

Who Is God?

Lesson 1

Lesson point: To establish that “**God Is.**” To explore what the scripture tell us of God’s nature and attributes. To inspire faith in God and in all that He is.

- I. **God -The Self-Existing One**
- II. **God is a Spirit**
- III. **God is One**
- IV. **God is Eternal**
- V. **God is Creator**

Chart 1: God - The Self-Existing One

I. **God exists alone**

It is completely necessary that each of us develop a correct concept of ‘**who**’ and ‘**what**’ God is. We must allow the Bible to be our source of information about God. Man’s philosophy and scientific theories cannot explain the infinite God because they are based on human reasoning and human logic.

Our world is filled with all kinds of ideas about God. People form erroneous opinions and take false positions that can ultimately destroy their very souls. The atheist says “there is no God”. The evolutionist refuses to give God any credit for Creation. The agnostic says “if there is a God, He is not concerned with Earth and humanity”.

There are cults that teach that man can become a ‘god’ and the humanist says that we are gods already. Pantheism teaches that all forces of nature and manifestations of the universe are ‘gods’. Our world is so full of religions and religious tradition that little regard is given to the **Word of God**.

The Bible holds the answer to the question “**Who is God?**” God reveals Himself to mankind through His Word. “Bringing Men to Jesus” Do you believe the Bible is God’s Holy Word? Did you know that every word in the Bible is inspired by God?

II Timothy 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

We can be confident that the Word of God is not man’s ideas but is divinely inspired. The Spirit of God directed, prompted and anointed the writers of the Bible.

II Peter 1:20-21 *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

God supernaturally guided the wording of the text, man wrote it down, but God gave the words by divine inspiration. We must let the Bible be the sole authority in all matters. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God preached and taught.

Romans 10:17 *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”*

When a person hears the Word of God and accepts it with readiness, faith is imparted into his mind.

A. Faith—Believing that God “Is”

Hebrews 11:6 *“...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is.”*

God is the Self-existing One. What is meant by self-existing? God exists alone, by Himself! He exists by His own Power of Being. He doesn't need any external source of power to exist; He depends on nothing outside of Himself. He alone is the source and origin of Life.

Man is not self existing. Man is totally dependent on many substances to sustain life. He has basic needs that must be supplied by sources outside of himself. Man must have oxygen, water and nutrients to exist. We cannot exist without the life giving substances that can only come from our Creator.

We must believe that God is, believe that He exists. He always has been and always will be. Before there was a world, before there was time, before the creation, God was. There has never been a time that God did not exist. For a person to find salvation in God, he must have an initial faith in the existence of God.

This faith is the first step toward God.

B. God is Infinite – without boundaries; limitless

I Timothy 1:17 *“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever, Amen.”*

How can an earth bound creature develop the correct concept of an infinite God unless God reveals that concept to him. We accept the truth of His existence by faith. The scriptures show us that the Spirit of God has no limitations, no barriers, and no boundaries.

Even though we are God's creation, we have limitations; we are finite creatures. Although man's spirit came from God, we do not have the power of being. God's power is supporting us moment by moment

C. I Am That I Am

God wants us to understand that He exists alone and by Himself. At the burning bush God gave Moses a revelation concerning His name:

Exodus 3:14 *“And God said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM...”*

God was conveying this truth: **I AM...I EXIST ALONE!!**

God is independent of anyone or anything. He is unconditionally and unquestionably self sufficient. He has within Himself the **Power of Being**. He exists by His own power. This self existence is what makes Him God. He doesn't need help from anybody in any way. He is the source and origin of all living things.

D. Immutable – Unchangeable

Malachi 3:6 *“For I am the Lord, I change not...”*

His Spirit moves and He commands and the universe responds, yet no one moves or commands Him. God never stops being God. He is immutable, He never changes. Times change, that is evident every day that we live. People change, situations alter constantly. But we have a God that never changes and never will!

Chart 2: God is A Spirit

John 4:24 *“God is a Spirit...”*

In St. John 3 the Spirit of God is compared to the wind. The wind is all around us, yet we cannot see it. We feel the wind and are affected by it. As with the wind God is invisible yet He is very real. He is the only true infinite being.

As a Spirit, God is not subject to the confines that humans are subject to. The Spirit of God is not made of flesh and blood; therefore He is a supernatural being without any restraints. The Spirit of God possesses many distinguishing attributes which show us His divine nature.

