

Lesson 2

The Doctrine of God

Who is God?

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God exists



1. **The fools** say 'there is no God' or invent their own gods
2. The sinful man hates **the holy God**, therefore, rejects God of the Bible
3. God reveals to us through General Revelation: **Creation and Conscience**
4. God reveals to us through Special Revelation: **Christ and Scripture**
5. We don't prove God exists, we believe **by faith**
6. We can know God through obeying **His word**
7. **Eternal life = Know God**

Who is God?



Ancient Greek Mythology –Zeus?

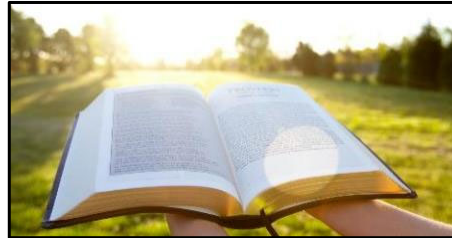
Who is God?



Old man with white hair and white beard?
 Fatherly or Grandpa?
 Always angry and stern?
 One who doesn't care?

We must **know God**

We must know the **True God of the Bible**



We must know **the right things of the True God of the Bible**

Implication

If we do not know the **True God**:

then how can we worship Him in **the right way**?

then how can we truly **believe in Jesus Christ**?

then we are worshipping the wrong god, **we are just idolators**

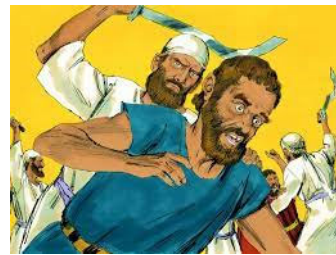
We are damned!



And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “**These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!**” (Exodus 32:4)



The Israelites worshipped the wrong god



3000 men were killed

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question: what is the chief end of man?

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever



For those who desire to know Him and to give Him glory



For those who refuse to know Him, refuse to give Him glory, rebel against Him, God remove them from His presence



Moses: “if the people of Israel asked what is Your name, what shall I say to them?”

I AM WHO I AM
EXODUS 3:14

Who is God?

