01

Yahweh

God Is

Thirteen points every follower of Jesus should know. A study by Pastor Andy Cisneros.

13 POINTS · 01

Yahweh: *God Is*

Genesis to Revelation records man's relationship with the Everlasting God. Kings and prophets, tax collectors and persecutors, a young shepherd boy and an exiled old man -- each life was impacted for eternity. Expressions of praise and worship reveal their encounters with the Everlasting God of all creation:

- Abraham – "*...there he called upon the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.*" (Genesis 21:33).
- David – "*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting*! (Psalm 106:48).
- Isaiah – *"The high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, the Holy One..."* (Isaiah 57:15).
- Paul – *"Glory and honor to God forever and ever. He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God"* (1 Timothy 1:17).
- John – *"And I saw another angel flying through the heavens, carrying the everlasting Good News to preach to the people who belong to this world -- to every nation, tribe, language, and people...'Worship him who made heaven earth, the sea, and all the springs of water'"* (Revelation 14:6-7).

The human mind attempts to comprehend an Everlasting God who would be governed by present time. As such, He gives to man without measure, holding back nothing.

- His Protection – *"The eternal God is your refuge, and his everlasting arms are under you. He thrusts out the enemy before you; it is he who cries, 'Destroy them!'"* (Deuteronomy 33:27).
- His Understanding – *"Have you never heard or understood? Don't you know that the Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all earth? He never grows faint or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding"* (Isaiah 40:28).
- His Love – "'*...But with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,' says the Lord, your Redeemer" (Isaiah 54:8).*

EVERLASTING GOD – GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO MANKIND

The Book of John illustrates how a relationship with an Everlasting God is forever guaranteed. This was God's purpose for sending His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus' very own words affirm:

- *"Jesus replied ...'But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life'"* (John 4:14).
- *"I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life"* (John 5:24).
- *"For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life -- that I should raise them at the last day"* (John 6:40).

There is but one God, one Everlasting God. *"From everlasting to everlasting, you are God"* (Psalm 90:2). No one else can lay claim to His property -- eternity. The gods of the heathen cannot lay claim to it. But for those who choose to follow Jesus, a glorious eternity awaits. *"And you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (2 Peter 1:11). What I am saying is, if you have a relationship with God you have eternal life.

Relationship with God

A relationship with God happens most fundamentally by the Spirit through the word. Don't try to run away from the Bible to find a relationship with God. You'll not find it in the woods or in some kind of encounter with nature or with a great piece of art. These are all supplemental to what will truly draw you close to God. While it is true that "*The heavens declare the glory of God"* (Psalm 19:1) and the wonders of nature might convince you of His existence (Rom. 1:20), to truly know Him requires a knowledge of the scriptures. God might even use great art and great poetry to awaken us, but, if we don't center on the Bible where he is speaking authoritatively and infallibly, our relationship will become distorted by error and sin. How does God explain what having a relationship with Him is like.

1. **Life with God is humble**. God can be known truly, He cannot be known fully. This forces us to be humble in our understanding of God and establishes a precedent in our thinking to allow room for mystery, as we indeed see and know in part (1 Cor. 13:12).

2. **Life with God is loving**. When 1 John 4:7 says, *"Love is from God,"* it is revealing that love emanates from God. Love for God includes our love for Him, for family, friends, neighbors, strangers, and even our enemies. This is because even while we were enemies of God, estranged by sin, God gave us a way to Him by giving us His Son Jesus (Romans 5:8). Jesus loved us as a friend, died for our sins to make us family, and shared with us God's love. This is the language of friendship which compels us to live face-to-face with others in companionship and community. This is why Christians practice hospitality to strangers and why they participate in the life of their local church as they live face-to-face with their spouses and children. All of this is to prepare us for that day when, as Paul says, we will see God *"face to face"* (1 Cor. 13:12).

3. **Life with God is worshipful**. This means that we worship, including singing, serving, and praying, to the Father, through the Son, by the power of the Spirit.

4. **Life with God is submissive**. As we hear Jesus teaching us to pray, *"Your will be done,"* and himself praying, *"Not my will, but yours, be done,"* while he sweated drops of blood from anxiety caused by the looming horror of his crucifixion. In the same way we must learn to submit ourselves to the will of the Father by power and guidance of the Spirit.

5. **Life with God is joyful**. Tim Keller explains: "To glorify something or someone is to praise, enjoy, and delight in them. When something is useful you are attracted to it for what it can bring you or do for you. But if it is beautiful, then you enjoy it simply for what it is. Just being in its presence is its own reward. To

glorify someone is also to serve or defer to him or her. Instead of sacrificing their interests to make yourself happy, you sacrifice your interests to make them happy. Why? Your ultimate joy is to see them in joy."

What Keller is saying is that God is the place of the greatest joy that has ever been or ever will be. My daughter Brooke asked me why does God want our worship? We think it's arrogant for one human being to want the adulation of another because we recognize that most people are not very different from one another. But God is not some exalted human being at the top of the mankind pyramid. He's in an entirely different category where He is the only member. He is glory and dwells in unapproachable light. He says He's not like us at all—*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:9).

The amazing thing is not that God invites our worship, but that He accepts from us what He does not need. The more we study God's Word, the more we begin to understand He is leading us to an attitude of worshiping Him, because in His presence is where we belong. Whether we realize it or not, we need to worship—and God wants our worship because **He wants what's best for us**.

