

GOD IS!

Isaiah 45:22; Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 46:10

BIBLE READING: Acts 17:22-30

Who is God? How did He come into existence? Who created Him? Is God real? These are questions people have been asking. Some ask from a sincere heart, others to mock God's existence. Notwithstanding, having the right perspective about God is of utmost importance because a false idea about God leads to idolatry and damnation; and can make one not to enjoy God's best in life. God reproves the wicked man with this accusation: "***thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself.***" (Psalm 50:21). How then can we know that God exists?

1. INSIGHTS INTO GOD'S EXISTENCE

We may not know God's origin, but the fact of God's existence is obvious, through creation, man's conscience, and what God says about Himself (Romans 1:20; Isaiah 45:22). Man is born with *consciousness* of a supreme being (Acts 17:22, 23). But the Bible reveals that God created man in His own image - as a God-conscious being (Genesis 1:27; 2:7). That's why the Bible calls the atheist a "fool" (Psalm 14:1). The existence of God is also *logical*. Everything has a cause, just as a house has a builder (Hebrews 3:4). So also do the heavens, seasons, languages, and patterns and order of creation, point to a Supreme Creator (Psalm 19:1-3, Acts 17:24-30). Through creation God proves His existence unto man, "***for the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.***" (Romans 1:18-21). Moreover, testimonies abound of God's divine intervention in the affairs of man. These are real and prevalent, and unbiased minds can relate to such (Psalm 34:8). The Bible reveals the nature, character, and works of God. *By nature*, God is Spirit (John 4:24). He is infinite (1 Timothy 1:17), incomparable (2 Samuel 7:22), and unchanging (Malachi 3:6). *By character*, God is holy (Leviticus 11:44; Psalm 99:9), loving (Ephesians 2:4-5; John 3:16), truthful (John 14:6), just (Acts 17:31); gracious (Romans 5:17; Exodus 34:6), judges sin (Psalm 5:5) but also offers forgiveness to the penitent (Psalm 130:4; Isaiah 55:7).

2. IMPLICATIONS OF GOD'S EXISTENCE

Why is it necessary to acknowledge and understand that God exists? **One**, accountability. ***So, then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*** (Romans 14:12). What we do matters. When we believe that God exists, we can receive His blessings (Hebrews 11:2). Unbelief has its repercussions (Hebrews 3:12, 19). There is also a reward for righteousness and punishment for unrighteousness. Sin and holiness are now defined and meaningful. Eternity makes sense. **Two**, *security*. Since God exists, we can relate to Him and dwell under His shadow (Psalm 91:1,2; 46:1,2; Proverbs 18:10). Things no longer are arbitrary. We now know that there is Someone we can lean on (Malachi 3:6). Prayer becomes meaningful (Jeremiah 33:3; Isaiah 45:22). It is logical then to expect miracles. **Three**, *faith*. The role of faith is central in understanding God and His creation (Hebrews 11:1-3). "***But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him***" (Hebrews 11:6). To experience that God is real, faith is required. Faith is not a feeling or an abstract expectation. Faith in God is the trust in Him, based on a true understanding of who He is, as revealed in the Bible (Genesis 15:5; Hebrews 6:17,18). Faith in God involves an intellectual assent to the facts concerning God and a life-changing reliance on those facts. God has made Himself known through His word. Whatever the Bible says is believable and verifiable (Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16).

God seeks to have relationship with mankind. The Son of God became the Son of Man and is therefore the "bridge" between God and man (John 1:14; 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5). It is only through the Son that we can have forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), reconciliation with God (John 15:15; Romans 5:10), and eternal salvation (2 Timothy 2:10). In Jesus Christ "***dwellleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily***" (Colossians 2:9). So, to really know who God is, we must look to Jesus, have the Spirit of God abide in us (1 Corinthians 2:10), and daily study His Word (Hebrews 4:12).