

God Is...

As we discussed in Bible class last week, there are many things that God is. But most people only think of, in fact only are aware of, a few of God's attributes.

1 Jn. 4:8 "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Heb. 12:29 "for our God is a consuming fire."

And these are just a few of the things that God is. Let us examine the scriptures to get a full picture of what the word of God reveals about Him.

I. God Is Sovereign

A. The Great God

Deut. 10:17 "For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality..."

Deut. 7:21 "You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God."

Ps 47:7,8 "For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm."

8 "God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne."

B. Eternal

Ps 48:14 "For such is God, Our God forever and ever; He will guide us until death."

Ps 45:6 "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom."

C. From The Book Of Job: Omniscient & Omnipresent

Job 33:12 "Behold, let me tell you, you are not right in this, For God is greater than man."

Job 36:5 "Behold, God is mighty but does not despise any; He is mighty in strength of understanding."

Job 36:22 "Behold, God is exalted in His power; Who is a teacher like Him?"

Job 36:26 "Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable."

Ps 115:3 "But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases."

Thankfully, it is His nature to do God, and to be so concerned for us.

II. God Is Active In The Affairs Of Men

A. He Fights For His People

Deut. 3:21,22 "And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so the LORD shall do to all the kingdoms into which you are about to cross."

22 Do not fear them, for the LORD your God is the one fighting for you"

Josh. 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Josh. 23:10 "One of your men puts to flight a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, just as He promised you."

B. His Provision Is Obvious

Gen. 21:22-24 "Now it came about at that time, that Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do;

23 now therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me, or with my offspring, or with my posterity; but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me, and to the land in which you have sojourned."

24 And Abraham said, "I swear it."

Abimelech was the Philistine king of the city of Gerar. He treated Abraham with respect, even returning a well to him in an area where wells were harder to find than gold – because he saw God was with Abraham.

C. Generous

Repeatedly Israel was told that God gave them the land that they had because God gave it to them.

Deut. 1:19,20 “Then we set out from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw, on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, just as the LORD our God had commanded us; and we came to Kadesh-barnea.

20 “And I said to you, ‘You have come to the hill country of the Amorites which the LORD our God is about to give us.’”

Deut. 1:25 “Then they took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us; and they brought us back a report and said, ‘It is a good land which the LORD our God is about to give us.’”

Approximately 60 times the giving of the land by God is mentioned in the scriptures. It was mentioned in promises before it was done, it was stressed that it was being given by God as it was given, and then they were reminded repeatedly after they received it that it came from God.

Of course the land was not the only blessing, God was good to them continually.

Ps. 73:1 “Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!”

D. A Comfort For Us

Deut. 7:21 “You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.”

Deut. 20:3,4 “And he shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them,

4 for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.’”

2 Sam. 22:33 “God is my strong fortress; And He sets the blameless in His way.”

Rom. 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”

E. God Also Tests Us

Deut. 13:1-3 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, **2** and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’

3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

God tests us to let us choose what is right.

Some mistake this for God putting evil before us.

But He does not test with evil.

Jas. 1:13,14 “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

But He certainly does test.

III. God Is Not Like Us

A. Faithful

Numb. 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

We just spoke of God testing us. Often we fail the test. We choose to do evil.

God has all power, but always uses it for good.

1 Cor. 1:9 “God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2 Cor. 1:18 “But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no.”

So we should try to be faithful as He is.

His faithfulness is a source of strength for us.

1 Cor. 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

B. Unified

Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”

One in Will

Jn. 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

One in Doctrine

Jn. 7:16 “Jesus therefore answered them, and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.”

There is a whole sermon on oneness in **Jn. 5**.

Jn. 5:19 “Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself”

One in Action, Counsel, Love, Work, in Giving Life (spiritually and eternally), Judgment, Receiving Honor
Speaking of Love, we know that that’s what God is.

C. Light And Love

Deut. 7:9 “Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments”

1 Jn. 1:5 “And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

1 Jn. 4:8 “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

Deut. 4:31 “For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.”

D. Not Forgetful

Heb. 6:10 “For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints”

We often forget things, many important things that we should remember.

But God does not forget what we have done – whether good or bad.

IV. God’s Qualities Must Be Respected

A. He Is A Witness

Gen. 31:48-50 “And Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me this day.” Therefore it was named Galeed;

49 and Mizpah, for he said, “May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other.

50 If you mistreat my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.”

Laban admonished Jacob to take girl of his girls because God was watching.

How many have made the same admonition regarding their family?

How often did Paul call God as a witness of his proper action?

Phil. 1:8 “For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.”

1 Thess. 2:5 “For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed--God is witness”

Of course we know that God is watching whether we behave or not.

So God’s witness became a powerful reason to act right.

B. A Reason To Live Right

Deut. 8:6,7 “Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills”

Love for others

Deut. 10:17-19 “For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality, nor take a bribe.

18 He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.

19 So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”

Morality

Deut. 24:4 “then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.”

Fairness

Deut. 25:15 “You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Worship

Jn. 4:24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

1 Cor. 14:33 “for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

C. He Punishes All Who Do Evil

The Enemies Are Punished

Nah. 1:2 “A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.”

Acts 23:3 “Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! And do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?”

If His People Are Evil

Deut 31:17 “Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they shall be consumed, and many evils and troubles shall come upon them; so that they will say in that day, ‘Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have come upon us?’”

Without Partiality

Deut. 4:24 “For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”

D. He Is Always With The Righteous

Ps 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.”

Ps. 54:4 “Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.”

Ps. 56:9 “Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; This I know, that God is for me.”

Ps. 59:17 “O my strength, I will sing praises to Thee; For God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.

E. A Rewarder

Pleased With All Who Do Right

Heb. 13:16 “And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Heb. 11:16 “But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”

Rewarder Of Them

Heb. 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”