



WHAT IS GOD LIKE ?



Just like...



- The Bible doesn't attempt to prove the existence of God,
- The Bible also doesn't give a comprehensive definition of His person.



However...



We do have a significant description of God in the conversation between Moses and the Lord at the burning bush in the Sinai desert. ([Exodus 3:13-14](#))

- ➔ You might remember that Moses asked God what he should tell the children of Israel when they ask him who sent him on this mission. The Lord then instructs Moses to tell them that "I AM" had sent him.
- ➔ This description of God shows us that essentially a complete definition of God is fundamentally impossible.
- ➔ Just like a graven image of God cannot depict Him, so a definition of God cannot adequately explain/ define Him.



As God says in [Isaiah 55:8-9](#)...

⁸ For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.



That being said...



God has made a true and adequate disclosure of Himself in His Word.



He has revealed Himself in such a way that we may truly know Him, even though we may not comprehend Him fully.



God's Essence



God is spirit .



John 4:24...

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- ✓ God is a substance
- ✗ He is, however, not a material substance.
- ✓ God is a spiritual substance



If God is spirit, **He is then incorporeal.**



That means He has no physical body.



Jesus said in **Luke 24:39...**

"See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."



But what about the passages in the Bible that represent God as having bodily parts?



Hands (Isaiah 65:2 + Hebrews 1:10)



Feet (Genesis 3:8 + Psalm 8:6)



Eyes (1st Kings 8:29 + 2nd Chronicles 16:9)



Ears (Nehemiah 1:6 + Psalm 34:15)



Those are symbolic representations (Anthropomorphisms) which serve to...

- ✓ Make God more understandable to us &
- ✓ To express His various...
 - ➔ Interests
 - ➔ Activities &
 - ➔ Powers



God is invisible .



In **Colossians 1:15** Paul calls Him, "the invisible God".



John says in **John 1:18**, "No man has seen God at any time".



But what about the passages in the Bible that represent God as being visible?



In **Genesis 32:30** Jacob said...

"I have seen God face to face"



Deuteronomy 34:10 tells us the Lord knew Moses...

"face to face"



Jesus said in **John 14:9** that...

"He who has seen Me has seen the Father"



We know from the Scriptures that...



God's Spirit can be displayed in visible form.

(See: **John 1:32**)



God appeared in the form of the Angel of the Lord



The Angel of the Lord

- ◆ The Angel of the Lord...

- ✓ Speaks as God

- ✓ Identifies Himself with God, &

- ✓ Exercises the responsibilities of God



(**Genesis 16:7-12; 21:17-18; 22:11-18; Exodus 3:2; Judges 2:1-4; 5:23; 6:11-24; 13:3-22; 2 Samuel 24:16; Zechariah 1:12; 3:1; 12:8**).

- ◆ In several of these appearances, those who saw the angel of the Lord feared for their lives because they had "seen the Lord."

- ◆ Therefore, it is clear that in at least some instances, the angel of the Lord is a **theophany**, an appearance of God in physical form.



One day when Believers have their glorified bodies they will see God in person.

(See: **1st Corinthians 15:42-53 + Revelation 22:3+4**)



God is living .

- ⚙️ At least 28 times in the Bible God is said to be “the living God.”
 - 📖 **Psalms 42:2** says, “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God”
 - 📖 **Matthew 16:16...**
“Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- ⚙️ He is also the source & support of all life.

📖 **Colossians 1:16+17...**

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.



God is a person .



Personality exists where there is intelligence, mind, will, reason, individuality, self-consciousness, and self-determination.

- ⚙️ The Bible represents God as possessing the characteristics of:
 - ✓ Self-Consciousness - (Exodus 3:14 + 1st Corinthians 2:10)
 - ✓ Intellect - (Genesis 18:19 + Acts 15:18)
 - ✓ Volition - (Genesis 3:15 + John 6:38)

- ⚙️ The Bible describes God as possessing the attributes of personality:

- ✓ Speaking (Genesis 1:3)
- ✓ Seeing (Genesis 11:5)
- ✓ Hearing (Psalm 94:9)
- ✓ Grieving (Genesis 6:6)
- ✓ Being Angry (Deuteronomy 1:37)
- ✓ Being Jealous (Exodus 20:5)
- ✓ Being Compassionate (Psalm 111:4)

- ⚙️ The personality of God is also shown in the Bible by:

- ✓ His active interest & participation in all things in the universe.
(See Hebrews 1:3 + Colossians 1:15-17)
- ✓ His active interest & participation in the experience of mankind.
(See: Psalm 75:6-7 + Job 1:12 + Daniel 1:9 + Genesis 50:20 + John 3:16-17)
- ✓ His active interest & participation in the life of all His creatures.
(See: Matthew 6:26-30)

⚙️ The names given to God in the Bible also denote personality:

- ✓ Jehovah-Jireh: The Lord will provide (Genesis 22:13-14)
- ✓ Jehovah-Rapha: The Lord that heals (Exodus 15:26)
- ✓ Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord our Banner (Exodus 17:8-15)
- ✓ Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord our Peace (Judges 6:24)
- ✓ Jehovah-Ra-ah: The Lord my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)
- ✓ Jehovah-Tsidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)
- ✓ Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord is Present (Ezekiel 48:35)



God is the immense, eternal, self-existing One.

📖 **Acts 17:24-28**

²⁴"The God who made the world & all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life & breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him & find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ^{28a} for in Him we live and move and exist"

⚙️ Like a circle...

