

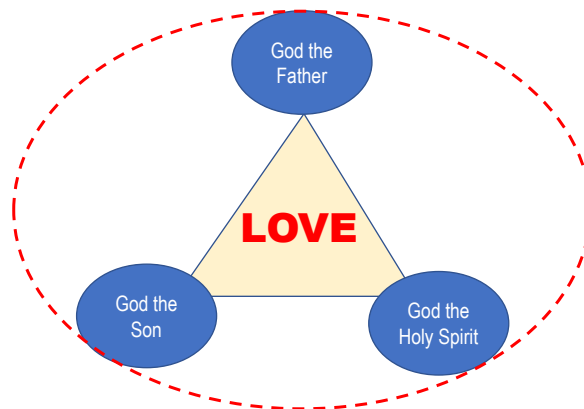
Lesson 4

The Doctrine of God

The Attributes of God

Part A

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Co-equal
Co-existing
Co-eternal

Trinity

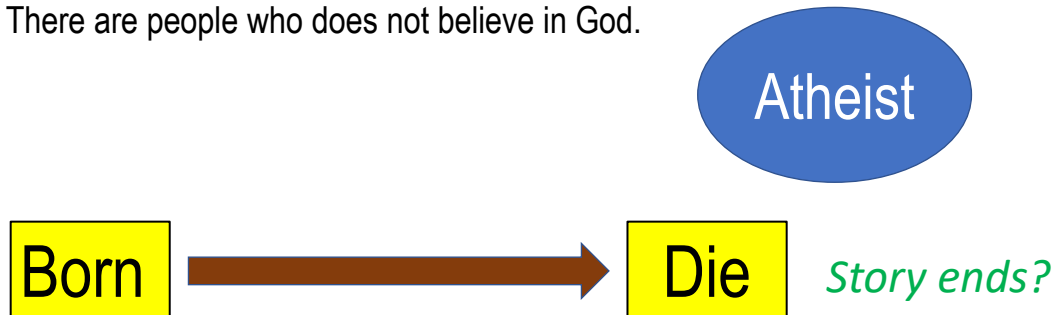


There is One God. One Godhead.

God eternally exists in Three Persons.

Problem 1:

1. There are people who does not believe in God.



- They **HOPE** that God does not exist
- They can **continue** to live the sinful lives they desire

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness** rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things **hates the light** and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (John 3:19-20)



- Unrepentant sinners **continue** to live the sinful lives they desire

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which **you have set in place**, (Psalm 8:3)



The moon and stars declare that God exists and God creates and God sustains

Problem 2:

2. There are people who believe the **wrong things** about God;
They have **misconception** about God.

- They create their own 'god'
- They think their own invention is the 'real God'
- They are worshipping idols, not God



"To the unknown god"

God said:

” you thought that I was one like yourself. “ (Psalm 50:21)



It is a terrible sin if we portray the ‘wrong god’ as the true God



- **“Is there a God?”** - We must tell people there is a God
- **“Who is the real God?”**—We must tell people about the true God of the Bible

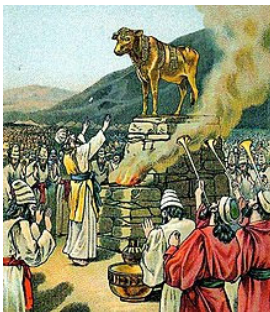
Is there a God?

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly perceived**, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.** (Rom 1:18-20)



Who is the real God?

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God **for images** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Rom 1:21-23)