The God of the Bible



1. God is Living
2. God is The Creator
3. God is Spirit
4. God has Personhood
5. God is One

God is Living

God is not a dead statue



Statue has no life

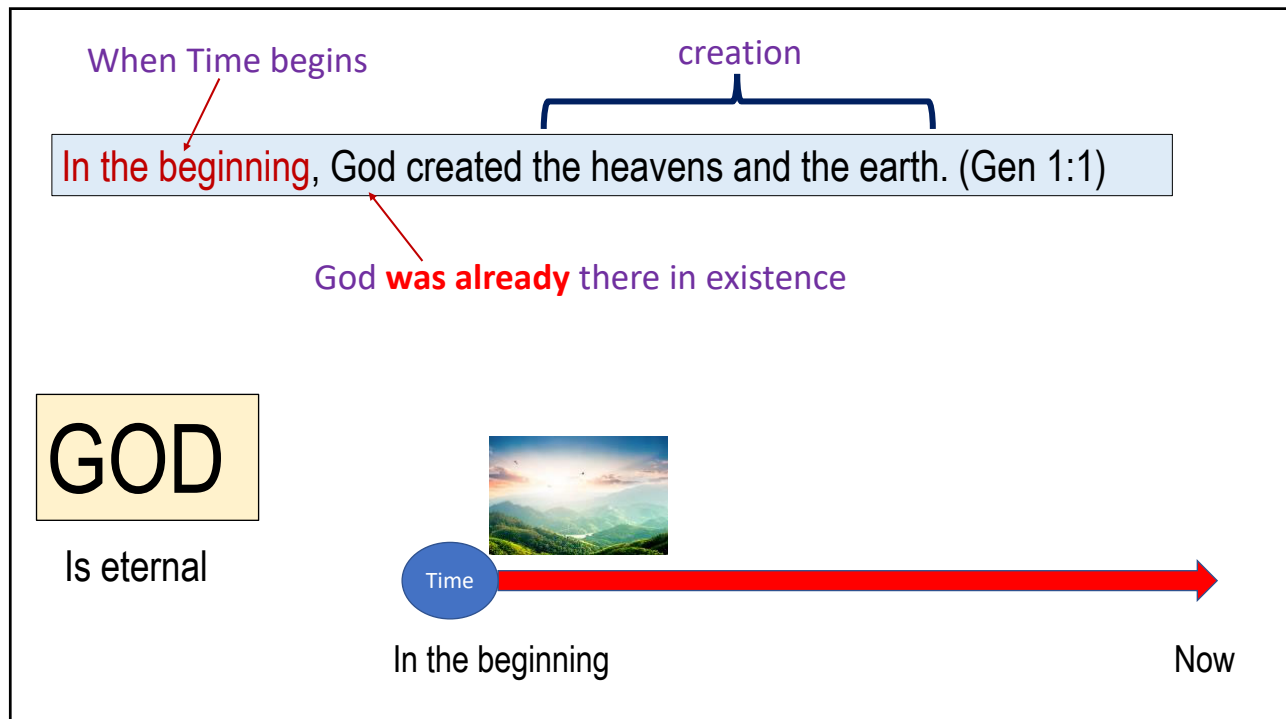
Statue has no response

Statue has no emotions

Statue has no love

When does God exist?

If God creates all things,
who create God?



God exists in all eternity

There is never a time that God did not exist

Before anything else came to be, God is already in existence

God begins all things, no one created God



Present tense



Old Testament

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."(Gen 1:1a)

New Testament

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was **in the beginning** with God.(John 1:1-2)





Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from **everlasting to everlasting** you are God. (Psalm 90:2)

God is before time and beyond time

God is self-existing, continue in existence

But the LORD is **the true God**; **he is the living God** and the **everlasting King**.
At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. (Jer 10:10)



The true and living God will rule and reign

The everlasting King will execute wrath on all who rebel against Him

The false gods or idols

for the customs of the peoples are vanity.
 A tree from the forest is cut down
 and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman.
⁴ They decorate it with silver and gold;
 they fasten it with hammer and nails
 so that **it cannot move**.
⁵ Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field,
 and **they cannot speak**;
 they have to be carried,
 for **they cannot walk**.
 Do not be afraid of them,
 for **they cannot do evil**,
 neither is it in them to do good.” (Jer 10:3-5)



There is none like you, O LORD;
 you are great, and your name is great in might.
⁷ Who would not fear you, O King of the nations?
 For this is your due;
 for among all the wise ones of the nations
 and in all their kingdoms
 there is none like you.
⁸ They are both **stupid and foolish**;
 the instruction of idols is **but wood!**
⁹ Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish,
 and gold from Uphaz.
 They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith;
 their clothing is violet and purple;
 they are all the work of skilled men. (Jer 10:6-9)



Thus shall you say to them: “**The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.**” (Jer 10:11)



Every man is stupid and without knowledge;
every goldsmith is put to shame by **his idols**,
for his images are **false**,
and there is **no breath** in them.

¹⁵ They are **worthless**, a work of **delusion**;
at the time of their punishment they shall perish. (Jer 10:14-15)



Children sacrifice to Molech, the Canaanite god
To appease the god

God is Living

God does not come from any external source

God does not need anything to sustain Himself

All other beings have their source of life in God



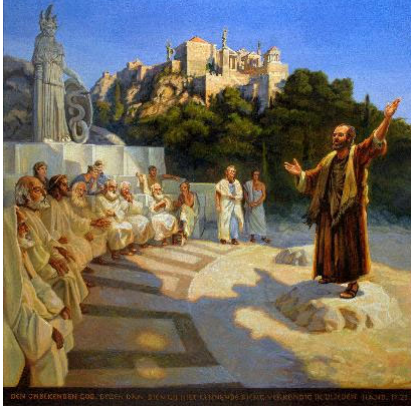
All creation

then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life**, and the man became a living creature. (Gen 2:7)



The living God brings life

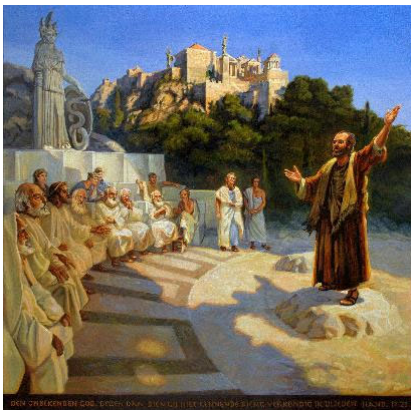
Paul in Athens



“the unknown god”

