

Consider  
the  
Lilies

"This book is exceptional  
in every way."  
—JOHN MACARTHUR



Finding  
Perfect Peace  
in the  
Character  
of God

Jonny  
Ardavanis

# Consider the Lilies

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## Chapter 6: *Knowing Abba*

## Abba = father

### 1. Mark 14:36

*"Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."*

### 2. Romans 8:15

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

### 3. Galatians 4:6

*Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

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*“Abba” is the word framed by the lips of infants, and betokens unreasoning trust; ‘father’ expresses an intelligent apprehension of the relationship. The two together express the love and intelligent confidence of the child.*

– Vine’s Expository Dictionary

## Luke 12:22-34

*<sup>22</sup> And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? <sup>26</sup> If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!...*

## Luke 12:22-34

*<sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup> For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. <sup>31</sup> But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. <sup>32</sup> Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

## Luke 12:22-34

Verse 24 – *Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet **God** feeds them.*

Verse 28 – *But if **God** so clothes the grass in the field...*

Verse 30 – *...but **your Father** knows that you need these things.*

Verse 32 – *...for **your Father** has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.*

*“What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father... If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father... ‘Father’ is the Christian name for God.”*

*– J. I. Packer, Knowing God, pgs. 201-202*

## God is spoken of as the Father of His people in the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 32:6

*“Is not He your Father, who created you, who made you and established you?”*

Isaiah 63:16

*“For You are our Father... You, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is Your name.”*

Jeremiah 31:9

*“For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn.”*

## God as the Father of His people in the New Testament:

### Romans 8:15-16

*<sup>15</sup> But you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.*

### Galatians 4:4-7

*<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son... <sup>5</sup> that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.*

### Ephesians 1:5-6

*<sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

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*“The Father’s children are the only people on earth who can experience the Father’s peace. This make’s sense, right? You cannot possess the peace of God if you are not at peace with God through Jesus Christ... Every ounce of the Christian’s hope in our dark, troubled, and uncertain world is moored to our identity as children of God. (pg. 76)*

### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

*<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

## Colossians 1:12-14

*<sup>12</sup> ...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. <sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*“It’s only as we understand our former identity in sin that we can begin to bask in the wonder of our present identity in Christ.” (pg. 78)*

*“God’s grace will never be amazing to those who are not first fully convicted of their sin. Misery over sin is the prerequisite to joy in Christ. A diminished view of God produces a diminished view of sin, which leads to a diminished view of grace, which leads to a diminished view of the fatherhood of God and the peace that He alone can provide. You will never know God as Father in an intimate sense until you have first known Him as holy King and righteous Judge. Jesus said that the antidote to anxiety is the consideration of the character of our heavenly Father, but **the fatherhood of God is simply a Christian platitude and empty cliché until we come to terms with our sin and come to a healthy fear of God.**” (pg. 80)*

*“The believer’s fear of God as Father is qualitatively different from the fear of God as Judge... One pastor said, ‘The gospel is the difference between being afraid of God and fearing God. (pg. 80)*

**Luke 12:5**

*"But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!*

## 2 Corinthians 7:1

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

## Acts 9:31

*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.*

## Hebrews 12:28-29

*<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.*

*“Our culture, on a quest to make God more palatable, has all but removed the proper and necessary fear of God. In doing so, all other fears have catapulted back into our lives. Today, many have learned the grace of God before they have learned the fear of God, and as a result they understand neither.*

