

Lesson 2 **THE GOD OF THE BIBLE**

READING: Deuteronomy 6:4-15; John 17:3; Mark 12:28-34; 1 Timothy 2:5

AIM : To reveal the one supreme God and His character.

1. **BACKGROUND**

God has existed forever. His existence before Creation is implied in Gen. 1:1. The Bible is God's Book, separate from all others, recording the will and purpose of its great Author.

The Bible alone reveals to us who God is; what His character is like; what He desires in those who serve Him; and what His purpose is with the earth and man.

The importance of an understanding of God is shown by such statements as are found in:

- (i) *"This is life eternal to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3)*
- (ii) *"The true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship Him"*

2. **WHAT IT MEANS TO "KNOW" GOD - John 17:3**

It is not enough merely to believe that God exists, we must **"know"** Him and worship Him. To "know" means more than to acknowledge a God. It involves faith and obedience.

The Book of Samuel says that the sons of Eli, who were priests, recognised the existence of God as a fact, but "they **KNEW NOT** God" (1 Sam. 2:12). They did not "know" Him in that intimate loving, obedient fashion that the truth, understood and obeyed, will reveal in us (Exod. 16:16, 33:13).

The following passages should be read carefully as examples of God's revelation of Himself to us; Psa. 90:1-4; 139:1-12; Isa 40:12-17; John 4:24;

1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15-16.

3. **THE ONLY TRUE GOD**

In ancient times men worshipped many gods. In complete opposition to that, the God of Israel revealed Himself as One and Supreme (Deut 6:4). As the Bible unfolds we continue to learn about His complete supremacy for:

His is omnipotent, ie., all powerful;

He is omniscient, ie., all knowing; and

He is omnipresent, ie., everywhere present.

The important truth that God is Our Supreme Being is thought throughout the Bible. We can refer to many quotations to prove this. In these times it is necessary for us to emphasize the fact that God is One because many people falsely believe that there are three Gods – all equal and eternal. The Bible teaches that there is but one God who is one Person.

God has described Himself as the "**Holy ONE of Israel**" (Isa. 45:11), no less than thirty times in the Book of Isaiah alone (Isa. 45:22). Isaiah was one of Israel's greatest teachers who repeatedly told Israel that there was only one God who was loving and merciful in contrast to the lifeless, helpless idols of the heathen. Their God was the only Saviour in time of trouble and in Him alone could they find righteousness and strength.

4. THE TRINITY UNSCRIPTURAL

Despite the evidence to the contrary, the idea of a Trinity is believed by many professing Christianity. They teach that "God is three persons in one, and one in three. God the **Father**, God the **Son**, God the **Holy Ghost**".

Many believers in the Trinity acknowledge that the **doctrine** is not found in the Bible. But some draw attention for instance to the personal pronoun "us" in Gen. 1:26 and claim that here it was the Trinity speaking. The same word (Elohim) here rendered "God" is rendered "angels" in Ps. 8:5 and "judges" in Exod. 21:6, 22.

Though God issued the commands at creation (Ps. 33:6-9), the angels, God's ministers and messengers, were present to do his bidding (Ps. 103:20-22; Job 38:4-7).

5. THE ANGELS – GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES

We find then the word "God" is used in the Bible in two ways. Firstly to define the Great Creator; and secondly in a general sense, to define those who represent Him. God has revealed His power and authority through angels who have assumed His Name as a mark of their authority.

That is why it is said that "**no man hath seen God**" (1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 4:12) yet as our future lessons will show. Adam talked with "God", Jacob wrestled with "God" and Moses received the Law from "God" (Acts 7:35).

There is no support whatever in the Old Testament for any teaching other than that God is one, and the New Testament fully supports the teaching of the Old (Gal. 3:30; 1 Cor 8:6; 1 Tim 2:5; John 17:3; Mark 12:29).

Jesus at all times acknowledged God as the one supreme being. In his youth he grew in knowledge and grace with God. He taught that the first and greatest commandment was "**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord**" (Mark 12:29). He prayed to God as his Father and he said, "**My Father is greater than I**". Just these few comments leave no doubt that Jesus was not equal with God.

6. THE FATHER WHOM WE WORSHIP

Jesus taught his followers to call upon God as "Our **Father** who art in heaven" (Matt. 6:9; R.S.V.). He invites us to see God, not only as the mighty, unseen Creator holding the immensity of creation in His power, but as a loving tender Father, anxious that His children should be guided and instructed in ways of truth and holiness and that they should at last gain life eternal.

Think on the beautiful words of Psa. 103:7-14. And remember that God calls upon us to consider Him in that way.

God is kind, loving and forgiving, but is also insistent upon men recognising His authority and obeying His laws. We are invited to behold His "goodness and severity" (Rom. 11:22). By manifesting these characteristics God has shown the perfect balance of His character. This was the character the Lord Jesus reflected for he said: "**he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**".

7. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

If we are to be true sons and daughters of God, we like Jesus, must try to develop characters that show something of His goodness. This will take much time and patient effort; but it will result in great happiness and joy. God will help us to do this, if we **follow in the footsteps of Jesus**.

He invites us to rest on Him, and look to Him as a loving Father, drawing strength and help from Him. Let us bring into our lives divine principles. Let us be loving, merciful and kind; but never let us stop opposing that which is evil and wicked.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

- "The Ways of Providence", chapter 2.
- "The Visible Hand of God", chapter 3
- "Christendom Astray", chapter 6
- "God's Way", chapter 2

QUESTIONS

1. What do we mean when we say God is "one"?
2. As proof that God is One, write out a verse spoken by each of the following – Moses, Isaiah, Jesus and Paul.
3. How can we "know" our Father in Heaven?
4. How would you show from the Bible that God is One and not part of a trinity?
5. How do angels act as God's representatives?
6. Jesus reflected the attributes of his Father. How can we reflect them in our character?