For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: **‘To the unknown god.’** What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since **he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.** ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, (Acts 17:23-27)

Paul in Athens



“the unknown god”

“In him **we live and move and have our being**’
(Acts 17:28)

God is characterized by life; Eternal

God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’” (Ex 3:14)

“I am” means “**He is a living God**”

Bible declares God is, **God exist, God is everlasting**



- “I am the bread of life” (6:35)
- “I am the light of the world” (8:12; 9:5)
- “I am the door” (10:7,9)
- “I am the good shepherd” (10:11,14)
- “I am the resurrection and the life” (11:25)
- “I am the way, the truth and the life” (14:6)
- “I am the true vine” (15:1)

Jesus asked His disciples

He said to them...

**But who
do you
say that
I am?**

Matthew 16-15

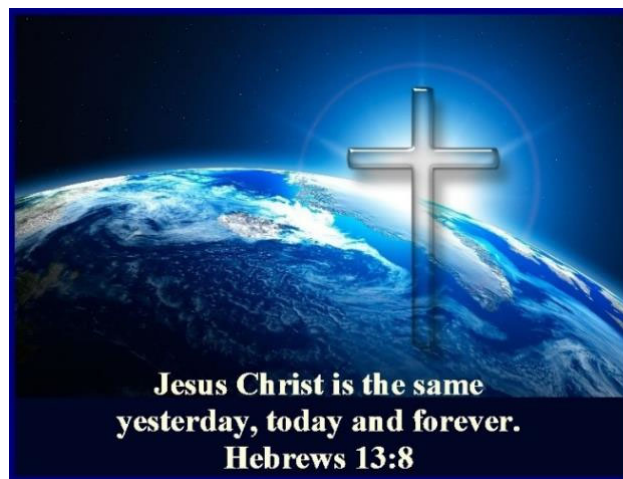
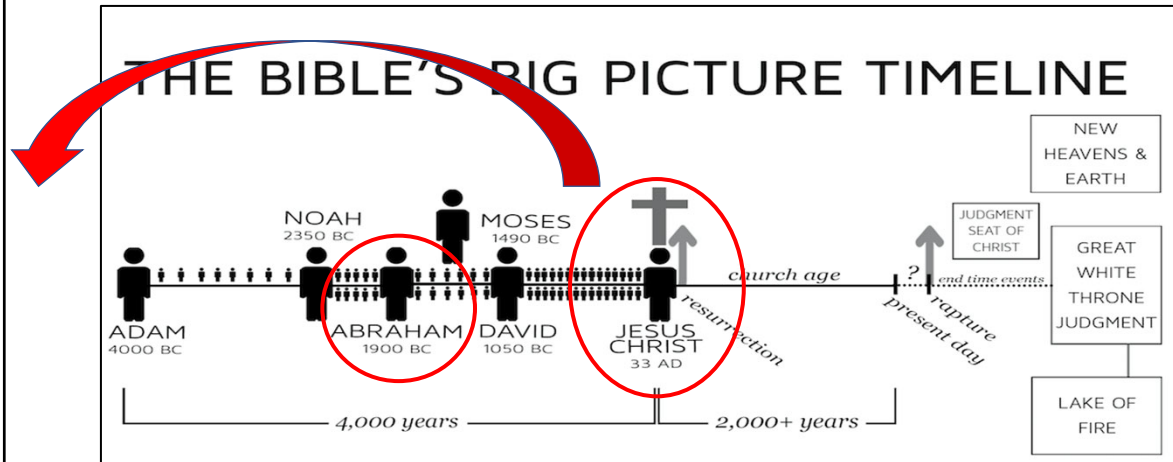


Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” (Mat 16:16)

And Jesus answered him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.** (Mat 16:17)