God calls us

Why does God need to draw us to salvation? Simply put, if He didn't, we would never come. Jesus explains that no man can come unless the Father draws him (John 6:65). The natural man has no ability to come to God, nor does he even have the desire to come. Because his heart is hard and his mind is darkened, the unregenerate person not only doesn't desire God, but is actually an enemy of God (Romans 5:10). When Jesus says that no man can come without God's drawing him, He is making a statement about the brokenness of the sinner. So darkened is the unsaved person that he doesn't even realize it: *"and the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9). Therefore, it is only by this tugging of God through His merciful grace that we are saved. In the conversion of the sinner God enlightens the mind (Ephesians 1:18), He inclines our will toward Himself, and He influences our heart. Without His influence our hearts would remain darkened and rebellious against God. All of this is involved in the drawing process.

Describing God

People are often at a loss for words when it comes to discussing the nature of God. We know how to describe most animate and inanimate objects and items in our lives, but God seems to transcend the usual language we use for those subjects. Usually we can ask a few questions about a person or thing and draw out all we need to know. Consider your phone. What is it like? Describe your teacher, or your car or

your pet. What does it do? How can it help me? What does it look like? A line of questions like that is insufficient when considering a God who is infinite. A simple checklist is not adequate to offer an understanding of the Almighty God of the universe.

I want to talk about God's personality, character and nature in a way that is personal and pleasing to Him. The only way to do that is to go to the source of His revelation to us, the Bible. God's word tells us what God is like and what He is not like. Without the authority of the Bible any attempt to explain God's attributes would be no better than an opinion which, by itself, is often incorrect. This is especially true in our understanding of God (Job 42:1 - 6). To say that it is important for us to try to understand what God is like is a huge understatement. Failure to do so can cause us to set up, chase after, and worship false gods contrary to His will (Exodus 20:3-5). However God does equate Himself to many things:

- God is like rain (Psalms 72:6)
- God is like a rock (Psalm 61:2)
- God is like a strong tower (Proverbs 18:10)
- God is like an eagle (Deuteronomy 32:10-11)
- God is like a shield (Psalms 28:7)
- God is like a Father (1 John 3:1)
- God is like a stronghold (Psalms 9:9)
- God is like a potter Isaiah (64:8)
- God is like water (Psalms 63:1)
- God is like fire (Hebrews 12:29)
- God is like a mother (Isaiah 66:13)
- God is like a guide (Isaiah 42:16)

While all of these descriptions give us an idea of who God is, they fall far short because they do not describe everything God is. What can? But we describe Him like this so that we can better understand what He does for us.

The Bible says to praise God for who He is, especially in prayer. Much of Psalms is a good example of this. Most people concentrate their praise in just a few areas, such as God's love, and then spend the rest of their prayer time asking Him for things. We never want to fall into the trap of only knowing part of God. We want to think of Him completely. "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."-A.W. Tozer. Why would he make such an extreme pronouncement? Tozer goes on to say, "Man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshipper entertains high or low thoughts of God." In our

hearts we know this is true. It is not enough to follow "god." That word has come to mean so many different things today that it actually means very little. Too often that word is used thoughtlessly in everyday conversation, without considering its meaning.

Who is God? If we just make up our own minds concerning who He is and what He is like, then we are just creating an idol in our minds. Once again we have to go to the word of God. What does God say about Himself?

The Attributes of God

He is Eternal.

God is eternal, meaning He had no beginning and His existence will never end. He is immortal and infinite (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17). The Eternal God of the Bible has always existed and will continue to exist in the future. As *El Olam,* He is known as the Everlasting God. The Hebrew name *Olam* means "forever, old, ancient" implying that there is an infinite future and past. *"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God"* (Psalm 90:2). The principles of the laws of nature, the beginning of time, and the first existence of this world—all are the result of God, the Creator, who possesses never-ending wisdom and power. He was before all time and all worlds.

People have sometimes thought that the Eternal God is completely independent or distant from any events or actions that occur in our lives. God's eternity may be explained as: "God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time."

God is timeless. Psalm 90; believed to be a prayer of Moses, instructs the Israelites to honor God's eternal nature through their prayers. The psalm contrasts God's eternity with man's frail and brief life. Man must come to terms with the small number of his days in comparison to a holy, everlasting God. Similarly, in Job 36:26, Elihu says of God, *"How great is God—beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out."* God's years are innumerable and unending in contrast to man's few years. Even Job laments that his days and months are determined by God, with time limits beyond which he cannot go (Job 14:5).

Before All Time

As the Eternal God, we must acknowledge the fact that God created all things and that He himself is an immortal spirit. Before the creation of the universe, there was no matter, but then God created all things (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). The study of physics tells us that matter, time, and space must all

occur together. Without matter, there can be neither space nor time. Therefore, “time”—the succession of moments one after another—did not exist before God created the universe. But, before there was a universe or time, God always existed, without being influenced by time.

In Psalm 90:4, we read, “For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.” A night watch was approximately four hours, the brief portion of the night when a man sleeps. Between a minute and a million years we can establish some proportion, but between time and eternity no such proportion can be fathomed. In the New Testament, Peter speaks of God viewing “a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8). God looks upon a thousand years as if it were “yesterday.”

The Eternal God does not forget things after one or two millenniums, but also views any one day as a thousand years. It is as if that day never ends, but is always being experienced by Him. God is able to see the whole span of history as intensely as if it were a brief event that occurred in any one moment, but any brief event as if it continues forever. No event that takes place in our lives fades from God’s consciousness. He is omniscient, fully knowing Himself and all things in one eternal act.

Eternal Response

In reflecting upon the attributes of the Eternal God, every response becomes very personal. The singer, Chris Tomlin, stated, “God is a mystery, beyond our comprehension.” The lyrics of this song reflect his personal relationship with the God of Eternity:

You are the everlasting God.