God **cannot** be described or defined in a material thing



Kissing the sculpture



Kissing the crucifix



Bowing to photos or relics

Summary of Lessons 1-3

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



Attributes of God



Eternal

Infinite

Invisible

Incomprehensible

Immutable

God is eternal

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 eternal



God is eternal



creation

Timeline

Natural world

Plants

Animals

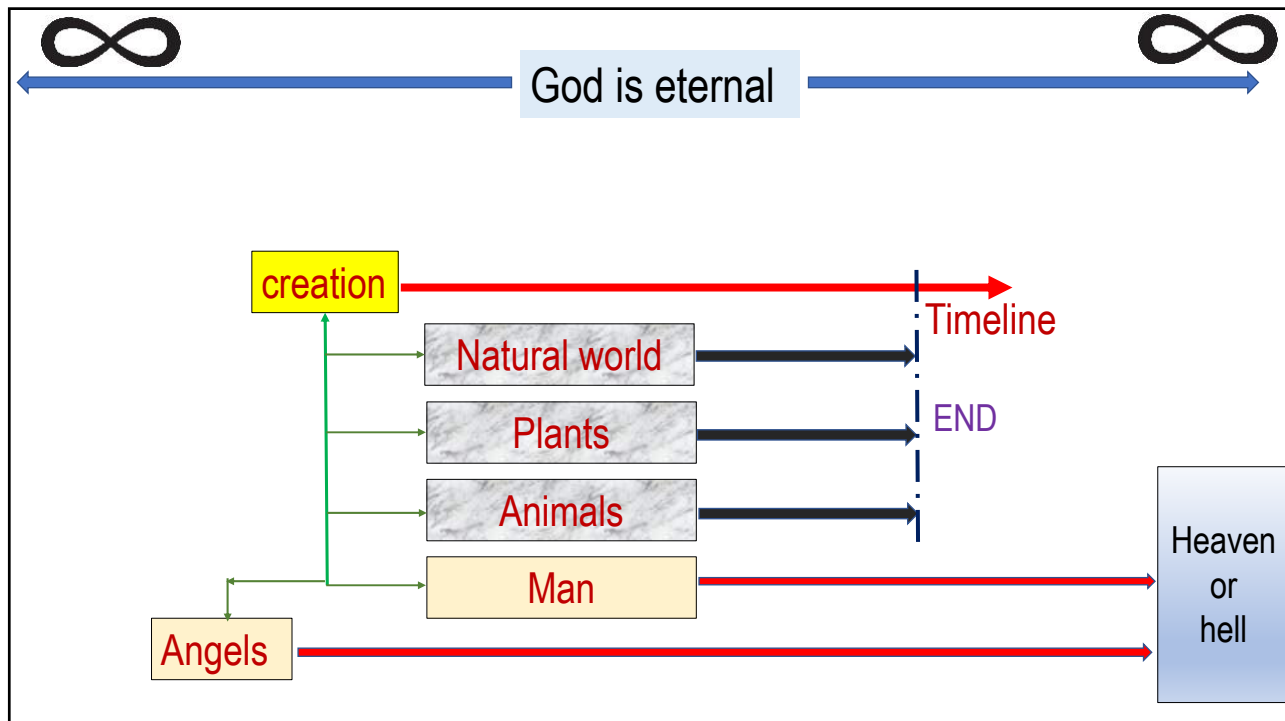
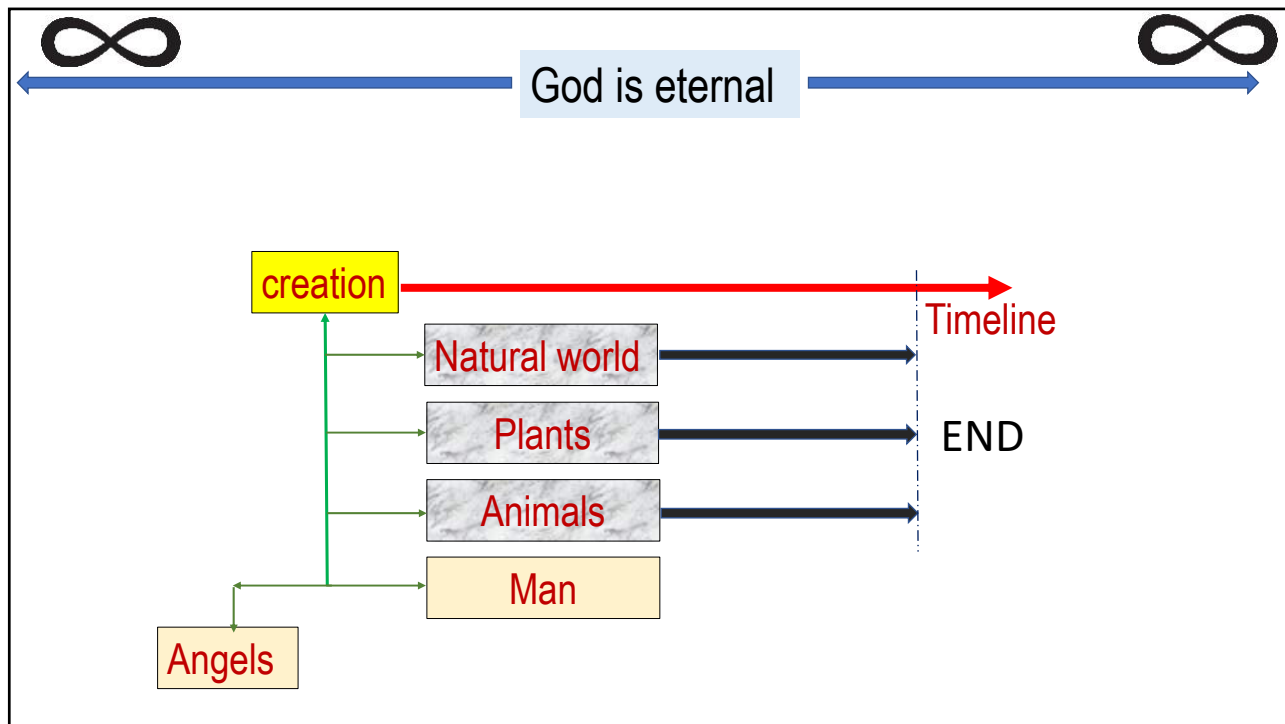
Man

