

## **Chapter 4 Who God is**

### **You can know God.**

He wants fellowship with you. God wants you to depend upon being in touch with Him and not depend upon religious acts and duties. To know someone we need to know what his or her character is like. The first thing we need to know about God is that He is the Creator!

Not only is He the Creator, but also by Him, all things still exist and are held together.

Colossians 1:16-17 says, "For all things were created by Him, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

Hebrews 11:3 says, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Hebrews 1:2 (Amplified Bible) says, "But in these last days he has spoken to us in the person of a Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time, that is, He made, produced, built, operated and arranged them in order. (verse 3b) .... upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power."

### **We cannot possibly describe God because He created us.**

But here are some other facts about God that we may learn from Scripture:

1. He is uncreated and eternal. (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 21:33).
2. He is all powerful. (Luke 1:37).
3. He is all knowing. (Ps. 147:5).
4. He is ever present. (Jer. 23:23-24).
5. He is a spiritual being. (John 4:24).
6. He is triune, three persons in one. God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17, John 1:1-14, 14:9-20).
7. He is infinite. (Isaiah 40:12-13).
8. His nature is love. (Ephesians 2:1-7, 1 John 3:1, 1 John 4:9-10).

God does not HAVE love, He IS love. God loves us with an unconditional love. His love does not depend upon how good or bad we are. While we were dead in sins, He loved us. A dead man cannot do anything but receive life! Humans love with conditions. "If you are good enough, or do what I tell you, then I will love you." Not God! He loves just because He IS love. That is called AGAPE, unconditional love.

9. His character is the fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23.

10. He never changes. His emotions do not run hot and cold like humans. (Hebrews 13:8)

James 1:17 Describes a sun dial shadow that turns as the sun moves during the day. But James says with Jesus, there is NO shadow of turning. In other words, He is always shining like high noon! You can depend upon Him.

11. Jesus is the Word. Jesus is God (John 1:1-2&14).

12. Jesus was born of a virgin. (Luke 1:26-38). Romans 1:3-4 states that: “regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” Can you imagine asking the teenager Jesus, who are your parents? Jesus might say “Well you see on my mamma’s side, I am from the family of David, but on my Dad’s side, well, I AM.”

13. The Holy Spirit is God. (John 14:16-23, John 16:7-15).

14. Best of all, God is love! He cares about you more than you care about yourself, more than your parents and family cares about you.

### **The Word of God expresses God’s love and concern for you and me in the parables in Luke chapter 15.**

No shepherd in his right mind would leave 99 sheep to go after a stray sheep, but God pursues us in our lost state.

The woman in the next parable had lost her hope. The dowry she needed to be married was 10 coins, and she lost one of them. If she did not find it, she would be in poverty or would have to sell her body. God pursues us to make us whole and to fulfill our hopes and dreams.

The Father in the next parable waited on his front porch for his lost son to return. When he saw him a long way off, he did the undignified thing, he ran as fast as he could and covered his dirt so the other servants would not see him; he did not want his son to be embarrassed.

### **Some common questions about God.**

You need to “stop the clock” to understand this.

Does God predestine our lives? Who is in control, God or me, or the world around me? Does God only have certain people who are going to get saved and go to Heaven, and the others have no chance?

#### ***Two things to keep in mind:***

***1. God created man with a free will and He will never violate it.***

***2. God does not live in time, He lives in eternity.*** That is not a long time, but it is no time. God knows the beginning from the end and the end from the beginning.

It says in Exodus and Romans 9 that He hardened Pharaoh’s heart. Was that fair to Pharaoh? God knew in advance that Pharaoh would not come to Him, therefore, God could justly make him stubborn. Actually, God does not DECIDE to make man stubborn, but there is something inside

of man's makeup that makes him stubborn towards God when he rejects God. When we say no to God, something inside of us gets hard, little by little. Finally, we can no longer choose.