The everlasting God.

You do not faint.

You won't grow weary.

People measure nearly everything according to a specified time. Yet we long for our lives and our relationships to last forever. When we choose to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, God gives us an eternal promise that extends beyond the boundaries of time...an everlasting life (John 3:16).

Unchanging

God is unchanging; this means that God is absolutely reliable and trustworthy (Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 102:26, 27). The Immutability of God - What is it?

The Immutability of God is the principle that God does not change. He is the same today as He was a thousand years ago. God's nature does not change, nor does His character or attributes. When something changes, it is made better, worse, or different. But because God is perfect, He cannot be made better or develop into a holier being. There is no need for Him to change.

An Unchanging God in a Changing World

An unchanging God is important because it assures us of God's role in our lives:

- We can be sure of who God is. He is our holy, eternal Father, just as He has been to His people since the beginning of the world. 1 Samuel 2:2 says, "*There is no one holy like the LORD...*" and in Isaiah 40:28 we read, *"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."*

- We can be sure God loves us. God's love for us is constant and sure. 1 Chronicles 16:34 tells us His love is never ending: *"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; his love endures forever."* And we are assured in Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from His love. *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

- We can be sure God will sustain us in hard times. He will not leave us alone, but will guide us through troubles that are sure to come our way. Psalm 4:8 says, *"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety."* This is a wonderful picture of God's sustaining comfort—having the peace to lie down and sleep during difficult times. And there is no problem too big for God, as we read in Psalm 147:5, *"Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit."*

- We can be sure of God's plan for our lives. God cares about each of us as an individual. He wants the best for us and wants to lead us in the path of His perfect will, which begins with asking Him to come into our lives and forgive us of our sins. God, who is perfect, cannot look on sin. He has made provision for dealing with sin in our lives through the death, burial, and resurrection of His only son, Jesus Christ. And that plan has never changed. 1 John 1:9 says "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

An unchanging God gives us comfort and security in who we are and who God is. Knowing God does not change provides us with a spiritual and moral anchor in a rapidly changing culture. When we are pulled in many directions and are searching for answers, we can know that God is constant, dependable, and faithful to help us when we ask.

Incomparable

God is incomparable; there is nothing or no one like Him in works or being. He is unequaled and perfect (2 Samuel 7:22; Psalm 86:8; Isaiah 40:25; Matthew 5:48). God is unfathomable, unsearchable, and past finding out as far as understanding Him completely (Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 145:3; Romans 11:33, 34).

Righteousness

God is righteous, meaning that God cannot and will not pass over wrongdoing. It is because of God's righteousness and justice that, in order for our sins to be forgiven, Jesus had to experience God's wrath when our sins were placed upon Him (Exodus 9:27; Matthew 27:45-46; Romans 3:21-26). The righteousness of God is virtually synonymous with His justice. If there is a distinction, we usually think of God's righteousness in reference to His thoughts and actions, and His justice in terms of how He administers judgment. But the current under both terms is the truth that God always does what is right. He is fair and impartial. He doesn't play favorites and shows no partiality. These are divine qualities, and they are praised in scripture:

- "He is the rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he" (Deuteronomy 32:4).
- "Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep" (Psalm 36:6).
- "And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice" (Psalm 50:6).
- "But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts" (Isaiah 5:16).

Justice

God is just; He is no respecter of persons in the sense of showing favoritism (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30). The Bible tells us that God is just. This means that He is fair and impartial. It also means that He hates the ill-treatment and oppression of people and of nature, which He has created. He hates lying, cheating, and other forms of mistreatment of others. The fact that God is just means that He can and will judge between right and wrong and He will administer justice in accordance with His standards.

We can take comfort in a God of justice and righteousness. From a cosmic perspective, you can be confident that evil will eventually be conquered and externally exterminated. Many times in the Bible God is pictured as a judge. The Bible says that He will one day judge the world. Many of us shy away from the thought of God as a judge because the examples of justice that we see on earth are flawed: some judges are corrupt and, even when their intentions are good, they can make mistakes. However, the fact that God

is just assures us that when He acts as a judge, He will administer justice perfectly. His ability to do this involves other aspects/attributes of His character, including His ability to discern the truth in every situation and see into the hearts and minds of men, His wisdom, His strength, His authority, and His moral character in establishing what is right and wrong.

A God who did not care about the difference between right and wrong and did not judge humans for acting one way or the other would not be an admirable being worthy of our love or trust. The fact that God is just and will judge between right and wrong gives ultimate moral significance to our lives and makes us accountable for our actions.

If there is an all-powerful, all-knowing Supreme Being who is inherently just and who will act as our judge, what does this mean for humans like you and me? It means that our actions on earth and our attitudes toward God will ultimately be judged. This is a very serious concern since we have all fallen short of God's perfect standards and we must pay the penalty for those shortcomings (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23). We know that God is a God of mercy. In His mercy, He has provided a way for us to be reconciled with Him and to meet His standards. He has provided a substitute who was willing to pay our penalty if we are willing to accept that arrangement. He did this through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, who died to cover the penalty we would have to pay for our wrongdoing (Romans 3:24). All we have to do is accept this substitution. Then the God who is both just and merciful will forgive and forget our shortcomings. The Bible tells us He will even accept us and treat us as His children and His heirs. When God gave His Son Jesus as a substitute to pay the penalty for our brokenness, the Bible says He did it to demonstrate His justice: "...so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:26).

