

Q Who is God?

A God is an eternal spirit who is holy and just, created by none but Creator of all.

Q Is there more than one God?

A No, there is only one God; there are no others.

"In the beginning, God..." **GENESIS 1:1a**

"To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." **1 TIMOTHY 1:17**

THEOLOGY: THE HEART OF THE MATTER

God does not hide. There are at least four ways in which He has revealed His existence to us:

First, we know God exists because of His work in creation. **Romans 1:19** is clear, "*For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.*"

Secondly, we know God exists because every person has a conscience, imprinted with the knowledge of right or wrong (**Romans 2:14-16**).

The third evidence of the existence of God is by way of His inspired Scriptures, which chronicles the Whole Story of God, and is sufficient for "*all things that pertain to life and godliness*" (**2 Peter 1:3a**).

The fourth means of God's Revelation is in the person of Jesus Christ, God incarnate. For Jesus Christ "*is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature*" (**Hebrews 1:3**), and through Him, God's grand supremacy is readily put on display for all to know.

APPLICATION: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

God is Outside the Story— God is the author of the story and sovereign over history. There is nothing that ever has or will catch God by surprise or destroy His plans. He is transcendent, existing above and apart from the story. His existence is not dependent on anyone; nor is it necessary for anyone to acknowledge that they believe in Him to prove His existence.

God Invades the Story— God is the main character of the story, intimately involved in the world He created. He exists not only over all things, but is always present everywhere. He is involved in the story and not detached from it. He wants to be found and is not hiding from those He created.

So What?— *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God!’” (Psalm 14:1).* Simply stated, men choose darkness rather than the light. But when by faith you move forward with what you can see about God, He then gives you greater light. So, move forward and believe!



“God is ruler of the universe.”

- How is light used in this image?

- What is man's response to God's glory?

FURTHER STUDY

R. C. Sproul, *The Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992), 3-4, 12, 15.

Everything we know about Christianity has been revealed to us by God. To reveal means "to unveil." It involves removing a cover from something that is concealed.

Idle speculation about God is a fool's errand. If we wish to know Him in truth, we must rely on what He tells us about Himself. The Bible indicates that God reveals Himself in various ways. He displays His glory in and through nature. He reveals himself in ancient times via dreams and visions. The mark of His providence is shown in the pages of history. He reveals Himself in the inspired Scripture. The zenith of His revelation is seen in Jesus Christ becoming a human being – what theologians call "the incarnation."

Although the Bible speaks of the "various ways" that God reveals Himself, we distinguish between two chief types of revelation – general and special. General revelation is called "general" for two reasons: (1) it is general in content, and (2) it is revealed to a general audience.

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Cultures everywhere attest to the presence of some kind of religious activity, confirming mankind's incurably religious nature. Human beings are religious at their core. The character of such religion may be crassly idolatrous, but even idolatry, indeed, especially idolatry, gives evidence of this innate knowledge that can be distorted but never obliterated.

FURTHER STUDY (CONT.)

Deep within our souls we know that God exists and that He has given His law to us. We seek to suppress this knowledge in order to escape God's commands. But no matter how hard we try, we cannot suppress this inner voice. It can be suppressed but not destroyed.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He rebuked the devil with the words, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4 - NKJV). Historically, the church has echoed the teaching of Jesus by affirming that the Bible is the vox Dei, the "voice of God" or the verbum Dei, the "Word of God."

Although Scriptures came to us from the pens of human authors, the ultimate source of Scripture is God.

Wayne Gruden, *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999), 67-68.

All persons everywhere have a deep, inner sense that God exists, that they are his creatures, and he is their creator. Paul says, that even gentile unbelievers "knew God" but did not honor him as God or give thanks to him (Rom. 1:21). He says that wicked unbelievers have "exchanged the truth about God for a lie" (Rom 1:25), implying that they actively or willfully rejected some truth about God's existence and character that they knew. Paul says that "what can be known about God is plain to them" and adds that this is "because God has shown it to them" (Rom 1:19).

FURTHER STUDY (CONT.)

The evidence that God exists is found throughout the Bible. In fact, the Bible everywhere assumes that God exists. The very first verse of Genesis does not present evidence for the existence of God but begins immediately to tell us what he has done: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." If we are convinced that the Bible is true, then we know from the Bible not only that God exists but also very much about his nature and his acts.

The world also gives abundance evidence to God's existence. Paul says that God's eternal nature and deity have been "clearly perceived in the things that have been made" (Rom 1:20). This broad reference to "things that have been made" suggests that in some sense every created thing gives evidence of God's character.

J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1993) 3, 10.

Christianity is the true worship and service of the true God, humankind's Creator and Redeemer. It is a religion that rests on revelation: nobody would know the truth of God, or be able to relate to him in a personal way, had not God first acted to make himself known.

God has now supplanted general revelation with the further revelation of himself as Savior of sinners through Jesus Christ. This revelation, given in history and embodied in Scripture, and opening the door of salvation to the lost, is usually called special or specific revelation. It includes explicit verbal statement of all that general revelation tells us about God, and teaches us to recognize that revelation in the natural order, in the events of history, and in the makeup of human beings, so that we learn to see the entire world as, in Calvin's phrase, a theatre of the glory of God.