that God is and another to know the truth about **WHO** God is!
3. It is equally important that we believe that God exists and that we know the truth about **WHO** God is.
4. Our answer to the question of who God is determines the answer to so many related questions about who we are, what life is all about, what our place is in the universe, and what our eternal destiny will be.
5. What is the one and only infallible source we have to answer our question: Who is God?
 - a. Scientific method, or the methods of human science, on its own contributes little or nothing to our knowledge of who God is; in fact, by that method alone, we cannot know who God is.
 - b. What we can learn about who God is from the physical universe we see is very limited.
 - c. The Bible is the one and only infallible source from which to learn who God is.
6. From the Bible we learn the following things about who God is.

II. DISCUSSION

A. GOD IS CREATOR

1. God is the creator of the heaven and the earth and all things therein, including angel beings and human beings, Gen.1,2; Psa.148:1-5; Eccl.12:1; Mk.10:6.
2. The first and most notable identifying mark of God is his separation from, and ultimate authority over, his creation.
3. God is not **IN** nature, and even the most impressive natural phenomena are but reflections of God's greatness as creator.

4. The technical term for this divine separateness from creation is “transcendence” – to rise above, to go beyond; to surpass; to excel.
 - a. His transcendence, however, does not cut him off from his creation.
 - b. Rather than remaining in isolation from his creation, God balances transcendence with a special form of “immanence” that allows him to relate to his creation.
 - c. From the absolute otherness of his transcendence (the quality of being not the same), the Bible describes God’s dealings, intercourse or correspondence with his creation, which clearly have as their purpose establishing a divine relationship.
5. God, as creator, has not abandoned his creation, leaving it to look after itself, whether it be the universe or the responsible beings occupying the universe.
 - a. Ongoing personal involvement is part of God’s plan.
 - b. He possesses ultimate insight into every phase of his creation’s design, function, and purpose.
 - c. God knows why we are here; what we are to do while we are here; how we are to do it; and where we are headed; he knows who are his and who are not!
 - d. His creation has not escaped from his control despite appearances to the contrary. God has not lost control; nor has he relinquished control to Satan or to evil men!
 - e. God’s plan for his creation will prevail in the end!

B. GOD IS A PERSON.

1. God relates to his creation in a personal way, with personal interest.
2. It is significant that our question is “Who is God?” rather than “What is God?”
 - a. There is a vast difference of meaning between the terms “who” and “what”.
 - b. If in the darkness of the night I hear a noise, some sort of scratching on my front door, I will perhaps ask myself, “What is that?”
 - c. But, on the other hand, if I hear a loud knock on my door, or hear my door bell ring, the question I ask myself will

be different. Then my question no doubt will be: “Who is that?” or “Who could that be at this hour of the night?”

- d. In other words, **WHO** implies a person, with a potential for a relationship.
 - e. So our question: Who is God? Implies a person.
 - f. Moreover, the Bible reveals that God, the Father, is one of the three beings of the Godhead, which consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Various passages attest.)
3. God, according to the Bible, possesses personhood, and is the source of all personhood, including our own.
- a. God is true spirit, Jno.4:24.
 - b. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2Cor.1:3.
 - c. He is the God of all living, Mal.2:10; Mt.22:23.
 - d. He is the Father of our spirits and we are made in his image and his likeness, Heb.12:9; Gen.1:26,27.
4. Key attributes of personhood, whether it be divine or human, include the will, individuality, a sense of differentiation (the formation or discrimination of differences or varieties; or the assignment of a specific agency to the discharge of a specific function), and the capacity to form relationships.
- a. The Bible attributes these to God, and repeatedly records examples of human interaction with God in relational terms (referring to some particular relation or relationships).
 - b. No part of the Bible is free from the language of such relationships with God.
 - (1) It dominates of books of Moses, the Psalms, the Prophets, the N.T. letters, and especially the teaching of Jesus while on earth.
 - c. The God of the Bible intends to relate to his creation, especially to man, the pinnacle of his creation!
5. Furthermore, God takes the initiative in establishing life-changing relationships.
- a. The Bible depicts God through the ages approaching people directly and indirectly to provoke a relationship.
 - b. Though God takes the initiative, he never has, and does not now, overwhelm or neutralize the personhood of those with whom he relates, reducing them from **subjects** of his will to **objects** of his power!