Angels

Time

Space

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

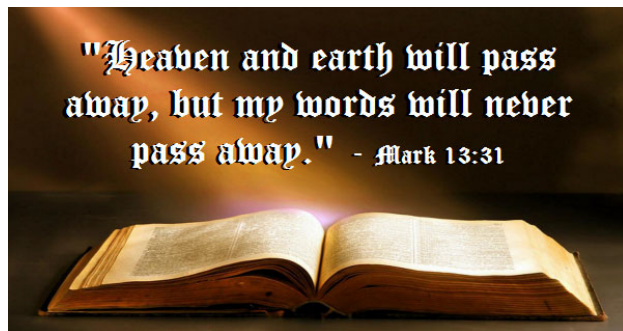




But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be **burned up and dissolved**, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (2 Pet 3:10)



"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." - Mark 13:31



All the host of heaven shall rot away,
and the **skies roll up like a scroll.** (Isaiah 34:4)

¹⁰ And,
“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
¹¹ **they will perish**, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,
¹² like a robe you will **roll them up**,
like a garment **they will be changed.**
But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.” (Heb 1:10-12)



God is eternal

to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 25)

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph 3:31)

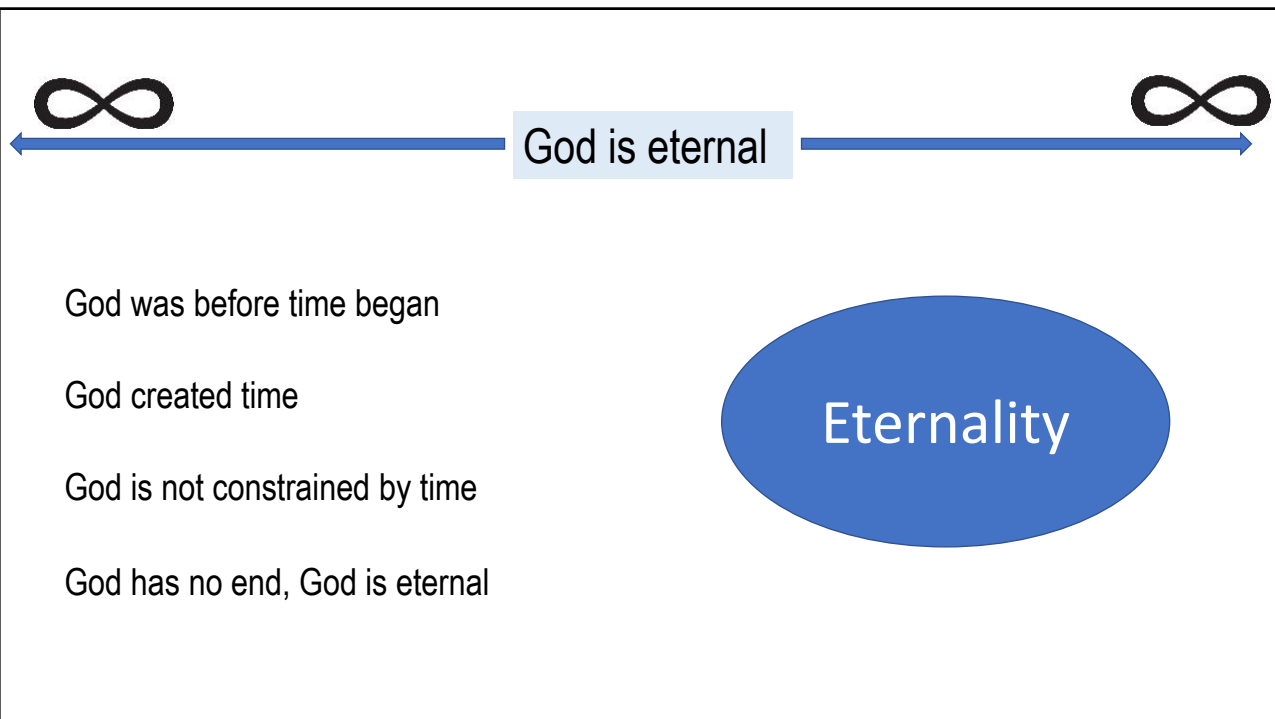
Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last;” besides me there is no god. (Isa 44:6)