Justice after salvation

Once you have been reconciled to God and He sees you as one of His children, the fact that God is just means that He wants you to be just and act justly. The prophet Micah summed this up by saying, "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before your God?" (Micah 6:8). Repeatedly throughout the Bible, God warns His people to treat others fairly, particularly those who may be in less fortunate situations such as widows, orphans, the poor, and aliens or strangers. Jesus' teachings go even further, telling us to love one another and to do good to those who mistreat us (John 13:34, Luke 6:27-28).

The fact that God is just can also provide you with peace when you are dealing with difficulties in your life or witnessing painful injustice. You can be confident that God's justice will ultimately prevail. The fact that the all-powerful and all-knowing God is also just means that evil will ultimately be dealt with.

Why do we see so much unfairness on earth?

Where we see injustice on earth, it is at the hands of men, not of God. God has given men free will, but most men do not exercise it responsibly or in a way that lines up with God's character as a just God. As discussed above, the time will come when God will judge the world and the people in it. He will dispose of evil and injustice and He will punish those who have turned away from Him and His standards. However, in His wisdom, He is not doing that yet. The Apostle Peter tells us that God is waiting because He is patient and wants everyone to have an opportunity to accept His Son's sacrifice rather than paying the penalty that justice requires for their sins (2 Peter 3:9).

God is love

The Bible tells us that "God is Love" (1 John 4:8). But how can we even begin to understand that truth? There are many passages in the Bible that give us God's definition of love. The most well known verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life." So one way God defines love is in the act of giving. However, what God gave (or should we say, "who" God gave) was not a mere gift-wrapped present; God sacrificed His only Son so that we, who put our faith in His Son, will not spend eternity separated from Him. This is an amazing love, because we are the ones who choose to reject God, yet it's God who mends the separation through His intense personal sacrifice, and all we have to do is accept His gift.

Another great verse about God's love is found in Romans 5:8, " But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". In this verse and in John 3:16, we find no conditions placed on God's love for us. God doesn't say, "as soon as you clean up your act, I'll love you;" nor does He say, "I'll sacrifice my Son if you promise to love Me." In fact, in Romans 5:8, we find just the opposite. God wants us to know that His love is unconditional, so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us while we were still unlovable sinners. We didn't have to get clean, and we didn't have to make any promises to God before we could experience His love. His love for us has always existed, and because of that, He did all the giving and sacrificing long before we were even aware that we needed His love.

His Love Is Unconditional

God is Love, and His love is very different from human love. God's love is unconditional, and it's not based on feelings or emotions. He doesn't love us because we're lovable or because we make Him feel good; He loves us because He is love. He created us to have a loving relationship with Him, and He sacrificed His own Son (who also willingly died for us) to restore that relationship. How Should we Define Love? When the Scriptures say, "God is love," they aren't telling us that God is some warm fuzzy feeling of love. Those

who wrote the bible weren't saying that in our limited form of human love we will find God. Not at all, in fact, when we read that God is love in the Bible, this means that God defines love. And when we say that God defines love, we don't mean that He defines it like Webster might define something -- we mean that God is the very definition of love itself. There is no such thing as love without God. As hard as we might try, we cannot define love outside of knowing God. This essentially means that our human definition of love is false.

God is the Creator of all things, and by His very nature, He is love. God says love is unconditional and sacrificial, and it's not based on feelings; therefore, love is not an "intense affection… based on familial or personal ties". To understand what true love is and to be able to truly love others, we must know God, and we can do this through a close personal relationship with Him. We can have that close relationship with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ, who was God's sacrifice of love for us. God is Love! As such, true love -- God's love -- can be summed up in this passage of scripture: *"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. "(*1 John 4:7-11).

Can God be both loving and just?

Many times in Scripture, we see God's justice poured out on the people. It often seems so severe and unloving. For example, God judged Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), the world of Noah's day (Genesis 6–8), Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18–19), and the Egyptians with the 10 plagues (Exodus 7–12). God judged many individuals too, such as: Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-3), Achan (Joshua 7), Belshazzar (Daniel 5). How could God have sent judgment on these people and still be considered loving, merciful, gracious, and forgiving? And today, we often see judgment on those who seem undeserving. How can God's love and justice work together?

We know that God's attributes work harmoniously. The idea that justice and love conflict is the result of the attributes being defined apart from one another. In other words, in order to understand justice, we need to understand God's love. In order to understand His love, we need to understand His justice.

Justice means that love must always be shown, whether or not a situation of immediate need presents itself. Love in the biblical sense, then, is not merely to indulge someone near at hand. Rather, it inherently involves justice as well. This means there will be a concern for the ultimate welfare of all humanity, a passion to do what is right, and enforcement of appropriate consequences for wrong action. Actually, love and justice have worked together in God's dealing with the human race. God's justice requires that there

be payment of the penalty for sin. God's love, however, desires humans to be restored to fellowship with Him. When each attribute is understood in light of the other, love and justice are harmonious. They do not compete with each other, but stand side-by-side in complete harmony.