Jesus transcends time

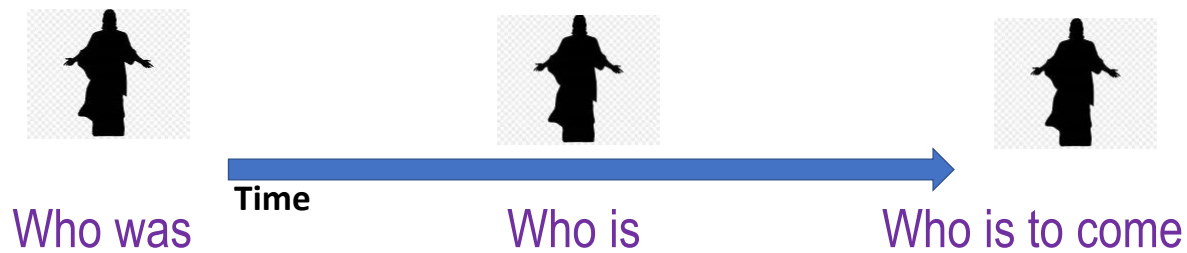
Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**" (John 8:58)



The unchangeable and eternal God

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "**who is and who was and who is to come**, the Almighty." (Rev 1:8)

God is self-existing, continue in existence



Application

God lives forever, therefore **we live forever**

God is living, therefore we ought **to glorify Him**

God gives us life and choose to have fellowship with us, therefore we ought to **have fellowship with Him**

We have **a living hope** because of The Living God



God is The Creator

Evolution

Nothing



Nothing

=

Everything



Bible

Creatio ex nihilo ([Latin](#) for "creation out of nothing")

GOD



Nothing

=



Everything



When What Space Matter

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen 1:1)

Who

New Testament



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)

I made the earth
and **created man** on it;
it was my hands that **stretched out the heavens**,
and **I commanded** all their host.(Isaiah 45:12)



God The Creator made it all

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the **LORD made the heavens**. (1 Chronicles 16:26)



The True God creates all things, all the heavens

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for **you created all things**,
and by your will **they existed** and **were created.**”(Rev 4:11)

Heavenly praise to God for His work of creation

We have to worship God as He is, The Creator
We have to give Him glory
We have to give Him honour
We have to praise His power

