



Bible Doctrines I - Survey

God, the Father

I. HIS PERSON

A. Demonstrated in His Names

1. God

- a. The name, God, contains the ideas of strength and prominence (Numbers 23:22; Deuteronomy 10:17; Nehemiah 9:32; Psalm 89:8).
- b. It is closely connected to creation.
 - (1) "God" is referred to thirty-two times in the thirty-one verses of the first chapter of Genesis.
 - (2) God was not only the power of creation, but He also has the right to rule over His creation (2 Chronicles 20:6; Daniel 5:21).

2. Lord

- a. The Lordship of God demands obedience and submission from His servants. It also implies the watch-care of the Lord over said subjects (Psalm 39:7; Psalm 40:17; Psalm 68:19-20; Psalm 86:3-5).
- b. The personal nature of this title is seen in the frequent use of personal pronouns with it: "my Lord" (Exodus 4:10; Judges 6:13; Psalm 16:2) and "our Lord" (Psalm 8:1). By way of contrast, the phrases "my LORD" and "our LORD" are never used in the Bible.

3. LORD

- a. In the Old Testament, *Jehovah* is generally translated as LORD.
- b. Jehovah is the unique name of God. Other names, like God and Lord, may be used at times of other beings, but Jehovah is the name that refers only to the God of the Bible (Psalm 83:18).
- c. Jehovah is primarily the self-sufficient God. He is the source of His own existence. He is independent of all other existence and would be Himself even if nothing else existed.

4. Almighty God or the Almighty

- a. The name by which God revealed Himself to the patriarchs (Genesis 17:1; Genesis 28:3; Genesis 35:11; Genesis 48:3; Exodus 6:3)
- b. The Almighty God is the One who blesses and provides for His own (Genesis 17:1-2; Genesis 28:3; Genesis 35:11; Genesis 49:25).

B. Demonstrated in His Essence

1. His spirituality (John 4:24)

- a. God does not have a likeness understandable to man (Isaiah 40:18).
- b. Israel "saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake...in Horeb" (Deuteronomy 4:15-16).
- c. Depraved men "changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image" (Romans 1:23).



2. His self-existence (Exodus 3:14)—according to John 5:26, “the Father hath life in himself.” That is, the life of God comes from God.
3. His eternity
 - a. Related titles
 - (1) The everlasting God (Genesis 21:33; Isaiah 40:28; Romans 16:26)
 - (2) The eternal God (Deuteronomy 33:27)
 - b. The everlasting existence of God (Psalm 90:2; Psalm 93:2; Habakkuk 1:12)
 - c. The habitation of eternity
 - (1) God is the One who inhabits eternity (Isaiah 57:15).
 - (2) This is much more than eternal existence. God exists without time and outside of time. His true dwelling is timeless.
 - (3) God’s habitation in eternity is connected to His knowledge of the future (Isaiah 46:9-10). All events are alike present to Him.
4. His immensity
 - a. The universe cannot contain God (1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 2:6).
 - b. Immensity shows God bigger than space just as His eternity shows Him to be greater than time.
 - c. Not only is God the God of the entire universe. He is the God of anything else that may exist. If there are any other universes, God is the God of those universes as well. There is no escape from God.
5. His personality—the psychological qualities of personality are three:
 - a. Intellect: the ability to think (Exodus 3:7; Acts 15:18)
 - b. Emotion: the ability to feel (Genesis 6:6; John 3:16)
 - c. Volition: the ability to will or make decisions (Psalm 115:3; John 6:38)

C. Demonstrated in His Attributes

1. His Greatness
 - a. Omnipresence
 - (1) Definition: God is all-present.
 - (2) This doctrine can be subdivided into other doctrines:
 - a) The immensity of God—He is greater in size than the universe (1 Kings 8:27).
 - b) The transcendence of God—He is above the earth and the heavens (Deuteronomy 26:15; Psalm 2:4; Psalm 11:4; Psalm 13:5-6; Psalm 115:3; Psalm 123:1; Ecclesiastes 5:2; Isaiah 63:15; Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 1:20).
 - c) The immanence of God—He is present in every place.
 - d) The special presence of God—This could be called the spiritual presence of God. This is His presence in certain places and at certain times in a way that goes beyond His normal presence in all places (Exodus 33:3, 15). This can be diminished by sin (Isaiah 59:1-2; Proverbs 15:29).
 - b. Omniscience
 - (1) Definition: God is all-knowing.
 - (2) The character of God’s knowledge



