

How Has God Revealed Himself in Scripture?

Written by: D. Eddie Bhawanie

In The Bible, God is revealed as the living God who has the power to sovereignly determine the outcome of events. He determines the destiny of all things in the world. The God of The Bible reveals the sins and wickedness in the heart of man, and He forgives the sins of Man through HIS grace and mercy—through Christ's complete work on the Cross. He judges Man's sins, when Man rebels against His holy standard. The awareness of God brings the awareness of sin in the life of the individual!

Exodus 20:1-3;

1 Then God spoke all these words, saying,

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Psalm 19:1-4;

1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;

And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

Acts 17:22-32;

22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. ' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 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; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps 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 exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children. ' 29 Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. 30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."

Romans 1:18-28;

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four- footed animals and crawling creatures.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

1John 4:8-9;

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

In the Gospels, Christ reveals God, as a God of love, mercy, kindness, grace, holiness, forgiveness, and justice, etc. God is all knowing—Omniscient. God all present—Omnipresent, and God is all powerful—Omnipotent. The living God cares about, and loves His creatures, and He knows their needs before they ask Him to meet them.

John 3:16;

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Matthew 6;

8 So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Here are some Truths, God claims and Revealed for Himself in the Bible:

God is Revealed:

As the Living God, and man is Commanded to “love Him first.”

Matt. 22:37-40

37 And He said to him, " ' You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ' 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, ' You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ' 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

As a Spirit Being, and He is One who accepts worship in “Spirit and in Truth”

John 4: 21-24

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

As The Creator of the universe:

Gen. 1:1

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

Psalm 19:1-6

1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
2 Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
4 Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world.
In them He has placed a tent for the sun,
5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.
6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Rom. 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

As the God of Love:

John 3:16;

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 4;

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Jer. 31:3;

The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying,
"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

As the God who is Holy:

Isa. 6:1-6;

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined!"

Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

As the God who forgives

Jer. 31:34

They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord, ' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

As the Merciful God

Heb. 8:12;

*For I will be merciful to their iniquities,
And I will remember their sins no more."*

As the God of grace, who justifies sinners by His grace

Rom. 3:24-25:

24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

As the God who is Righteous

Rom. 3:22;

even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

As the Transcendent God, Whose presence “fills heaven and earth”

Jer. 23:23-24;

*23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the Lord,
"And not a God far off?*

*24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places
So I do not see him?" declares the Lord.
"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the Lord.*

As the Redeemer

Isa. 49:26;

*"I will feed your oppressors with their own flesh,
And they will become drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine;
And all flesh will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior
And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."*

Isa. 60:16:

*"You will also suck the milk of nations
And suck the breast of kings;
Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior
And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.*

As the God who is near and Immanent,

Psalm 23;

1 The Lord is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

3 He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

As the God who is or has perfect knowledge

Job 37:16;

16 "Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds,

The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,

As the God, who has “all” knowledge, “and nothing is left out”

Romans 11:36;

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

As the God Whose “understanding,” is Infinite

Psalm 147:5;

Great is our Lord and abundant in strength;

His understanding is infinite.

As the God who named all the stars

Psalm 147:4;

He counts the number of the stars;

He gives names to all of them.

As the God who “sees the heart of man”

1Sam. 16:7;

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

As the God with a purpose, and no one can frustrate His purpose

Isa. 14:26-27;

26 This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. 27 For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"

As the God who is “unchanging --Immutable”

Mal. 3:6;

"For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

As the God who cannot lie

Numbers 23:19;

*"God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

Titus 1:2;

in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

As the God who knows “the number of hairs on every person’s head, and knows when a sparrow falls to the ground”

Matt. 6:25-32;

25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? 28 And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31 Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

As the God Whose “thoughts and ways are not like the thoughts, and ways of man”

Isaiah 55:8-9

*8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.
9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

As the God who put on Human Form—in the Incarnation, through His Son Jesus Christ. His name is “*Emmanuel*,” which means “*God with us*”

Matt. 1:23;

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear A Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, " God with us."

What defines God? What separates God from His creatures? It is this truth, “*God declares the end from the beginning.*”

Isa. 46:10;

*Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, ' My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';*

The doctrine of God is very unique and distinct in the Christian Faith. The doctrine of God separates Christianity from *all* world religions!

Can man know God? Can man know the thought of God? Yes! Man can know, and respond to the Living God, and therefore, have life—eternal life.

John 17:3;

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Dr. Louis Berkhof points out quite correctly the living God is revealed in the Bible; he tells of the Communicable, and Incommunicable Attributes of God:

God's Communicable Attributes:

“The Knowledge of God, The Wisdom of God, The Truthfulness of God, The Goodness of God, The Holiness of God (God’s holiness is the only attribute that is mentioned in the superlative degree in the Bible), The Love of God, The Mercy of God, The Long-Suffering of God, The Righteousness of God. The Sovereignty of God, The Will of God, The Justice of God, The Wrath of God, and the Veracity of God – which may be described as that perfection in virtue of which He is true in His inner Being, in His revelation and in His revelation to His people.”

