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God is real

Who is God?

What is He like?

How can we know Him?

Introduction

These are questions that throughout history people have tried to find answers to. If we were to describe God as a being who is higher in intelligence, power and goodness than human beings, we can see that a great many people believe in a God of one sort or another. Many people claim to worship a deity who has features such as purity, superior knowledge and wisdom.

Many people often believe passionately that they have the right idea about God and that they are doing the correct things to know and to please Him.

But how do we know who is right? Who has found the true God and has the authority to tell us why they are right? Different religions make different claims. They cannot all be right.

Where can we turn for help?

Finding out about God

The first thing we are going to take for granted in these studies is that God does actually exist. While we shall see what God is like as the course proceeds, the basic fact of His existence is not something we are going to attempt to prove. We see clear evidence of intelligent design in the multitude of plants and creatures on this planet, and in the workings of our solar system and the universe.

Furthermore, great efforts have been made to try and explain away how the world came into being, without reference to a powerful and loving Creator. Despite this, all such attempts collapse when considering the question of ultimate origins. Just where did the building blocks of life originally come from? Serious inquiry into the origins of the universe forces us to reckon with an ultimate Creator.



But amidst the confusing and conflicting ideas about God, we need to have a final authority to tell us whether we are thinking correctly about Him or not. We need something to which we can appeal to justify what we say about Him. Many people look at the world of religion and despair. It is incredibly perplexing with so many different claims and so many different ideas.

There is a book, however, unlike any other book which provides the help we need. That book is the Bible – a book unlike any other ever written.

God makes Himself known through the Bible

The Bible has an authority unlike any other book. It gives us information that no other book gives. Its view of history, the present and the future is unique. It tells us about God – because God has Himself spoken and made Himself known in the Bible.

Let us see what the Bible says about itself.

Look up and write down 2 Timothy 3 v.16:
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Look up and write down 2 Peter 1 vv.20-21:
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The Bible had different human authors. Each of them had different upbringings and experiences. They came from among the Jewish people (with one or two exceptions), but what unites them all is that God revealed Himself to each of them and spoke through them.



Look up Genesis 2 vv.16-17 to see how He spoke to the first human beings He made, Adam and Eve. What did He say?

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He spoke to a man called Abraham, who was to have a significant role in the working out of God’s purposes in history, and made great promises to Him. We can read them in Genesis 12 vv.1-3.

Then He revealed Himself in a very dramatic way to Moses, another man who had a profound impact upon the world, and who received the Ten Commandments from God.

Read Exodus 3 vv.1-5. Write down verse 5:

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Later in history, another man called Jeremiah was spoken to by God and became a prophet – a man especially chosen to be a spokesman for Him.

Write down Jeremiah 1 v.5:

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All these men and many others heard from God. What they were given to write down is what we have in the Bible today.



What is so special about the Bible?

Why can we feel so confident that the Bible tells us accurately about the real and true God? Other religious books make similar claims. What is so special about the Bible?

The Bible stands out as a unique piece of literature. Although it took over a thousand years to put together and involved many different people, the message it brings is always the same. While there are various human authors involved they describe the same God working according to the same rules and principles.

From beginning to end there is consistency. God does not change. His purposes do not alter. From page to page it is the same truth that is revealed.

It also does something no other book achieves by predicting with amazing accuracy events that are to take place in the future. Names, places and details about distant events are foretold hundreds of years before they happen. No other book does this.

This is most evident in the prediction about God’s Son, Jesus Christ, who died in a most exceptional way, and then astonished the world by being raised from the dead. All the things He did in His life – including where He would be born, what He would do, how He would die and how He would be raised again – are all recorded in the Bible hundreds of years before they happened. The Bible stands alone among religious books, for it tells the history of the world from its creation to its final destruction. These predictions show the Bible to be a unique book.

The Bible is a serious book

The Bible also has a depth and seriousness that is not found in any other book. Questions about the after-life, about our fear of death, about our relationship to God, about how we are to know Him and serve Him are all tackled and answered by the Bible.

It reaches beyond the realms of our experience to talk of spiritual matters, the issue of man’s soul and destiny.

Look up John 8 v.23 and write down what Jesus Christ said about Himself and His insights.

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The Bible talks about the unseen realm of heaven and the after-life and, in so doing, speaks with a clear authority.

Look up and write down John 3 v.13 to see what Jesus Christ said about these things.

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We will only gain understanding about these things in the Bible. Life and death, and all the serious and important issues of life, are touched upon in this special book. God is real and – as we will learn in the rest of this course – the Bible will tell us about Him, as well as explain how we can know Him and serve Him.

Some questions to ask

How do I try to explain the world around me?

Do I believe there must be a Creator?

What lies beyond death?

Do I think about this and wonder what will happen to me?

Am I prepared to seriously read the Bible?

Something to read and consider

Read the following passages in the Bible:

Genesis 1

Psalm 145

Isaiah 40

Romans 1 v.20

Something to pray about

Pray: that the Lord would teach you from His word; and that you would understand the message He has given to us in the Bible.