God knew this in advance. Did God cause it? NO! Pharaoh's own free choice caused it.

God says in Ephesians 2:10 that our life is predestined for us. Yes, there is a plan for each of our lives, but it is up to us to choose to walk on that path.

God is sovereign, He rules, yet He does it in such a way that does not overwhelm the free will of man, even evil men that plot against God's people and purposes.

**Even the people and demons who are God's enemies are working His plan for Him.**

Psalm 33:10 says, "The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He breaks the plots of the people. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations."

Psalm 2:1-4 says, "Why do the nations rage, and the peoples meditate on a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers plot together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying, 'Let us break their bands in two and cast away their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall mock at them."

If you are still having a hard time with this idea, just remember, God lives in Eternity, not time. He looks into our future, our past and our present all at the same time and attempts to bless us with this knowledge. But He will NEVER violate our free will.

**God is the Word, and we can trust it (Him).**

If there is one thing The Word of God dares to do that no other book in the world does, it is to accurately predict the future.

***This proves beyond argument that only God could have authored the Bible.***

There are 8,352 verses directly or indirectly concerned with prophecy in Scripture. About one verse in six tells of future events. God's challenge to the world is that we might prove Him. "I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass" (Ezekiel 12:25).

Buddhists, Confucianists and the followers of Mohammed have their sacred writings, but in them the element of prophecy is conspicuous by its absence. The destruction of Tyre, the invasion of Jerusalem, the fall of Babylon and Rome; each was accurately predicted and fulfilled to the smallest of details. The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem was foretold hundreds of years earlier by the prophet Daniel - TO THE VERY DAY! The forming of Israel as a new state in 1948 was foretold to the day and month in the Old Testament.

There are over 300 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled in His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Consider only 17 of the most prominent ones.

The combined probability against these 17 predictions occurring is equal to:

**1 chance in 480,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000  
or 480 Billion X 1 Billion X 1 Trillion.**

Concerning the over 300 fulfilled prophecies about Jesus, it is ridiculous to imagine that these prophecies would all be fulfilled by accident by one person. Only one chance in a number followed by 181 zeros! To give you some idea of the size of this immense figure, think of a ball that is packed solidly with electrons (two and a half million billion makes a line about one inch long). Now in your mind imagine this ball expanded to the size of the universe, some four billion light-years in diameter (a light-year being the distance that light travels in a year at the speed of over 186,000 miles per second). Multiply this by 500 quadrillion. Out of this vast container of electrons, remove just **one** electron, and “color” it red and return it to the container. Stir it with the other electrons for a hundred years. Then blindfold a man and send him in to pick it out the first time. Impossible? With the same chance, Jesus the Christ lived, died, was resurrected and is now alive according to the Scriptures by “accident!”

There are many other Old Testament prophecies too numerous to list. There are 1,817 individual prophecies concerning 737 separate subjects found in 8,352 verses. These comprise 27% of the whole of Scriptures.

Isaiah 42:9 says, “Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they happen, I cause you to hear.”

### **Who is Jesus Now?**

In the Gospels, we see who Jesus was when He walked on earth. He showed us the personality of God, His Father. Jesus showed us He was the Lamb of God who took your sin and mine, and Who humbled Himself to suffer the criminal’s death on the cross you and I deserved.

The Apostle Paul had a revelation of what Jesus did for us, even though Paul never met Jesus in the flesh. We see those revelations in Paul’s epistles.

***However, Jesus chose to reveal Himself in a very special way to John.***

Notice Revelation 1 verse 1. It says, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” I believe that God gave us this view of Jesus because we cannot see Him as He really is in any other way. Many walked with Him, many saw Him die, some saw Him resurrected, but no one has really seen Him as He is right now. He is a Warrior, a Judge, the Lamb, Almighty God, He is on the Throne, no being can stand up to Him, He is the Victor, a “terrifying sight”

to His enemies, and He is active on your behalf. John needed to know all this.