Jesus is eternal

"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)

And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. (Rev 21:6a)

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev 22:13)




←————→


God is eternal

The LORD will reign **forever and ever.**" (Exodus 15:18)

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures **forever,**
and his faithfulness to **all generations.** (Psalm 100:5)


God is in control

God loves us forever


Application


←————→


God is eternal



The children of God can feel
secured and loved eternally



The rejecters of God will be
damned eternally

Application



God is eternal



New Heaven and New Earth



Lake of fire and sulfur

God is infinite



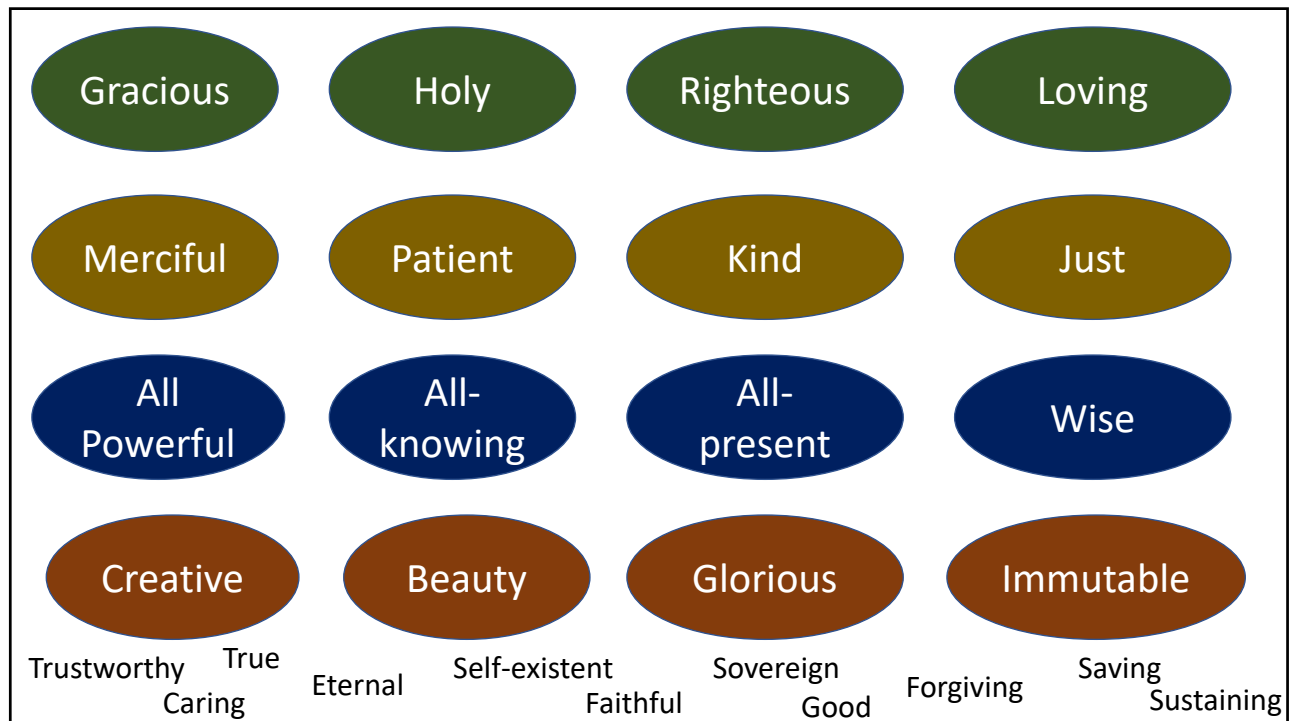
finite

Attributes

Are the true characteristics about God

God has infinite number of attributes

We can only know and discuss those revealed in the Scripture



God is infinite

God is unlimited, boundless

1. Space

God creates space, then space was formed

God is not confined in space

God cannot be localized at a particular point in space; no physical body



God is not represented by statues

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)

