

"The God of the Bible"

Who is the God of the Bible and what is He like? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders. And this is a Bible study, "In SEARCH of the Lord's Way." Today we're going to take a look at what God reveals about himself. So stay tuned.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. The Bible isn't simply another book; it's God's book, divinely inspired and full of wisdom. Through the Bible God reveals His character, His heart, and His nature. Bible history is truly His story. The Scripture reveals how He created and interacted with man through the centuries. One thing is for sure: God loves everyone and has always wanted what is best for us. This is why we spend our time studying the Bible. Because nothing else measures up. Thanks for being with us today. We want to be part of your life each week.

We know many reasons to believe in God: the starry heavens above, the moral law within, and the complexity of the cells of our body are only a few of these reasons. Now these things couldn't have happened by accident. No. No, they came by intelligent design. Only a supremely intelligent and supremely powerful Being could have created them. That person is God! Romans 1 and verse 20 says that God's "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." We can perceive some things about God from looking at the world, but to know God truly, we must go to Scripture.

If God did, in fact, create us, then we need to know Him. We need to know how we can come into a relationship with Him and what He desires of us. We can't find that in the woods or by the seashore, we find God by looking into His divinely revealed Word, the Bible. Only the Bible can help us understand His nature, His character, and His love for us.

Now if you want to know more about God, we offer this study free. If you'd like a printed copy of this lesson and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. Now if you live outside the United States, we have materials free online, and you can stream this program on our website at www.searchtv.org, or on You Tube.

The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from Isaiah 40:25 and 26, and study the God of the Bible.

Our reading today comes from the prophet Isaiah chapter 40 verses 25 and 26. And Isaiah through these chapter distinguishes the idols of the peoples of that time. With the God who made us all.

"To whom then will you liken Me
That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these stars,
The One who leads forth their host by number,
He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing

Yes our powerful God made the universe and made it with wisdom and He made it with design. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You are our father. That You have made each of us and that we're made in Your image. And Father we pray that our love for You may grow more and more. That we'll always seek to do Your will and to honor Your name. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

How do you view God? J. B. Phillips many years ago wrote a book entitled, *Your God is Too Small*, which created quite a stir. He saw that what many thought God was like and how the Bible describes God were quite different. Many people have never taken the time to study what the Bible actually says about the nature and the character of God. Some simply focus on one aspect of the Lord's nature and then ignore other aspects that are just as important. God is gracious, yes, but God is also holy and just. God is compassionate, but He will also punish evildoers who will not repent. God is not lopsided in character. He doesn't have faults like we do.

Isaiah 55 verses 8 and 9 says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts." Since we are imperfect and weak creatures, it's hard to understand our Creator who has no imperfections or weaknesses. We would like to believe that He's just like us; but He isn't. We compromise, but He doesn't. We sin, but He doesn't. We lie to ourselves, but God never lies. He is indeed perfect.

But God is not a "force" or simply an immovable object. No scripture describes God as a person. He thinks, feels, acts, loves, wills and judges. He has the mind, and emotions, and a will of a person. He can be grieved as He was in Noah's day (Genesis 6). He can love and He showed that love by giving Jesus for our sins. He can rejoice when sinners repent (Luke 15 verse 7). He can reason and He asks us to reason with Him (Isaiah 1 verse 18). He can become angry and does so with those who will not repent. God can plan and prepare for the future. When Jesus prayed, He prayed "Our Father." Christians have a relationship with God as a child does with his father. God made man in His own image, so that man has an intelligent and moral spirit.

When Jesus came to earth, He had flesh and blood; but the Father in heaven and the Holy Spirit are not physical or material. God is spirit. And the Lord Jesus said in John 4:24 that, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." God is spirit; and the Lord said in Luke 24:39 that, "a spirit does not have flesh and blood." Paul told the philosophers at Athens in Acts 17:24 to 25, "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things." God created man. Paul said in Acts 17:29, "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man."

Well, sometimes children ask, "Where did God come from?" Well, the answer is that God has always existed. Indeed, He is self-existent. Acts 17:28 says, "in Him we live and move and have our very being." You'll remember that God introduced himself to Moses in Exodus 3 and verse 14 as, "I AM WHO I AM." This phrase was revered as the holy name of God by the Israelites. Today we use words like Yahweh or Jehovah to reflect this self-existent nature of God.

God is not only spirit and self-existent, He is also infinite. God does not have the limitations of men. Space and time cannot limit God. As to time, God is eternal. Moses wrote in Psalm 90 verse 2, "Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." 2 Peter 3 verse 8 says, "But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day." Now

unlike us, God exists outside of time. He created time for us, but He's not limited by it. Nor is God limited by space. When Solomon finished building the Temple, he said in 1 Kings 8:27, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!" Proverbs 15 verse 3 says that, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good."

Now beyond this we must confess that God is all-wise and all-knowing. God knows and understands all things about people, nature, animals and the universe. Romans 11:33 to 36 says, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the LORD, or who became his counselor? or who has first given to him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

God is not only all-knowing, He is also all-powerful. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 10 verse 27, "With God all things are possible." Job 42 and verse 2 says God "can do all things." Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 32:17, "Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You." Being all-powerful doesn't mean that God can or will perform logical impossibilities such as making a square circle or a stone so large it couldn't be moved. No those things are illogical.

