

Lesson 9-14

The Doctrine of God

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

I. What the some of the different philosophies of man concerning the nature of God?

Note: All but one of these philosophies are refuted by the very first verse of the Bible:

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

- A. **Atheism.** An atheist is one who denies the existence of God (Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:28). It should be noted that a denial of a fact does not change a fact.

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” Psalm 14:1a

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge... Romans 1:28

It has been said that “there are no atheists in the foxhole.”

It has also been said that “an atheist cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman.”

A.W. Tozer said, “Were every man on earth to become an atheist, it could not affect God in any way. He is what he is in himself without regard to any other. To believe in him adds nothing to his perfections; to doubt him takes nothing away.”

Someone once said, “Sometimes a nation abolishes God, but fortunately God is more tolerant.”

- B. **Agnosticism.** An agnostic does not deny the existence of God, but denies that man can know for sure one way or another if there is a god.

The Agnostic’s Prayer

“Oh God, if there is a God, save my soul, if I have a soul.” J.E. Renan

- C. **Deism.** A deist acknowledges that there is a God who created the world and its natural laws, but it denies that God has anything to do with the sustaining of or interaction with His creation. Hence God is the Maker but not the Keeper (Ps. 121).

I will lift up my eyes to the hills— from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He

who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

- D. **Pantheism.** A pantheist believes that God is not a personality, but that all laws, forces and manifestations of the self-existing universe are God. In other words, God is in everything and everything is God. For the pantheist, God and creation (or nature) are synonymous. It makes nature God and misses the God of nature. It inspires the worship of the creation rather than the creator.
- E. **Polytheism.** A polytheist believes that there are many gods. This was a very common form of religion among the Greeks and Romans and it is prevalent among many other cultures of the world today. The Bible speaks much about this form of religion (Deut. 5:7; Ex. 15:11; Josh. 23:7; Ps. 115:1-8; 135:15-18).

You shall have no other gods before Me. Deuteronomy 5:7

Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11

Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, ⁷ and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them, ⁸ but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day. Joshua 23:6-8

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth. ² Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?” ³ But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. ⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; ⁶ they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷ they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. ⁸ Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them. Psalm 115:1-8

- F. **Dualism.** A dualist believes that there are two gods. There is a good god and an evil god. For the dualist, both gods are equal in power and influence and are in constant struggle for dominance and control.
- G. **Tri-theism.** A tri-theist believes that the three persons of the Trinity are three separate gods. It is really the result of the natural mind trying to understand the mystery of an eternal God.

- H. **Monotheism.** A monotheist believes in one eternal God who is in control of the universe and can be pleased or angered. Unfortunately, this knowledge alone is insufficient to bring people to a saving knowledge of God (Jam. 2:19).

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! James 2:19

II. What should be our attitude concerning these differing philosophies?

- A. We should avoid dwelling on mere rational approaches or vain philosophies which according to the Bible are “unprofitable” (Col. 2:8). If our faith rests on what we can understand with our reason, our faith will only be extended as far as our reason will permit (I Cor. 2:1-5).

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. Colossians 2:8

- B. We should realize that natural man will never be able to understand the things of God unless God Himself reveals them to him (I Cor. 2:11-14; Eccl. 8:17).

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. I Corinthians 2:11-14

- C. We should realize that the natural man is likely to conceptualize God in such a way as to sooth his own conscience (Mic. 4:5; Ps. 106:20).

For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. Micah 4:5

They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molded image. Thus they changed their glory into the image of an ox that eats grass. Psalm 106:20

You become like whatever you worship.

- D. Ultimately any unbiblical approach to explaining God is man’s attempt to create God in his own image rather than accepting God’s declaration about Himself. We can be guilty of making God in our own image and likeness.

III. What are some of the major attempts to prove the existence of God outside of the Scripture?

There have been many attempts to prove the existence of God apart from Scripture. Philosophers from ancient times have been intrigued by the subject of God.

- A. **The Cosmological Argument.** This is the argument from cause and effect. All of the natural world operates on this principle. The question is, “We know the world exists, but where did it come from?” Our experience tells us that there is a cause or power behind everything. The existence of creation itself tells us that there must be a maker (Ps. 19:1).

