

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL

THE MESSAGE

Digging Deeper Series - Chapter One

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT HIMSELF?

CHAPTER RECAP -

Find the verses in the passage

- ◆ I am God and there is none other _____
- ◆ My thoughts and ways are above human comprehension _____
- ◆ I am in absolute control of existence _____
- ◆ I have purposes and plans that will be accomplished _____

A. MAIN PASSAGES

Isaiah 55:8-11 (NASB)

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. ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

How is the grander of God and His absoluteness described in story?

Isaiah 46:9-11 (NASB)

⁹ "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; ¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it, surely* I will do it.

Why should it be intriguing and captivating to know God and his ways, plans and purposes?

*As we have seen God is in **control** of all things, but looking deeper we see that Gods ways are above us, His thoughts are not our thoughts, there much deeper, fuller and some beyond human understanding. Simply put there is a God and he is our creator one whose total understanding is beyond comprehension. The second aspect is God has eternal plans and **purposes** ones in which he knows the beginning from the end. Purposes and plans that are different than ours. Looking deeper we see His will and purposes are absolute they will be accomplished, and they will not fail.*

B. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF?

Q1: How would you feel if there was a God of good and a God of evil and that they were at war and in the end you simply did not know who would win, who would be destroyed and who would exist forever?

Q2: How would you feel if you found out there simply was no God, you live and die and that's it?

Q3: Now how does that make you feel knowing there is a God, he is in absolute control and has absolute purposes that will be accomplished?

C. COMPLEMENTING PASSAGES

Isaiah 45:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it *and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited*), "I am the LORD, and there is none else.

Nehemiah 9:6 (NASB)

⁶ "You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

Isaiah 43:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.

Isaiah 45:5-7 (NASB)

⁵ "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; ⁶ That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, ⁷ The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.

Isaiah 14:24 (NASB)

²⁴ The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,

Q1: How emphatic is God wanting us to understand there is only one God, Him?

Q2: How do these passages depicted a God who is a creator and has control and purpose?

Q3 How does the intricacy's of creation lay credence to Gods existence?

Q4: How uncomprehend able is it to realize God was not a created being but always was and always will be?

D. JESUS AS GOD AND OUR LORD

John 1:1-5, 14 (NASB) speaking of Jesus the son of God

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ¹⁴ And 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.

How incredible is it to realize the Jesus who walk upon the earth was God, yet many will not comprehend it?

Hebrews 1:1-4 (NASB)

¹ God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

How is Jesus God and shown to be our creator co-equal with the Father in control and purpose?

John 14:6-11 (NIV2011)

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." ⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

Q1: How does Jesus work in the lives of those who are His and aligned to His purposes?

Q2: What are the evidences Jesus did to prove His deity?

Q3: Why is it fascinating and mystical what God says about himself?

It is uncomprehend able to realize that God in Christ walked upon the earth in human flesh. Some one who by His very words created the heavens and the earth. Then to experience pain and suffering and die on a cross by the very creation he created is mind blowing. But he came with a plan and a purpose. One he which he cried out on the cross, yearning for his creation to simply take a look at what he has for us. He came with a Message of hope and eternity. The question is how many will discover God.

E. JESUS AS GOD AND HUMANITY

Ephesians 1:10-12 (NASB)

In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Romans 8:28-30 (NASB)

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Q1: How can we see that we are designed for God and we are of His glory?

Q2: How can we see His love for us and his desire for us to like Him and of Him?

READ ALL OF JOHN CHAPTER 17 IN THE BIBLE

This is a recorded prayer between Jesus the Son of God and God the Father. This is a beautiful prayer. List all the interesting aspects concerning their relationship and Christ's relationship to us.

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Q1: How deep is the union of God the Father to the Son and then to you, His chosen?

Q2: How is being a Christian like living in a different realm and world?

F. COMPREHENDING GOD

GOD IS GOD AND WE ARE NOT!

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NASB)

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.

Mark 4:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, ¹² so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN."

Romans 11:33-36 (NASB)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? ³⁵ Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

Q1: How much grander and bigger is God than us?

Q2: What are the ways of a man without God? List some of his goals and desires. How are they fleeting?

Q3: Why is it a treasure for us to begin to understand God and his ways?

HOW MUCH CAN WE KNOW OF GOD

John 17:3 (NASB)

³ "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

1 Corinthians 2:6-9 (NASB)

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; ⁹ but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

Q1: Why should it be so exciting for us to have our eyes open to the things of God?

Q2: How and why will God befuddle the intellectual elites of this world?

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

Q1: How is experiencing and understanding God like living on another level of existence?

OUR LIMITATIONS

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NASB)

²⁹ "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Psalm 25:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.

Q1: Why is it frustration to many that God will only reveal just as much as we need to know?

Q2: According to these verses what does God want us to know?

SUMMARY

- There is only one God and he is God and we are not.
- Gods thoughts and ways are above are ways and thoughts
- Gods will, will be done. He is in control of all things.
- His chosen will understand treasures beyond this life
- Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God

Revelation 4:11 (NASB)

¹¹ "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

WHY IS GOD OUR LORD WORTHY TO RECEIVE OUR ALLEGIANCE AND WORSHIP?