

100 BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons were originally given at Manila, Philippines, in 1958 and 1959 by former missionary to China, Alban Douglas. Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 76 – THE PERSON OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

The study of God has been the ambition of philosophers, etc., for many millenniums. Some sit and meditate and try to think into the realm of the eternal Being.

The only true knowledge about God can be gained from the Bible.

John 1:18, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."

I John 4:12, "No man hath seen God at any time."

Exodus 33:20 (God speaking to Moses), "And He said, Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me, and live."

Exodus 33:23, "And I will take away Mine hand, and thou shalt see My back parts: but My face shall not be seen."

Moses talked to God and saw part of Him but did not see the Lord's face.

Jesus who is God's Son came from heaven to reveal the Father God to us.

Jesus speaking to Philip, John 14:7-11, says that Jesus is the revelation of God.

Pagan wisdom says, "Man, know thyself," but Jesus says, "Man, learn of the Father."

John 17:3 tells us that to know God and Christ His Son is to have eternal life, "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

I. GOD'S PERSONALITY

Personality is characterized by possessing knowledge, feeling and will power.

An idol is devoid of personality for it neither knows, feels, nor responds.

Our God is an individual that is living and has definite characteristics.

God is a Person. He is not an influence or unseen force or power like electricity.

Jeremiah 10:10, "But the Lord is the true God, He is the living God."

Acts 14:15, "... turn from these vanities unto the living God."

I Thessalonians 1:9, "... how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God."

II Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect."

The moving eyes denote life and personality unknown to idols or false gods.

Psalms 94:11, "The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man," that is, He has knowledge.

II. GOD'S NATURE

God is a Spirit. A spirit is a ghost – it has neither flesh, bones, nor blood.

Luke 24:39, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have."

John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

I Timothy 1:17, "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God."

I Timothy 6:16, speaking of God, "... who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see."

III. GOD'S UNITY

The Lord our God is one God in contrast to the plurality of pagan gods.

Deuteronomy 6:4, "Here, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord."

Isaiah 44:6, "Thus saith the Lord the king of Israel, and His Redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God."

Isaiah 45:21, "... and there is no God else besides Me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside Me."

IV. GOD'S NATURAL ATTRIBUTES

An attribute is a quality, property or unique characteristic of something.

We reason that to be God, He must possess certain basic qualities.

These include the following:

1. He is eternal. To be the true God He must have neither beginning or ending.

An idol is disqualified for it was made by someone, thus it had a beginning.

Psalms 90:2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."

I Timothy 1:17, "Now unto the King eternal, immortal." Cf. Psalm 102:24, 27; Isaiah 57:15.

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God..." God has always existed.

2. He is unchangeable. God is so constituted that He cannot change.

I Samuel 15:29, "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for He is not a man, that He should repent."

Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not."

James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

3. He possesses all power (Omnipotent). To lack this He could not be God.

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." – creative power.

Genesis 1:3, "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." Power by speaking.

Man makes things out of existing materials. God creates out of nonexistent materials, objects that are good and perfect. Genesis 1:4, "It was good."

Job 42:2, "I know that Thou canst do every thing." Job speaking to God.

Psalms 33:9, "For He spake and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast."

Jeremiah 32:27, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" Certainly not, for He can do anything or everything.

4. He is present everywhere at one and the same time (Omnipresent), I Kings 8:27.

Psalms 139:7-9, "Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me."

Jeremiah 23:23, "Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off?"

Ephesians 1:23, "Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all."

5. He has all knowledge (Omniscient). Nothing is hidden from the Lord.

I Chronicles 28:9, "... know thou the God of thy father... for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts."

II Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect."

Psalms 94:11, "The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man."

Daniel 2:20, "Blessed be the name of the Lord forever and ever: for wisdom and might are His."

Job 42:2, "No thought can be withholden from Thee."

Isaiah 40:28, "There is no searching of His understanding."

V. GOD'S MORAL ATTRIBUTES.

1. God is holy – Exodus 15:11; I Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:16.

2. God is righteous – Psalms 116:5; Ezra 9:15; Psalms 145:17; Jeremiah 12:1.

3. God is merciful – Psalms 103:8; Deuteronomy 4:31; Psalms 86:15; Romans 9:18.

4. God is love – I John 4:8-16; John 3:16; I John 3:16; John 16:27.

5. God is faithful – I Corinthians 1:9; II Timothy 2:13; Deuteronomy 7:9; Deuteronomy 32:4.

Also God is glorious – Exodus 15:11; Psalm 145:5. Gracious – Exodus 34:6; Psalms 116:5.

Long-suffering – Numbers 14:18; Micah 7:18. Jealous – Joshua 24:1; Nahum 1:2.

Compassionate – I Kings 8:23. Great – II Chronicles 2:5; Psalms 86:10.

Unsearchable – Job 11:7; Psalm 145:3. Invisible – Job 23:8, 9; I Timothy 1:17.

Good - Psalms 25:8; Psalms 119:68. Upright – Psalms 25:8; Psalms 92:15.

Immutable – Psalms 102:26, 27; James 1:17. Light – Isaiah 60:19; I John 1:5.

True – Jeremiah 10:10. Perfect – Matthew 5:48.

Incorruptible – Romans 1:23. Immortal – I Timothy 1:17; 6:16.

Consuming fire – Hebrews 12:29. None like Him – Exodus 9:14; Deuteronomy 33:26.

CONCLUSION

Love Him. Worship Him. Serve Him. Obey Him. Fear Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where can reliable information be obtained about God?
2. What do we mean when we say that God has a personality?
3. What is the nature of God?
4. Is God a plurality or a single unit? Give one Scripture.
5. What is meant by the Word 'attribute'?
6. List five natural attributes of God.
7. Give one Scripture to prove that God is eternal.
8. Why do we believe that God is all-powerful?
9. How can God be present at all places at the same time?
10. Prove that God knows everything.