

KNOWING GOD

Lesson One: Does God Exist?

The first step to knowing God, is knowing that God exists. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that we “must believe that He is.”

The question of the existence of God has plagued man from time immemorial. As children of God... **we** believe that God exists...but there are multitudes who **deny** the existence of God...and multitudes who question His existence.

Today I want to take the perspective of one who **questions** whether God exists...an agnostic. And as an agnostic...I have this question.

Can you convince me that God exists?

The word *can* aid us

Consider how the Bible does this.

Romans 1:18-20

Acts 14:14-17

Psalm 19:1

> Look up or around to find proof of God

Let's look up first, since the heavens declare the glory of God:

The universe had a start - what caused it?

Scientists are convinced that our universe began with one enormous explosion of energy and light, which we now call the Big Bang.

This was the **singular** start to everything that exists: the beginning of the universe, the start of space, and even the initial start of time itself.

The universe operates by uniform laws of nature. Why does it?

Now...Let's look around.

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Lesson 2

Where Did God Come From?

The question, "Where did God come from" is merely a lead in to this lesson. If we were to really try to answer this question we would have to conclude that it is based upon a false assumption. That assumption would be that God had to come from somewhere.

The **true** answer to that question is: the question does not even make **sense**.

If I **were** to answer the question, "Where did God come from" my answer would be, He didn't come from anywhere! He always was...or is! To imply that God came from somewhere would be to imply that there was a "where" before God created where! The truth is God is uncaused and uncreated.

The problem with us is that to us, the notion of time is linear. One second follows another. We get older...not younger, and we cannot repeat the minutes that have passed us by. Time always advances for us...But with God, it's a different story.

Psalm 90:1-2 [everlasting to everlasting]

The Manner of God's Existence

When we ask where God comes from, we are **really** trying to determine the **manner** of His existence.

God revealed the manner of His existence to Moses when He revealed His identity in Exodus 3:13-14. (I Am)

From this statement, and from this name... theologians have derived the manner of God's existence known as "aseity." Aseity comes from the Latin, "a se" which means "from self."

Aseity can be understood in one of two ways...or both.

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Lesson 3.2

What is God Like?

In the last session we began to explore this question. And as we shall soon see...this question is very involved. While there is much that we will never know of God on this side of Heaven, there is much about God and what He is like that we can...and should know. And so we continue to explore what God is like. Today...in answer to the question I would say that:

He is "*in charge*."

God is sovereign

What does it mean to say that God is sovereign?

Divine sovereignty is God's power of absolute self-determination.

Ephesians 1:11

Psalm 115:3

Job 42:2

God is sovereign over nature

Psalm 135:5-7

Jonah 1:1-4;17

Psalm 50:10

The conclusion of the matter:

Genesis 8:~~3~~2

God is sovereign over Governments

Romans 13:1

Daniel 4:32-35

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Lesson 3.3

What Is God Like?

As I continue to endeavor to answer the question, “What is God Like?” I want to examine one of His most widely known characteristics. I want to look at the fortitude of God. In this lesson...my one sentence answer to the question of what God is like would be simply this. “God is **strong**.”

The most common word that we have for the strength or power of God is “**omnipotence**.” That word is not found in your King James Version. But the concept to which it alludes is.

Genesis 17:1

El Shaddai: The all-powerful and sufficient God: Literally the breasted God.

Revelation 1:8

Revelation 19:6

Pantokrator: (pas/kratos) translated almighty and omnipotent.

So it remains for us to define omnipotence in an acceptable fashion.

Omnipotence: Latin in origin ***omni*** (all), ***potens*** (power).

What does having all power mean?

Can God do anything?

An omnipotent being has every power logically possible to possess.

God is able to do everything Scripture shows Him doing.

Omnipotence is the perfect ability of God to do all things that are consistent with His divine character. God has adequate ability to do whatever being God requires Him to do. Nothing that He conceives and wills to do is beyond His ability or power to accomplish.