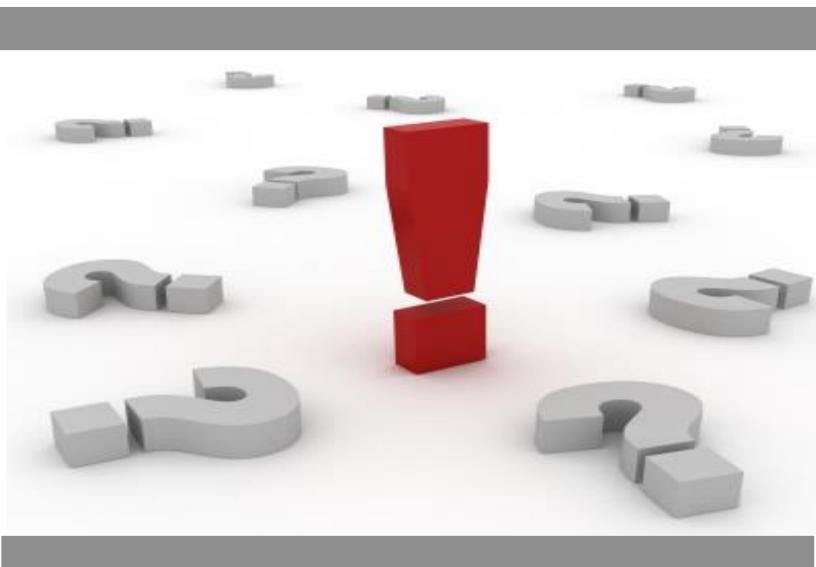
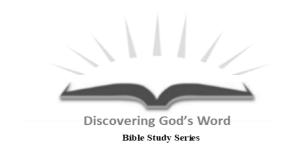
# Answers To Life's Most Essential Questions

Lesson 1: Who Is God?





### **Answers To Life's Most Essential Questions**

Lesson 1: Who Is God?

Learn about God's nature and His characteristics

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#### **Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series**

**Study Number:** DGW44

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Answers To Life's Most Essential Questions

# Lesson 1: Who Is God?

There are certain questions in life that are absolutely essential to your existence. The purpose of this study is to provide you, no matter what your background is, with information that you absolutely need to know. This study is intended to lay a good foundation and to enable you to make the necessary decisions relating to your salvation. This study is not intended to discuss everything that could be said on each of these subjects. Rather, it is meant to be an overview study that provides you with basic information. Specifically, this study will focus on the eight questions I believe are *essential questions*.

As we begin this study, I want you to picture a ladder with 8 rungs, each rung serving as a help to reaching the next. At the top of the ladder is an understanding of life's most essential questions — an understanding that will help you make decisions to live your life in a way that is pleasing to God. This illustration accurately represents this series of lessons, as these lessons build on each other in order to help you come to this understanding of essential spiritual truths — establishing a necessary foundation to further build on in the future (as you continue to study God's Word and add to your understanding in each of these eight areas).

These questions are essential questions that you must have answered properly! So, whether you have been a Bible student for a very long time or you are just beginning to discover the teachings of God's word, you need to take some time to evaluate the answers to each of these questions. Then, you must

evaluate if you have made the right applications of these answers in your life!

The first of these essential questions is: Who is God? In order to truly understand anything about life, we must first be able to understand something about the One who has created it! While it is essential to know about God, the Creator of the universe, it is not possible for us to fully comprehend who God is. God is far above our comprehension and wisdom. In fact, we would not know anything about God if He had not revealed Himself to us.

Yet, although we cannot know everything about God, we can know what He has revealed to us. And, He has revealed Himself to us in two ways. First, He has revealed Himself through His creation. Second, He has revealed Himself through His Word (the Bible). There is much that can and must be learned about who God is when we examine these two areas. However, we are limited as to what can be covered in this short lesson.

There is a clear need, then, for knowing that God exists and for knowing who God is. This is the most fundamental piece of information you need in order to live your life! So, in this lesson, we will seek to answer the question, "Who Is God?"

# God Was, Is, And Always Will Be

As you begin to consider who God is, you must recognize that He is eternal (without beginning and without end). At every point in time, God has been, is, and will be in existence. Revelation 4:8 pictures some who made the following true statement about God: "...Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come."

#### God was

The Bible begins by asserting the existence of God. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Moses (the author of the book of Genesis) does not write to defend the existence of God. Rather, he simply asserts that God

was already in existence prior to the creation of this world. In fact, God is eternal (notice Revelation 4:8 again).

Genesis 21:33 refers to God as the "Everlasting God." Psalm 90:2 simply states, "Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God." So, in the language of Revelation 4:8, God always was. That is, He did not have any beginning point. There was no time in the history of anything when God did not exist. Instead, He is "from eternity."

#### God is

Since God is "from eternity to eternity," God continues to exist today. In the language of Revelation 4:8, God *is*! So, you read about God being in existence throughout the Scriptures. There has never been a point in time when God ceased to be in existence.