- ✓ God has no beginning and no end!



Isaiah 40:28 says...

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable."

- ✓ God is not limited by time!

- He was, He is, and He will always be!



Psalms 90:2 says...

"Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

- ✓ God is not limited by space!

- Space is actually dependent on Him!

- He is above space!



1st Kings 8:27 says...

"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!"

(See: Psalm 139:7-17)



God's Non-Moral Attributes



Omnipresence

- ⚙️ God is everywhere present in creation at the same time.
- ⚙️ Because God is spirit ([John 4:24](#)) and not constrained by a physical body...
 - ✓ He is unrestricted with respect to space.
 - ✓ No matter how far we may go in the universe, God will always be there! ([Psalms 139:7-10](#))



Omniscience

- ⚙️ God is all knowing. ([Isiah 46:9-10](#))
- ⚙️ Because He is all knowing, His wisdom & knowledge are infinite!
([Psalms 139:2-4](#) + [Psalm 147:5](#) + [1st John 3:20](#))
- ⚙️ He is aware of the very minute details of our lives.
([Matthew 6:8](#) + [Matthew 10:30](#))
- ⚙️ We cannot comprehend God's vast knowledge & understanding.
([Ecclesiastes 8:17](#))
- ⚙️ We can only stand in amazement of His matchless wisdom.
([Romans 11:33](#))



Omnipotence

- ⚙️ God is all-powerful and thus capable of doing whatever is consistent with His character ([Genesis 18:14](#)).
- ⚙️ There is nothing impossible with El Shaddai (God Almighty).



That being said, there are some things that God cannot do!

- 👎 He cannot sin.
- 👎 He thus cannot lie.
- 👎 He is immutable - He cannot change.
- 👎 He cannot be unfaithful.
- 👎 He cannot do something irrational
 - such as creating a rock bigger than He can lift.
- 👍 He is only capable of doing what is consistent with His own character.



God's Moral Attributes



Holy

- ⚙ Holiness is the attribute by which God wanted to be especially known by in the Old Testament (*Isaiah 40:25*).
- ⚙ The Lord is called “the Holy One” some thirty times in Isaiah alone!
- ⚙ In the New Testament, holiness is ascribed to God as well, as John declares in **1st John 1:5...**
“God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”
(See also: John 17:11)

- ⚙ In **1st Peter 1:15-16** Believers are exhorted to be holy like our Lord is holy...
¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

- ⚙ We see in **Hebrews 12:9-11** that God actually disciplines His children so that they can become more Holy...
⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.



Some more important facts about God's Holiness:

- #1** There is a huge gulf between God and the sinner
(*Romans 3:23*)
- #2** Man can only approach God through Jesus Christ as it is He who has made access to God possible
(*Romans 5:1-2 + Ephesians 2:18 + Hebrews 10:19*)
- #3** We should approach God with reverence and awe
(*Hebrews 12:28*)



Righteous & Just



God is a moral being.



C. S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*, makes the case that, just as there exist observable laws of nature (gravity, entropy, etc.), there are also observable laws of morality. He writes, "First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in." Despite varied ideas about what constitutes right and wrong, there is a universal belief that right and wrong exist, and this is a reflection of the God who made us.

(Genesis 1:26 + Ecclesiastes 3:11)



The righteousness of God is revealed in...

- ✓ His just punishment of the wicked (Revelation 16:5-7)
- ✓ His forgiveness of sin (1st John 1:9)
- ✓ His rewarding of the faithful (Hebrews 6:10)



God's righteousness is an encouragement to the Believer in that the Believer knows that...

- ✓ God judges righteously (Acts 17:31)
- ✓ The Believer is secure in the righteousness of Christ
(John 17:24 + 1st Corinthians 1:30 + 2nd Corinthians 5:21)
- ✓ The righteous deeds of the Believer will not go unnoticed
(Hebrews 6:10 + Revelation 19:8)



Truth



God is truth.



God is the source of all truth.



God's knowledge, declarations & representations all eternally true.



Psalms 119:160 declares...

"The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting"



Jesus said in **John 14:6...**

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."



John 1:14 says...

"the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."



Love

- ⚙️ God is love (2nd Corinthians 13:11 + 1 John 4:8).
- ⚙️ It was in love that God sent His Son into the world (John 3:16).
- ⚙️ It was in love that Jesus died on the cross for sinners (Romans 5:8).
- ⚙️ It is in love that He still calls sinners to repentance to experience the grace of God and to be called the children of God (1st John 3:1).



Good

- ⚙️ God Himself is good.
- ⚙️ He is everything that God should be...
 - 👍 The ideal person
 - 👍 The sum total of all perfection.
 - 👎 There are no defects or contradictions in Him
 - 👎 Nothing can be added to His nature to make Him any better.
 - 👍 He is excellence to an infinite degree
 - 👍 He possesses every desirable quality
- ⚙️ Because God is Himself the highest & greatest good...
 - 👍 He is also the source & fountain of all other good.
 - 👍 He does good things.
 - 👍 He extends His goodness to others.
- ⚙️ Because God is good...
 - 👍 Every good thing we now enjoy or ever hope to enjoy flows from Him.
 - 👍 No good thing has ever existed or ever will exist that does not come from Him.

(See: Genesis 1:31 + Psalm 31:19 + Psalm 33:5 + Psalm 84:11
+ Psalm 106:1 + Psalm 135:3 + Psalm 145:9)