Omnipotent

God is omnipotent; He is all-powerful and can do anything that pleases Him, but His actions will always be in accord with the rest of His character (Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 32:17, 27). We have an omnipotent God. He has the ability and power to do anything (omni=all; potent=powerful). This power is exercised effortlessly. A good example of God's omnipotence is in the name *el shaddai*, which means "self-sufficient" or "almighty." God's power is unlimited. Ephesians 1:18-23 says, *"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."*

"Since He has at His command all the power in the universe, God can do anything as easily as anything else. All His acts are done without effort. He expends no energy that must be replenished. His self-sufficiency makes it unnecessary for Him to look outside of Himself for a renewal of strength. All the power required to do all that He wills to do lies in undiminished fullness in His own infinite being." – Tozer. It is important to note that God cannot do anything that is contradictory or that is contrary to His nature. For example, God cannot lie, even though He has the power to do anything. Hebrews 6:18 says, *"God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged."*

"Although such power might seem frightful, remember that God is good. He can do anything according to His infinite ability, but will do only those things that are consistent with Himself. That's why He can't lie, tolerate sin, or save impenitent sinners." – John MacArthur

All throughout scripture God has shown how He is Omnipotent. Some example are:

- God is Omnipotent in Creation

Isaiah 44:24 – *"This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself."*

- God is Omnipotent in Salvation

Jude 24-25– *"To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."*

- God is Omnipotent in the Resurrection

John 10:17-18 – *"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."*

- God is Omnipotent in Understanding

Psalm 147:5 – *"Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit."*

Sustaining Strength

Having an omnipotent God gives us a source for confidence. He can handle any problem you have! Philippians 4:13 says, *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength*."

Ephesians 3:20-21 says, *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

If God were limited in might and had a limit to His strength we might feel lost in our brokenness. But since He is omnipotent, no prayer is too hard for Him to answer, no need too great for Him to supply, no passion too strong for Him to subdue; no temptation too powerful for Him to deliver us from, no misery too deep for Him to relieve.1 Peter 5:6 says, *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."* We realize that without His almighty power, we can do nothing.

Omnipresent

God is omnipresent, meaning He is present everywhere, but this does not mean that God is everything (Psalm 139:7-13; Jeremiah 23:23). Omnipresence of God – Can we truly understand it? The omnipresence of God has caused controversy and concern for many individuals. In the midst of a catastrophic event we may ask, "Where was God?" In response to her children's demands, a tired mother replies, "I can't be in two places at once!" Even the most advanced technology is unable to physically place us in two locations within a single moment. Surely, if God is everywhere simultaneously, i.e. omnipresent, then nothing escapes His attention. Throughout the Bible, everything created continues to exist under the control of a sovereign God. An omnipresent God *"saw all that He had made...the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array"* (Genesis 1:31–2:1).

If we could fully grasp the concept of eternity, the omnipresence of God might be within our comprehension. The human mind classifies events along a sequential timeline, with specific divisions for the past, present, and future. The constant transition from each classification relies upon an individual's perception of a given occurrence. God, who is eternal, is not limited by time. As ruler over all mankind's past, present, and future, God proclaims, *"I am the Alpha* (Beginning, First) *and the Omega* (End, Last)*...who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty"* (Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13). He rules simultaneously over all human history, beyond the physical limitations of any timeline.

Unrestricted

Since God is eternal, spatial dimensions cannot restrict Him. God's time is infinite; therefore, God is also unrestricted with respect to space, i.e. omnipresent. King Solomon realized that God greatly transcends containment by anything in all creation. *"But will God really dwell on the earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"* (1 Kings 8:27). Magnificent though a man-made temple may be, Solomon understood that God cannot be confined to any part of space, no matter how vast. *"This is what the Lord says: 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house that you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?'"* (Isaiah 66:1). We also know that God will come and dwell with man on earth at the end of the millennium (Revelation 21:3). Even then He will not be restricted to any one place.

The omnipresence of God signifies that He cannot be contained by the largest space possible. While God does not have spatial limitations, He is not a "bigger space" or a layer area surrounding the space of the universe as we comprehend it. He does not simply exist in a kind of infinite, unending space. God is present to all space. This does not mean that "at least a little part of God" is dispersed throughout the infinite reaches of space. Instead, God in His whole being is present at every point of our space. All space is instantly present before Him. There is an error, however, in thinking of God in merely spatial terms, as if He's a gigantic being. While God is a being who exists without size and dimensions in space, He is not some shapeless "blob." In Genesis 1:26, we are told that man is made in the image and likeness of God—words that indicate a sense of shape. When Moses asks to see the glory of God, He responds, *"Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen"* (Exodus 33:18–23). God speaks of himself in human terms.

God's Reach

While we may not see the face of our Creator, the omnipresence of God confirms that God continually looks upon mankind. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God among the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8). The prophet Jonah attempted to *"flee from the Lord."* In awe, David realized, *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"* (Psalm 139:7-18). In all creation, there is no hiding place from

the Lord. Through His Spirit, God's reach extends to every corner of the universe as well as into the hearts of mankind. *"The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord is on His heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; His eyes examine them"* (Psalm 11:4).

Omniscient

God is omniscient, meaning He knows the past, present, and future, including what we are thinking at any given moment. Since He knows everything, His justice will always be administered fairly (Psalm 139:1-5; Proverbs 5:21).

At first look, the idea of the omniscience of God may seem to be a simple concept—God knows everything. But the more we study the Bible, the more we come to understand what an incredible truth it is. Psalm 147:4-5 tells us, *"He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit."* Imagine. God not only knows how many stars are in the universe, but knows each of them by name. An Australian study a few years ago put the number of stars we can see at 70,000 million million million, or the number 70 followed by 22 zeroes. That means there are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on all the beaches and deserts of the world! What an incredible picture of the omniscience of God.

God Knows All About Us

God knew us and had a plan for our lives before we were born. He knows us better than we know ourselves. Matthew 10:30 tells us that even the hairs on our head are numbered. No matter how carefully we keep secrets from others, we have no secrets from God.

