

What the Bible Teaches About God

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

We worship only ONE God.

The Old Testament teaches there is only ONE God.

See **Deuteronomy 6:4, 5** — *"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."*

The New Testament teaches there is only ONE God.

See **James 2:19** — *"You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder."*

Other religions may worship many Gods, but Jews and Christians only worship the ONE God.

What the Bible Teaches About God.

1. God thinks and reasons. See **Isaiah 1:18** — *"Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.'*"

God thinks. He does not just think about the Good, the True, and the Beautiful as Plato taught. God does not only contemplate himself, as Aristotle thought. God knows about evil, and He knows about our sins. Unlike what some of the Hindus teach, God knows about the world and its existence. God thinks about the world, and wants to help individual people live better lives.

Reason and rationality are natural attributes of God. See **John 1:1** — *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

Word = logos (in Greek). Word = logic or reason.

Aristotle taught logic, the rules for reasoning rightly. But God does not just contemplate himself, as Aristotle taught, when he called God "the Unmoved Mover".

2. God makes plans. See **Psalms 33:11** — “*The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.*”

God makes permanent plans from love, and God takes the long view of things. God’s motive for all He does is love, and God does not just live for the moment.

See **Isaiah 25:1** — “*O LORD, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will give thanks to Thy name; for Thou hast worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.*”

God's plans are wonderful, amazing, and carried out with perfect faithfulness.

See **Jeremiah 29:11** — “*For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’*”

God's plans are for our benefit. God plans for us to have a bright future.

3. God feels. See **John 3:16** — “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*”

God feels the emotion of love, and love motivates God to do things in our behalf. Love motivates God to save sinners, and carry out His plans in our behalf.

See **Hebrews 3:10** — “*Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; and they did not know My ways.’*”

God feels the emotion of anger. God is angry with those who refuse to know His ways or plans and follow Him.

And **Genesis 6:6** — “*And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*”

God feels the emotion of sorrow and grief. When people sin and hurt themselves and others, God feels deep sadness.

4. God acts and creates. See **Genesis 1:1** — “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*”

And **John 1:3, 4** — “*All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*”

God created all that exists. God chose not to create some things which He could have created. God gives life to every living creature. God gives His creatures their abilities. God gave people the ability to see light, to perceive truth, to reason about God and life.

5. God makes judgments and laws for the good of creation. See **Genesis 1:4** — “*And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.*”

God evaluates His actions and has a conscience. God's conscience tells him that whatever He does is good.

See **Deuteronomy 4:1, 2** — “*And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*” And **Deuteronomy 6:24** — “*So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today.*”

God gives laws and governs His creation because He wants to promote the good of all.

Therefore, God is Personal. God thinks, feels, chooses, plans, acts, creates, judges, makes laws, promotes good. These are the attributes of personality. The foundation of all reality is personal. Ultimate reality is personal. The source of all that exists is NOT matter or energy, time, and chance. Personality is not something that has evolved over time. God is NOT the god of pantheism, where everything is god, where all the good and evil is god. God is the Personal Creator who created all that exists, and who only does good.

We worship ONE God who is THREE PERSONS.

1. The Old Testament teaches God is more than one Person. **Genesis 1:26** — “*Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'*”

The Persons in the Godhead talked and planned and created people in their image. They gave people the ability to rule and make laws, or govern, the creation they made. They intended people to govern creation for the good of creation always.

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

The Persons in the Godhead discussed among themselves what judgments and punishments they needed to make to enforce their government over people.

Isaiah 6:8 — “*Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'*”

The Persons in the Godhead discussed among themselves how to save sinners, and they discussed their plans with the people they had made.

2. The Old Testament shows God is at least 2 Persons. See **Isaiah 44:6** — “*Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides me.'*”

The ONE God is called “the LORD,” and “the LORD of hosts.” The LORD is the PERSON = “the King of Israel.” The LORD is the other PERSON = “his Redeemer.”

There is no God other than “the LORD,” who is more than ONE PERSON.

3. The Old Testament shows God is 3 Persons. See **Isaiah 48:16** — “*Come near to Me, listen to this: from the first I have not spoken in secret, from the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit.*”

Three persons here: the Lord GOD, Me, and His Spirit. If not clear in this verse, there are others and the New Testament makes the Trinity plan to see.

4. The New Testament shows that God is 3 Persons. See **Matthew 3:16, 17** — “*And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'*”

At Jesus baptism, all Three Person in the Godhead were present. Jesus was not a ventriloquist.

A “Jesus Only” group, teaches that Jesus Only is God, One God, One Person in three different roles. They base their beliefs more on experience than the Bible's teaching. This can always lead to false belief and teaching. Jesus' baptism shows this is impossible. I am one person in many roles, but God is more than one person with many roles. God is One God in Three Persons, with each Person taking different roles but each Person involved and working together in everything.

5. Jesus said God is 3 Persons. **Matthew 28:19** — *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”*

Notice that name is singular, meaning ONE. But this ONE name includes THREE Persons.

And **John 15:26** — *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me.”*

Jesus will send the Holy Spirit, who is the Helper, “from the Father.” The Holy Spirit that Jesus sends “proceeds from the Father.” The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Truth,” and He will tell the truth “bear witness” about Jesus. One GOD in THREE Persons.

See the Next Study “What The Bible Teaches About Jesus.”

For much of this outline I am indebted to the book *Basic Bible Studies* by Francis A. Schaeffer. Published by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill., 1972. The new edition of this book is *25 Basic Bible Studies: With, Two Contents, Two Realities*, published by Crossway Books, 1996. However, I have changed his outline order, have added some additional scriptures, and have not used all the scriptures he suggested. The Scripture references are from the *New American Standard Bible*, The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA, 1977. “What the Bible Teaches About God” is copyright © 2003 by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.