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

- B. **The Intuitional Argument.** This is the argument from common consent. There is an inborn knowledge of God in every person. Even a child has a sense of God. All cultures of the world seem to attest to a belief that there is a God. The evidence for the existence of God is in man himself.
- C. **The Teleological Argument.** This is the argument from design and purpose. There is a perfect design in the universe. From the snowflake with its intricate design to the functions of the human body there is a strong sense of design. The inter-dependence of all of the species of both animal and plant life suggest an intelligent creator.
- D. **The Anthropological Argument.** This is the argument from the existence of mankind. Man is an incredible masterpiece of creation with amazing moral and intellectual capabilities. Man must have been created by a being superior to him. The inferior always proceeds from the superior—the creator is always greater than the created.
- E. **The Biological Argument.** This is argument from the fact of life. Life can only come from pre-existent life. Life cannot originate from dead matter. All life must go back to some source of life (John 1:1-4).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

IV. What is wrong with trying to prove the existence of God?

- A. This usually ends up in an argument and confusion. If people do not have the faith or disposition to believe, they will never find a relationship to God through the mind. They must have a personal revelation of God.

B. This is something that the Bible itself never does. Nowhere in the Bible is there an attempt to prove the existence of God.

1. The Bible simply declares, assumes or affirms it (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1).
2. The Bible declares that this knowledge of God is given to every one (Rom. 1:18-23, 28, 32).

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:18-23

Voltaire said in 1738 in his book on metaphysics, “In the opinion that there is a God, there are difficulties; but in the contrary opinion there are absurdities.”

V. How can finite man know the nature and person of an infinite God?

There is only one way for finite man to know the nature and person of an infinite God—God must take the initiative and reveal Himself to man (Job 11:7-9; 37:23).

“Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything there is to know about the Almighty? Such knowledge is higher than the heavens—but who are you? It is deeper than the underworld—what can you know in comparison to him? It is broader than the earth and wider than the sea. Job 11:7-9, NLT

A. The knowledge of God is foundational to any approach to God (Heb. 11:6).

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B. The knowledge of God alone is insufficient in itself to bring salvation. Even the devils believe (Jam. 2:19).

C. The knowledge of the person and nature of God can only come to man as God reveals it to him (Mt. 11:27; Eph. 4:17-21). God has done this in the Bible—the Word of God.

All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Matthew 11:27

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart... Ephesians 4:17-18

VI. What are some of the Scriptural definitions of God and what do they have in common?

- A. God is **Spirit** (John 4:24; I Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:27; I John 4:12). God is a spirit being and therefore invisible to the natural eye.

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:24

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. I Timothy 1:17

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. Hebrews 11:27

No one has seen God at any time. I John 4:12a

This is one reason why God forbid any images to be made of Him (Deut. 4:15-18).

“Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,¹⁶ lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,¹⁷ the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,¹⁸ the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. Deuteronomy 4:15-18

- B. God is **Light** (I John 1:5; I Tim. 6:15-16; Jam. 1:17). Light speaks of God’s majesty, glory, holiness, purity and brilliance.

*This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** and in Him is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. I John 1:5-7*

*I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,¹⁴ that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in **unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. I Timothy 6:13-16*

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17*

- C. God is **Love** (I John 4:8). This description reveals the heart of God. He does not have love; He is the personification of love (I Cor. 13:4-8).

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**.⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. I John 4:7-11*

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud⁵ or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.⁶ It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.⁸ Love will last forever. I Corinthians 13:4-8a, NLT

- D. God is a **Consuming Fire** (Heb. 12:29; Ex. 24:17; Deut. 9:3; 4:24). God often manifest Himself in connection with fire (e.g. The Cherubim and Flaming Sword, The Burning Bush, the Pillar of Fire, Tongues of Fire). Fire speaks of holiness and justice.

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our **God is a consuming fire**. Hebrews 12:28-29*

*Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like **a consuming fire** on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. Exodus 24:16-17*

1. He is a consuming fire in His passion for His people.

For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. Deuteronomy 4:24

2. He is a consuming fire against our enemies that seem as giants (Deut. 9:3).

'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?' Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you. Deuteronomy 9:2-3

3. He is a consuming fire in His hatred for and judgment on sin (Is. 33:14; 30:27).

The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" Isaiah 33:14

- E. The thing that all of these images have in common is that they are all outgoing, reaching out and dispelling darkness.
 1. God is **Spirit**. He is effulgent and cannot be contained.
 2. God is **Light**. He is always penetrating and dispelling darkness.
 3. God is **Love**. He is continually reaching out for an object to love on which to bestow His love.
 4. God is a **Consuming Fire**. He burns passionately for His people and His eternal purpose. Fire has a hunger that always seeks for more.

