

Who Is God?



And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. "I, even I, am the LORD; and there is no savior besides Me." Isaiah 43:10b-11 (NASB)

Athens was a center of religious activity in the ancient world. Today one can find the ruins of some of Athen's once spectacular temples. The ruins of the temples of the goddess Athena, the Furies and the temple of Theseus can be seen. Athens was known as the university city of the Roman world. They were very educated and yet, very religious. The historian Favlius Josephus called them the most pious of the Greeks. Therefore, it is not surprising that Acts 17:22-28 says they had an altar dedicated to the "unknown God." In fact, there were many altars in Athens to unknown gods. So when the apostle Paul met some of the men of Athens, he said they were "very religious" (Acts 17:22). Then Paul told them about the God they did not know. Who is God? According to Acts 17:24-27, Paul told them there are eight things that are true about the "unknown God." *What are those eight truths about God?*

1) God made the world, 2) is lord of heaven and earth, 3) does not dwell in temples, 4) is not served by humans, 5) does not need anything, 6) gives life and breath to all, 7) has made everyone from one man, and 8) controls all events and the boundaries of where men can live.

God Is A Trinity. Who is the God of this universe? Is there anyone like Him? The book of Isaiah describes our God. Isaiah 43:1 states that the God of the Bible is speaking. He tells us that He is the one who created us. In Isaiah 43:10 we discover that no other god existed before Him, and no other god will exist after Him. That is, there is no GOD but Himself. This

eliminates the idea of many gods. *What do the following verses reveal about GOD?*

Passages	What Did You Learn About God?
Isaiah 43:10	No God existed before or will exist after God. He is the only God.
Isaiah 43:11	There is no savior besides Yahweh. Only God is the Lord.
Isaiah 44:6	Yahweh is the first and the last. There is no God besides Yahweh.
Isaiah 45:5	There is no God besides Yahweh.
Isaiah 45:6	There is no God besides Yahweh. "There is no other."
Isaiah 45:21-22	"There is no other God."
Isaiah 46:9	There is no other God. No one is like God.
Isaiah 48:12	Yahweh is the first and the last.

Yahweh GOD has been speaking since Isaiah 43:1, and He still speaks in Isaiah 48:12 when He says "I am the first and the last." This reminds us of Isaiah 44:6 where He had already made the same statement. So, GOD has been declaring that He is the only God since Isaiah 43:10, and there is no other God. There is no one even like Him. Now notice that Isaiah 48:16 says,

Come near to Me, listen to this:
From the first I have not spoken in secret,
From the time it took place, I was there.
And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit.
Isaiah 48:16 (NASB)

Who is the "Me" in this verse? Who has been speaking since Isaiah 43:10?

The "Me" is Yahweh. He has been speaking since Isaiah 43:10.

In the last part of this verse, we are told that "Me" was sent by the Lord GOD or Yahweh. We are also told that Yahweh also sent the Holy Spirit. Now remember that the "Me" has been saying there is only one God! "Me" is the only God! So, how can Yahweh send Yahweh, if "Me" is the only God? The answer is that the "Me" is Christ. God is a trinity. Our God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is one, yet is revealed in three persons.

Members of the Trinity. The New Testament reveals that Jesus is God (John 10:31-33; 20:28; Titus 2:13; 1 John 5:20), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4). God is not three Gods. In Genesis 1:26 we are told that God referred to Himself as, "Let us . . ." Yet in Deuteronomy 6:4 we are told,

The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! (NASB)

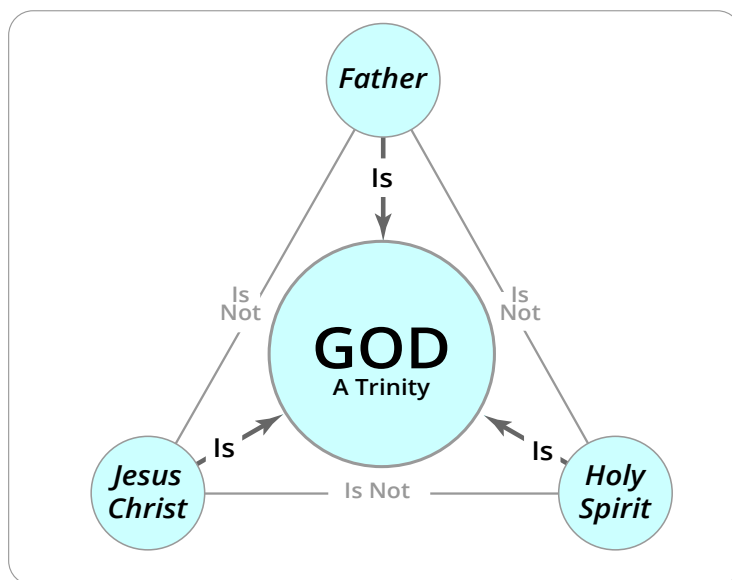
Deuteronomy 6:4

This is a wonderful verse because the Hebrew word for LORD is Jehovah, and the Hebrew word for God is ELOHIM. ELOHIM is plural. This teaches the same truth that we discovered in the book of Isaiah. The “UNKNOWN GOD” is the only God, and yet He is three persons. He is a plural-one.

Both the Old and New Testaments teach that God is a Trinity without using the term. But that does not mean the concept is not in the Bible. The New Testament refers to the three persons of the Godhead together in several passages (Matthew 3:11; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18 and 1 Peter 1:2).

Describe what happened in Matthew 3:16-17.