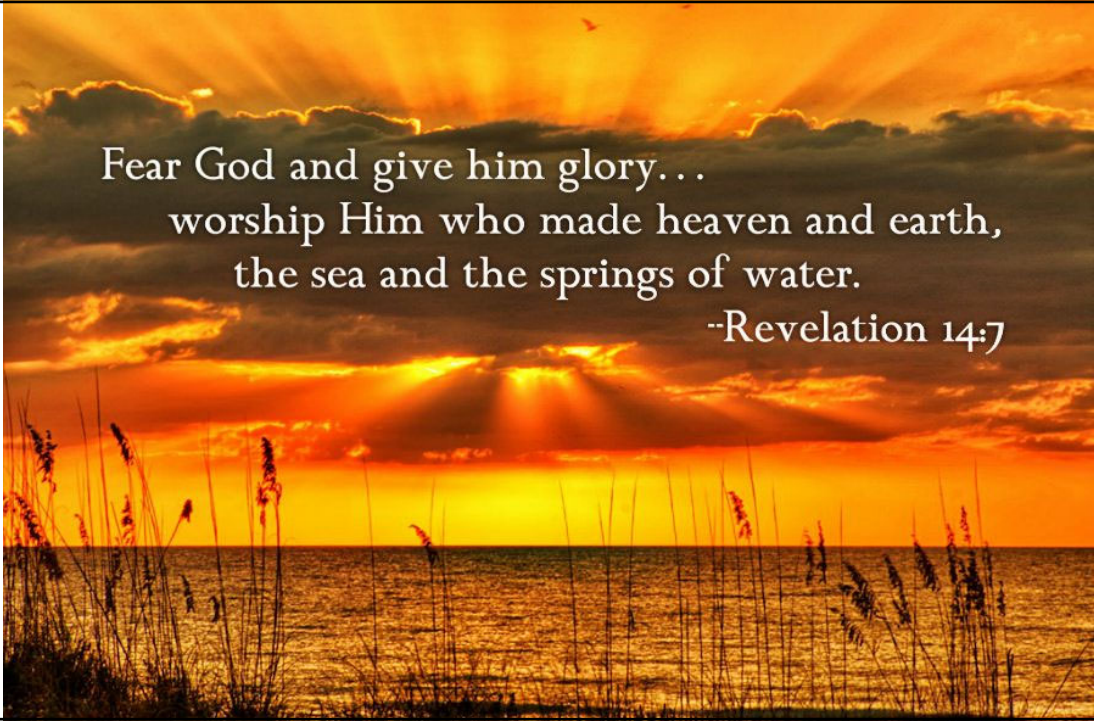


“And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven ⁶and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who **created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it**, that there would be no more delay, (Rev 10:5-6)



The book of Revelation is full of praise to The God of all creation

Fear God and give him glory...
worship Him who made heaven and earth,
the sea and the springs of water.
--Revelation 14:7



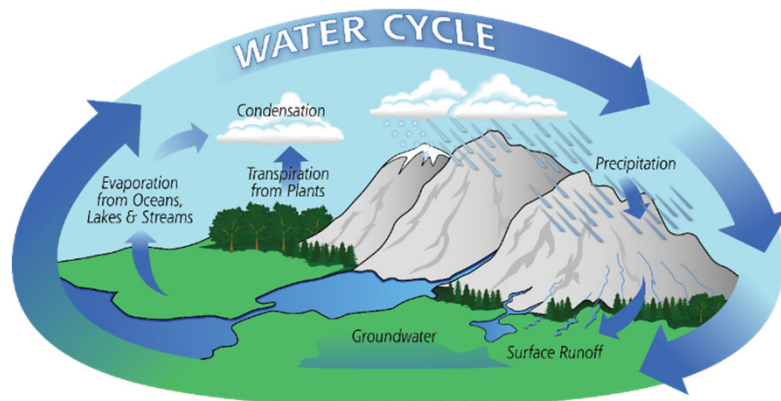
He stretches out the north over the void
and hangs the earth on nothing. (Job 26:7)



The Bible is not a Science book.
The Bible is the Truth from the True Creator.

For he draws up the drops of water;
 they distill his mist in rain,
²⁸ which the skies pour down
 and drop on mankind abundantly. (Job 36:27-28)

Evaporation
Condensation
Precipitation

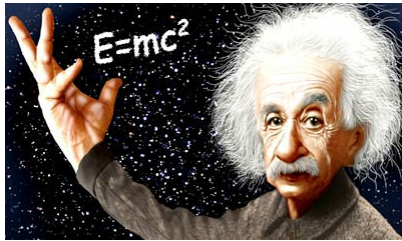


Does Science disprove God?

NO



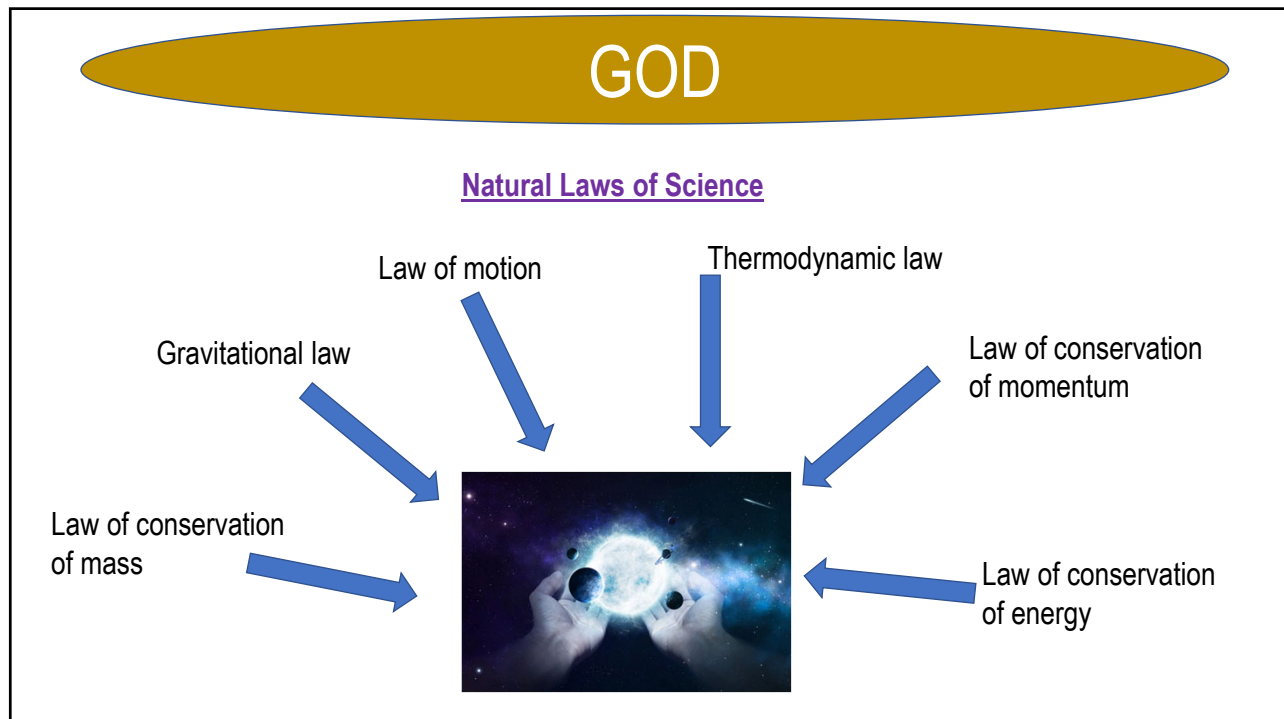
Isaac Newton *discovered* (*did Not create*) gravity



