

## BASIC BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

### 1. GOD

**Text:** Genesis 1:1  
Psalm 19:1  
John 1:1-5

Exodus 20:1-6  
Romans 1:18-25

When we speak of GOD we must do so with profound respect and reverence, for we are speaking of the GREAT CREATOR of the Universe and all things. We are but feeble and finite creatures made by HIM and our understanding is limited. We cannot know anything about GOD except HE is pleased to **reveal** to us. This is the first and basic condition which we must recognise if we are to succeed in our quest for HIM.

GOD reigns supreme in Heaven. He dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16). GOD IS SPIRIT. We cannot see HIM with our physical eyes. Nevertheless, there is enough evidence for us to know that GOD exists. GOD does not have to prove His own existence. Yet there is no excuse for any man not to know that HE IS, for HE has revealed HIMSELF.

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:19,20).

It is important to stress again that man, by his own thinking and searching, cannot understand GOD. We may try, but we would get lost in the dark. In the words of Job, he says: “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?” (Job 11:7)

God Himself says: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8,9).

We must therefore not try by our own limited and inadequate thinking to know GOD. We must humbly pray: “Lord, show thyself to me. Reveal thyself that I may understand.”

#### I. HOW HAS GOD REVEALED HIMSELF?

God has revealed Himself in three ways:

1. By His creation
2. By His Inspired Word, the Bible
3. By His SON, the Living Word.

## **A. GOD’S CREATION**

Men call it “Nature”. We know it to be GOD’s wonderful creation. When we behold the earth and sky and sea, we are struck by their orderliness, design and beauty. When we gaze into the sky, we are dazzled by the brilliance of the sun in the day, and the countless shining stars that adorn the heavens at night.

Every child knows this rhyme:

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are;  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky!”

Yes, GOD made all those stars and placed them in space. He hangeth them on nothing!  
(Job 26:7)

The earth and planetary systems move in their fixed orbits through space. Billions more similar heavenly bodies and other systems move in their own courses through space. Scientists who spend long hours looking through their telescopes exclaim with wonder and amazement:

“What beauty, design and orderliness.”

If so, then it stands to reason for a thinking person to conclude: “What a wonderful DESIGNER-ARCHITECT who planned and made it all!” Don’t we say that whenever we see a beautiful structure such as a ship, aircraft or building? This is what we call “cause and effect”? Every effect must have a cause. The beautiful creation must have a most wonderful CREATOR. So the psalmist says:

“The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament (outer space or sky)  
sheweth His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1).

The reasonable and wise person, seeing the marvellous “world of nature” around him and beyond, in the staggering vastness of outer space (about which even scientists know so little), is compelled to exclaim,

“O Lord my God,  
How great Thou art!”

## **B. GOD’S WORD**

Next to His Creation, God reveals Himself by His inspired Word, written as a permanent record for us in the Bible. In this book is recorded all that mankind needs to know about GOD, about man, about the universe, about the way of life, about the destiny of man and about things to come. GOD has spoken! Man must take note! How has GOD spoken, you ask?

In Hebrews 1:1,2 it says this: “GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son...” “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, ...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

GOD ALMIGHTY spoke, His servants transmitted the message, committing it to writing. Thus we have the BIBLE - GOD’S MESSAGE TO MAN. By reading the Bible with an open mind, honestly and sincerely desiring to learn about GOD, we shall be greatly enriched and blessed, for there is no greater knowledge than knowledge of the MOST HIGH.

### **C. GOD’S SON**

Beyond communicating with man by the written Word, GOD in these “last days” also spoke through the PERSON of His only begotten SON, JESUS CHRIST.

Far better than words, JESUS came clothed in human form, “the WORD was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:1,14). In JESUS, GOD revealed HIMSELF in person, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9), said JESUS.

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life ... That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you...” (1 John 1:1,3)

Faithfully recorded for us are the eye witness accounts of the apostles who walked and talked with GOD THE SON, our LORD JESUS CHRIST. If you want to know the heart and mind of GOD, read about the JESUS of the GOSPELS!

## **II. THE NATURE OF GOD**

### **1. GOD IS A SPIRIT (John 4:24)**

Let us not think of GOD as if He were a man - in human terms. GOD is SPIRIT. He is invisible to our physical eyes.

### **2. GOD IS A PERSON**

GOD said unto Moses: “I AM THAT I AM”. JESUS addressed GOD as “FATHER”. Personal characteristics are ascribed to Him, such as knowledge (Isaiah 55:9-10), emotions (Genesis 6:6) and will (Joshua 3:10).

