



## ***Behold Your God***

Much is determined and established by the being, power, and existence of God. Everything that we have, hold, know and hope for is dependent upon the LORD our God. We are given no defense for God's existence in the Bible, but are simply told in Genesis 1:1 "*In the beginning God.*" God revealed Himself as אֱלֹהִים ('elohiyim), the true God. After that initial introduction, the Lord God Almighty is self-revealed openly in such a way that we may know Him, that He exists, and have fellowship with Him.

During the next weeks, we will discover much about the nature, character, and being of the Lord God Almighty. At times, our discovery will terrify us as we stand before the most holy God and behold His judgment and wrath, and at times we will rejoice in His tender mercy, love and care. The approach to the Lord God Almighty must not be taken lightly for God is indeed holy and almighty.

### **Our goal is to come to know the God of the Bible.**

He is One True and living God and He exists independently of any conception of Himself and has revealed Himself in such a way that is clearly understood.

**Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV** God said, "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, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'"

**Isaiah 46:11 NKJV** "Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it."

### **Biblically, God has revealed Himself in two specific ways.**

- At certain times, God has shown Himself through special revelation to specific people in history.
- God has revealed Himself in a general manner that can be understood by all people of all times.

**Romans 1:20 NKJV** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

**Psalms 19:1 NKJV** The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

**Acts 14:16-17 NKJV** Who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

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Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God...” The Lord God Almighty presented Himself alive before the creation of anything. This is the aseity of God. Aseity is from the Latin (*a se*), “*from itself*” or “*self-existence*.” God depends on nothing but Himself for His existence and being, is completely sovereign, and is self-reliant. The ground of God’s being is within Himself; He is self-existent.

**John 5:26 NKJV** Jesus said, “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,”

Everything that we have, hold and hope for is settled and has being as a result of this essential nature of God. It is from the power of His self-existent nature that God created all things and sustains all things. The self-existent and pre-existent God created the heavens and the earth from nothing by the power of His word. He alone is the cause for the existence of all things and everything that has been created bears the imprint and evidence of a wise and powerful Creator. The evidence of His being is witnessed in the heavens and to the minutest details of the smallest elements known to man. From the variety of the species to the details of each piece and part, the evidence clearly shows the glory of God.

**Psalms 19:1-2 NIV** The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge."

**Acts 14:17 NIV** Yet He has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

### **God's existence is profoundly revealed throughout the Scriptures.**

This reliable evidence of God's existence is overwhelming in His word and works.

### **The Scriptures reveal the existence of God in many knowable ways.**

- God is creator (Genesis 1:1)
- God is a warrior (Exodus 15:3)
- God is one Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- God is faithful (Deuteronomy 7:9)
- God is too great to be described or contained (1 Kings 8:27)
- God is gracious and merciful (Nehemiah 9:31)
- God is good (Psalm 34:8)
- God helps his people when they are in trouble (Psalm 46:1)
- God is mighty (Psalm 50:1)
- God is our rock (Psalm 62:6)
- God is our hope (Psalm 71:5)
- God is near everyone (Psalm 75:1)
- God is our salvation (Isaiah 12:2)

- God is sovereign (Isaiah 25:8)
- God is holy (Isaiah 29:23)
- Only God is worthy of glory (Isaiah 42:8)
- God is our Father (Matthew 6:9)
- God is all-powerful (Luke 1:37)
- God is spirit (John 4:24)
- God is all-knowing (Romans 11:33)
- God is knowable (Ephesians 1:17)
- God is living (1 Timothy 4:10)
- God is King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15)
- God is approachable (James 4:8)
- God is judge (James 4:12)
- God is love (1 John 4:16)
- God is almighty (Revelation 1:8)

**From the initial introduction "In the beginning God," the revelation of God is a self-disclosure of His vast nature and character.**

God has not hidden His majesty, existence, or being from His creation.

**Psalm 19:1-3 NIV84** The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

**Psalm 19:4-6 NIV84** Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

**If we are to know God, He must reveal Himself to us.**

God is incomprehensible in nature and being for He is an infinite spirit being. He has clearly revealed His glory, power, and majesty through His creation. God has disclosed His nature, essence, works, and word. This revelation is open for all humanity to clearly see from the beginning of His creation until the culmination of all things. God has actively revealed His power and Godhead so that the whole human race may know Him.

***Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God..."***

**Step a few hundred years into Biblical history and find a man called Moses out in the back side of the desert.**

Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law when the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. The sight was so unusual that Moses turned aside to look, and God called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I."

Immediately, the common desert was changed into holy ground in the presence of the Lord God Almighty. From that moment, in God's presence Moses began to understand the calling and purpose of his life.

### **God stepped out of the realm of invisibility to reveal Himself as the great "I AM WHO I AM."**

Moses was not able to tell or define the wonders of God's being, person or presence. The Lord is not determined or defined by any but Himself and God said, "I AM." He is the self-existent One. As an extension of His being, God revealed Himself as the only Savior of His people.

**Exodus 3:14 NKJV** And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

"Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh" — "I AM WHO I AM" or "I AM THAT I AM", or "I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE." The name YHWH - YAHEWH - is associated with the root Ehyeh — "to be." God is declaring His aseity or self-existence. The being of God is eternal and self-existent.

**Exodus 3:15 NKJV** Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

Moses was standing before the Lord God Who created heaven and earth, the One who gives life, and breath, and all things. It is noteworthy that the Great I AM wanted to intervene in the affairs of Abraham's descendants. Some argue that as a result of the nature of God's self-existence, He is disinterested in the affairs of His creation. They describe God as being aloof, distant and separate from His creation. God is revealing Himself to Moses as the self-existent God Who is not only interested in our lives but is willing to step in to help us in all of our distresses. When God disclosed His name, He was revealing His eternal, self-sustaining, self-determining, sovereign reality. The supernatural mode of existence was demonstrated by the sign of the burning bush (Ex. 3:2). The bush that was not consumed was God's illustration of His own inexhaustible life. God wanted His people to think of Him as the living, reigning, powerful King that the burning bush showed Him to be. Later, when Moses asked to see God's "glory," God proclaimed "the name." Exodus 34:6-7, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty."

### **At the burning bush, God addressed the question of the manner of His existence.**

Here, He answered the question, "How can we describe His actions?" This

foundational announcement of God's moral character is often echoed in later passages of Scripture (Neh. 9:17; Ps. 86:15; Joel 2:13; Jon. 4:2). These revelations are all part of His "NAME," His disclosure of His nature, for which He is to be revered and glorified forever.

**Throughout the Bible, the self-existent God clearly demonstrated His desire to be involved in the affairs of His creation.**

We notice this initially in God's fellowship with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The Lord God Almighty would come down in the cool of the day to walk and talk with them. God continually revealed His desire to intervene in the affairs of mankind. Enoch walked with God and was not because God took Him. During Noah's generation, God took note that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. In mercy and love, God directed Noah to build an ark for the saving of his family. Abraham heard the voice of God calling to him and he believed God and was called the friend of God, (James 2:23). This kind of thing happened throughout Bible history as the self-existent and eternal God showed Himself alive, merciful and caring.

**Acts 17:24-25 NKJV** 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 worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

**Acts 17:26 NKJV** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

**Acts 17:27-28 NKJV** so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

This self-existent and omnipotent God wants to have fellowship with you. He wants to be your Savior, Friend and God.

***Behold your God.***