

The God of the Bible - 3

What God is Like

Whenever we think about God, we must always bear in mind a very important thing that He says about Himself:

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says 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” (Isaiah 55:8–9).

So, we should not be surprised if the Bible reveals God to be different from how we might expect – or, indeed, want – Him to be. Nor should we be put off by that.

We only know what God is like because He has chosen to tell us about Himself in the Bible. It is important to remember this, as otherwise there is the danger that we could ‘create God in our own image’; in other words, make Him out to be the kind of God we would like Him to be. That might be like your favourite uncle, or some kindly elderly benefactor.

But we don’t need to do that, and in fact we must not. God has revealed Himself to us and it is up to us to accept Him as He is.

In Heaven

The God of the Bible is often called ‘the God of heaven’ and that is where He lives.

God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God (Psalm 53:2).



He has reserved heaven as the place of habitation for Himself and the angels. These are His heavenly messengers who consist of spirit, and travel between heaven and earth to carry out His instructions. He created the earth for human beings.

The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men (Psalm 115:16).

Although God is a real person, He is also a spirit and so cannot be contained in any one place. So, in a sense, He is everywhere.

“Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the Lord; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD (Jeremiah 23:24).

Unique

We must not decide for ourselves what God we would like. God is God, and that is that. But throughout the world people have their own ideas of Him. The Bible reveals that there is only One True God, the God of the Bible, eternal and invisible in the heavens:

I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me (Isaiah 45:5).

The LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King (Jeremiah 10:10).

Immortal

Did you notice the word 'everlasting' in the last quotation? Over and over in the Bible, God is described as 'everlasting' or 'eternal'. We know that we humans are mortal, that we have a beginning and an end to our lives, but it is not the same with God. He may give immortality, but only He is by nature immortal.

He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see (1Timothy 6:15-16).

All-Knowing

By His Spirit, God can be everywhere at once and so nothing escapes Him.

You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off... For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether... Where can I go from

Your Spirit? or where can I flee from Your presence? (Psalm 139:2,4,7).

God knows in advance everything that He intends to do. Sometimes He chooses to tell man and women about His plans.

Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done (Isaiah 46:9-10).

His decisions are never wrong, even though sometimes they might be difficult for us to understand.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counsellor? (Romans 11:33-34).

All-Powerful

God is the Creator of the world and we owe our lives to His power. He sustains everything on earth. We read:

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things (Acts 17:24-25).

If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust (Job 34:14-15).

Active

The God of the Bible is a real being who thinks, speaks and acts. He is a living God. If creating the world was not enough, He has designed its future, too. Nations might think that they're in control of their own destinies, but we read that:

The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will (Daniel 4:17).

God and His Son, Jesus Christ, are at work in the world today. Through the angels they influence the lives of indi-



viduals and governments to bring about the courses of action on which God has decided. He is even now working towards the establishment of a world-wide empire inhabited by people completely obedient to Him, which the Bible calls the 'Kingdom of God'.

If that sounds fantastic, remember that this is the God of the Bible we're talking about. He can do anything, in stark comparison to the failure of human politicians.

He does not fail, and He does not change course. What He does stands, and what He says goes. He is not fickle, nor is He swayed by public opinion.

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

Pure

Being God, He is superior to anything and anyone else – in power, in knowledge, and in character, too. Unlike the gods that the Greeks and the Romans worshipped, He does not behave like a human being.

Far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to commit iniquity... Surely God will never do wickedly, nor will the Almighty pervert justice (Job 34:10,12).

The LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does (Daniel 9:14).

Jesus Christ, God's Son, said:

Why do you call me good? No one is good but One, that is, God (Mark 10:18).

One of the prophets put it like this:

You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness (Habakkuk 1:13).

God is 'good'. Not just in the sense of being generous, but perfect through and through. This has implications for us. What chance is there for us, if He 'cannot look on wickedness'? If He hates wrongdoing, how does He tolerate us wrongdoers?

As we shall see, there is good news for us here!

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