VII. What does the Bible tell us about the nature of God?

A. God has Essential Attributes.

There are certain natural attributes or qualities that belong to God that separate Him from all other being in the universe.

1. God is **eternal**, that is, He has no beginning and no end (Gen. 21:33; Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; 102:24-27; Is. 40:28; 44:6; Hab. 1:12; Rev. 11:17). He has always been and He always will be.

Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. Genesis 21:33

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...
Deuteronomy 33:27a

LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. Psalm 90:1-2

I said, “O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations.”²⁵ Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed.²⁷ But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.

Psalm 102:24-27

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:28

“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

3. God is **immutable**, that is, He never changes (Num. 23:19; I Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; 6:17-18; 13:8; Jam. 1:17).

God has no need to change because you cannot improve on perfection.

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:6-7

Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail. Hebrews 1:12

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

3. God is **independent**, that is, He is totally self-sufficient (John 1:1-3).
 - a. God depends on no one for His existence (Ps. 36:9; John 5:26) because He is the fountain of life.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Psalm 36:9

For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself... John 5:26

- b. God depends on no one for His knowledge (Heb. 4:13; Is. 40:12-14) because He is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

- c. God depends on no one for His actions (Gen. 1:1; Acts 17:24-28) because there is nothing that He cannot do.

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Acts 17:24-28

- d. God depends on no one for His supply (I Tim. 6:15-16; Acts 17:25) because He has need of nothing.
4. God is **omnipotent**, that is, He has power over everything (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17, 27; Mt. 19:26).

And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD?"

Genesis 18:13-14

'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. Jeremiah 32:17

Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me? Jeremiah 32:26-27

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

- a. God has power over nature (Job 9:4-9; Ps. 33:6-9; Na. 1:3-6).

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. ⁹ For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. Psalm 33:6-9

*The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way in the **whirlwind** and in the **storm**, and the **clouds** are the dust of His feet. ⁴ He rebukes the **sea** and makes it dry, and dries up all the **rivers**. Bashan and Carmel wither, and the flower of Lebanon*

wilts. ⁵ The **mountains** quake before Him, the **hills** melt, and the **earth** heaves at His presence, yes, the **world** and all who dwell in it. Nahum 1:3-5

- b. God has power over man (Jam. 4:12-15).

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? ¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:12-15

- c. God has power over all angels (Dan. 4:35).

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?” Daniel 4:35

- d. God has power over Satan (Job 1:12; 2:6).

And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” Job 1:12

And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.” Job 2:6

- e. God has power over death (Eph. 1:19-21; I Cor. 15:24-26; Rev. 1:18).

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. I Corinthians 15:24-26

“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Revelation 1:17-18

5. God is **omniscient**, that is, He knows everything (Rom. 11:33; I John 3:20). (Note: Much of the following is taken from *What the Bible Teaches* by R.A. Torrey.)

- a. He sees all that occurs in every place and keeps watch upon the evil and the good (Pro. 5:21; 15:3; Jer. 32:19; Heb. 4:13).

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. Proverbs 15:3

- b. He knows everything that occurs in nature (Ps. 147:4-5; Mt. 10:29; 6:8).

He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. Psalm 147:4-5

Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Matthew 10:29

For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.
Matthew 6:8

- c. He knows the ways of man (Job 34:21; Pro. 5:21; Jer. 16:17).

For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps. Job 34:21

For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes. Jeremiah 16:17

- d. He knows all of man's deeds and experiences (Ps. 33:13-15; 139:2-3).

¹³ *The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.* ¹⁴ *From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth;* ¹⁵ *He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works. Psalm 33:13-15*

- e. He knows all of man's words (Ps. 139:4).

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ² *You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.* ³ *You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.* ⁴ *For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.*
Psalm 139:1-4

- f. He knows all of man's sorrows (Ex. 3:7).

And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. Exodus 3:7

- g. He knows all our thoughts (Ps. 139:1-2; I Chr. 28:9; 29:17; 1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Kin. 8:39; Jer. 11:20; 17:10; 20:12; Rev. 2:23).

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. I Chronicles 28:9

But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, and see the mind and heart... Jeremiah 20:12

- h. God knows for all eternity what will be for all eternity (Acts 15:18).

