

Who is God?

"GOD" DEFINED

Definitions from Webster's New World Dictionary:

god (god), n., 1. any of various beings conceived as supernatural, immortal...,
2. an image that is worshipped; idol, 3. a person or thing deified or excessively honored and admired. 4. God, in monotheistic religions, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, eternal, all-powerful, and all-knowing; Supreme Being; Almighty.

Webster's fourth definition more closely describes the God of Sacred Scripture; yet, it leaves great holes in understanding His character, His nature, His ways, His will, His power, and His love. In the original Hebrew text, God is called Elohim, El, Elyon, Shaddai, Yahweh; in Greek the word for God is **Theos**.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism defines God as follows (Q.4):

God is Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

GOD DESCRIBED IN BIBLICAL TEXT...

God is described in Scripture as "uncreated, self-existent, and eternal ... the source of all things." This truth is presented firmly in the thirteenth chapter of Exodus as Moses spoke with God and inquired,

...and (when) they ask me, 'What is His name?' What should I tell them?" 14 God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."
Exodus 3:13-14 HCSB

OMNIPOTENCE... (God is unlimited in power or authority)

Is anything too hard for the Lord?... Genesis 18:14 KJV

I know that You can do anything and no plan of Yours can be thwarted. Job 42:2:2 HCSB

And he is before all things, and by Him all things consist Colossians 1:17 KJV

OMNISCIENCE... (all-knowing, all-wise)

God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. 1 John 3:20 HCSB

"..He knows the secrets of the heart?" Psalms 44:21 HCSB

OMNIPRESENCE... (God is Spirit and is present everywhere)

Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.

Psalms 139:7-8 CSB

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8 KJV

THE TRINITY

The Bible declares unequivocally that God is Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; three divine persons, all sharing the same nature and attributes: co-existent, co-equal, co-eternal, and above all else, personal. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable, incomprehensible, all mighty, and ineffable, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: three persons in deed but one in essence, substance or nature entirely simple.

Lateran Council IV

The Hebrew word for God, the One Lord, is ACHAD. Achad means to unify, collect, be united in one.

For there are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one...

1 John 5:7 KJV

This foundational truth has become known as the doctrine of the **trinity**.

Trinity means:

1. a set of three persons or things that form a unit.
2. in Christian theology, the union of the three divine persons (Father and Son and Holy Ghost) in one Godhead.

Approach Me and listen to this. From the beginning I have not spoken in secret; from the time anything existed, I was there. And now the Lord God (Father) has sent me (Jesus), and His Spirit (Holy Spirit).

Isaiah 48:16 HCSB

FATHER...

But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? And I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.

Jeremiah 3:19 KJV

...but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father and your Father; and to My God and your God.

John 20:17 KJV

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort...

2 Corinthians 1:3 KJV

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:6 KJV

SON...

And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus (which in Hebrew means Savior), for He shall save his people from their sins

Matthew 1:21 KJV

Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth her Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matthew 1:23 KJV

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power...

Colossians 2:9-10 KJV

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God (Jesus) was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1 Timothy 3:1 KJV

HOLY SPIRIT...

Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the one to come.

Matthew 12:32 HCSB

...diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds [us].

Ephesians 4:3 HCSB

the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14 KJV

BELIEFS WHICH OPPOSE THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF GOD

ATHEISM: This belief is centered in non-belief. In other words, an atheist is one who denies the existence of any god or creator.

MATERIALISM: Many scientists and philosophers would have us believe that God is matter and the laws of nature. In essence they promote the ideal that the things (i.e., the universe) created by God are God.

POLYTHEISM: Millions of people in our current society believe this false doctrine: that there are many (poly) gods (theism). The religions of India alone boast of over 350,000,000 gods.

DEISM: This philosophy or doctrine is vastly believed. Many believe in a Supreme Being or Creator, and yet they do not believe that He takes an interest in them nor can He be reached or communicated to by them.

PANTHEISM: The belief that "God is all, and all is God" is incorrect. God is not "the universal mind" or as Webster describes pantheism: "the belief that God is not a personality, but that all forces, manifestations, etc., of the universe are God."

SECULAR HUMANISM: "Manism (or man being the center of all things,) leads to the worship of man" as a "god" unto himself.

TRITHEISM: the belief in three separate gods, rather than the Trinity.

DUALISM: the belief in two separate divine beings or principles: one good and the other evil. (i.e. Ying and Yang)

CULTS: a group or religious system which deviates from Christian orthodoxy; devoted to the admiration of a person or principle outside the normal Christian experience or doctrines which introduce another Gospel (Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, Unity Church, etc.). Read Galatians 1:6-8 The Living Bible

OCCULT: is defined as: "1. hidden, 2. secret; esoteric, 3. beyond human understanding; mysterious, 4. designating or of such mystic studies as alchemy, astrology, Satanism, witchcraft, and New Age pursuits and philosophies."

SPIRITUALISM: "the belief that the dead survive as spirits which can communicate with the living, especially with the help of a medium (psychic), 2. the philosophical doctrine that all reality is in essence spiritual."

HOW TO APPROACH AND RELATE TO GOD

Thou shalt have no other gods before me

Exodus 20:3 KJV

Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth.

For I am God, and there is no other.

Isaiah 45:22 HCSB

Now without faith it is impossible to please God. For the one who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6 TLV

God is Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.

John 4:24 KJV

There is one name for God which appears in Bible text over 950 times to show us how God wants us to relate to him. Jesus used this name over 175 times as he referred to God as "My Father" or "Abba Father".

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Romans 8:15 NAS

Then I said, 'How I would set you among My sons and give you a pleasant land, The most beautiful inheritance of the nations!' And I said, 'You shall call Me, My Father, And not turn away from following Me.

Jeremiah 3:19 NAS

NAMES OF GOD AND DEFINITIONS

God has revealed Himself progressively and under different names

Jehovah	The Eternal; the Immutable One
Jehovah-Elohim	Self-existent, Eternal Creator
Adonai-Jehovah	The Lord our Sovereign; Master Jehovah
Jehovah-Jireh	The Lord will provide
Jehovah-Nissi	The Lord our banner
Jehovah-Ropeka	The Lord our healer
Jehovah-Shalom	The Lord our peace
Jehovah-Tsidkeenu	The Lord our righteousness
Jehovah-Mekaddishkem	The Lord our sanctifier
Jehovah-Saboath	The Lord of hosts
Jehovah-Shammah	The Lord is present
Jehovah-Elyon	The Lord most high
Jehovah-Roh	The Lord my shepherd
El Elyon	Most High God; Almighty, Everlasting, Living, Merciful, Faithful
El Olam	The Everlasting God, Perpetual, unending
El Shaddai	The Strong One, the Breasted One, the Strong Nourisher, Strength, Giver, Satisfier, the All-Bountiful Supplier
Adon	Ruler, Master, possessor, proprietor, Lord
Tsur	The Rock, the Refuge
Yeshuwah or Y'shua	Lord of Salvation, Lord of Deliverance, Victory, Help

The Eternal; the Immutable One

***I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,
saith the Lord God, which is, and which was,
and which is to come, the Almighty.***

Revelation 1:8 KJV

...you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Colossians 2:10 NKJV

*A variety of Bible translations and paraphrases have been used in the **Quick Notes** for clarity.

We recommend www.biblegateway.com as a Bible resource and study aid.



www.visiblelight.org

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