I believe Jesus showed this vision to John to comfort him by bringing him faith and hope, to make sense of his crazy circumstances, to do the same for the churches to which he wrote this letter almost 2,000 years ago and to do the same for you and me in our lives today when we see all the crazy things going on around us. It is a handbook for obtaining victory in our lives.

John's condition was similar to ours. The world, for John, was going crazy. For some of us, the world is going crazy. Just imagine, he had been living with Jesus for at least 3 years, he saw Him perform mighty miracles, he saw Him crucified, he saw Him resurrected. Certainly, after the resurrection he thought "now there was victory." He saw the Holy Spirit fall on mankind and the start of the church. He established churches and he saw people getting saved. All of the sudden, all of the original disciples were gone and some were crucified; Peter upside down, some were beheaded, others done away with by other means. He saw the world going into a wild spin.

John himself was almost killed by being boiled in oil, but they could not kill him. Now at this time he was taken prisoner and banished forever to the Isle of Patmos (definition = my killing- a rugged and bare island in the Aegean Sea). His daily chore included working a rock quarry and hauling rock up and down hills on his back. He must have thought, "Has the world gone crazy? Did I really know Jesus? Was He really God in the flesh like I wrote about in my Gospel book? Is the church doomed? Is my life wasted?" Then all of the sudden, BAM! Something appeared to him that he had never seen before.

"I came to be in *the* Spirit in the Lord's day and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. Also, What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands. And in the midst of the seven lampstands I saw *One* like *the* Son of man, clothed with a garment down to *the* feet, and tied around the breast with a golden band. His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire. And His feet were like burnished brass having been fired in a furnace. And His voice was like the sound of many waters. And He had seven stars in His right hand, and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. And His face *was* like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying to me, 'Do not fear, I am the First and the Last, and the Living One, and I became dead, and behold, I am alive for ever and ever, Amen. And I have the keys of hell and of death'" (Revelation 1:10-18).

## **Christ Revealed**

***In Revelation chapter 1*** John sees Who Jesus is now! He is different from the last time he saw Him. He is the ascended Christ revealed! He is revealed as the faithful, trustworthy witness, the firstborn of the dead, the Prince of the Kings of the Earth, the soon coming One, and the Alpha and Omega, the first and last, the Almighty Omnipotent One!

***He is revealed as the one who is coming to judge His church*** with fire in His eyes, a golden girdle, and feet that shined as burnished brass. This judgment is not to condemn the church, but to protect it from the coming wrath. Holiness is what will protect the church!

***In Revelation chapters 2-3*** Jesus is speaking to the church, both then and now, as if a general was speaking to his troops getting them ready for battle. Because a major conflict was soon to occur, and the seven churches would be destroyed if not prepared, Jesus addressed each church according to its own shortcoming. He encouraged them to get in right standing with God. Holiness is what will protect the church!

***In Revelation 4***, Jesus invites John, and you and me, to come up into the heavenlies to see the events from His vantage point. We need to see events in life from God's perspective. We can get so earthly minded, and our sight can be so horizontal in looking at our circumstances that we miss seeing things from God's point of view. We are sitting in the heavenlies with Christ, therefore, the Holy Spirit can give us that view. When we see our circumstances from God's vantage point, they do not seem as bad.

***In Revelation 5***, God is the one who originates the battles. Satan does not originate battles in our lives. Notice, no one was worthy to unroll the scroll and take off the seals except for Jesus, as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and at the same time the Lamb of God. Jesus is the Lion or the victor and most powerful force. Jesus is the Lamb, the one who takes what we have coming. We could not stand in the difficult circumstances of life except that Jesus, as the Lamb, takes what we have coming!

Jesus is the one who originates battles. We need to keep this in mind when trouble comes. It may be an evil attack, but it is Jesus who has put a hook in the nose of our enemies to come at us so that we may destroy them in His name! Blessed be the Name of the Lord forever!!! Hallelujah!