God's Incommunicable Attributes:

"The Spirituality of God—God is a Spirit, as a Spirit Being, He is present everywhere, The Independence, or Self-Existence of God, The Foreknowledge of God, The Immutability of God is (His unchanging nature—God is: All powerful, All present and All knowing), The Infinity of God [His absolution Perfection, His Eternity, His Immensity, He is Transcendentally separate], and The Simplicity of God. By ascribing simplicity to God, we assert that The Almighty is not composite, and He is not susceptible to division in any sense of the word."¹

Sometime in the first half of the nineteenth century the noted Bible commentator, Adam Clark, wrote this description of God:

"A general definition of this great First Cause, as far as human words dare attempt on, may be thus given: The Eternal Independent, and Self-existent Being; the Being whose purpose and actions spring from Himself, without foreign motive or influence: He who is absolute in dominion; the most pure, the most simple, the most spiritual of all essences; infinitely benevolent, beneficent, true, and holy: the cause of all being, the upholder of all things; infinitely happy, because infinitely perfect; and eternally self-sufficient, needing nothing that He has made: Illimitable in His immensity, inconceivable in His mode of existence, and indescribable in His essence; known fully only to Himself, because an infinite mind can be fully apprehended only by itself. In a word, a Being who, from His infinite wisdom, cannot err or be deceived; and who, from His infinite goodness, can do nothing but what is eternally just, right, and kind. Reader, such is the God of The Bible; but how widely different from the God of most human creeds and apprehensions."²

The Bible calls upon its followers and all of mankind to be concerned with the God Who is revealed in Scripture –the God of divine revelation. When one's concept of God in **not** Biblical, then, all too often one's concern is with one's Church's doctrinal position first. But should we not be concerned with God, The Living God, Who has revealed Himself in sacred, Holy Scripture first?

¹Louis Berkhof, *Manual Of Christian Doctrine*, Published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Company, [Grand Rapid; Michigan], 1933, p. 62-73.

² Adam Clarke, as quoted by Batsell Baxter in his book, *I Believe Because*, pages 31-32.

There is in human thought—the thinking of relativism. (*Relativism is the philosophy, the theory that holds all truth is relative to the individual, and to the time or place in which he lives and acts*). Relativism leads nowhere but to meaninglessness, mindlessness, and to paralyzing despair. Relativism is always centered in the thinking of man; it makes man and his thinking the “*measure of all things.*” According to relativism, God, The Living God, is ruled out of man’s thinking, Man has no measure of himself, or of his world—and he cannot expect to find any value and meaning—without Almighty God!

In The Christian Faith, the Individual Inherits And Imitates God--Himself

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And if children, heirs (people who inherit) also, heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ . . .”

Romans 8:17:

and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

This passage speaks of followers of Christ being co-heirs (joint heirs) with Christ. This means that the individual Christian inherits what Christ inherits. **What does Christ inherit?** The Gospel of John tells us that Christ inherits God—The Father. Christ’s inheritance is The Person of The Living God! The Christian also “imitates” the Person of God.

Ephesian 5:1-2;

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

In **John 17:3-5**, before going to the Cross, Jesus Prayed:

3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.³

In this prayer, Christ is asking God to give Him something He had before He came to earth. He is asking God to glorify Him! Therefore, Christ’s inheritance is the glory of God, the enjoyment of God Himself!

The Christian Faith is the only Faith which claims that the individual has the living God as his/her inheritance, as the everlasting, eternal Treasure. This is very unique and distinct from the rest of the religions of the world. The Christian possession is God—Himself. God Himself, the very life of God, the very glory of God, is the inheritance of the man, the woman who believes and obeys Christ.

³ All Bible quotes are taken from, The New American Standard Translation.

God has communicated Himself to Man through Christ in the Incarnation (the act whereby God became Man); and by His grace, by His light, by His love, by His holiness, by His Truth, by His life, nothing is going to dispossess, or deprive the individual Christian from his/her heavenly inheritance, and eternal Treasure. This is a very definable Truth revealed in the Christian worldview!

Conclusion:

The Bible presents a rational, logical view of God, the infinite-personal, living, loving God—Who is revealed in Creation, and in The Bible. This view of God is called *Theism –the belief in One God*. This is the dominant view of God that is held by three of the world’s religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. But the Christian worldview of God is very unique—because God is personal, and Man can know Him!

The belief-system of The Bible, acknowledges the existence God, and His existence is not contingent, or dependent upon any material thing for His existence. God exists by His own power and by His own sufficiency. The God of The Bible, has revealed Himself; plainly and clearly in this world for everyone to see, to understand, and to know. (He has revealed Himself in Creation, and in The Bible). He lives, and He is not silent!