

For Sermon preached on August 21, 2022

GOD – PART 2

QUESTIONS

- 1. In the Old Testament, Moses asks God what his name is. God answers “YHWH” – which translates as I WAS/I AM/ I WILL BE. What does this name mean to you?**

- 2. In the letter of John, God is defined as “Love”. What does this mean to you?**

- 3. What is the difference between YHWH and Love? How do these two definitions fit together?**

Here are some Bible verses from the Old Testament:

“The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.” Exodus 34:6-7

“You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.” Nehemiah 9:17

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in Him” Nahum 1:7

Here are some Bible verses from the New Testament:

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

“But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:8

“But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he’s the one to fear.” Luke 12:5

“It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:31

(from biblereasons.com)

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: JEWISH CONCEPTS

The rabbis of the Talmud and the Midrash rely on the biblical attributes by which, as they remark, God is called in place of his name. This reliance on biblical attributes should not be taken to mean that God is only called just, compassionate, and the like, but that, in reality, his true nature cannot be known. God is called by his attributes because he is so described in scripture, which informs humans how God is to be thought about and addressed.

A good part of the rabbinic thinking on divine control of the universe consists of the subtle interplay between God's justice and his mercy. For God to overlook sinfulness and wickedness would be for him to betray his quality of justice. Yet God's justice is always tempered by mercy. He pardons sinners who return to him in sincere repentance and is ever ready to be entreated to exercise his compassion. God's mercy is extended to human beings who show mercy to one another. A typical rabbinic doctrine is that of measure for measure. To the extent that humans are prepared to go beyond the letter of the law to be excessively generous and forgiving, God can, with justice, be gracious; the more merciful human beings are in conduct with their fellows, the more will God extend to them his sympathy and his pardon.

For the rabbis, the teaching that emerges from biblical statements about God is that he is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. God is present at all times in the universe, which he fills. God's presence in the universe is compared to the human soul filling the body it inhabits with the clear implication that the pervasiveness is spiritual, not spatial. God knows all there is to be known, including all future events, although the idea of God's foreknowledge receives little prominence in rabbinic thought. As in the Bible, so for the rabbis, God possesses unlimited power.

That God is one and eternal is as axiomatic for the rabbis as it is for the biblical authors upon whom they based their views. God

is totally unaffected by the passage of time. Nevertheless, the Midrash can say that God appeared to the children of Israel at the crossing of the sea in the guise of a youthful warrior, whereas he appeared at Sinai as a venerable sage teaching the Torah to his disciples. In another Midrashic passage it is said that God's voice at Sinai adapted itself to the temperament and disposition of the individual recipients. God spoke to the young in youthful terms, to the older folk in more mature ways. Men heard the voice speaking in a form suitable to males, women in a form suitable to females. Implied here is the idea, later to be developed more fully, that a distinction is to be made between God as he is in himself and God as he becomes manifest in creation. The differentiation is said to have been only in the way in which the divine revelation had its effect. In God there is no trace of age or sex. God is unchanging and unlimited.

The divide between God and humanity is never crossed, but it is the duty of humans to be godlike by trying to make the divine attributes their own insofar as this is possible. A person can and should be holy, but he or she can never be holy in the way that God is holy. Humans can pursue the truth and live a life of integrity, but even of Moses it is said that he failed to attain to the fiftieth and highest gate of understanding, that is, of perception of the divine. Humans must be compassionate like their maker, but their compassion must not stray beyond its legitimate boundaries.

see the whole subject as somewhat irrelevant to living faith.

(encyclopedia.com)

Here are 15 attributes of God, what they mean and why they matter:

1. God Is Infinite – He is Self-Existing, Without Origin

"And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."
- [Colossians 1:17](#)

"Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure" – [Psalm 147:5](#)

2. God Is Immutable – He Never Changes

"I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." [Malachi 3:6](#)

3. God Is Self-Sufficient – He Has No Needs

"For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself." – [John 5:26](#)

4. God is Omnipotent – He Is All Powerful

"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth." – [Psalm 33:6](#)

"Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea. If he comes along and confines you in prison and convenes a court, who can oppose him? Surely he recognizes deceivers; and when he sees evil, does he not take note?" – [Job 11:7-11](#)

5. God Is Omniscient – He Is All-Knowing

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please” - [Isaiah 46:9-10](#)

6. God Is Omnipresent – He Is Always Everywhere

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to [heaven](#), You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.” [Psalm 139:7-10](#)

“‘Am I a God at hand,’ declares the Lord, ‘and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?’ declares the Lord. ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ declares the Lord” - [Jeremiah 23:23-24](#)

7. God Is Wise – He Is Full of Perfect, Unchanging Wisdom

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” – [Romans 11:33](#)

8. God Is Faithful – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly True

**"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his [covenant](#) of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands."
- [Deut 7:9](#)**

“[I]f we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.” [2 Timothy 2:13](#)

9. God Is Good – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly Kind and Full of Good Will

“O, taste and see that the Lord is good” – [Psalm 34:8](#)

10. God Is Just – He Is Infinitely, Unchangeably Right and Perfect in All He Does

"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He." – Duet 32:4

11. God Is Merciful – He is Infinitely, Unchangeably Compassionate and Kind

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy." - [Romans 9:15-16](#)

12. God Is Gracious – God Is Infinitely Inclined to Spare the Guilty

"The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness." – [Psalm 145:8](#)

13. God Is Loving – God Infinitely, Unchangingly Loves Us

“Beloved, let us [love one another](#), for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because [God is love](#).” - [1 John 4:7-8](#)

14. God Is Holy – He is Infinitely, Unchangingly Perfect

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord Almighty” – [Revelation 4:8](#)

15. God Is Glorious – He is Infinitely Beautiful and Great

“His radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays flashing from His hand, And there is the hiding of His power.” - [Habakkuk 3:4](#)