### **3. GOD IS ONE GOD**

Scripture clearly teaches that there is one GOD (1 Timothy 2:5). He is SUPREME and there is none else.

#### 4. **THREE PERSONS IN ONE (TRINITY)**

GOD is one GOD, consisting of THREE PERSONS: FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT. It is a mystery, but it is TRUE because GOD's Word says so. We read of this in these passages:

1. Baptism of Jesus, Matthew 3:16-17
2. The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19
3. The Benediction of 2 Corinthians 13:14.

The FATHER is called GOD in Romans 1:7, the SON, JESUS, is called GOD in Hebrews 1:8, and the HOLY SPIRIT is called GOD in Acts 5:3,4.

#### **THE ATTRIBUTES (QUALITIES) OF GOD**

1. **GOD IS OMNIPRESENT** i.e. present everywhere at the same time (Jeremiah 23:24).
2. **GOD IS OMNISCIENT** i.e. knows all things. He knows all our thoughts and deeds (Proverbs 15:3). Nothing happens without GOD's knowledge, not even the death of a sparrow (Matthew 10:29).
3. **GOD IS OMNIPOTENT** i.e. all powerful. He created the universe and controls it. There is nothing too hard for GOD (Matthew 19:26).
4. **GOD IS ETERNAL.** He never had a beginning. He never will cease to be (Psalm 90:2).
5. **GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE.** "I am the LORD, I changed not" (Malachi 3:6).
6. **GOD IS HOLY.** He is absolutely PURE. He hates sin.
7. **GOD IS JUST.** All that GOD does is right and fair (Psalm 119:137).
8. **GOD IS LOVE.** GOD loves sinners (John 3:16). God loves all. God sent His Son Jesus to die for sinful men.
9. **GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.** Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29.

#### **III. WHAT MUST WE DO TOWARD GOD?**

1. As one of God's creatures, made in God's own image, we must acknowledge Him as our CREATOR AND GOD. HE also sustains and protects us. All that we are and have we owe to GOD.
2. Therefore, we must give HIM our TOTAL ALLEGIANCE and WORSHIP. Jesus said: "THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38).

As expressed in the SHORTER CATECHISM, man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

3. BUT SOME SAY, "I CANNOT BELIEVE!"

True, many people, especially the learned and intellectuals claim that it is impossible for them to believe that GOD exists. What do we say to this?

Not to believe that GOD exists gives rise to many insoluble problems far more difficult than to humbly accept the fact that GOD IS. For the person who refuses to believe in GOD, there is no CREATION. Things just happened, by chance. Life was not created, but came "by chance or accident" from dead and lifeless matter. Man "evolved" from lower animals. If all this happened by chance, then there is no particular purpose to man's existence on earth, and man's future is unknown. The whole outlook is gloomy and uncertain.

People say that they "cannot believe in GOD". This is because of the consequences of accepting HIM. If I acknowledge GOD it means also that I believe HE is the CREATOR. Now, if HE created me and all things, then HE has a right to my love, loyalty and worship.

If I believe in GOD, I must face the consequences of that belief: I must accept HIS COMMANDMENTS AND OBEY THEM. It means MY WHOLE LIFE MUST BE LIVED IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS WILL. It means that most areas or all areas of my life have to be radically or drastically changed.

So, belief in GOD carries a price. Many people are not willing to pay that price. They cover up their intellectual dissent by saying "I cannot believe," which actually means "I will not believe".

But, no matter what a person believes, the fact of God is not altered, and the ultimate prospect and certainty of our having to appear before Him for judgement is inescapable.

## BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

### NO. 1 "GOD"

Fill in the blanks (each space \_ is for one letter):

1. There is \_\_\_ true GOD.
2. GOD has \_\_ beginning and \_\_ ending.
3. GOD \_\_\_\_\_ makes mistakes.
4. GOD created \_\_\_ things.
5. GOD knows \_\_\_ my thoughts and words and deeds.

Underline the correct answers:

6. We must approach GOD  
(a) casually                      (b) reverently                      (c) proudly
7. GOD has revealed Himself by  
(a) fairy tales                      (b) the creation                      (c) newspaper  
(d) Jesus Christ                      (e) horoscopes                      (f) dreams  
(g) the Bible
8. GOD is  
(a) sometimes                      (b) often                      (c) always  
good and just.
9. In sending Jesus Christ to earth, GOD revealed His  
(a) anger                      (b) pleasure                      (c) love  
for man.
10. We should love and serve GOD  
(a) every day                      (b) on Sundays only  
(c) whenever we feel like it.