In Psalm 139:1-4 David wrote, *"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely."* And Proverbs 15:3 tells us*: "The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."* He sees our actions every minute of the day, and even though He knows everything about us—both good and bad—He still loves us. God understands how we feel when we are going through hard times because He knows our thoughts and feelings. What a comfort it is to realize God who knows every star by name knows each of us personally and loves us no matter what. *"For the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought"* (1 Chronicles 28:9).

God Knows All About Our Future

The omniscience of God is complete. God does not continually learn, but knows everything at once. He knew millions of years before He created the world He would send His Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins: *"He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake"* (1 Peter 1:20). God revealed His plan to Old Testament prophets, such as Isaiah, who spoke God's word to the people: *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel"* (Isaiah 7:14).

The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus were not by chance. They were the result of a divine plan God set in place an eternity ago to provide us a way to have a personal relationship with Him. We can enter into that relationship by praying to God, confessing our sins and asking Him to come into our lives. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

As believers our future is secure. Not because we know what lies ahead, but because God knows (Psalms 139:1-4).

One God

God is one; not only is there no other, but He is alone in being able to meet the deepest needs and longings of our hearts. God alone is worthy of our worship and devotion (Deuteronomy 6:4).

One God Glorified

The glory of God is the beauty and excellence of His manifold perfections. It is an attempt to put into words what God is like in His magnificence and purity. It refers to His infinite and overflowing fullness of all that is good. The term might focus on His different attributes from time to time—like His power and wisdom and mercy and justice—because each one is indeed awesome and beautiful in its magnitude and quality. But in general God's glory is the perfect harmony of all His attributes into one infinitely beautiful and personal being.

Now when God says that He created us for His glory, it cannot mean that He created us so that He would become more glorious, that His beauty and perfection would be somehow increased by us. It is unthinkable that God should become more perfectly God by making something that is not God. It is a staggering but necessary thought that God has always existed, that He never came into being, and that everything which exists which is not God is from His fullness and can never add anything to Him which did

not come from Him. That is what it means to be God. And He is one God, the only God who creates glory. Everything else in life reflects God's glory but never creates its own glory. We are Glory reflectors not glory refractors (Job 21:22).

Sovereign

God is sovereign, meaning He is supreme. All of His creation put together cannot thwart His purposes (Psalm 93:1; 95:3; Jeremiah 23:20).. Being absolutely independent, God does as He pleases. None can deter Him, none can hinder Him. In His Word, God declares: *"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me...I say: 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please'"* (Isaiah 46:9-10). Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, created architectural works that were classified among the Seven Wonders of the World. Yet he praised the Most High's sovereignty. *"His (God's) dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation...He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand..."* (Daniel 4:34-35).

Divine sovereignty signifies that God is the One who sits on the Throne of the universe. He is God in name as well as in all things, directing all things, and *"who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will"* (Ephesians 1:11). In His God-permitted affliction, Job acknowledges God's greatness and splendor in contrast to his pride and sin. *"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted"* (Job 42:2). Job finally realizes that God's purposes are supreme and He is sovereign.

Are their limits to God's sovereignty?

While God's supremacy is unrestricted, even the sovereignty of God has its parameters. *"Ultimately God is in complete control of all things, though He may choose to let certain events happen according to natural laws which He has ordained."*

- God cannot do anything that would deny His own character. Since God is immutable, His words must reflect His integrity (Numbers 23:19). God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). In all cases, God not only remains truthful, but keeps every oath and promise He makes.
- God cannot be tempted by evil. There is no element in His nature to which evil can make an appeal (James 1:13). While God will often test us, He tempts no one. In fact, God uses His unlimited power to enable us to resist and escape evil (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- God cannot deny or contradict Himself. God remains faithful to His covenant promises (Malachi 3:6). A promise is only as good as the person who makes it. Like God, His Word is immutable (1 Samuel 15:29). God does not revoke what He has given or discard who He has chosen (Romans 11:29).
- God cannot forgive sin without the payment being made. Because God is just, He cannot simply "wipe the slate clean" (Romans 6:23). Christ cried out in the Garden of Gethsemane, *"O my Father, if it be*

possible, let this cup pass from me..." (Matthew 26:39). Christ had to endure excruciating physical and spiritual agony, God's perfect justice pronounced on sin.

- God cannot force anyone to love Him or to receive His gift of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ. It is an act of man's free will (John 1:11–13). When an individual chooses to respond in faith, welcoming Jesus into his life, he becomes a new creation.

Sovereignty of God – How is it seen?

While the sovereignty of God is infinite, the use of His power is defined by His other attributes. Characteristics such as truthfulness, goodness, faithfulness, righteousness, and love define God's every action. If one attribute were disproportionate or over-emphasized, chaos would result on a universal level.

Consider a god who favored one person over another. God does not favor an individual because of his station in life, his nationality, or his material possessions (Acts 10:34-35). Rather, God's accepts us all by welcoming us into a right relationship by faith in Jesus Christ.

By the sovereignty of God, we have a free will and are able to make choices and decisions that shape our lives. While we do not possess God's infinite power, we can surrender our hearts and minds to ways that are consistent with His holy will. In this way, we honor the Creator and Sustainer of all things, recognizing God is truly sovereign (Colossians 1:16-17).