God is infinite

Thus says the Lord:

“Heaven is my throne,

and the earth is my footstool;

**what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is the place of my rest? (Isa 66:1)**



“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, **heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you**; how much less this house that I have built! (1 Kings 8:27)

God is infinite



No place where God cannot be found

Immanence of God – God is knowable and perceivable

Transcendence of God – God is outside of humanity's full experience

“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. **Do I not fill heaven and earth?** declares the LORD. (Jer 23:23-24)

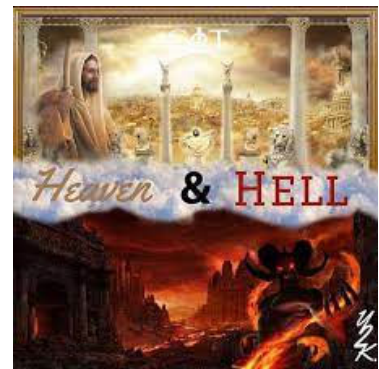
God is infinite

Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, **you are there!**

If I make my bed in Sheol, **you are there!** (PS 139:7-8)



God is infinite

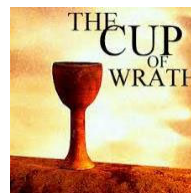
God created heaven and hell; Hell is not created by satan



“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire **prepared** for the devil and his angels. (Mat 25:41)

God is infinite

⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels **and in the presence of the Lamb.**(Rev 14:9-10)



The Lord is present in hell to execute the full brunt of His wrath



Jesus is infinite

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mat 28:19-20)

Jesus is not limited either by space or time



God is infinite

God can be in countless places simultaneously

God does not need to move from one place to another at infinite speed

God simply has access to the whole of the creation at all times

God can hear all prayers at the same time

God has no limitations



Angels can travel fast but cannot be at all places simultaneously

God is infinite

2. God is timeless, does not grow or develop

God has no variations in His nature

God is not progressive, God does not grow in knowledge or become better

God does not need to act or react to unforeseen developments for there is none

God is not caught by surprises or have to formulate contingency plans

ALWAYS PLAN
"A"

God is infinite

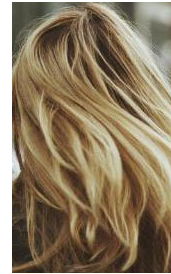
God knows all things

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure. (Ps 147:5)



God is infinite

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (Mat 10:29-30)



God is infinite

God has infinite wisdom

O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. (Ps 104:24)



Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (Rom 11:33)

God is infinite

God has infinite power

"I am **God Almighty** (Gen 17:1)



Is anything too hard for the LORD?(Gen 18:14)

'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! **Nothing is too hard for you.**(Jer 32:17)

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, **but with God all things are possible.**" (Mat 19:26)



Nature



Nature



Judgment



Nature



Material



Life

God is infinite

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. (Ps 115:3)

he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (Eph 1:5)

for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phi 2:13)

God is not bound by any external factors, God is free to make absolute decisions

Can the all-powerful God create a rock too big for Him to carry?



illogical
irrational
foolish

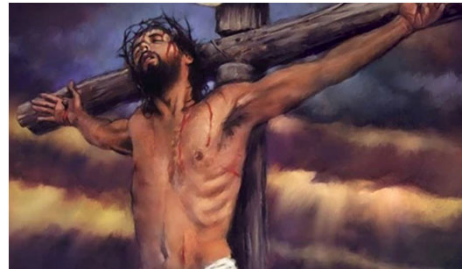
What will God not do?

God does not contradict Himself

God cannot act contrary to His nature – eg lie, sin

God cannot fail to do what He has promised

God will not let sin go unpunished



Application

Believers

**Our God is infinite, above all,
whom or what shall we fear**



Non-believers

Man has to fear the infinite God



God is invisible

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "**you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.**" ²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but **my face shall not be seen.**" (Ex 33:18-23)





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



If God appears now,
then I will believe



6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** And I said: **"Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"**



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

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Col 1:15)

God is invisible.