A. Omnipotent

The Word of God declares that He is **omnipotent** or “all powerful.” This is a natural part of God’s being. The term “Almighty God” teaches us this same point: God is “All Powerful.” He did not develop into the omnipotent God, He always has been so. This attribute of being omnipotent is what makes Him God!

Revelation 19:6 *“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude...saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”*

Jeremiah 32:17 *“O Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.”*

God introduced Himself to Abraham as the Almighty God:

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.”*

He referred to Himself as Almighty God to Jacob:

Genesis 35:11 *“And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply...”*

At the burning bush He referred to Himself as Almighty God to Moses...

Exodus 6:3 *“And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name God Almighty...”*

He is described as having the greatest power in all the universe in the book of Job chapters 38-41.

Note to teacher: *These are excellent chapters for background preparation.*

B. Omniscience

Another one of God's attributes is His **omniscience**. Omni means all; science is knowledge; so God is all-knowing. He knows the end from the beginning. He sees and hears everything that happens in the universe. The future is as clear as the past to Him. It is this omniscience that makes Him God! God sees and hears all things...

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

Hebrews 4:13 *"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."*

Psalm 94:7-10 *"Yet they say, The Lord shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it....Understand, ye brutish among the people: and ye fools, when will ye be wise? ...He that planteth the ear, shall he not hear? He that formed the eye, shall he not see?"*

The scriptures teach in an unmistakable way that God is fully aware of everything that humans say and do. His judgments are righteous because He knows every action of every individual.

C. Omnipresent

God is also **omnipresent**, or everywhere present. God's Spirit is in every place at once. He alone has this attribute. This omnipresence is what makes Him God! God is everywhere at the same time...

Jeremiah 23:23-24 *"Am I God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off...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."*

God fills the universe...

Acts 17:27 *"That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from everyone of us..."*

II Chronicles 6:18 *"Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee..."*

Chart 3: God is ONE

If the Bible teaches anything, it teaches God is ONE. Old Testament passages assure us that there is only ONE God. The text of the 10 Commandments say God is ONE.

Throughout the entire Bible God introduces Himself, refers to Himself, and reveals Himself as ONE GOD.

Deuteronomy 6:4 *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.”*

Isaiah 43:10-11 *“Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me...I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior...”*

Note: One God, None else, None like Me

The Bible always refers to God in terms of oneness. This means that no scripture supports nor suggests polytheism or a multiplicity of gods. On the contrary, God is referred to as the Holy One over 30 times in scripture. Any concept or teaching that divides God or regulates Him to co existing with someone else violates His Self-existing Nature and is unscriptural.

The Word of God is replete with warnings against allowing religious traditions to deceive us. Our world is so filled with religious tradition that little regard is given to the Word of God. And yet we are commanded to ‘search the scriptures’ in order to have reliable information upon which to place our faith in God. God’s Word reveals that He is essentially ONE, absolutely and indivisibly ONE.

Isaiah 44:6; 24 *“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...Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself...”*

Malachi 2:10 *“Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?”*

Zechariah 14:9 *“And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day there shall be one Lord, and his name one.”*

God revealed Himself to Abraham as the One Almighty God. Abraham then taught his descendents to worship One God. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He then reveals that He is the Great **I AM** or the “Self-existing One”.

Genesis 26:24 *“I am the God of Abraham your father...”*

Exodus 3:6 *“I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob...”*

Exodus 3:14 *“And God said unto Moses, I AM that I AM...”*

The great characters of the Bible expressed faith in One GOD and served only One God!

***Note to teacher:** It is more important at this point to deliver the Word of God as it is stated in these scriptures. The incarnation of Jesus will be introduced in the fourth lesson. To do so now could very well result in losing your student before they ever have a chance to hear the precious truth of baptism in Jesus name and infilling of the Holy Ghost. Jesus tells us to be wise as serpents, but harmless as doves. This is not the place for a debate!! It takes a **wise saint** to become a soul winner!!*

Chart 4: God is Eternal

Eternal: *without beginning or ending; everlasting* We have established that God exists. We have also established that He exists alone, by Himself. Let's go one step farther; God is Eternal; He is Everlasting and He is Self-existing.

This means He contains within Himself the Power of being. This is a powerful truth, He will never diminish or regress in any way! This God we serve is constant, uninterrupted, and unceasing. He is the same today as He always has been. He sustains us moment by moment by His awesome Spirit.

