

The Journey
Series 01: Creation
Week 02: God Reveals Himself (Bible)

We are indebted to Ethmos360 for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

Lesson 1: The Bible is God's message to ALL people

Characteristics of the Bible...

- It's About God (He is the central character)
- It's Inspired by God (He gave men words to write for ALL people)
- It's Preserved by God (He will keep His words for all generations to hear)

BIG Idea

Today we will continue the thought of the Bible being God's message to ALL people.

So, what does God say about Himself?

God reveals that He ***existed before all things*** and is ***sovereign over all things***.

Lesson Purposes

- To reverence God as eternal (always existed) and sovereign (always in control)
- To accept God's account of creation as true

Perspective

In our world, people wrestle for ***ownership*** (=power) and ***recognition*** (=exaltation).

- We educate and better ourselves to become or be seen as wise
- We spend time and money to improve the way we see ourselves and others see us
- We boast about discoveries and innovation as if *created things* began with us
- We seek positions of power (ownership) and exaltation (recognition)

BIG Question

If God existed before all things, created all things, and is sovereign over all things, doesn't He deserve to be worshipped as the all-powerful and exalted One?

Information (What We Need to Know)

In today's lesson we will learn what God has to say about Himself and determine whether it's *us* or *Him* that deserve to be elevated to a place of power and exaltation.

The Bible reveals what God is like. **Why?** *He wants us to know Him!*

Jeremiah 9:23 (ESV) ...the Lord says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. **24** But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord...”

What does God tell us about Himself (and about man)?

God had no beginning and will have no end. **Man** is born and dies.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning, God...



- All things have a beginning – universe, earth, angels, devil, plants, animals, man
- There was never a time when God did not exist

Psalms 90:2 (ESV) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

- ✓ He did not have a beginning
- ✓ He was not created
- ✓ He will always be the same
- ✓ He can never die

God is triune. **Man** is only one person.

Genesis 1:26 (ESV) God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

- In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew word for God is in plural form
- Although there is ONE God, there are three persons equally God
- God is identified as God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19)
- The word *trinity* is used to describe God, although not used in Scripture (church father, Tertullian (AD 160–225), was the first to apply the term)

God is independent. Man is dependent.

Because God alone existed before all things, God is completely independent of everything and everyone.

- He needs nothing to sustain Him (the name He uses of Himself in Exodus 3:13-14, *I AM*, implies self-sufficient and self-existent)
- He needs no one to teach Him

Isaiah 40:28 (ESV) Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; **his understanding is unsearchable.**

How about man? We needed parents, teachers, food, oxygen, sleep, shelter to thrive and survive.

God is a Spirit. Man has a physical body.

John 4:24 (ESV) God is spirit...

- He has no flesh and bones; therefore, He has no bodily needs
- He's not just a *force* (as some would describe Him)
- He's a Trinity of three persons - all with mind, personality, and will

God has given us His Word so even though we can't see Him, we can know Him!

God is everywhere at the same time. Man is limited to one place at a time.

Where is God?

Psalms 139:7 (NLT) I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! **8** If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. **9** If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, **10** even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.

- He is present everywhere, but not *in* everything
- He is in all places on the earth
- He is here right now and can see all of us in this moment

God is the highest authority. Man should be under God's authority.

It's complicated to understand One who is...

- Eternal
- Triune
- Self-Sufficient and Self-Existent

- All-knowing
- Invisible (because He is a Spirit)
- Omni-present (everywhere at the same time)

We must admit that there is One who is greater than us and superior to us.

- We describe this greatness and superiority as God being *sovereign* (ruler, supreme in power, chief).
- The Bible often refers to God as “The Most High.”
- **Psalm 83:18** calls God “*the most high over all the earth.*”
- In **Isaiah 45:5**, God says, “*I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me....*”

Application (What We Need to Do)

Since God was the only One present at the beginning, He alone knows *all* that came to be and *how* it came to be.

And in the Bible, He has given us a record of all beginnings.

“If God is the Creator of the entire universe, then it must follow that He is the Lord [*Ruler*] of the whole universe. No part of the world is outside of His lordship [*supreme power or rule*]. That means that no part of my life must be outside of His lordship [*supreme power or rule*].” - R. C. Sproul

He alone can tell us about the beginning, and we will study in the weeks ahead what God, the only one who was there, has told us about the beginning.