Jesus is God in human flesh

When we see Jesus, we see God



“whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9)



When the disciples heard this, **they fell on their faces** and were terrified. (Mat 17:6)



Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:3-4)



When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, (Rev 1:17)

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, **to see my glory** that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24)



And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:18)

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever.

They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ “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 4:9-11)



Application

Believers

We do not worship idols made of hand



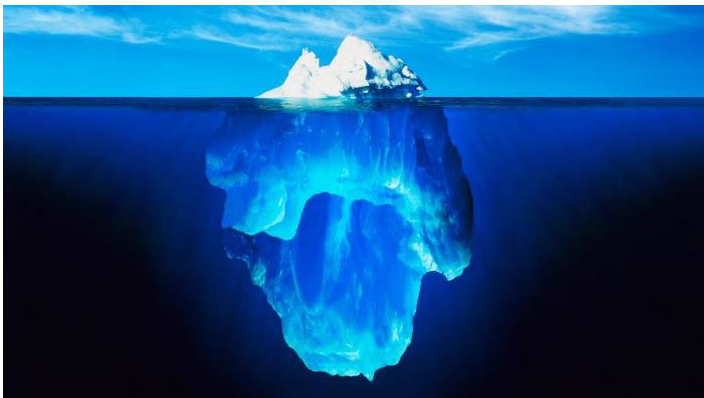
Non-believers

“Show me your God”; God does not need to show Himself to us



God is incomprehensible

Tip of the iceberg



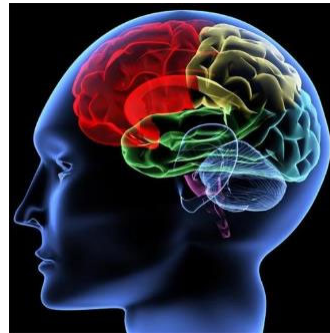
God is infinite; we are finite

God reveals what He wants us to know about Him

We can only understand God in a limited capacity

What is God like?

We say “God is like”



limited human mind

We are constrained, we are confined in this 3-dimensional **time, space and matter**,
our created mind and intellect, corrupted by sins, tainted by evil

How many attributes does God have?

Infinite, because God is infinite

We have no capacity to count the vastness of God's attributes

We cannot describe fully the depth of His attributes

We can only know some of God's attributes which He has revealed to us in the Scripture.





For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I **know in part**; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. (1 Cor 13:12)

We can never fully 'know' God in His fullness, even in heaven



"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deut 29:29)



There will be 'secret things' that only God knows perfectly

Application

Believers

Comforting and securing; we may not understand all things, but God still rules



Non-believers

doctrine is a fearful one, of judgment, of unchanging wrath on sin.



God is immutable

Does not subject to change

Old Testament

More wrathful?

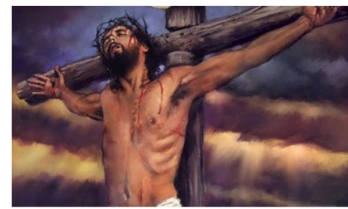
More anger?



New Testament

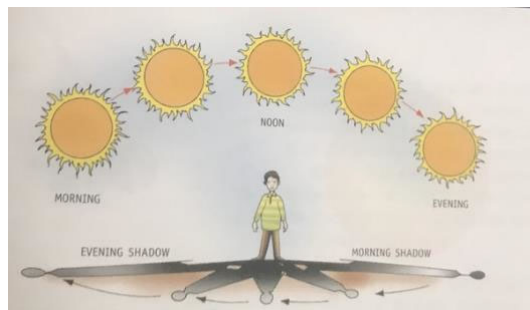
More loving ?

More gracious ?



“For I the LORD **do not change**; (Mal 3:6a)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is **no variation or shadow due to change**.(James 1:17)



And,
 “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
 and the heavens are the work of your hands;
¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
 they will all wear out like a garment,
¹² like a robe you will roll them up,
 like a garment they will be changed.
But you are the same,
 and your years will have no end.” (Heb 1:10-12)



Time and space



Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb 13:8).



¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, **but whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:16-18)



For it is time for **judgment to begin at the household of God**; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Pet 4:17)



²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ **Let both grow together until the harvest**, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “**Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned**, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’” (Mat 13:24-30)

Application

Believers

**God does not change His mind;
we are guarded**



Non-believers

**Man has to be accountable to God for
His commands are clear**



Attributes of God



Eternal

Infinite

Invisible

Incomprehensible

Immutable

The End