- c. All subjects of God's will retain their own identity, their own individuality, and, most importantly, their freedom of will to enter, continue, or to end their relationship with God.
- d. In spite of God being the creator and man the created, and subject to the creator's will, man is still a free-moral agent!

C. GOD IS JUDGE, Jno.5:22,26,27;Ac.17:30,31; Rom.2:1-11,16.

1. The task of judges is to decide whether the conduct of free humans is lawful.
2. Judges are only needed where there is law, and where subjects have both freedom and choice.
3. According to the Bible, God is both lawgiver and judge.
 - a. This unusual combination signals that there is a moral center to the universe, a universal standard of right and wrong, the knowledge of which has been communicated to creation by the creator.
 - b. As free creatures with power of choice, we are held responsible for our choices and our consequent conduct.
 - c. According to the Bible, God, the lawgiver and judge, will judge us by his law for the use we make of our freedom to choose to believe and obey him or to reject him in unbelief and disobedience – in other words, whether or not we relate to him in the proper way.
4. Moreover, unlike human judges, whose knowledge of both the law and the human conduct of the one on trial may be incomplete, the God of the Bible has complete, perfect, infallible knowledge of both spheres.
 - a. God, as our righteous judge, has no need for eyewitness testimony or of high-tech forensic evidence to help him reach a judgment.
 - b. Nor is there any possibility of error or mistake of any kind in his judgment, since he knows all.
 - c. Neither is he ever subject to the possibility of bias or corruption in his judgment since he cannot lie or sin in any way.

- d. He therefore is the only judge whose judgments are completely true and just at all times and in all cases, and for which there is no higher court of appeal.

D. ALSO, GOD IS LOVE, 1Jno.4:8,16.

1. John says “God is love,” a statement of fact because:
 - a. Love originates with God.
 - b. He is the very essence of love; love is the essence of his being.
 - c. Love is a characteristic of his nature.
2. The ultimate fact of this is ultimately manifested in what he has done for sinful man in and through his Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

E. THIS BRINGS US TO OUR FINAL QUESTION OF WHO GOD IS AND HOW HE RELATES TO US, WHICH IS THIS: WHY IS JESUS SO IMPORTANT?

1. Though no man has or can see God, who is true spirit and invisible, Jesus Christ, who was “God with us,” God in the flesh, the only begotten Son of God, “hath declared him,” Jno.1:18.
 - a. “To unfold in teaching; to declare by making known.”
 - b. Literally, “Interpreted” him, and so enabled man to come to a full and complete knowledge of the Father, and to become fully acquainted with his purposes and plans.”
2. Jesus Christ is the imprint, the “express image” of the Father, Heb.1:3.
 - a. Through Jesus we see and know the Father, Jno.14:6-9.
3. Jesus Christ was and is the final, ultimate, undeniable proof that God is, who he is, and how he relates to us as Creator, Savior, Judge, and a God of love.
 - a. If Jesus as a person exists, and he does, then so does God; for God is the Father of Jesus and the One who sent Jesus.
 - b. If Jesus is our Savior and Judge, and the Creator of all things, and he is, then so is God; for God is our Savior and our Judge by means of Jesus Christ, and he made the

worlds, or created all things by Jesus Christ, Col.1:16;
Heb.1:2; Jno.1:1,2; Gen.1:1,26,27.

4. The sending of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save sinners, which was the only way God could be just and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus, manifested God's love and grace and proved his own existence. For if there is one sent, there must be a sender!
 - a. Jesus is the one sent. God sent him. Therefore God is!
5. This sums up the reasons why Jesus is so important, Rom.3:9-26; Ac.4:10-12; 2:21,36-38,40,41.

III. CONCLUSION

1. At the 2nd Coming and the final judgment, on what will our judgment be based?
 - a. Negatively:--
 - b. Positively:--