

Genesis 1:1

“Who is God?”

Pastor Bruce Zachary

intro. The consideration of the “God Question” is the most profound idea effecting a person.

1. Is there really a God?

2. Can God be known, and if so how?

3. What is man’s responsibility to God if any? You can’t get the right answer to #3 unless you got the right answer to #2 ... that is only reasonable ~

Subject: Who is God ... Really?

Object: Trust Christ and Know God

I. Is there really a God?

A. The Bible declares that God created you

Gen.1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ...

1. Refutes other ideas about origins:

a. Atheism: rebuts the idea of no God since it starts with God

b. Pantheism: rebuts idea that all is God, declares God exists before creation

c. Polytheism: rather than many gods there is one God

d. Dualism: idea of 2 gods 1 evil & 1 good is rebutted by the declaration of one God

e. Evolution: gradual modification by natural processes from prior materials is refuted by God created – a beginning point of time at which the universe as we know it begins

creation: work of God in bringing all things into existence. Creation shows God is personal [not an impersonal force]. God creates from nothing [*bara-* used only re God] not merely a reworking of materials already in existence

B. Does the evidence support Creation? Intelligent design reveals a creator and life cannot come from non-life

1. Fossil evidence: no transitional life form, missing link is missing

2. Microbiology: complex simple systems. Cells, the simplest form of life are amazingly complex structures. The universe can't be old enough to allow for the complexity of biological systems to have developed by random selection.

3. Physics - laws of thermodynamics: 1st conservation—energy can't be created or destroyed merely convert from one form to another; **2nd entropy:** things move from order to disorder [order does not come from chaos]

4. Cosmology: life would not exist if any of the following changed: slower or faster rotation of the earth; further or closer to the sun [2-5%]; smaller or larger moon; more than one moon; change in oxygen/nitrogen ratio; earth's crust thinner or thicker, size & distance between planets

5. Flood geology: anthropologists – cultures around the globe have a history of an epic flood. Noahic flood explains geologic strata, as a viable alternative to uniform periods created over billions of years

6. Atoms: same charge repels, opposites attract > what keeps the atoms from splitting apart

Col.1:17 in Him all things consist [NIV-In Him all things are *held together*]

Heb.1:3 upholds all things by the word of His power

2Pet.3:10 heavens will pass away with a great noise and a fervent heat [big bang is at end when Lord let's go!]

7. Darwin's Origin of Species: pub 1859 re 1830 voyage HMS Beagle – S. America, Africa, Galapagos Islands. Natural selection: assumes survival of fittest. Cf. overwhelming majority of gene mutations are harmful/fatal

Sir Arthur Keith: forward to Darwin's 50th Anniversary, "Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it only because the only alternative is special creation ... [and that is unthinkable]"

II. Can God be known and if so how? The Bible reveals God to man

Note: Later in our series we will show how we know the Bible is reliable

Gen.1:26-27 the Bible declares that man is created in the image of God. Cf. we are not to create God in our image. The Bible shows divine attributes of God and those that we are to reflect

A. Triune God: God is a Person, eternally existing, as a Trinity in unity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three Persons and yet one God [Deut. 6:4, Matt. 26:19]

B. Attributes exclusively related to God:

1. Eternal [without beginning or end]

a. Father: Ps. 102:27, Gen. 21:33

b. Jesus: Jn. 1:1-14

c. Holy Spirit: Heb. 9:14

2. Omnipotent [all-powerful, nothing is too hard for God]

a. Father: Jer. 32:17, Matt. 19:26

b. Jesus: Rev. 1:8

c. Holy Spirit: Lu. 1:35

How does the reality that God is all-powerful make you feel?

3. Omniscient [all-knowing]

a. Father: Prov. 15:3, Ps. 139:1-5

b. Jesus: Jn. 2:24

c. Holy Spirit: 1Cor. 2:10

How does the reality that God is all-knowing make you feel?

4. Omnipresent [present everywhere]

a. Father: Ps. 139:7-10

b. Jesus: Matt. 28:20

c. Holy Spirit: Ps.139: 7-10

5. Immutable [unchanging]

a. Father: Mal.3:6

b. Jesus: Heb. 13:8 Can't get any better and won't get any worse

c. Holy Spirit: Heb. 9:14

6. Creator:

a. Father: Gen. 1:1

b. Jesus: Col. 1:16

c. Holy Spirit: Gen. 1:2

B. Attributes of God that man is to reflect:

1. Holy [sinless, set-apart] [Lev. 11:44-45]

2. Love [1Jn. 4:8, Jn. 3:16]

3. Just [Does the right thing] [Ps. 7:11, 1Jn.1:9]

4. Truth [God cannot lie] [Heb. 6:18, Rom. 3:4]

C. God is Revealed in Jesus the Christ [Jn. 14:7-9]

1. The Bible reveals that Jesus displays all the attributes of deity
2. Jesus dwells with us so that we can understand God [Jn. 1:1-14] The Incarnation
 - a. Christ's life and teaching reveal how we are to live to please God
 - b. Christ's death [the cross] reveals how we are to be reconciled to God
 - c. Christ's resurrection reveals how we are empowered to know and live for God
 - d. God is Spirit Jn. 4:24, but became man for us

III. What is man's responsibility to God? Why am I here? What's life all about?

A. Purpose: Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever (Relationship) The Garden of Eden shows us God's intent and desire: to be in perfect communion/relationship with Him

B. Problem: All Have Sinned [Rom.3:23] Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden and each of us

C. Remedy: Trust in Christ [Rom.10] by faith in Jesus we are forgiven and can know God
- In addition, we are also free to live out our God given purpose to glorify God and enjoy Him forever

conclusion: trust Christ and know God