

MOSAIC



God is God

What we believe about our Father in heaven

The Seven Essentials

- **The Bible**
- **God**
- **Jesus Christ**
- **The Holy Spirit**
- **Human Beings**
- **Salvation**
- **The Church**



There is one God who is the creator and ruler of the universe. He eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit.

Do Americans believe in God?

- I don't believe in God (7%)
- I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out (7%)
- I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind (14%)
- I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others (6%)
- While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God (16%)
- I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it (50%)



Who is God?

- **Half of the world's faiths do not believe in a single deity**
- **Monotheism is the belief that God is the only deity, and that the world is a separate reality in which God intervenes, often through supernatural means**
- **The five largest monotheistic religions are Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Baha'I**
- **Is the God of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity the same God?**



“Muslims, Christians and Jews do all worship the same complex God. Yet, in spite of this, all believe that their religion contains the full and final revelation of the same God. Here is the origin of their unity. Here also lies the cause of their division.”

~ Philip C. Almond, Emeritus Professor in the History of Religious Thought, The University of Queensland



How do we know God?

Fundamental to knowing God is understanding His profound uniqueness as a divine being – there is none like Him and there is no other than Him.

~ Jim Rosenquist, Author



**“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.”**

~ Isaiah 44:6



Where the Bible Says “One God”

Old Testament

- Isaiah 44:6
- Deuteronomy 4:35
- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Deuteronomy 32:39
- 1 Samuel 2:2
- 2 Samuel 7:22
- 1 Kings 8:60
- Psalm 18:31
- Isaiah 37:16
- Isaiah 45:21
- Hosea 13:4
- Joel 2:27
- Malachi 2:10

New Testament

- Mark 12:28–29
- 1 Corinthians 8:4
- Ephesians 4:4–6
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- Galatians 3:20
- John 17:3
- James 2:19



God's Exceptional Nature

- **This one God is the God of Israel, not the supposed gods of other nations**
- **He has no rivals, no competitors, no others can rightfully claim to be God**
- **He is Yahweh (often translated Lord in English Bibles)**
- **He is the one who redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt**
- **He is enthroned above all the kingdoms of the earth**
- **He is Creator of heaven and earth**
- **He is a Savior, there are no other Saviors like Him**
- **He is a Father**



“There is one God...”

- **God’s Singularity – there is only one**
- **God’s uniqueness – there is none like Him**

“In the beginning, God created...”

- **Genesis 1:1**
- **Isaiah 45:12**
- **Job 12:7-10**
- **Job Chapters 38-41; “The Lord Speaks”**
- **John 1:3**
- **Colossians 1:16**
- **Romans 1:20**



The Order of the Universe

- **“The order of the universe is not an assumption: it is an observed fact.” ~ Carl Sagan**
- **Cosmos - the universe seen as a well-ordered whole**
- **Greek root *kosmos* - "to order and arrange, to set in array;" also "to establish"**

“I was secular to start with. I am not religious. I am struck by the order we find in the universe, by the regularity, by the existence of laws of nature. That is something I am always in awe of, how the laws of nature we find here on Earth seem to apply all the way out to the edge of the universe. That is quite remarkable. The universe could have been chaotic and very disorganized. But it obeys a set of laws much better than people obey a set of laws here.”

*~ Dr. Abraham “Avi” Loeb, theoretical physicist & professor at
Harvard University*



“Creation is the act by which the Bible introduces us to God. It is an act of God alone, by which, for his own glory, he brings into existence everything in the universe, things that had no existence prior to his creative word. In creation, we see God’s lordship on display in his control over all things, his authority over all the universe, and his presence in every part of creation.”

~ John M. Frame, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, Florida



**“...who is the creator and ruler of
the universe.”**

- God created all things**
- God is reflected in the vastness
and order of the universe**

The Trinity

The one God manifested in three equal and distinct forms is set apart from the God of the other two Abrahamic faiths (Judaism and Islam)

- **The Father**
 - **“Creator, Lord of the history of salvation, Father, and Judge, as revealed in the Old Testament”**
- **The Son**
 - **“The Lord who, in the incarnated figure of Jesus Christ, lived among human beings and was present in their midst as the ‘Resurrected One’”**
- **The Holy Spirit**
 - **“The helper or intercessor in the power of the new life”**



The Trinity

- **The word “trinity” and the doctrine of the triune God do not explicitly appear in the Bible**
- **It was not the intention of early Christians to contradict the revelation of God as singular and unique**
- **They wrestled with:**
 - **Jesus’ claims of who He is**
 - **The power of God within them (The Holy Spirit)**



The Trinity

- **Genesis 1:26 (“Elohim”; lack of consensus on the “divine plural”)**
- **John 1:1-5**
- **John 10:30**
- **John 14:10**
- **Matthew 28:19**
- **2 Corinthians 3:17**
- **2 Corinthians 13:13**
- **Matthew 3:16-17**



Jesus Equates Himself to God

- **God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” (Exodus 3:14)**
- **Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)**

**“He eternally exists in three
persons: ...”**

**“...the Father, the Son, & the Holy
Spirit.”**

- The essence of God is reflected in three distinct persons**
- They existed in unity before time began, and are forever in unity**



Did God Abandon Jesus on the Cross?

