

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

God is not like anything or anyone else we know. "To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One" (Isaiah 40:25). ". . .Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee. . ." (Psalm 50:21).

The Bible presents the existence of just ONE God (Isaiah 43:10), though He is three persons. For example, Matthew 28:19 uses a singular "name" though three persons are mentioned. It says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

God the Father is a spirit (John 4:24). Jesus greatly clarified what this means in Luke 24:39, declaring, "Behold my hands and my feet. . .handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." So, the Father does not have a body. Indeed, He states in Hosea 11:9, "I am God, and not man." We are also told that He has ALWAYS been God. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2). "For I am the Lord, I change not. . ." (Malachi 3:6). As a spirit being, God is present everywhere at the same time! ". . .Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 23:24).

Jesus Christ is also ascribed full Godhood from all eternity. He never began to exist, neither did He BECOME God. He has ALWAYS been God the Son. Using "the Word" as a title for Jesus, the Apostle John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Hebrews 13:8 adds, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

But Jesus Christ is also perfect humanity, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:20). Perfect in both body and life, He was qualified ". . .to be made sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Other passages tell of His bodily resurrection, ascension, and promised return.

Rounding out the Godhead is the Holy Spirit. He, too, is God (Acts 5:3,4).

This, then is a brief look at the God of the Bible. No one would consciously worship a false God. However, unless we seriously consider the Bible's teaching about God, we may be doing just that. Christ said, ". . .This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

Lloyd A. Larkin
lalarkin@burgoyne.com