

Following Jesus By Ps. M. Vargas

The Biblical Teaching of God Part 1. The Nature and Character of God.

God is the Creator. He is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. God is the true definition of perfection, purity and complete love. His attributes, nature and character is described as love. He is all powerful, all knowing, all seeing. He is kind, merciful, just and righteous. He is the also the judge of the universe before whom all men will be held accountable.

There are only two religions in the world. An old pastor and a young intellectual were discussing religion and God one day. The young man said to the old man, “You know there are many different religions in the world today. How do you know which one is right?” The old preacher responded, “There is only two religions in the world today.” The young man was surprised and responded, “How can that be?” The old man continued, “There is only two religions today. They are, “Man’s imagination and God’s revelation.” Every religion falls into one or the other category. Because God is infinite and man is finite, man cannot by himself understand who God really is. That is why God has chosen to reveal Himself to man. This is called revelation.

The Biblical World View

Creation is the very first Statement of the Bible. We are to view the world through this understanding. It is the only true and real world view. God has created us and sustains us. The creatorship of God is the only true world view. Everything else is phony.

The beginning of all things begin with the Beginner – God. Neither did the earth or man evolve from lower creatures or substances. What we believe about the world’s origin’s effects how we act in the world in which we live. If we belief there is no absolute Supreme Being who created the world then we are left up to man as the sole ruler of the universe. If there is no Creator then there is no judge of whom we are accountable. Man is left up to himself in deciding what is right and wrong. Inner conscience is contaminated with self-ruler-ship and man does what he believes is right in his own eyes. Man’s rebellion against an all-seeing, all-knowing, and all powerful God has landed us into this immoral and dangerous world we have today. The pages of sacred and secular history chronicles the depressing human story of man’s rogue rebellion against God’s ruler-ship. The heartbeat of sinful man has brought bloodshed, war, rape, and inhumanity to a once perfect world created for the peace and pleasure of the created.

Focusing on the Revelation of God about Himself.

Our Study will focus on God's revelation about himself, the world and the problem of sin, and salvation as it is revealed in His book, the Holy Bible. We will examine what the scriptures say about God, creation, Christ, the fall, the restoration, salvation, death, eternal life, etc. as it is outlined in the Bible itself. We will first begin with God.

God

A little girls once asked me, "Where did God come from; who made Him? Does He have parents?" I smiled and answered, "He didn't come from anyone – that is what makes Him God." This study reveals the nature, character and the existence of God as outline in the Holy Scriptures. We will begin first to answer the question, "What makes God – God?"

What Makes God – God?

-God is the Creator:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Note: Our first introduction to God is that He is the Creator of the universe. The first sentence of the first book of the Bible, Genesis which means *beginnings* describes, God creating the heavens and the earth. The Supreme Being of the universe – God - is introduced as the Creator. This is what makes Him God. Notice also the following Texts.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now **thy Creator** in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the **everlasting God**, the **LORD, the Creator** of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the **Creator**, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

1Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a **faithful Creator**.

Note: The First introduction of God is that He is Creator. This is a statement of reality and fact. The title of God – Elohim- is in the Hebrew plural form. God is not singular but plural. God has not only made the world and the universe but He sustains all things.

- God is Sustainer:

Acts 17:28 For in Him **we live, and move, and have our being**; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Note: Paul declared to the Greeks who were worshiping the “Unknown God” that He was the one who gave and sustained their life. In Him we live – He sustains our life. We move – we function because of Him. We have our being – we exist because of Him.

God is Eternal, Everlasting, and Uncreated

- God is Eternal – Yahweh.

Deuteronomy 33:27 The **eternal God** is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you.

Note: “I AM that I AM” means **I exist because I exist**. God is self-existing. No one made Him.

- God is Everlasting:

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the **everlasting God**, the LORD, **the Creator** of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

God has no end. He had no beginning and he will have no end.

- God is Uncreated:

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his **redeemer** the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and **beside me there is no God**.

Note: No one made God. He has always existed. He was never created. He always was. That is what makes Him God.

- God is a Spirit:

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

πνευμα ο θεος και τους προσκυνουντας αυτον εν πνευματι και αληθεια δει προσκυνειν

No man can see His face.

God is invisible to Human Beings. (1Ti 1:17). Since we are mortal sinful creatures we would die if we saw him. He is so pure that our flesh would die instantly upon seeing him. As God said, “No one can see my face and live.” (Ex 33:20). John also states “No man has seen the father.” (John 1:18)

John 1:18 **No man hath seen God at any time;** the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

God is Perfect:

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Note: As humans we are to be mature – to grow and to be developed. We are to be perfect in our sphere as God is perfect in His sphere.

Stages of perfect for the created:

Isaiah 18:5 For afore the harvest, when the **bud is perfect**, and the sour grape is **ripening** in the flower, he shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches.

God is absolute Perfection. There is no need of improvement with God. He is the source of all that is good. He is perfect in knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, in thought and in behavior.

God is Holy:

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Re 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **Holy, holy, holy**, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

God is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Invisible, Immortal and Only Wise God.

The Attributes of God:

Omnipotent: (God is all powerful).

Revelation 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God **omnipotent** reigneth.