$$E = mc^2$$

energy mass squared
speed of light
(constant)

Albert Einstein **did not create the speed of light**



For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Col 1:16-17)



God creates and God sustains

The earth rotates about 1000 miles per hour, *if the earth stop spinning*, everything will fly out, moving rocks and oceans will trigger earthquake and tsunamis

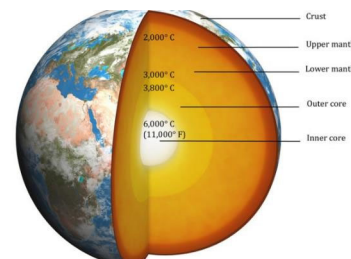
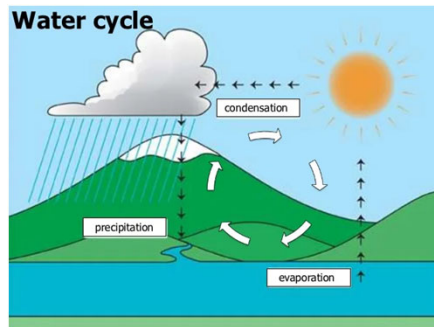
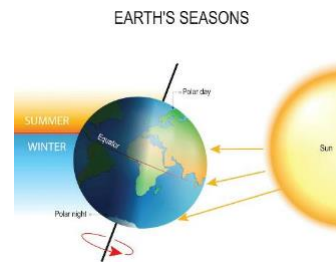


If the sun *moves nearer* to the earth, glaciers would melt, rise in sea levels, whole planet will be flooded. The heat will also burn all of us.

If the sun *moves further*, we will all freeze to death



If the earth is not tilted 23.5 deg, there would be no 4 seasons



But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” (John 5:17)



- The world exists in God’s plan
- The world will be sustained at God’s command
- The world will be destroyed at God’s timing

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!** (2 Pet 3:11-12)