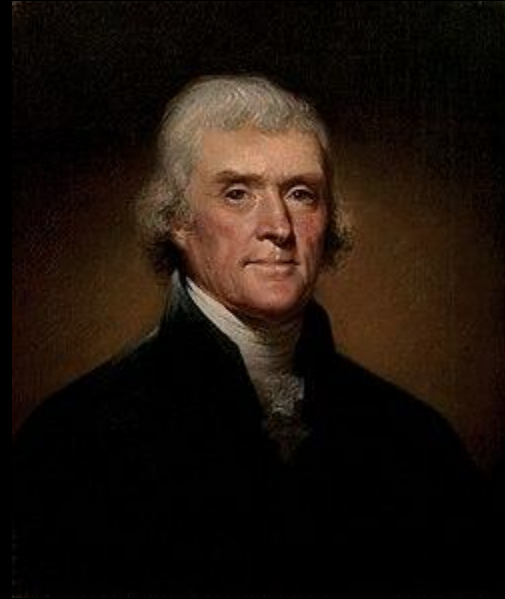
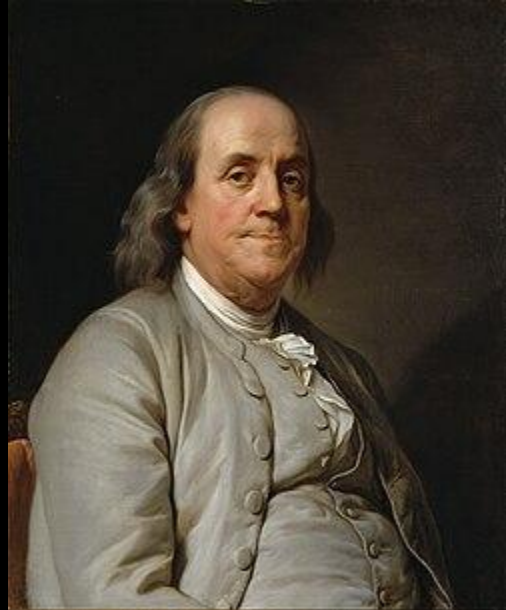
*There will never be any appreciation of God’s grace until you understand His justice, and you will not marvel at the reality of your adoption into the family of God until you consider the alienation you had from him in your sin.” (pg. 81)*

*“However familiar this reality may be, we must never allow the familiar to obscure the extraordinary... You overcome anxiety not by fighting it but by casting it onto Someone greater than you. The pathway to peace starts with knowing God as Father because you have trusted in His Son as Savior.” (pg. 82)*

# Chapter 7:

*Forever Himself, Forever Good*

What is a Deist? A deist believes in the existence of a supreme-creator god who established the universe's natural laws, but does not intervene in human affairs or perform miracles.



*“Sadly, many professing Christians view God the same way the deists do: as a distant, impersonal, and retired deity who has little interest and involvement in the affairs of our lives. Consequently, in this view, we have every reason to be anxious!” (pg. 86)*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TRANSLATED</u>	<u>FIRST APPEARS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF USES</u>
Elohim	<i>“God”</i> (plural)	Genesis 1:1	2,000 times +

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Elohim	" <i>God</i> " (plural)	Genesis 1:1	2,000 times +
El	" <i>God</i> " (singular)	Genesis 14:18	245 times

- El Elyon = *the Most High God*
- El Olam = *the Everlasting God*
- El Shadai = *the God Almighty*

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Adonai	" <i>Lord</i> " or " <i>Master</i> " (plural)	Genesis 15:2	434 times
Yahweh	" <i>He Is</i> " (third person)	Genesis 2:4	6,500 times +

Exodus 3:14

*"I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

↳ Hāyâ = "*I am*" (first person)

↳ Yahweh = "*He is*" (third person)

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↳ The “Tetragrammaton” (*the four letters*)

↳ JHWH (English) = Jahweh

↳ JHVH (Latin) + Adonai vowels = Jehovah

- o Jehovah Nissi (The LORD My Banner)
- o Jehovah-Raah (The LORD My Shepherd)
- o Jehovah Rapha (The LORD That Heals)
- o Jehovah Tsidkenu (The LORD Our Righteousness)
- o Jehovah Jireh (The LORD Will Provide)
- o Jehovah Shalom (The LORD Is Peace)
- o Jehovah Sabaoth (The LORD of Hosts)

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Exodus 3:14 – "I AM that I AM." ← How can that be??