Spirit

God is spirit, meaning He is invisible (John 1:18; 4:24). The Bible describes God as invisible with statements such as: "No one has ever seen God" (John 1:18) and *"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever"* (1Timothy 1:17). Because we don't have much experience with invisibility, we tend to think that anything we can't see does not have substance. But being invisible does not imply that God is without substance. God is always here just not usually in physical form. God is Spirit. Jesus said *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth"* (John 4:24). He is invisible because He is Spirit and not flesh. So God has no form, no physical body. The absence of a physical body might be a disadvantage to a human, but being a form-free Spirit gives Him other characteristics that are unique to God. The invisible and Spirit nature of God allows Him to work whenever and however He chooses to reveal himself to us. As an invisible Spirit God has the ability to present Himself in many different ways:

- God appeared to Adam and Eve in the Garden. They *"heard the sound of God walking in the garden"* (Genesis 3:8).

- God and His angels appeared as travelers to Abraham, who invited them to dinner around a campfire (Genesis 18:2-5).
- God appeared and spoke to Moses in a burning bush (Exodus 3)
- God appeared to the Israelites as a pillar of clouds in the daytime and as a pillar of fire in the evening (Exodus 13:21-22).

While a burning bush and a pillar of fire are cool, they don't project a personal, relational God. Yet, God is all about an intimate relationship with us. So through supernatural capabilities He is able to connect with us a loving Father, despite being invisible and without form. Although He has no physical body, the Bible attributes to God characteristics that help us envision how He can protect, love and care for us. Some of these are:

- God's **eyes** are on us (Psalms 33:18)
- If we ask anything according to His will he **hears** us (1John 5:15)
- God **speaks** to us (Psalms 85:8)
- The righteous are in God's **hands** (Ecclesiastes 9:1)

In addition He expresses emotions as well:

- Anger
- Laughter
- Compassion
- Grief
- Jealousy
- Wrath
- Joy

Gracious

God is gracious, and His grace includes His goodness, kindness, mercy, and love. If it were not for God's grace, His holiness would exclude us from His presence. Thankfully, this is not the case, for He desires to know each of us personally (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 31:19; 1 Peter 1:3; John 3:16, 17:3). To be gracious means 'to favor,' 'to show kindnesses' to an inferior, and 'to be compassionate.' In the Old Testament of the Bible, this adjective applies to God, indicative of His favor and mercy, His long-suffering and general nature of favor and kindness. In Isaiah 30:18 it says, *"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion."* God is gracious because He is love. It is His character to love even if love is not returned to Him. He will give us good things because of His goodness. He extends favor, mercy, and kindness on

whoever He pleases because it's who He is. God is gracious because He is our Creator. Even when we don't acknowledge Him or worship Him, He still endows us with good things because He wants to. God created mankind as good and He won't turn His back on His creatures or creation.

How is God gracious?

Think of a parent. A father and mother will give good things to their children because they want to nurture their children. They provide shelter, food, and clothing because they know that it is necessary for the well-being of the children. They also give them gifts out of love for their children. God does the same thing. He has provided everything for humanity in order for them to grow and prosper. He personalizes each and every gift. He does this even though we don't recognize or deserve it. Ephesians 1:7 tells us about God's grace. *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."* Through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross we have received His grace.

When is God gracious?

God is gracious all the time, even when we are disobedient to Him. It is His character to be gracious and He *"does not change like the shifting shadows"* (James 1:17). He extends His mercy to us until the final moment of our lives. He wants none to perish because He created us to live in His Kingdom.

It is by God's grace that we can have eternal life. God had so much compassion on humanity that He sent His only Son to die for the disobedience of all mankind. God is gracious in our times of need, sending provision for us: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:8-10).

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2). We extend God's grace to those in need by extending our hands on His behalf, helping our brothers and sisters in this world to find peace, comfort, and strength in times when desperation threatens to overwhelm them. This is the response that God desires us to have for each other. As we seek God for who He is, we gain understanding and wisdom. He then begins to mold us into a likeness of His son, Jesus. Our character changes and we become more willing to show God's grace and kindness to the world.

Holy

God is holy, separated from all moral brokenness and is hostile toward it. God sees all evil and it angers Him. God is referred to as a consuming fire (Isaiah 6:3; Habakkuk 1:13; Exodus 3:2, 4-5; Hebrews 12:29). Can man comprehend the holiness of God? In nearly every religion, there is a distinction between that which is holy and what is profane. In most cases the religious man is the one to whom something is sacred, i.e. holy. Holiness requires a distinction be made between the holiness that is God's very being and the holiness which reflects the character of His people.

Our comprehension of the holiness of God based on natural senses remains insufficient. In Exodus 15:11, Moses asks, *"Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"* What words exist to convey glory, honor, and thanks to the Lord God Almighty? Before the Throne in Heaven, the angelic beings worshiped God, repeating day and night, *"Holy, holy, holy"* (Revelation 4:8).

Holiness of God - A Biblical Basic

In the Old Testament the term holiness is applied to God in two senses. First, God is separate, set above all which is created. Yet, it is God who calls us to an ethical purity. Secondly, things are regarded holy because of their connection with God—Holy ground, Holy Sabbath, Holy place. God's holiness permeates anything touched by Him, especially man.

Man's encounters with the holiness of God in the Old Testament were often fearful. Following God's destruction of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea the Israelites rested near Mount Sinai. There God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. Before God would establish a covenant with His people He ordered them to separate from impurity, to make themselves sanctified (holy) to God. On the third day of preparation God descended to Mount Sinai demonstrating His power and holiness (Exodus 19:16–20). God warned that anyone touching the mountain would be put to death. Only Moses and Aaron were permitted on the mountain. Mount Sinai was "set apart as holy"--a reminder of the immeasurable chasm between the divine and the human.