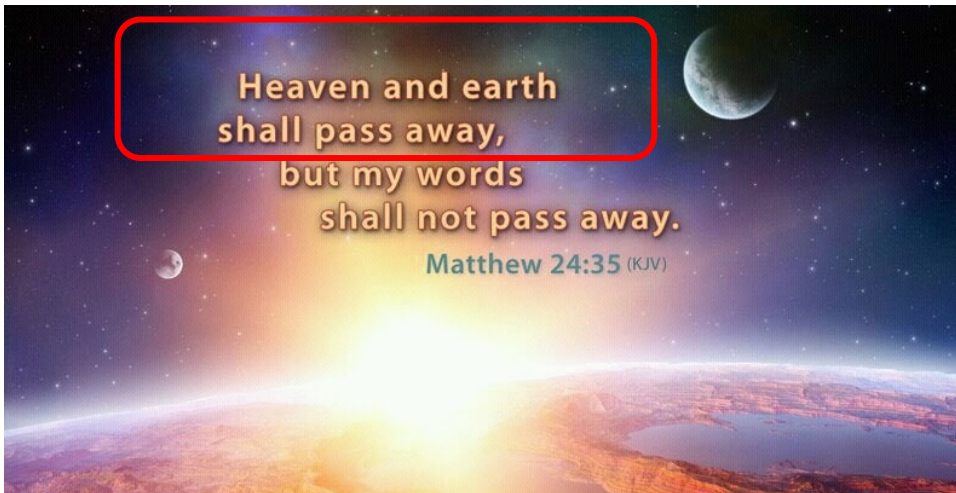


God created, God sustains and God will destroy

No one, no matter what he does or does not do, will derail God's plan

Heaven and earth
shall pass away,
but my words
shall not pass away.

Matthew 24:35 (KJV)





New Heaven and New Earth

Application

By faith we understand that the universe was **created by the word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (Heb 11:3)

Do we trust God's words?

Do we believe what He says is exactly how it happened?

Is our faith placed in God or placed in human reasons?

God is Spirit

God is Spirit

Not composed of matter or physical nature
Not limited to particular geographical or spatial location
Not destructible, like material does

Transcends

Time



Space

Matter

God is Spirit

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1:18)

Invisible to our human eyes



God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

Spiritually connects to God

God is Spirit

See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” (Luke 24:39)

The definition of spirit: no flesh and bones



God is Spirit

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, **does not live in temples made by man**, (Acts 17:24)

The Spirit is beyond all human made houses or dwellings



God is Spirit

To the King of the ages, **immortal, invisible**, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Tim 1:17)

God is immortal and invisible



God is Spirit

Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, **whom no one has ever seen or can see.** To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Tim 6:15-16)

God cannot be seen by our human eyes, or we will instantly disintegrate by His glorious majesty

BUT HE ADDED, "YOU
CANNOT SEE MY FACE,
FOR NO ONE CAN SEE ME
AND LIVE."
— EXODUS 33:20



Healed the blind



Fed 5000 men



Raised Lazarus

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? (John 14:8)



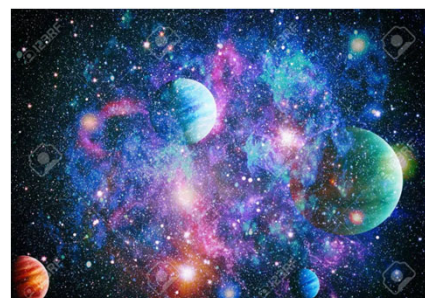
Application

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Heb 11:6)

God's existence is to be affirmed by faith

The true believer must believe God exists

Not by sight. Sight is one of the lowest form of proof



God has Personhood

God is a Person

God is an individual being, with self-consciousness and will, capable of feeling, choosing and having a reciprocal relationship with other personal beings

Then God said, "Let us make man in our **image**, after our **likeness**. (Gen 1:26a)



Adam and Eve had consciousness, will, feeling, choosing etc

God talked to Adam and Eve



All parts of our humanity are corrupted



God drove Adam and Eve out of His presence

God is a Person

In the Bible, God is described as our Father, a relationship with His children

The relationship: warmth, understanding, loving, good, can be approached, spoken to, speaks forth

God is a living and reciprocating being, not a 'machine, computer, department' or a force



The Grace of The Triune God

God The Father	God The Son	God The Holy Spirit
Love and Grace	Love and Obey	Love and Apply
Will and Plan	Fulfilled	Activate
Chose and Predestined the elects	Died and Resurrected	Regenerates and Sanctifies

God is a Person

God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Ex 3:14)

God has a name

God is not an abstract, unknowable being or nameless force

The Hebrews considered the name is the embodiment of the person bearing it

God is a Person

“You shall not take the **name** of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes **his name** in vain. (Ex 20:7)

God's name must be treated respectfully.

