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## Who is God?

**Psalms 90:2: (NASB) *Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.***



Defining God is a monumental task. The measure of its difficulty is such that very few will ever follow through with it for the world is overrun with contradictory myths, stories and legends about the nature and purposes of God. So many stories, so little truth! Defining God requires us to look into things that are beyond our natural sight. It requires us to grab hold of things beyond our physical reach, and it requires us to believe in things beyond our earthly capacity. To know who God is means we would know His character. It means we would know His mind and what drives Him. Can we know these things? Can we know God's heart and His mind? Can we know God's plans and purposes? Will knowing God help us to better know ourselves?

Satan and God are not "opposites" because they represent good and evil. [Please see our program, "Who is Satan?" from August 14, 2016, for more on this topic.](#)

**A simple description of God from our theme text:** Psalms 90:2: *Everlasting to everlasting - perpetual non-ending existence; no beginning.*

**Now Satan - this text reveals much of Lucifer's role in heaven as compared to God's role:** Ezekiel 28:12-17: *Lucifer was created a special angelic being. But his path changed...*

*On the day that you were created - Lucifer specifically had a beginning. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>15</sup>You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. You were on the holy mountain of God - This also shows an inequality between the two beings. Lucifer was on God's mountain. Mountains in the Bible are symbols of governments. Here Lucifer was appointed to be a part of a governing group God put together. He was blameless...from the day you were created - Another confirmation that Lucifer had a beginning. God created a perfect being in Lucifer, to whom He gave the privilege of thought, decision and free will. God did not create him as corrupt. Lucifer had a very privileged position. He was blameless until he followed a thought pattern that made him reach beyond his station and he was at odds with God. <sup>16</sup>By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; Lucifer did not keep the power and honor of the position he was given in a God-fearing way, but he focused on what he was given rather than who gave it to him. It all came down to selfishness. God wanted a creation who could think and choose, beyond just running on instinct.*

Lucifer had so much going for him but could not resist being bigger and better. Given authority, beauty, wisdom, splendor and privilege, he chose to take credit for all of it and demand more! God and Satan are NOT opposites - God is higher, God is greater and Lucifer's/Satan's very existence was only there by the creativity and POWER of God. God's angelic creation is mortal; God is immortal. Satan is opposed to God but cannot stand as God's opposite.

We will use the 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm to help us define God. We will break it down into four sections, each furthering our understanding of Him. Psalms 90:1: (NASB) *Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.* That sounds poetic, but there is more to this simple statement. God was the original dwelling place of mankind.

Genesis 1:27-28: We are the only part of His creation made in His image. We are able to think, reason and make decisions. We are able to create as well - we build, make music, art, writings and so much more. The original plan was for man to have a relationship with God and dominion over the planet. It must have been amazing for the angelic realm to see this come into being.

**Humanity was created to be on earth and in the presence of God:** Genesis 2:8: *Man's home was custom-made by God. God's POWER created us and provided everything for us. Think about it: Air, water, soil, vegetables, fruit, meats, grains, mountains, valleys, sun, moon, stars, night, morning, afternoon, summer, winter, spring, fall, all creatures can produce more of their kind - He took good care of us!*

Psalms 90:2: This shows massive power! Think of the implications of perpetual existence. God was there before the universe was, so He exists *outside* of the physical realm we see as so vast.



**God challenging Job - could he answer these questions?** Job 38:12-27: God's POWER has designed and monitors the mighty powers and forces of earth. Job was asked the ultimate rhetorical questions!

Psalms 90:3-4: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>You turn man back into dust and say, Return, O children of men. <sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night.

Genesis 2:16-17 Genesis 3:19: God's POWER enforces His will and His way - His POWER can give life and demand death when appropriate.

Psalms 90:5-6: *In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew* - This gives the idea God can also return life.

Genesis 3:15: God's POWER provides opportunity for life even if it has been forfeited because of sin. That is POWER!

**God's POWER could not be wielded for our ultimate good without God's JUSTICE driving it:**

Psalms 89:13-16: *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne* - Power is dangerous without justice. Thankfully God is both!