### Exodus 6:2-3

*God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD (Yahweh); and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty (El Shaddai), but by My name, LORD (Yahweh), I did not make Myself known to them."*

*“It’s one thing to believe in God, but it’s an entirely different thing to believe God and know Him by His personal name. Sadly, many professing Christians believe in God in the same way they believe in oxygen. They believe He exists, but that belief has little to do with how they live their lives... As we will see, God’s name alone is the most powerful implication of His existence. His name means ‘I Am,’ and in a world that is grasping to know whether He is truly there, the third-person rendering of God’s name gives us the answer: ‘He is’”  
(pgs. 89-90)*

## 1. Yahweh is Self-Existent

*“Anyone who has been to a campfire understands this basic reality: fires need to be started. The stovetop fire and the forest fire alike both begin with a tiny spark. They are dependent upon external causation.” (pg. 91)*

## 1. Yahweh is Self-Existent

*“As Yahweh revealed Himself to Moses as the ‘I Am,’ we are reminded that one of the core tenants of God’s character is that He and He alone is the sole cause of everything in creation and that He Himself has no original cause.” (pg. 91)*

Aseity: the theological term for God’s self-existence

A = “from” + se = “self” → “from himself” or “self-existent”

*“Therefore, God’s aseity means that He derives life in and of Himself and His existence is owed to nothing and no one. Maybe this sounds a bit heady for a book focused on anxiety and despair, but worship and trust can begin only when we understand that the God on whom we cast all our cares is fundamentally distinct from us in this matter.” (pgs. 91-92)*

## 1. Yahweh is Self-Existent

*“Anxiety is inevitable in a world that teaches us that human beings are grown-up goo, clumps of cells, and the products of a big bang. If our existence is the result of unseen forces, cosmic accidents, and chance, what’s to prevent our lives (and the life of our planet, for that matter) from being thrown into a further tailspin? The indoctrination of evolution over the past century has not only crippled our sense of human dignity as God’s image bearers but also created the perception of a universe where everything is held together by chance and sheer luck.” (pg. 92)*

*“You are not the product of chance but the image bearer of the only self-existent God. Because God is the ‘I AM,’ He has no potential and will not and cannot be a better God in the future than He is right now and has been for all eternity past.” (pg. 92)*

## 2. Yahweh is Self-Sufficient

*“As you can imagine... once the great campfire was started, it needed to be sustained. Unless additional fuel was added to the fire, the fire would die. Like fires, all people, planets, plants, and products have a cause, but not only that – all of them need to be sustained in order to survive.” (pg. 93)*

## 2. Yahweh is Self-Sufficient

Acts 17:24-25

*24 “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.”*

*“God isn’t simultaneously meeting His own needs as He attends to ours. When we come to Him in prayer, we are not bothering a busy God who is scrambling to survive... Left to ourselves, we have many needs, but because our Shepherd has none, we can say with the psalmist: ‘The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.’”*

*“Are you anxious? Then cast all your needs onto the God who has none. Do you need to be sustained amid life’s trials? Then come to the Everlasting Refuge who needs no sustaining at all.” (pg. 93)*

### 3. Yahweh is Eternal

*“As Moses approach the burning bush, Yahweh introduced Himself as ‘the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Moses’ first encounter with Yahweh began with the understanding of a critical truth about Him: Yahweh is the only self-existent, self-sufficient, and eternal God... Forty years after this encounter with God, Moses was no longer the shepherd of sheep but the shepherd of the Hebrew people. En route to the promised land, Moses, the pastor of two million people, witnessed an entire generation die and conducted more funeral services than anyone else in history. During his four decades in the wilderness, Moses was constantly reminded of the transience and fragility of life.” (pg. 94)*

*“It’s against this backdrop of life’s brevity that Moses wrote the first psalm ever written and the only one ascribed to him.” (pg. 94)*

### 3. Yahweh is Eternal

Psalm 90:1-4

*<sup>1</sup> Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. <sup>3</sup> You turn man back into dust and say, "Return, O children of men." <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night.*

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### 3. Yahweh is Eternal

*“You may be asking, ‘What does God’s eternality have to do with my anxiety?’... At times, the truth of God’s eternality may be so familiar to our minds that it may just slip off the tip of our tongues. But God wanted Moses to know something in the moment of his greatest fear: ‘Pharaoh has a beginning and an end, but only I am from everlasting to everlasting.’ Whatever battle you may be facing in your life, put it against the backdrop of our eternal God who disposes of kings, kingdoms, and empires without batting an eye. (pg. 96)*

**Next Time:** Chapter 8

*Infinite Understanding*