- **Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34**
 - **Psalm 22**
- **Once saved, sin cannot separate us from God**
- **The unity of the Trinity cannot be broken by sin**
- **If God cannot look upon sin, what was Jesus doing during His ministry?**

Understanding God

- **Isaiah 55:8-9**
- **Romans 11:33-35**
- **Isaiah 30:13-14**
- **Isaiah 40:28**
- **1 Corinthians 13:12**

Not only can we never know everything there is to know about God, we can never know everything there is to know about even one aspect of God's character or work.

~ Erik Thoennes, professor and department chair of biblical and theological studies, Biola University



“To know the fullness of God's thoughts on any subject or any event is, of course, so far beyond us to be unimaginable. To this end, we truly do look through a glass darkly. However, He has revealed certain things about Himself, His way, and His plan sufficiently enough that we may seek Him, come to conversion, and grow thereby. He has also revealed much to us about His attributes, His aims, and His activities as Creator, Sovereign Ruler, Provider, Lawgiver, Judge, Savior, and Father so that we are not completely without some knowledge and understanding of how He functions within His creation.”

~ The Forerunner Commentary



**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 46:10

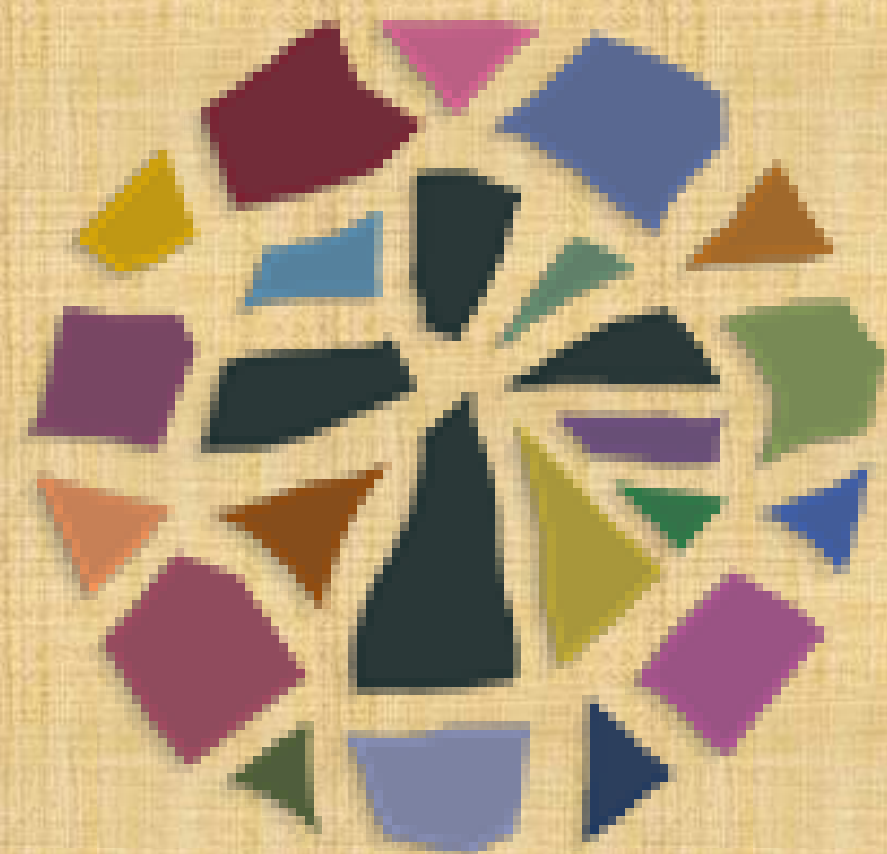


How do I respond to God?

- **Be careful not to limit God to your way of thinking and being – He doesn't answer to your agenda, but you must answer to His**
- **Be grateful for how deeply God loves you and desires to be with you, no matter what**
- **Be curious and seek to know as much about God as possible**
- **Be content with not knowing or understanding everything God is doing in the world or in your life**
- **Be certain that God knows what He's doing, and you don't have to help Him unless He asks for it**



“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.” ~ Acts 17:21-25



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