“Known to God from eternity are all His works. Acts 15:18

6. God is **omnisapient**, that is, He possesses all wisdom (Rom. 11:33-36; 16:27; I Tim. 1:17).

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” ³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?” ³⁶For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

7. God is **omnipresent**, that is, He is everywhere in the universe at all times (Ps. 139:7-12; Jer. 23:23-24).

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me, "Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. Psalm 139:7-12

Am I a God who is only in one place?” asks the LORD. “Do they think I cannot see what they are doing? Can anyone hide from me? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” asks the LORD. Jeremiah 23:23-24, NLT

B. God has **Moral Attributes**.

There are certain moral attributes or qualities that belong to God. These in a sense balance out the essential attributes. What would it be like to have an evil god with such power?

1. God is absolutely **holy** (Ps. 22:3; 99:5, 9; Is. 5:16; 6:3; Zeph. 3:5; John 17:11; I Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8-11).

God cannot sin and He cannot tolerate sin. He is sinless perfection in the strictest

sense. Those who want to live with God must also be holy (Amos 3:3).

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool—He is holy. Psalm 99:5

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” ⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Isaiah 6:1-4

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

Revelation 4:8-11

2. God is and has perfect **love** (Jer. 31:3; John 3:16; I John 4:8, 16; Rom. 5:8; 8:39).

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

3. God is absolutely **faithful** (I Cor. 1:9; 10:13; I Th. 5:24; Deut. 7:7-9). God is absolutely trustworthy. He always keeps His word. His faithfulness is manifest in several ways.

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments...” Deuteronomy 7:6-9

- a. In keeping His promises (Heb. 10:23).

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

- b. In preserving His people (I Pet. 4:19).

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

- c. In protecting us from the evil one (II Th. 3:3).

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

- d. In chastening His children (Ps. 119:75).

I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

- e. In finishing the work He has started (I Th. 5:23-24).

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

- f. In forgiving our sins (I John 1:9).

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- g. In answering our prayers (Ps. 143:1).

Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness.

4. God is absolutely **righteous** and **just** (Deut. 32:4; Ezek. 18:19-30; Ezra 9:15; Ps. 116:5; 145:17; Dan. 9:14; John 17:25; Rev. 15:3).

Holiness has more to do with God's character as He is in Himself while righteousness and justice has to do with His character as manifested in His dealing with others.

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He. Deuteronomy 32:4

The LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. Daniel 9:14

“Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Revelation 15:3

“‘What?’ you ask. ‘Doesn’t the child pay for the parent’s sins?’ No! For if the child does what is right and keeps my laws, that child will surely live.²⁰ The one who sins is the one who dies. The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own goodness, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.²¹ But if wicked people turn away from all their sins and begin to obey my laws and do what is just and right, they will surely live and not die.²² All their past sins will be forgotten, and they will live because of the righteous things they have done.

²³ “Do you think, asks the Sovereign LORD, that I like to see wicked people die? Of course not! I only want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.²⁴ However, if righteous people turn to sinful ways and start acting like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? No, of course not! All their previous goodness will be forgotten, and they will die for their sins.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The Lord isn’t being just!’ Listen to me, O people of Israel. Am I the one who is unjust, or is it you?²⁶ When righteous people turn from being good and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds.²⁷ And if wicked people turn away from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives.²⁸ They will live, because after thinking it over, they decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die.²⁹ And yet the people of Israel keep saying, ‘The Lord is unjust!’ O people of Israel, it is you who are unjust, not I.

³⁰ “Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn from your sins! Don’t let them destroy you!³¹ Put all your rebellion behind you, and get for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel?³² I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live! Ezekiel 18:19-32, NLT

5. God is full of **mercy** (Ex. 34:5-7; Ps. 86:5; 103:8; 130:7; 145:8-9; Deut. 4:31).

Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:5-7

For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. Psalm 86:5

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
Psalm 103:8

O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
Psalm 130:7-8

VIII. What does the Bible tell of about God's being?

A. God is one.

There is one God. He is the one and only God (Deut. 4:35; 6:4; II Sam. 7:22; Is. 43:10; 44:6; 45:5, 14, 18; I Tim. 2:5; Mark 10:18; 12:29; Eph. 4:6).

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:4

Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. I Samuel 7:22

“You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. Isaiah 43:10

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

For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the LORD, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:18

B. God has **plurality** of being. This is seen in several ways.

1. It is seen in the plural name “Elohim” (Gen. 1:1). Elohim is a plural noun form but it always is used with a singular verb form in the Bible.
2. It is seen in the use of plural pronouns in relation to God (Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7).

