

☞ What is God like?

Last week we talked about the evidence for God's existence. From science to philosophy to the Bible and personal experience, the evidence is overwhelming! There is a God!

Today: What is God like?

--A.W. Tozer... God's infinitude places him so far above our knowing that a lifetime spent in cultivating the knowledge of him leaves as much yet to learn as if we had never begun.

☞ False beliefs about God:

Atheism = disbelief in the existence of God (**there is no god**)

This is really an impossible belief, since no person can know everything or explore everywhere to prove God is not there.

Psalms 14:1

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

☞ **Agnosticism** = the belief that it is impossible to know whether or not God exists. (**you can't know if there's a god**)

This belief holds an element of truth, because there will always be an element of faith required and we can't fully know God because he is so far beyond our comprehension. But the Scriptures say that we can get to know God:

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Ephesians 1:17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

☞ **Polytheism** = the belief in more than one deity (**there are many gods**)

Deuteronomy 4:39

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

Isaiah 45:5

I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.

☞ **Pantheism** = the belief that God and the material world are one and the same thing and that God is present in everything; we are all a part of God (**god is everything and everything is god**) (*kind of like "the force"*)

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:3

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

☞ **Deism** = a belief that God has set the universe in motion but does not interfere with how it runs. (**god is absent**)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. --KJV

Amos 4:13

He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth — the Lord God Almighty is his name.

God is not some mystical "force." He is not just an advanced being somewhere out in the universe. He's not just a man with superpowers. God is

the one supernatural being that transcends space and time. Everything else comes from him. He alone is God. He's living and active today and you can know him!

☞ **God's names describe him...**

ELOHIM

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Elohim is the first name for God found in the Old Testament. Elohim is the most common name that is translated as "God." It comes from a root that ☞ means "**strength, might, power.**" It is used over 2,300 times in the Scriptures to refer to the God of Israel. Elohim is unusual since it is plural. This plural name that is used for the One God opens the door for the revelation of the plural yet single nature of God, **the Trinity**, which is more fully revealed in the rest of the Scriptures.

☞ **EL**

Genesis 14:19

Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

El comes from the same root as Elohim, is translated "God" and is used 200 ☞ times in the Scriptures. It means **the first, the strong and powerful Lord.**

☞ **EL-SHADDAI**

Genesis 17:1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty..."

☞ The **All-powerful** God. It comes from a root word meaning **burly**.

Nothing is too big for my God to accomplish, and nothing is too little for Him to use in accomplishing it!

☞ **EL-ELYON**

Genesis 14:18

Then Melchizedek... was priest of God Most High

☞ The Lofty One. The God who is **above all**.

☞ **EL-OLAM**

Genesis 21:33

...the Eternal God.

☞ The God who **always was and always will be**; the Eternal One.

☞ **God's titles describe him...**

JEHOVAH or YAHWEH

Genesis 2:4

...When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens...

This name comes from the Hebrew verb which means "to be." This word emphasizes God's absolute being. He has life and being inherent in Himself.

☞ Everything else derives its being from Him. The Lord is **the source of all existence** and all reality. He is without beginning and without end because He always was, He is, and He always will be.

☞ **Jehovah-jireh** - This name is translated as "**The-LORD-Will-Provide**"

Genesis 22:14 (*on the mountain where God provided a ram*)

So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide...

--Hudson Taylor... Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning... He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years.

When you have nothing left but God, then you become aware that God is enough.

☞ **Jehovah-shalom** - This phrase means "**The-LORD-Is-Peace**"

Safety consists not in the absence of danger but in the presence of God.

Peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but is rather the confidence that He is there with you always.

☞ **Jehovah-shammah - The-LORD-Is-There.**

☞ **Jehovah-Rophe – The LORD that heals.**

☞ **Jehovah-T’sidkenu – The LORD our righteousness.**

☞ **Jehovah-Rohi – The LORD my Shepherd.**

☞ **THEOS**

This is the Greek word for “God.” Our word, “theology” comes from this

☞ word. It means **the one supreme supernatural being.**

☞ **KURIOS**

Matthew 1:20

...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife..."

☞ **The God who is in control and has supreme authority.**

During a famous battle in baseball Babe Pinelli was the plate umpire and Babe Ruth the batter. Pinelli called the legendary slugger out on strikes. Ruth would have none of it. "There's 40,000 people here who know that last one was a ball, tomato head." "Maybe so," umpire Pinelli said, "but mine is the only opinion that counts." So it is with God.

☞ **FATHER**

Matthew 6:9

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. NKJV

☞ The Creator God. As father he is **the protector, nourisher, and helper.** He is the one who combines aspects of supernatural authority with care for his people.

--Tim Hansel... One day, while my son Zac and I were out in the country, climbing around in some cliffs, I heard a voice from above me yell, "Hey Dad! Catch me!" I turned around to see Zac joyfully jumping off a rock straight at me. He had jumped and then yelled "Hey Dad!" I became an instant circus act, catching him. We both fell to the ground. For a moment

after I caught him I could hardly talk. When I found my voice again I gasped in exasperation: "Zac! Can you give me one good reason why you did that???" He responded with remarkable calmness: "Sure...because you're my Dad." His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. He could live life to the hilt because I could be trusted. Isn't this even more true for a Christian?

☞ So, we are getting a better picture of who God is. **He's the one true God.** There is no other like him. He is the **creator** of the universe, nothing would exist without him. He is **all-powerful**, no other power can challenge him; he is **eternal**, without beginning or ending; he is the **most high**, others may be impressive, but none come close to comparing with God; he has **absolute authority**, his word is final; he is in charge, no one can overrule him; he can never be fully understood, but he can be known; he is **our Father who wants a relationship with us.**

Would you like to know God?

Song: How great is our God