Ephesians 4 and verse 6 says there is "one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." Yes God is certainly unique. The first of the Ten Commandments says that, "You shall have no other gods before Me." That is, no other gods besides Me. Man-made gods are forbidden, because they are imaginary and really they don't exist. Idols can't reflect the true grandeur and glory of the eternal God who doesn't live in temples made with hands (Acts 17 verse 24). Men sin against God when they forsake the immortal God and serve creatures as the pagans did with idolatry in ancient times. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 8 and verse 4, "Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one."

Now since God is Lord of all, He is sovereign. God rules the nations. According to Jeremiah 18:7 to 10, God plants and uproots nations. According to Acts 17:26, 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." God now commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17 verse 30). At the end of the world God will judge each of us according to our works and according to His Word.

As the judge of men, thankfully God is impartial. God doesn't show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right (Acts 10 verses 34 and 5). Because God is holy, we can regard what He teaches is righteous. Psalm 19 verse 9 says that, "The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether." God's moral and religious standards will stand firm at the judgment. Though people want to set God's ways aside, God has revealed in His word the truth about spiritual matters and about morals. God hasn't given us permission to change his teaching.

As we consider God's character, we must realize that God is utterly holy. Isaiah tells of the seraphim who cry out, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 6 verse 3). James 1:13 says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone." God commands His children in 1 Peter 1 and verse 16, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Because God is holy, sin is offensive. People today are keenly aware of what offends them, but they may not know what offends God. While God may love the sinner and has provided a way of salvation, God still gets offended when the people He loves sin.

God's grace doesn't cancel out His holiness. And God never, never approves of sin. The prophet Habakkuk says about God in chapter 1, verse 13, "Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You cannot look on wickedness with favor." According to Hebrews 6:18, "it is impossible for God to lie." It is God's holiness that demands justice when people sin. God's goodness means that He cannot ignore sin. God doesn't simply make up sins arbitrarily. Sin is sin, because God knows it's destructive and harmful, harmful. God speaks out against sin, because He loves people. Being holy is good for people; and sin is harmful.

And in addition, God is unchangeable. God Himself said in Malachi 3 verse 6, "I am the Lord, I do not change." Moses wrote in Numbers 23:19 that, "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" God doesn't have the weaknesses of fickle men who change at a whim. James 1:17 says that, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." Oh, I'm thankful God doesn't change, because that means we can count on Him to keep His promises. We can also count on His commandments and His moral teaching. Culture doesn't change God. Right and wrong do not change with the times.

I'm thankful that God is merciful. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:45 that your Father in heaven "causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Well, even though men were foolish and disobedient, God's kindness and love appeared in Christ Jesus. Titus 3 and verse 5 says that "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy." God's mercy can save even the worst of sinners when they repent and turn to Him.

That's because, God is love. We know what love is and what good is, because of the great example of our God in Christ Jesus. 1 John 4:7 to 11 says, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." God's character teaches us how to live and how to love. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Why does this matter? The more we know about God, the more we love Him and the more we want to be like Him. Christ embodied every good and righteous thing, and everything He did blesses us and gives us life. The Lord Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." We need to know the Lord Jesus; and the more we know Him, the better we understand our Father in Heaven.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You sent Your son Jesus into this world so that we might know about You and Your character, Your love, Your morality, Your truth, and Your judgement at the end of time. Help us to be faithful, to love You and to obey You always. In Jesus name, Amen.

God is God. He created us, gives us life, and will judge us at the last day. Whether we accept or approve of Him, He's still the one true and living God. God's power, His teaching, and character hasn't changed, even if our culture changes. What we think or feel about God doesn't define Him. God defines and describes Himself through His revealed word. And we must accept Him on His terms. The God of the Bible is very different from many popular beliefs. Some serve a false god that they wish existed rather than the true God revealed in Scripture. And this is why we must search the Scriptures. We want the true God.

I have a question. Paul called the God of the Bible “my God” in Philippians 4:19. Is He your God? Be honest: are you living in such a way that honors or dishonors God, that please or offends God? If you’re living in such a way that God is offended, then shouldn’t you think about your soul?

To get right with God, love and believe in Jesus Christ. Believe that He died for your sins and arose from the dead. Make Him your Lord by turning from your sins in repentance. Becoming a Christian is a transformation of life, leaving the old man of sin to become like Christ. With your love, faith, and repentance, confess your faith and be baptized into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of your sins. Baptism is the time when God buries the old man of sin and raises you up to walk in newness of life according to Romans 6:3 to 7. In baptism God acts upon you, making you His child, adding you to the church, forgiving your sins, and giving you eternal life. What are you waiting for? The Bible says in Acts 22:16, “Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.” Won’t you do that today?

We hope today’s study has stirred you to consider your soul. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083. Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now if you live outside the United States you can download our material at our website: www.searchtv.org. And you can also watch us on You Tube. Please get a hold of us. We’re not asking for money. And we want you to know that we love you and God bless you from all of us at In Search of the Lord’s Way.