



## **God is Great. God is Good.**

God is Great. God is Good. This is more than a child's mealtime prayer; these are great theological truths. We kickoff this new year contemplating our Creator.

### **God is GREAT**

This refers to God's *CREATIVE POWER* and *ULTIMATE AUTHORITY* over all things. Since He created all things - **everything is under His authority** and there is none that compares to Him. **God is GREAT!**

- 🕒 The most powerful people in the world are just one heartbeat from death. This was true for Pharaohs, Alexander the Great, Roman Emperors, George Washington & the majority of our presidents.
- ✓ **God is ETERNAL** - He has always been - a Powerful Creator who is Timeless, Immaterial, All-powerful, is the most reasonable answer for why we exist.
- ✓ **The scientific community recognizes the Universe is NOT eternal** - it has NOT always been. At a moment in the distant past there was...**NOTHING** - no time, matter, space, nor energy - no SUN, stars, planets, or gravity. NOTHING...And then...there WAS!

**How could this be?** Since the creation of the universe can't be observed, tested, nor repeated, this is where scientists are stumped and must imply from what has been observed over hundreds of years - an ever-expanding universe.

❓ But how did that universe begin in the first place?

Philosophically sound logic that observable science leads us to:

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause.

Most astronomers and scientists point to this "cause" as **the BIG BANG**, an explosion from which the ever expanding universe can be compressed back to the same point of origin. But, **what is the CAUSE of THAT?**

The BIG BANG theory is NOT in conflict with Biblical creation. Genesis begins like this:

**Genesis 1:1-2** (CSB) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Before **God created the heavens and the earth**, there were no "heavens" (sky, space, stars) and no "earth" - since there was no time, matter, space, or energy. That means that an All-Powerful, Timeless, Immaterial Creator (not bound by time, matter, space, or energy) had to cause it to be.

☀️ **Our sun** produces more energy in 1 second than all mankind has produced since creation.

It's diameter is 860,000 miles - that could hold 1.3 million planets the size of earth! Yet our sun is only an average-sized star, one of hundreds of trillion of stars.

☄️ **Our galaxy** - the Milky Way - is HUGE.

- It would take 100,000 light years to travel from one side to another (speed of light = 186,000 mi/sec = 5.88 trillion miles in a year...for 100,000 years!)
- Our sun is 1 of an estimated 100 billion stars in our own galaxy (not universe)!<sup>1</sup>
- Experts estimate the number of galaxies to be between 100 billion and 200 billion.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/science/objects/milkyway1.html>

<sup>2</sup> Mario Livio, an astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Psalmist (without access to the scientific tools we have today) was blown away by God's power and wisdom as seen through creation.

**Psalm 33:6-9** (CSB) The heavens were made by the word of the LORD, and all the stars, by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the water of the sea into a heap; He puts the depths into storehouses. Let the whole earth fear the LORD; let **all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him**. For He spoke, and it came into being; He commanded, and it came into existence.

Looking at what God created causes us to pause and wonder, "How beautiful this is!" So too the Psalmist writes about God looking down on His most impressive creation - PEOPLE made in His image.

**Psalm 33:13-15** (CSB) The Lord looks down from heaven; **He observes everyone**. He gazes on all the inhabitants of the earth from His dwelling place. He **forms the hearts of them all**; He considers all their works.

The Creator cares for His creation! He knows what we are going through....and He cares! **God is Great...but God is also GOOD.**

## **God is GOOD**

This refers to God's PURITY, KINDNESS, & JUDGEMENT. (more on this in the next 2 weeks). Listen to the words of Jesus and Simon Peter, as they talk about the GOODNESS of God to His Creation.

**Matthew 6:31-34** (CSB) So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For the Gentiles\* eagerly seek all these things, and **your heavenly Father knows that you need them**. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and **all these things will be provided for you**. Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. \* *pagans/ungodly*

In the middle of all we've gone through in 2020 it's easy to be worried, but Jesus says to SEEK God's kingdom and trust God with the rest. Your Father knows what you need and He cares!

Peter reminds us of this great truth as well.

**1 Peter 5:6-7** (CSB) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on Him, because **He cares about you**.

The God who created this VAST UNIVERSE, cares about YOU and ME! Isn't that amazing? King David thought the same thing as he looked into the night sky.

**Psalm 8:3-4** (NIV) When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them?

The most significant demonstration of God's greatness & goodness is spotlighted by the life of Jesus - God in skin. The God who created the vast Universe came to Earth to demonstrate LOVE for His creation - to pay for their sin.

**God is Great! God is Good!**

## **FEET → 2 → FAITH**

### 🕒 **Start Reading Scripture Daily**

10-minute challenge - Read the Gospels or start reading the Bible in a year:

### 🕒 **Go outside, LOOK UP, & talk to your Creator!**

## **heretoserveyou**

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).