Psalm 90:1-2 ***"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations...before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."***

***Note:** He existed before creation; His power never diminishes.*

Psalm 102:12; 25-27 ***"But thou, O Lord shalt endure forever; and thy remembrance unto all generations...of old hast thou laid the foundations of the earth: and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shalt wax old like a garment...but thou art the same, and thy years have no end."***

God is presented to us as the Everlasting Spirit. He is not subject to aging or conditions of growing old. God is the only one who possesses this unique nature. This Nature is what makes Him God!

Isaiah 57:15 ***"For thus saith the high and lofty ONE that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I will dwell in the high and lofty place..."***

***Note:** He inhabits eternity. If God had a point of origin He would not be infinite or eternal. But He lives in the high and lofty place. God exists in a permanent state of perfection...without beginning or ending.*

We live in time. We are subject to the confines of time and the laws of life that governs all humanity. God lives in or inhabits eternity. He supersedes time and all its limitations. Because of His nature and His attributes He is not bound by time and space.

God is alive and well on Planet Earth no matter how many people would like to see His demise. Throughout the history of the world there have been many attacks by atheists, evolutionists, and humanists. God is as He has always been. He is the Living God.

Chart 5: God the Creator

A. God is the only true Creator

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

The Word of God gives the account of creation in clear and direct statements. There are no mathematic equations or scientific formulas. The details are simply stated to be accepted as facts. We must never forget that all scripture is given by inspiration of God (see II Timothy 3:16).

When we receive the Word of God faith is imparted into our hearts. We accept the truth of Creation by faith.

In this lesson we have discussed the attributes of God. All of these attributes came into play in Creation. Someone has recently made this statement: “Maybe the universe looks like there was a ‘designer’ because there was a ‘designer’”. Our universe exists because an Infinite, Almighty God created it! It is sustained moment by moment by His great Power!

It has already been established that God is Eternal. So obviously the words of Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning...” are not referring to God’s beginning, but refers to the beginning of the heaven and the earth and the human race. There is nothing said about a “great explosion” or “big bang” or “cosmic train wrecks.”

The Bible says “The Spirit of God moved,” “and God said,” “and it was so,” “and it was good.” The Bible account indicates order and design by **Someone** bigger than you and me. Everywhere we look around us we see evidence of God’s creative nature.

Romans 1:20 *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*

The whole earth is full of the Glory of God. The natural wonders and beauty of this world reflect the awesome power of God. This universe was created by God Himself, and it was made for His pleasure (Rev. 4:11). From the awesome waves of the ocean to the majestic towering mountains we clearly see and can understand His eternal power.

The desert with its own kind of beauty and the glaciers of Alaska all testify that God is an awesome God! The invisible things of Him, His attributes, His glory are clearly seen and understood by the natural sights and wonders about us.

The text of Romans 1:20 says “...so that they are without excuse.” The atheist and the agnostics are without excuse. The evolutionist, the rationalist, the skeptic are all without excuse. The cynic, the mocker and the scoffer have no excuse. There is no excuse for anyone to refuse to glorify God Almighty.

B. The Days of Creation

Create: *to bring into existence; make something out of nothing and for the first time.*

God alone can make something out of absolutely nothing. Only God can breathe life into a form made from dust and cause it to be a living soul. Not only did God make man from the dust of the earth, but God made the dust also.

Nehemiah 9:6 *“Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of the heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou made them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”*

God does not depend on existing material to perform His acts of creation. God contains within Himself the ability to create, to make something from absolutely nothing.

Isaiah 40:12; 26 *“Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things...”*

Mankind depends on pre-existing materials to accomplish his creative endeavors. We applaud men for their inventions but man is depending on that which already exists. Thomas Edison perfected the incandescent light bulb, but he used materials that only God knows how to create. God does not depend on existing materials.

Hebrews 11:3 *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”*

Now let's go to Genesis, the book of beginnings and read about Creation Week.

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

God made the heaven and the earth and everything in it.

- The first day: God created the light and divided the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:3-5).
- The second day: God created the firmament and divided the waters above from the waters under the firmament (Genesis 1: 6-8).
- The third day: God created seas, land and vegetation (Genesis 1: 9-12).
- The fourth day: God created sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 1: 14-19).
- The fifth day: God created sea creatures and birds (Genesis 1:20-23).
- The sixth day: God created cattle, reptiles, beasts of the field and man (Genesis 1:24-31).

- The seventh day: God rested (Genesis 2:1-3).