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and God the Father said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”



Illustrations of the Trinity. There are many illustrations of the Trinity. Some teach that the trinity is like an egg. The egg has a yoke, a white section, and a shell. They say that is like the trinity. Another example is called the triple point of water. The triple point of water occurs when water is simultaneously liquid, gas, and a solid or ice. This occurs at a temperature of 0.1 degrees C and a pressure of 0.006 atm.¹ It is the best illustration because at that point, water is liquid, gas, and solid all at the same time. Yet, even this example falls short because Scripture teaches that God the Son is identical in essence to God the Father (Philippians 2:6-8; Colossians 2:9). The Trinity is a mystery we do not understand. We should not be surprised that our Creator is beyond our understanding. We should not think that we can ever completely understand God. *What does Psalm 50:21 reveal about our view of God?*

We think He is like us!

In what two ways are you different than God, according to Isaiah 55:8-9?

God’s thoughts are not like our thoughts. That is, He does not think like we do.

God’s ways are not like our ways. That is, His principles and behavior are not like ours.

In fact, God is superior to us in His thoughts and ways.

1. Triple Point of Water. university of California Santa Cruz. (ucscphysicsdemo.sites.ucsc.edu/physics-5b6b-demos/triple-point-of-water/).

God The Father — Athanasian Creed (A.D. 570)

"3. . . . We worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity; 4 Neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. 5 For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. 6 But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. 7 Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: 8 the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; 9 the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; 10 the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal. 11 And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, 12 just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite. 13 In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; 14 and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty. 15 So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; 16 and yet there are not three Gods, but one God."

Attributes of God. While the concept of the trinity may seem to be a difficult concept, there are other characteristics about God that are equally difficult to understand. There is more mystery about God than that He is a trinity. We are going to discover some characteristics about Him. Therefore, read the verses below and then answer the questions.

1. **John 5:26** — Does this verse teach that God the Father and Christ need air, water, and food in order to live? Also, what is the definition of aesity?

Aesity means self-existing. Jesus said that both God the Father and He are self-existing. They do not need water, air, or food to live. They do not need anything to exist.

2. **Psalms 90:2 and Isaiah 43:13** — According to these verses, how long has God existed and how long will He exist? Why do these verses reveal that Jesus can keep His promise in Matthew 28:20?

God is eternal. Jesus can keep His promise that He will always be with us because He is eternal.

3. **Malachi 3:6** — This verse refers to God's nature and characteristics. Can God's character change? That is, can God stop loving and caring about you? Why?

God's character cannot change. Therefore, He will never stop loving us.

4. **Psalms 139:1-6** — What does God know about you? Does God know all of your sins? Does God know you are a Christian?

God knows everything about us. He even knows our thoughts.

5. **Psalms 139:7-10** — Is it possible that you could be lost somewhere and God will not know your location?

God knows where everyone is at any moment in time.

6. **Luke 1:37** — What things can God not do?

Nothing! There is nothing that God cannot do.

God Is Not Far Away

For someone to know that God does not exist, the person would need to know that He does not exist anywhere in both the visible and invisible universe. The person would need the ability to exist everywhere at once, because God might have traveled! In short, the person would need to be God to find God. It is much wiser to conclude God exists since the creation could not have made itself. The truth is, you cannot see our invisible God!

7. **Exodus 15:11** — Write this verse down. Then write out 1 Peter 1:16. Then answer this question, “What does God want you to change?”

God would like us to desire to be holy like God.

8. **Isaiah 30:18** — Write this verse down. Does “justice” mean that God is not fair sometimes and make immoral decisions about people?

No. God is just.

9. **John 3:16 and Romans 5:8**— What do these verses reveal about God, and do you think God loves you? Why?

God loves sinners. He loves everyone.

10. **Numbers 23:19 and Psalm 31:5** — What do both verses reveal about God? So, can we trust God that if we believe in Christ, He will forgive our sins and give us eternal life?

God does not lie. We have a truthful God.

Conclusion. God is unbelievable. Knowing God is a lifetime long adventure for some of us. We first start to learn about God when we start loving God. We want to know Him. In Psalm 27:8, King David said, “My face desires to seek His face! Your face, LORD, I will seek.” Do you desire to seek His face, to know Him as a friend? David desired to know God face-to-face.

Things To Ponder

1. How has God been revealed to us according to Romans 1:20?

God has revealed Himself to us through the creation.

2. What is God according to John 4:24 and Colossians 1:15?

God is spirit and invisible.

3. How would you explain the Trinity to someone?

4. Someone once asked, “Can God make a rock so big that He cannot move it?” How does Job 11:7 answer the question?

God has no limits!

5. Do you think we can know everything about God (Romans 11:33-34)?

No!

6. Some people say that they have seen God the Father or Jesus. What would happen if they saw God according to Exodus 33:20?

They would die. So, they would not be alive to tell anyone that they have seen God.

7. Exodus 33:20 reveals that God is very different from us. Why?

We cannot see His face and live.

8. What characteristic of God is revealed in Ephesians 2:4-5 and 1 Peter 1:3?

God is rich in mercy, because of His great love. 1 Peter 1:3 says God has great mercy.

9. What can the followers of Jesus look forward to in heaven (1 Peter 1:8)?

Believers will see God some day.

10. Name four ways in which God is different from us. In what ways are you like God?

Who Is God?

Answer true (T) or false (F) to each of the following statements:

1. God is one god. T
2. There is only one God, yet He is a plural being. T
3. God is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. T
4. God is light and spirit. T
5. God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. T
6. God is self-existing. He does not need anything to stay alive. T
7. Since God thinks as we do, we can know why He acts as He does. F
8. There is something about God that would cause us to die, if we saw Him. T
9. God has revealed Himself in our world and in our universe. T
10. We can know everything about God if we study the entire Bible. F