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”
Genesis 1:26

Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. Genesis 3:22

Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” Genesis 11:7

3. It is seen in other scriptural designations (Isaiah 48:16; 61:1; 63:8-10; Gen 18:1-2, 33).

“Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me.” Isaiah 48:16

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound... Isaiah 61:1

C. God is a **tri-unity** (I John 5:6-8).

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. I John 5:6-8

1. This is affirmed by the triple expressions ascribed to God (Is. 6:3; Num. 6:24-26; Rev. 4:8; Mt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 13:14).

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”
Isaiah 6:3b*

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

2. This is exemplified in man who is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26; I Th. 5:23).

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thessalonians 5:23

- a. As God is one, so is man.

- b. As God is a tri-unity, so man is a tri-unity (spirit, soul, and body).
 - c. As with God, two parts are invisible and one part is visible, so it is with man (spirit and soul).
3. This is portrayed in Bible types.
- a. The Tabernacle of Moses was a triune structure consisting of outer court, holy place and most holy place (Exodus 26-27).
 - b. The Lid of the Mercy Seat was a triune structure consisting of two cherubim on either side of the mercy seat (Ex. 25:19). Christ is typified as the mercy seat (Rom. 3:25).
 - c. Aaron's rod had a triune manifestation of fruitfulness consisting of buds, blossoms and almond fruit (Num. 17:8).
 - d. Noah's ark was a triune structure (Gen. 6:16).

IX. How are the three persons of the Godhead designated in the Bible?

There are three persons in the Godhead, namely, the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT.

A. These three persons are all recognized as God.

1. The Father is God (Rom. 1:7; John 6:27; I Pet. 1:2).

I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the lands of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, the province of Asia, and Bithynia. ² God the Father chose you long ago, and the Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Jesus Christ and are cleansed by his blood. I Peter 1:2, NLT

2. The Son is God (Heb. 1:8; Tit. 2:13-14; John 1:1, 14).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-2, 14

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13

3. The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4).

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

- C. There is a recognized order of headship in the Godhead, but at the same time an equality of person (I Cor. 11:3; Mt. 28:19; Phil. 2:6).

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. I Corinthians 11:3

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Philippians 2:5-7, NIV

1. God the Father sent the Son; the Son sent the Spirit.
 2. The Spirit bears witness to the Son; the Son bears witness to the Father (John 15:26; I John 5:6).
- D. These three persons are distinguished in Scriptures (Luke 3:21-22; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 10, 13-15; Acts 2:33; 7:55-56; 10:38; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 3:14-16; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 1:2; 3:18; Jude 20-21; Rev. 1:4-5).

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” Luke 3:21-22

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 14:26

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. Acts 2:32-33

But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” Acts 7:55-56

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38

For through Him [Christ] we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:18

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man... Ephesians 3:14-16

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jude 20-21

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. II Corinthians 13:14

Doctrinal Statement

We believe in the eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself through the Scriptures as one God existing in three persons, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible.

Appendix to Lesson 3: The Doctrine of God

The Faithfulness of God

Compiled by Bill Scheidler

1. **God the Father and Jesus His Son are absolutely faithful (i.e. trustworthy, steadfast, reliable and constant).**

Deuteronomy 7:9

“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.”

Psalm 33:4

“For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”

Psalm 36:5

“Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.”

Psalm 92:2

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.”

Isaiah 49:7

“This is what the LORD says--the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel--to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: “Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

1 Corinthians 1:9

“God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.”

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:24

“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”

2 Thessalonians 3:3

“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”

Hebrews 11:11

“By faith Abraham, even though he was past age-and Sarah herself was barren-was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.”

1 Peter 4:19

“So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

Hebrews 2:17

“For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”

Revelation 3:14-15

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.”

Revelation 19:11

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.”

2. What God does for me in His faithfulness (from the Psalms only)?

- Accomplishes what concerns me (Ps. 57:2; 138:8).
- Acts on my behalf (Ps. 68:28)
- Anoints my head with oil (Ps. 23:5; 92:10).
- Answers me (Ps. 20:6; 34:4; 65:5; 86:7; 91:15; 118:5, 21; 119:26; 120:1).
- Bears my burden daily (Ps. 68:19).
- Blesses me (Ps. 5:12; 67:6; 107:37; 112:2; 115:12, 13).
- Blesses me with peace (Ps. 29:11).
- Blesses my children (Ps. 147:13).
- Break off my bands (Ps. 107:14).
- Brings forth my righteousness as the light (Ps. 37:5).
- Brings me into a broad place, a place of abundance (Ps. 18:19; 66:12).
- Brings me near to Him (Ps. 65:4).
- Brings me out of darkness and the shadow of death (Ps. 71:20; 107:14).
- Brings me out of distress (Ps. 25:17).
- Causes me to lack nothing (Ps. 34:9-10).