Psalms 90:7-8: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>For we have been consumed by Your anger and by Your wrath we have been dismayed. <sup>8</sup>You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

God's JUSTICE is not the arbitrary JUSTICE we witness from the gods of mythology who were fashioned in the likeness of imperfect men.

**God's JUSTICE is clear, precise and righteous:** Romans 5:12-14: God's JUSTICE is simple - one man sinned and all suffer. Atonement for that one man is needed.

Psalms 90:9-10: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>For all our days have declined in Your fury; we have finished our years like a sigh. <sup>10</sup>As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away.

There is nothing we can do about the sentence of death except wait for it to catch up with us.

Romans 5:15-16: Our days and lives are futile - God's JUSTICE opens the door for hope by a perfect payment for sin to atone for the perfect man who originally sinned. Psalms 90:11-12: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>Who understands the power of Your anger and Your fury, according to the fear that is due You? <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Romans 5:17-19: All die in Adam, therefore, by God's JUSTICE all are given life opportunity in Christ. God had a plan put in place before we were born. He loved us before we ever could have loved Him.

**God's LOVE is magnificent, for it is built upon the foundation of His JUSTICE and it is fueled by His POWER and it shines out as the dominant characteristic of His glory:** 1 John 4:7-10: God is LOVE and has proven it to the whole human creation by the sending of Jesus.

Psalms 90:13-14: There is great comfort in these verses. God's LOVE is also manifest in His attention to satisfying the needs of those who seek Him.

1 John 4:11-14: God's LOVE is further manifested in our reflecting that love to one another.

Psalms 90:15: (NASB) *Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us, and the years we have seen evil.*

**God's LOVE does make us glad even within the context of our trials and shortcomings - here's how:** Romans 5:1-5: God's LOVE opens the door to His grace and His hope. With all of these opportunities before us, we can truly begin to exult in tribulation for *God's LOVE is present in our tribulations as well.* We grow through our trials! Jesus is the best example of God's love for us. **God's LOVE is fully expressed in the LOVE of Christ:** Romans 8:35-39: If we let them, the things of the earth could separate us from the love of Christ. What could separate us from the love of God? Heavenly things that are bigger and more powerful than we are, if it were not for God's LOVE. Either way, we can be "safe" in God's love through Christ because of this full expression of God's LOVE - we can *choose* to be inseparable from Him.

God is the epitome of WISDOM applied. His WISDOM drives His plan and provides a basis for the perfect application of His POWER, JUSTICE and LOVE. Conversely, His POWER, JUSTICE and



LOVE provide opportunities for His WISDOM to be applied and emulated. These are all balanced perfectly.

**Romans 11:33-36:** God's LOVE is empowered by His WISDOM. His WISDOM is lofty, broad and exacting. The mere act of observing it brings enlightenment.

Why does God hide himself when this world needs Him now so desperately?

**Psalms 90:16-17:** *Let Your work appear...* - if God allows His work to appear, that means He is no longer hidden. *...to Your servants* - Notice just to His servants; not to every man.

Let's trace some of the basics of God's WISDOM in His plan: Man sinned and consequences were needed for ALL who inherited that sin through his lineage.

**God in His WISDOM planted the seeds of the rebuilding process in the first proclamation of consequences:** **Genesis 3:15:** (NASB) *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.* It may not seem like it, but this was a promise of salvation, a great prophecy of redemption - something to look forward to. Here God speaks to Satan and promises that the seed of Eve (Jesus) would someday *bruise thy head* - a death blow. God hid His plan from most because it was not time yet to reveal it in full.

**The promised seed would begin to become clear many years later:** **Genesis 22:15-18:** Even in a sinful world, God promised Abraham something very special. Blessing would be coming for Abraham and his children. But then, blessing would come *through* his children to all the nations of the earth!

So, if such a blessing is coming, why does God hide Himself? For the human race to truly and eternally appreciate the power, justice, love and wisdom of God, we need to understand what it is like to live without Him. There are consequences to making the choice to do it our own way, like Adam and Eve and Lucifer did. In this way, we get the full import of the horrible effects of sin and death. When God reveals Himself fully, the contrast will be magnificent! God knew what humankind and angelic beings needed to go through for the greatest eternal lessons. He hides Himself so that when He is revealed He will be revered.