***In Revelation 5-16***, there is great war, conflict, judgment and persecution as the scroll is unfurled. Things are going crazy, and events go from bad to worse to almost intolerable. But in this, God is looking for those who will overcome and stand.

***Revelation 7:3*** shows that those believers who are faithful in this overcoming process are stamped by God for safe keeping. Things are going to get worse!

***A parenthetical statement is made in Revelation 11*** showing the victory of the Cross and showing that the dominion of the world's system has been given to the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 12:11** shows us that if we stand during this time of great trouble that we will overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of God being testified by our mouths, provided that we do not love our own lives more than we love God and His purposes.

**Revelation 17** is the revelation of the “world” system and its corruption. It shows the cooperation between the spiritual and the political.

**Revelation 18** is another warning to God’s people to come out of the “world” system because it is about to be destroyed and it is unreliable. The destruction of this system is demonstrated.

**In Revelation 19** there is victory, and the Lord returns on His white horse to fulfill His promise and to bring His rewards. “And I saw Heaven opened. And behold, a white horse! And He sitting on him *was* called Faithful and True. And in righteousness He judges and makes war. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head many crowns. And He had a name written, one that no one knew except Himself. And He had been clothed *in* a garment dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in Heaven followed Him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, so that with it He should strike the nations. And He will shepherd them with a rod of iron. And He treads the winepress of the wine of the anger and of the wrath of Almighty God. And He has on *His* garment, and on His thigh a name written, *KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*” (Revelation 19:11-16).

**In Revelation 20**, Satan is bound; judgment takes place.

**Revelation 21** shows the Kingdom of God becoming more real, the New Jerusalem. It shows a deeper intimacy with Jesus as a result of all we have been through.

**Revelation 22** shows ministry for those people who have stood and overcome to the end. Here is a picture of the Flowing River, mentioned in Ezekiel 47, with fruit on both sides for the healing of the nations, meaning the gentiles, or the people who do not know God. In my experience, real ministry comes after much tribulation and overcoming. We take dominion over demons through the battles.

**Revelation 22 is also a word of encouragement.** “I am coming quickly, hang on and you will be blessed. Hang on and you will turn all this tribulation and trouble in your life into a blessing.”

**This revelation or glorification of Jesus Christ** most likely is similar to what Jesus spoke to the two on the Road to Emmaus, and later to the 11 disciples, from Moses, the Psalms and the Prophets in Luke 24. Most likely, however, this was a more complete revelation. When we see Jesus glorified in this way, we are candidates for the filling of the Holy Spirit (John 7:39).

I do not pretend to understand all of the Book of Revelation, nor do I claim to do a complete teaching on it here. Neither am I saying that it does not apply to future world prophecy and events. All I am saying is that it is

MORE than that. It is an important application for our lives today. We need to know who Jesus is NOW! I also know that on August 26, 1979, while reading the Book of Revelation, Jesus miraculously saved me and filled me with the Holy Spirit. He revealed Himself to me and I have never been the same!

***John then understood.*** There is more to life than just making it to Heaven and living a good life here. We are called to be in a war, and Jesus is alive and powerful to make sure we get the victory! This is a picture for us to understand when things are not going well. We need to place ourselves somewhere in this process and know that it is God ordained. Then we can stand!

***Here you have the first picture of God.*** He is uncreated. He always existed, He never did not exist. He will never cease to exist. He is all powerful, He knows all because He lives outside of time in eternity. He knows the future because to Him it has already happened. He is all knowing. He can read your mind, He knows what you are going to think before you think it. He is present everywhere through the Holy Spirit.

He is God the Father, Jesus the Son who is also called the Word of God, and God the Holy Spirit .

***He is ruler over all.*** He is the victor over all enemies. All things are in His hands!

***You can trust Him and His Word no matter what!*** God is awesome! We cannot begin to understand how great He is! He loves us beyond what we can imagine!