For 100 long years the Ark of the Covenant had been absent from the Tabernacle and other places of worship. God specified that only Levites should transport the ark on their shoulders by means of poles passed through gold rings attached to the ark. Even the Levites were forbidden to even touch the ark or look in it because God's holiness (presence) abided there. Yet, David chose to bring the ark back to Jerusalem on a cart. When the oxen stumbled, threatening to topple the ark from the cart, Uzzah tried to steady the ark with his hand. This irreverent act angered God who instantly struck Uzzah dead (2 Samuel 6:1–11). To approach the holiness of God requires reverence and absolute obedience to His commands.

Holiness of God - Set Apart

When we consider the holiness of God it may seem impossible for imperfect people like ourselves to obey His command to, *"Be holy, because I am holy"* (1 Peter 1:15–16). How are we to set ourselves totally apart from sin? When God created man, He intended for us to experience His glory. Man is the culmination of God's creative activity. Our existence is not random, nor was it an accident. God knew who He was creating, and He intended for each one of us to receive holiness.

Names of God

Reading through some of the names of God can be helpful in our search of what God is like. They are as follows:

Elohim - strong One, divine (Genesis 1:1)

Adonai - Lord, indicating a Master-to-servant relationship (Exodus 4:10, 13)

El Elyon - Most High, the strongest One (Genesis 14:20)

El Roi - the strong One who sees (Genesis 16:13)

El Shaddai - Almighty God (Genesis 17:1)

El Olam - Everlasting God (Isaiah 40:28)

In the Old Testament the most sacred name for God is **Yahweh**. Yahweh is a distinctly proper name for the God of the Bible. Because it is sacred, it is never used to refer to any pagan gods; neither is it used in regard to any human. It is reserved solely for the one true God alone. The name Yahweh appears some 6,823 times in the Old Testament, as He is the focus of the Scriptures. The third commandment warns us not to use His name in vain or thoughtlessly (Exodus 20:7). The name of Yahweh is so sacred that Leviticus 24:16 commanded that anyone who used it in a blasphemous manner was to be put to death. The severe consequences associated with misuse of the name Yahweh caused God's people such great reverence that they were exceedingly cautious to write or speak His name. When reading the Old Testament Scriptures, Jews did not speak the name Yahweh but replaced it with 'Edonai ("Lord," often transliterated from the Hebrew as "Adonai"). The ancient Hebrew Bible had only consonants, so the name of God was written as YHWH. When your translation has the word "LORD," in all capital letters, you know this is the personal name of God, YHWH. Sometime between AD 600 and AD 900 the rabbis put dots and dashes around the ancient consonants so people would be able to see the vowels. When they came to the divine name YHWH, they added vowels from 'Edonai. This was transliterated as JeHoWaH. There is nothing wrong with

the name Jehovah, but we are sure it is not the name God gave Moses and his people (Exodus 3:14). In light of the power, might, and glory of Yahweh, it is also amazing to consider how he chose to reveal himself to His people in Exodus 34:6–7 (this is the most quoted passage in the Bible by the Bible):

"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty."

This verse describes many truths about God:

1. Yahweh, is God with the name "LORD." In the Old Testament, God's people were surrounded by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Phoenicians, Philistines, and other nations that each had gods. These false gods ruled over a people and a place but did not rule over all people and all places as the LORD of the Bible does. The same can be said of the New Testament wherein God's people were also in a world "full of idols." Even our own day, when spirituality is popular, very few so-called spiritual people know the LORD who rules over all spirits and spiritualities.

2. Yahweh begins by telling Moses and us that He is personal. He has a name. He wants to relate. This is very different from the contemporary spirituality of Oprah, Hollywood Buddhism, and Star Wars, where there is only "the Force" flowing through everything.

3. Yahweh, is compassionate to hurting and suffering people. He sees our lives, knows our weaknesses, and responds with compassion.

4. Yahweh, is helpful. Not only does God rule over us and have compassion on us, but God is also at work for us. Our God is a servant who delights in humbly serving the people He has made. He does so not because he has to but because He longs to, as an outworking of His goodness.

5. Yahweh, is slow to anger. Unlike the Greek and Roman gods who are irritable and volatile and take out their anger on people unless they are appeased by sacrifices or praise, the God of the Bible does not anger easily. Yahweh can be angered but only after being provoked by sinners determined to arouse His anger through ongoing unrepentant sin and rebellion in abuse of His patience.

6. Yahweh, is lovingly faithful, shown by the wonderfully powerful Hebrew word *hesed*. It speaks of the constant, passionate, overflowing, limitless, trustworthy, and merciful love of our God. It speaks of His caring provision coming from His strong mercy.

7. Yahweh, is dependable and truthful. He never fails and He never lies. As a result, He alone is fully worthy of faith, trust, and devotion, because He alone will always keep His promises.

8. Yahweh, is forgiving. God is very aware of our sin, yet, in His loving mercy, He is willing and able to forgive repentant sinners.

9. Yahweh, is just. In the end, no one who lives in sin and rejects His offer of a loving relationship through forgiven sin, will have any excuse. God is altogether holy and good, and because He is just, He cannot and will not excuse or overlook sin that is not repented of to Him in relationship with Him.

This revelation of God takes on extraordinary depth because Yahweh, the LORD, gave it in the context of Israel's horrific betrayal and sin when they worshiped the golden calf. Yahweh is a personal, compassionate, helpful, slow to anger, loving, dependable, forgiving and just God to ill-deserving sinners.

Therefore, we must always praise Him, thank Him, love Him and serve Him because of who He is and all that He has done.im

JOURNAL

Notes & Reflections

What stood out to you in this study? Write down questions, verses to look up, and what God is teaching you.