

God is glorious

How can God be described?

God is God!

The Bible does not have a whole chapter or book to describe what God is like, with subject-headings and summaries as you would perhaps find in a text-book. But by reading the whole Bible we learn everything that God intends us to know about Himself. We learn how He relates to this world which He created. We learn how He deals with people as part of His creation.

He does not tell us everything. That would be impossible, as we shall see shortly. But what He does tell us is what He wants us to know. For God does not offer Himself to us as an object of study or to satisfy our curiosity. Rather He reveals His glorious being to us so that we might worship Him, love Him and serve Him. Indeed, much that we learn about God also teaches us about who we are – how insignificant, sinful and unworthy we are.

So with this in mind, what does God teach us about Himself?

God is Spirit

God is different to us. It is part of what we mean when we call Him God.

Look up Isaiah 40 v.18 and write it down:

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We are used to thinking of everything and everyone as having substance. Humans are made of flesh and blood. We, and all the world around us, consist of atoms. We are made up of chemicals that scientists can describe. But God is Spirit.

That means we cannot think of God as consisting of anything physical that can be measured or analysed. He is not like us at all in this respect.

Look up and write down John 4 v.24:

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Now look up and write down Acts 17 vv.24-25:

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This means that we will never fully understand God's being. For example, as He is Spirit He is not confined to one place at any one time. So it follows that He is not subject to any of the limitations that we as human beings face. He does not need to eat and drink as we do.

Next see what He reveals about Himself in Psalm 121 vv.3-4.

Read Psalm 121 vv.3-4 and write it down:

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But in saying that God is Spirit we cannot say that He is not personal. We will think about this again a little later.

God is infinite

As we have seen, being Spirit means that God is not subject to some of the most obvious limitations compared to us. We can only be in one place at one time. God is able to be everywhere all the time – He is “omnipresent”.

Look up Psalm 139 vv.7-10. Then write down verse 7:

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Then write down 1 Kings 8 vv.27:

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It follows from this that He knows everything that is happening anywhere in the world, in the universe and, indeed, in worlds unseen. This we call “omniscient”. Nothing that happens surprises Him or catches Him out.

It also means that everything we will be saying later about God – His love, His truth, His holiness, His wisdom, His justice – He possesses in infinite amounts. He *is* love. He *is* truth. He *is* perfect holiness. He *is* perfect justice. He possesses all these things to an infinite degree. We can never exhaust His riches. There is always more to be known about Him and experienced. (Read Romans 11 vv.33-36).

God is eternal

Again we are brought face-to-face with the immense difference between God and us when we realise that God is eternal.

In other words, He has no beginning and no end. There was never a time when He was not. Neither will there ever be a time when He will not be.

Look up and write down Isaiah 46 vv.9-10:

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This also means that God is not limited to time. We have to live one moment at a time. The past is behind us and the future lies ahead of us. To God, yesterday is as today and tomorrow is as yesterday. For Him, the future is no different to the past.

He knows what will happen in the future, as He knows the past. In fact one of the names God uses of Himself is 'I am'. By this name He tells us that He is the source of all things but was Himself created by no-one, nor is He dependent upon anyone.

Read Exodus 3 vv.13-14 and write down what God said about Himself:

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Also read the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in Revelation 1 vv.7-8 and write down verse 8:

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The future contains no uncertainty for God. He sees it all from the vantage point of eternity.

God does not change

God, being Spirit and being infinite in His possession of every power and virtue, does not change – “immutable”. He cannot improve Himself and will never make Himself worse.

*Look up Malachi 3 v.6.
What does God say about Himself there?*

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*Also look up James 1 v.17.
What does this New Testament writer affirm about God?*

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Nothing ever happens in the world to make Him change His mind or alter His will. He does not make mistakes and never needs to go back over the same ground again. Neither does He ever have to apologize or make amends. He cannot change, nor does He ever need to change.

God is all powerful

We are also right to say of God that He is all powerful – “omnipotent”. Whatever He wills He is able to do. He has the power to create the world and the universe. Indeed, He has power over life and death, He has power to do anything in accordance with His will, and He is subject to His own perfect principles of love, justice and holiness.

Write down Psalm 66 v.7:

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Also write down Psalm 145 v.5:

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Yet there are some things God cannot do. He cannot lie.



Look up and write down Titus 1 v.2:

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Neither can He deny His own nature.



Look up and write down 2 Timothy 2 v.13:

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God, in His infinite holiness and purity, cannot look upon sin and wickedness.



Look up and write down the first part of Habakkuk 1 v.13:

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God is personal

If God cannot look upon sin then how can God look upon sinners? How can God show mercy to sinners? Every member of the human race is a sinner. Bearing in mind how different and how mighty God is compared to us, it would be easy for us to conclude that God would not want to have anything to do with us and our evil world. However, this is not true. Let us consider why this is so.

God is also a Person in a very wonderful way. He makes plans, has desires and has a will. His will is so powerful that no-one has power to stop Him doing what He wishes.



Look up Ephesians 1 v.11 and write down what it says:

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He also has pure, settled and holy emotions which include, very importantly, a love for His truth and a love for this world – and (as we shall see later) God shows infinite mercy to sinners through His Son – the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is much, much more that we could say about how God is so different from us. But remember, this is not mere information for information's sake. We are treading on holy ground. God is much greater than we are, and we must be very careful how we think about Him.

Some questions to ask.

What have been my thoughts about God until now?

How do they need to change in the light of the Bible?

How does this teaching differ from what I have heard from other people and sources?

What implications can I see for myself and the world around me from what I have learnt?

Something to read and consider

Read the following passages in the Bible.

Psalm 147

Psalm 150