*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed* - This *seed* was Isaac and then Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to "Israel," and he had 12 sons who would become the nation of Israel. The 12 tribes of Israel would carry the promise of that seed, until that final seed (the Messiah) arrived.

**Everything in the promise led us to Jesus, whose death paid the price for Adam:**  
**Galatians 3:16**

**God's ever-expanding WISDOM would provide Gentiles the opportunity to join Jews in becoming a part of that seed:** **Galatians 3:28-29:** *Heirs according to promise* - What do we inherit? A comfortable life? A big house?

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19:** We inherit the promise of all the families of the earth being blessed. *How* will they be blessed? The promise to Abraham is fulfilled two-fold: The earthly, Jewish nation becomes a "blessed nation," (beyond the scope of today's podcast) and The heavenly seed of Abraham is given the *ministry of reconciliation*. True followers of Christ are part of that heavenly seed, with the responsibility of making the world compatible with God again.

God's WISDOM took the LOVE He expressed through the sacrifice of Jesus, which fulfilled the JUSTICE required due to Adam sinning. This was generated by God's POWER to make it all happen. By being given this *ministry of reconciliation*, we are given a part in bringing the world back to God. We believe this will happen in the near future.

We walked through **Psalms 90** and established God's attributes of POWER, JUSTICE, LOVE and WISDOM. Now we will look at what these things actually mean to us.

**God's character is one of eternal integrity, only seen if we examine Scripture carefully and comprehensively:** **Isaiah 46:8-10:** God says something and then does what He says. God's finished plan will be a jaw-dropping experience! We would love for this to happen right now, but it is not yet time. **The key is timing - God's timing which ALWAYS takes longer than we want it to:** **Habakkuk 2:2-3:** Sin has to be allowed to run its course and get so out of control that no one would ever want to go back to that way of life. Man will choose righteousness.



If we are humble enough to learn the Scriptures, rather than dictate to them and twist them to serve what *I* want, let me twist *me* to serve what God wants and what He wills. Let's find the answer of God's plan. This is the culmination of who God is. You can tell who He is by what He plans for us, just like you can tell the type of father someone is by how he cares for his children. We are God's children, and even though the world is sinful and messed up, God loves us. This is what is in store for us:

Revelation 21:1-4: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.*

*A new heaven and a new earth* - Not a different planet and different heaven, but instead, a renewed and repaired physical earth and governmental structure.

*The heavens* = symbolic of government *The earth* = symbolic of social order

*Restless sea* = the restlessness of imperfect, unhappy humanity

There will be a new world government and a new social order as the restlessness of imperfect humanity will have been drained away. Peace and harmony will result because the just, wise, powerful and loving plan of God has designed it to be so.

*<sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.*

This new system will be implemented through the faithful true church, (referred to as *the bride adorned for her husband*, Jesus) for their call was to the *ministry of reconciliation*. These are represented by this new Jerusalem coming down from heaven to work with the billions of resurrected people to teach them righteousness and undo all of the wrongs.

*<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,*

God will be back among men - FINALLY! When was the last time He was among men in this way? In the Garden with Adam. The curse will be taken away. God's plan of restoration will truly be a plan that restores what was lost - man in God's image and mankind as sons of God.

*<sup>4</sup>and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.*

God's hand will again be directly upon His entire human family and all of the life-giving, love-driven arrangements that He made in the beginning will be showered upon all men. This is who God is! That is His plan!

Revelation 22:1-2: God now provides trees of life for the healing of the nations.

Trying to define who God is is almost a foolish endeavor but we gave it our best try. What we see of God is just a mere glimpse, but we readily see His four main attributes:

In this world and in this life God is hard to see - but He is there. His heart is in the magnificence of the universe and His signature is in the Scriptures. Most fail to see the magnitude of His character because they get stuck in details, which only reveal tiny, unexplainable and contradictory fragments of the plan behind it all. God's enormity organizes the details, clarifies the contradictions and understands the short-sightedness of humanity. Look for Him in Scripture and prepare to be amazed!

*So, who is God?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*