- a) He is “a God of knowledge” (1 Samuel 2:3).
 - b) His knowledge is infinite (Psalm 147:4; 1 John 3:20).
 - c) His knowledge of the present is related to His omnipresence (Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 23:23-25).
- (3) The scope of God’s knowledge
- a) Of creation (Psalm 104:24; Psalm 147:4; Isaiah 40:12-13)
 - b) Of the hearts of men (1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 94:11; Psalm 139:1-4; Proverbs 15:11; Proverbs 24:12; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Luke 16:15; Romans 8:27)
 - c) Of the future (Deuteronomy 31:20-21; Isaiah 46:9-10)
 - d) Of the possible
 - i) Saul’s potential kingdom (1 Samuel 13:13-14) despite prophecy to the contrary (Genesis 49:10)
 - ii) What Keilah would have done (1 Samuel 23:10-12)
 - iii) What deliverance cities would have had if they had had the miracles given to others in another time (Matthew 11:20-24)
- c. Omnipotence
- (1) Definition: God is all-powerful.
- a) He is able to do anything He wills.
 - b) Since His will is part of His nature, He is able to do anything that is consistent with His own nature.
 - c) The things God cannot do because of His nature
 - i) God cannot look on iniquity (Habakkuk 1:13).
 - ii) God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
 - iii) God cannot be tempted to sin (James 1:13).
 - iv) God cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13).
- (2) The character of God’s power
- a) As seen in the name *Almighty*
 - b) As seen in the direct statements of scripture (1 Chronicles 29:11; 2 Chronicles 20:6; Psalm 62:11; Isaiah 40:26; Daniel 4:35; Romans 1:20; Romans 13:1)
 - c) As seen in His ability to do whatever pleases Him (Job 23:13; Psalm 115:3; Psalm 135:6)
 - d) As seen in the fact that God can do all things (Genesis 18:14; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 42:17, 27; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37)
 - e) As seen in the heavenly praise: “Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth” (Revelation 19:6)
- (3) The exercise of God’s power
- a) God works according to His will (Ephesians 1:4-11).
 - b) The Bible student must discern between two kinds of the will of God in the scriptures:
 - i) The predetermined will of God—this is the will of God that has been determined by Him absolutely and will not change (see John 14:3).



- ii) The preferred will of God—this is the will of God in that He desires it as an action of created beings but will not force on them (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).
- d. Immutability
 - (1) Definition: God is always the same.
 - (2) The scriptural proof of God’s immutability
 - a) He does not change (Malachi 3:6).
 - b) He is the same forever (Psalm 102:26-27).
 - c) He has no variableness or shadow of turning (James 1:17).
 - d) An immutable God gives immutable promises (Hebrews 6:16-18).
- 2. His goodness
 - a. Holiness
 - (1) The central position of God’s holiness
 - a) The only trait of God that is given a triple declaration (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8)
 - b) The name of the Lord, which is the revelation of His essence, is holy (1 Chronicles 16:10; Psalm 103:1; Psalm 111:9; Luke 1:49).
 - c) God alone is truly holy (1 Samuel 2:2; Revelation 15:4).
 - d) God swears by His holiness (Psalm 89:35; Amos 4:2).
 - e) The beauty of God is seen in His holiness (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 96:9).
 - (2) The meaning of holiness
 - a) Because of God’s holiness, He is set apart from the world. This set apart nature is revealed in **His glory**. He is high and lofty because He is holy.
 - i) God is “glorious in holiness” (Exodus 15:11).
 - ii) His holiness is displayed in His glory (Isaiah 6:3).
 - b) Because of God’s holiness, He is pure from defilement. This purity is revealed in **His power**. His holiness births:
 - i) The power of judgment (1 Samuel 6:20)
 - ii) The power of resurrection (Romans 1:3-4)
 - iii) The power of miracles (Acts 3:12)
 - (3) The response of the saints to the holiness of God
 - a) Initially, the holiness of God repels us (Job 40:1-5).
 - b) Then, the holiness of God draws us (Psalm 27:4).
 - c) Finally, the holiness of God transforms us (2 Corinthians 3:18).
 - b. Truth
 - (1) Titles of God connected with truth
 - a) The true God (2 Chronicles 15:3; Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 5:20)
 - b) The God of truth (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16)
 - (2) The definition of truth



- a) An exact and faithful expression of the facts—the truth is that which is no lie (1 John 2:21). God is truth because He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18).
 - b) The standard by which to judge all else; a final authority.
 - c) The unchanging and unchangeable measure of all things; those things that remain (Hebrews 12:26-28).
- (3) God as the truth
- a) God as the true God is the real God as opposed to all that is false; not a false god or idol (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
 - b) God as truth is all that He is supposed to be (Jeremiah 10:9-10); compare to true gold.
 - c) God as truth speaks true words. He is the source of all truth (2 Samuel 7:28; John 17:17).
 - d) God as truth is faithful to His own integrity and can be trusted to keep His word in entirety.
- (4) Fruits of the truth of God
- a) God’s judgment proceeds from His truth (Psalm 19:9; Psalm 96:13; Zechariah 7:9; Zechariah 8:16; Romans 2:2; Revelation 16:7; Revelation 19:2).
 - b) God’s wisdom proceeds from His truth (Psalm 51:6; Proverbs 23:23).
- c. Love
- (1) The connection of God with love
- a) He is the “God of love” (2 Corinthians 13:11).
 - b) God is love (1 John 4:8, 16).
 - c) We are blessed by the love of God (Romans 5:5; Romans 8:39; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; Titus 3:4; 1 John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:9).
 - d) Love is of God (1 John 4:7).
- (2) An understanding of God as love
- a) Negatively, God is not love alone. God’s love must operate in conjunction with His righteousness and His demand for justice. To love all without any demand for justice is to hate the just.
 - b) Positively, God loved so much that He gave His Son as a sacrifice for sin (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10).
- (3) The attributes connected to the love of God
- a) The goodness of God: God works in our lives in such a way as to always seek our ultimate good (Psalm 33:5; Psalm 107:8).
 - b) The mercy of God: God withholds judgment and does not give to us the evil that we deserve (Psalm 25:6; Psalm 100:5; Psalm 103:8; Psalm 116:5).
 - c) The grace of God: God gives to us blessings and gifts we do not deserve (2 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 4:7).