Genesis 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the **Almighty God**; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Ezekiel 10:5 And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the **Almighty God** when he speaketh.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of **Almighty God**.

Omniscient: (God knows everything).

1John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and **knoweth all things**.

Job 36:4 For truly my words shall not be false: he that is **perfect in knowledge** is with thee.

Note: God has complete and perfect knowledge of all things. Since He created all things, He knows all things. The entire universe was made and is regulated by Him. He also knows and understands our hearts.

Omnipresent: (He is everywhere at all times).

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Psalm 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

Eternal – Immortal – Invisible – only wise God:

1Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King **eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God**, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen¹.

Note: **Eternal** – meaning He has no beginning or ending. He always existed. **Immortal** means He cannot die. **Invisible** – He is impossible to be seen by sinful man. **Only wise God** means He is all wise and knows what is best for every human being and He rules the universe by his infinite wisdom.

Description of God's Character

God is Love.

1John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; **for God is love.**

1Jo 4:8 ο μη αγαπων ουκ εγνω τον θεον οτι ο θεος αγαπη εστιν

1John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Note: The essence of God's Character is love. If you can actually touch God you would be touching the very essence of love. He is the definition of love. His character traits are those of Love. This does not mean that Love is God. But God is the definition of true love. All His ways, actions, and being, and expressions are rooted and are the true root of love. What He is – is Love.

God is Merciful:

Deuteronomy 4:31 (For the LORD thy God is a **merciful** God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

God is Kind.

Psalm 31:21 Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his **marvellous kindness** in a strong city.

Psalm 117:2 For his **merciful kindness** is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

God is compassionate – gracious – long suffering – mercy – truth:

Psalm 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of **compassion**, and **gracious**, **longsuffering**, and plenteous in **mercy** and **truth**.

God is Forgiving.

Exodus 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

God is Justice and Judge:

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

God cannot Lie:

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which **God, that cannot lie**, promised before the world began;

Note: Since God is truth – He cannot lie. He is the essence of truth. He has no need to lie.

God is Light and there is no Darkness.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is **no darkness at all**.

Note: God has no evil. There is no ill – sin – or evil – or malicious intent in God. All of His actions are pure.

God is not a man.

Number 23:19 **God is not a man**, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Note: God is not a human being and no human being can be God. Humans are not to be worshiped. God doesn't have to lie for He answers to no one.

God is a consuming Fire:

Deuteronomy 4:24 For the LORD thy God is a **consuming fire**, even a jealous God.

Exodus 33:20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Note: All belongs to Him, He cannot share his worship with anyone. All the gods of the nations are worthless, lifeless idols. He is so pure and so bright that no one can see His face and live.

God is eternal, merciful, gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, **The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,**

Note: The Name LORD is the verb, "To be" it is when God announced to Moses, "I Am that I Am." Tell them, "I Am" sent you. It means I exist because I exist. I am the self-existing - eternal one.

God's Ways are Perfect:

Psalm 18:30 As for God, **his way is perfect:** the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

God's ways are above our ways:

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

God is Savior:

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no **saviour.**

2 Samuel 22:3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

Isa 25:9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

God is Redeemer:

Isa 47:4 As for our **redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name,** the Holy One of Israel.

Ps 69:18 Draw nigh unto my soul, and **redeem it: deliver me** because of mine enemies. Ps 25:22 **Redeem** Israel, O God, **out of all his troubles**.

Ps 130:8 And he shall **redeem Israel from all his iniquities**.

The God who is there - Cares

We must believe that He is there (exists) and that He cares:

Hebrew 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must **believe that he is**, (exist) and that **he is a rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.

God is Caring:

1Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for **He careth for you**.

God knows and cares about your needs:

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for **your heavenly Father** knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

God cares about you – even your hair is numbered:

Matthew 10: 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. 30 But the very hairs of your head are **all numbered**.

Do you believe in God who created the heavens and the earth? Do you believe that He is all-powerful, all knowing and all present? Do you believe He is Love – His very nature is Love? Do you want to have a relationship with God who created you?

How to Witness About God:

1. Live a godly life: Power in person godliness. Be kind, caring and loving toward people.
2. Do not argue about God. Do not argue with others. Arguing destroys your witness.
3. Learn to listen to what people think and believe so you may know how to respond. Sometimes you need to respond right away or argue against their ideas.
4. Be willing to suffer for Christ.
5. People watch your suffering and determine what you really are. The soldier at the cross said of Jesus, "Surely this was a just man."
6. Tell others what he has done specifically in your life.
7. Pray privately for those you want to witness to.
8. Detect Divine opportunities for sharing about God to others.
9. Keep a diary or journal of the things God is doing in your life.
10. Learn to witness about God in a concise – short- straight way.
11. Open your mouth and tell others.
12. Learn the basics of the Bible – restudy this study and have an answer to those who ask about God.
13. Practice witnessing all the time. Be intentional about your witness. Seek ways to reach people and God will open ways up for you to do so.
14. Remember at all times you are Christ's representative on the earth. You are his ambassador in this world. Watch your speech, actions, and demonstrate faith and trust all the time in your private and personal life.

Ephesian 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