God is a Person

The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him **the name of my God**, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and **my own new name**. (Rev 2:12)



Application

God is a Person and has personal relationship with us

God is our heavenly Father, whom we can go to

God is living in us

We ought to love Him and serve Him, with reverence and exclusively as the supreme Being above all things



God is One

There is One God

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, **the LORD is one**.⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (Deut 6:4-6)

God declared the Oneness and Exclusivity of One God

There is One God

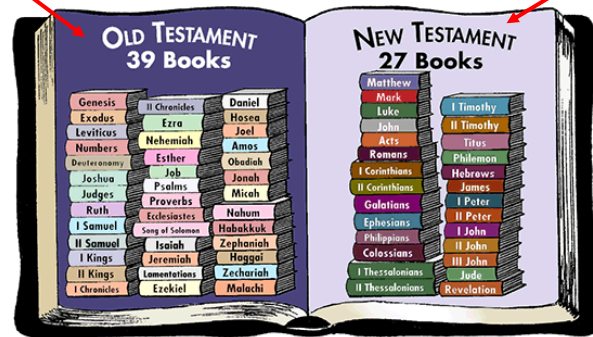
²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, **the Lord is one**.³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ (Mark 12:29-30)

Jesus declared the Oneness and Exclusivity of **One God**

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to give total allegiance with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength to the **one true God**.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (Deut 6:4)

‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (Mark 12:29b)



There is only **one** God, not three different gods, not many gods

“there is no God but one.” (1 Cor 8:4b)

You believe that God is one; you do well. (James 2:19a)

There is only one God, not three different gods

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Tim 2:5)

Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion

For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, **from whom are all things and for whom we exist**, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, **through whom are all things and through whom we exist**. (1 Cor 8:5-6)

Father: from whom are all things

Jesus: through whom are all things

Father: for whom we exist

Jesus: through whom we exist

Jesus is God

"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

Jesus claimed absolute equality with God, yet at the same time affirm there is but One God

When God reveals that He is One, so what does it mean to us?

This means we can only worship the **ONLY ONE TRUE GOD**

God wants us to worship Him and Him only



³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, (Exodus 20:3-5)

for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose **name is Jealous**, is a jealous God, (Exodus 34:14)

God is jealous.

God is jealous for His own honour, His own praise

God has no competition and does not allow any

God demands glory from all His creatures for Himself only.

Why? **Because He is God**

Jealous: → You have something that I don't have, and I want what you have

Jealous: → You are mine and I tolerate no one else to take over my place



I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory **I give to no other,**
nor my praise to carved idols. (Isaiah 42:8)

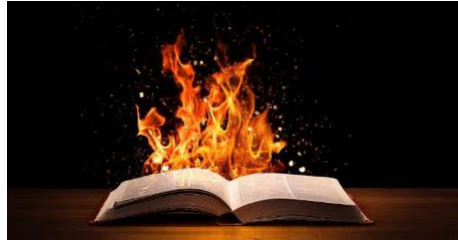
God is jealous for His glory

God is jealous for His love

Those who truly love, jealousy is possible.

Example: husband and wife; boyfriend and girlfriend

For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. (Deut 4:24)



and I will be jealous for my holy name. (Eze 39:25b)

If anyone worship a false god, he is rebelling against the true God, inciting His jealousy

But on that day, the day that Gog shall come against the land of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, my wrath will be roused in my anger. ¹⁹ For **in my jealousy and in my blazing wrath** I declare, On that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. (Eze 38:18-19)

I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Lord GOD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. ²² With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur. ²³ So I will **show my greatness and my holiness** and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD. (Eze 38:21-23)

God tolerates no rivals and rebels

From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (Rev 19:15-16)

God will judge the unrepentant with wrath



God is One, therefore

God has the absolute right to rule over His creatures because He is God

God has sovereign authority for He is the Creator and Source of all things

God determines the standard based on His own will

God has total right to set the principles by which His creation must obey

God is just to judge and punish any creature who violate God's rule.

Summary

1. God is Living
2. God is The Creator
3. God is Spirit
4. God has Personhood
5. God is One



If we truly know God, then can we worship the true God

If we truly know God, then can we build a relationship with the true God

If we truly know God, then can share the true God with others

Next week

The Trinity

Is God one or three?



The God of the Bible