- Causes me to rule in the midst of my enemies (Ps. 110:2).
- Chooses me for His inheritance (Ps. 33:12; 65:4).
- Comforts me (Ps. 23:1; 86:17; 94:19).
- Conceals me in times of trouble (Ps. 27:5).
- Counsels me (Ps. 16:5; 32:8).
- Covers me with His wings (Ps. 91:4).
- Crowns me with compassion, loving-kindness (Ps. 103:4) and glory (8:5).
- Deals bountifully with me (Ps. 13:6; 16:7; 140:7).
- Defeats my enemies (Ps. 21:8-12).
- Delivers me (Ps. 18:17, 43; 37:40; 91:14; 97:10).
 - From fear (34:4)
 - From trouble (Ps. 34:17-19; 54:7)
 - From death (Ps. 33:19; 56:13).
 - From destruction (Ps. 107:20).
 - From my enemies (Ps. 18:48).
 - From deadly pestilence (Ps. 91:3).
 - From the devil's traps (Ps. 91:3).
- Does great things for me (Ps. 126:2; 107:15, 21).
- Encamps around me (Ps. 34:7).
- Enlarges my heart (Ps. 119:32).
- Enlarges my steps (Ps. 18:36).
- Enlightens my eyes (Ps. 19:8).
- Establishes me (Ps. 37:23; 89:29).
- Fills my hungry soul with what is good (Ps. 107:9).
- Forgives me (Ps. 32:5; 78:38; 85:2; 86:5; 99:8; 130:4).
- Girds me with strength for battle (Ps. 18:39).
- Gives His angels charge over me (Ps. 91:11).
- Gives me eternal life (Ps. 21:4).
- Goes before me (Ps. 68:7).
- Guards me in all my ways (Ps. 91:11; 121:7; 127:1).
- Guides me (Ps. 31:3; 48:14).
- Heals me (Ps. 30:2; 103:3).
- Hears me when I call out to Him (Ps. 4:3; 22:24; 34:15-17; 40:1; 55:19; 145:19).
- Hears my prayers (Ps. 6:9; 31:22; 116:1).
- Helps me (Ps. 37:40; 86:17; 118:13; 124:8).
- Hides me in the secret place (Ps. 27:5; 31:20).
- Holds my hand (Ps. 37:24).
- Illuminates my darkness (Ps. 18:28).
- Keeps me (Ps. 145:20).
- Keeps my feet from slipping (Ps. 18:36).
- Leads me (Ps. 23:2; 31:3; 77:20; 139:10).
- Lifts me up (Ps. 27:5; 30:1).
- Redeems me (Ps. 43:20; 49:15; 103:4; 130:8).
- Remembers me (Ps. 9:12; 136:23).

- Rescues me (Ps. 18:19, 46; 34:6; 81:7; 91:15; 136:8).
- Restores me (Ps. 14:7; 19:7; 23:3; 53:6; 85:1).
- Revives me (Ps. 71:20; 119:93; 138:7).
- Saves me (Ps. 7:10; 20:6; 37:19-40; 38:22; 55:16; 91:16).
- Sets me on high places (Ps. 18:33).
- Strengthens me (Ps. 18:32; 29:11).

Lesson 15-18

The Doctrine of Satan

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.” Isaiah 14:12-15

Read: Ezekiel 28:11-19

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. ¹⁴ “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. ¹⁸ “You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.” ’ ’ ” Ezekiel 28:11-19

I. How can we apply these passages to Satan when they seem to be directed to kings of nations?

Even though these passages speak of specific historical rulers, they can be applied to Satan for the following reasons:

A. Because there are a couple of hermeneutical principles that allow for such an interpretation.

1. The Law of Double Reference.

In this principle there are occasions where the speaker is addressing the person, but is actually talking to or about the spirit power behind the person (Mt. 16:23).

2. The Law of Literal Verses Figurative Interpretation.