And, the fact that God is "from eternity to eternity" assures us that God continues to exist at every point in our lives. As bad, evil, and godless as this world can seem at times, you must always be assured of the fact that God continues to exist. In fact, He promises those who are His people, "I will never leave you or abandon you" (Hebrews 13:5). The only way for this to be possible is for God to be in existence at every point in time. So, He really does live today!

### God will always be

God, in His very nature, is eternal – having no beginning and having no end. Again, He is called the "Everlasting God" (Genesis 21:33) and He is said to be "from eternity to eternity" (Psalm 90:2). Although the concept of an "eternal" God is a difficult one for our human minds to grasp (since we measure everything we do by time), we must recognize that God is not bound by the constraints of time. In fact, He is the Creator of time!

Therefore, not only has God had no beginning, but God will continue to exist throughout all eternity! He will not die, cease to exist, be overthrown, or defeated. In fact, those who live a life of faithful obedience to Him will live for all of

eternity with Him (as we'll study in lesson 2)! In the language of Revelation 4:8, God *is to come*.

#### How can we know that there is a God?

I have made some pretty big claims if we cannot absolutely know that there is a God (after all, if there is no God, even the Bible has lost its authority and credibility). Certainly, there are many who claim that there is no God and have developed theories to try and explain the origins of this world. However, we can know that there is a God because He has revealed Himself to His creation (including you and I)! He has revealed Himself to His creation in two ways (as I identified at the beginning of this lesson).

(1) God has revealed Himself through His creation. This is even a major piece of evidence given in the Bible for the existence of God. For instance, Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands." Similarly, Romans 1:19-21 says, "since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened."

Take some time to look around you and see the marvelous and complex design of the universe that is all around you. For instance, it is impossible for mankind to even be able to know how big the universe is. Just our single galaxy (the Milky Way) is estimated to be 100,000 light years in diameter – and there are an estimated 100 billion galaxies in the universe (and this likely just scratches the surface). In this unfathomably large universe, our own earth is perfectly designed to support life (whereas no other place is known to contain everything necessary to support life). And, the design of this earth is perfect in order to accomplish that goal. Even small alterations to this earth (i.e. the gravitational pull, the atmosphere, the distance to the sun, the tilt on its axis, etc.) would make life on this earth impossible.

Then, of all the life that can be observed on this earth, there is nothing greater than the human body. Every part functions marvelously to contribute to the design and allows humans to be superior to any other form of earthly life. From the skeleton, to the organs, to the muscles, to the cartilage, to the vessels and arteries, everything is perfectly designed. And, there are an estimated 30 trillion incredibly complex and perfectly designed cells in the human body – each designed to perform a specific function.

Yes, there is tremendous design all around us. There is design in the universe, in the earth, in the sea, in the plants, in the animals, and in mankind. Then, there is a question that each person must answer in order to come to a conclusion about life and this universe. That question is: Could all of this design just happen? Could it spontaneously come into being? Could it evolve over millions and billions of years? Ultimately, could it have come from nothing?

Even scientific laws disprove the idea that this design could come from nothing and spontaneously happen (i.e. the first law of thermodynamics). But, what does your own reasoning conclude? For instance, suppose that you were walking along the beach and you found a computer buried in the sand. How would you suppose it got there? Would you believe that something so marvelous and complex as a computer was the product of millions or billions of years of evolutionary processes? Would you believe that over this long period of time, all of the right materials just happened to come together in that perfect spot to form a computer that is able to work perfectly, process information at rapid speeds, and execute complex tasks with ease?

Or, would you suppose that there must be someone who designed that computer? Would you conclude that a computer is too well-designed just to have come about by chance? Now, if it is unreasonable to conclude that a computer could ever spontaneously come into existence and function perfectly, why is it reasonable (according to so many people) to conclude that something as marvelous as the universe, the earth, and life on it could be the product of chance over a long period of time – ultimately originating from nothing?

Surely such scientific theories are also unreasonable! Every design manifests that there was a designer. Every painting reveals that there was a painter. Every poem reveals that there was a poet. Every building reveals that there was an architect. Every automobile reveals that there was an engineer. Every baby reveals that there was an engineer. Every baby reveals that there were parents. Surely, everything in this universe (i.e. plants, trees, skies, seas, human life, etc.) reveals that there is a Designer who is behind it all! God's creation is too marvelous, complex, and orderly to have happened by chance! There was clearly a powerful and wise God in charge of it all!

(2) God has revealed Himself through His Word. The Bible tells us many things about God (some of which will be observed in this study). Through the Holy Scriptures, He tells us about Himself, His creation, His plan, etc. There is even evidence for His existence by considering some facts about the Bible. Everything that we know about the Bible demonstrates that it is no ordinary book. It truly has stood the test of time and stands out far above the rest.

For instance, although the Bible is not a book about science, medicine, geography, or any such thing, every time it touches upon one of those subjects, it does so with perfect accuracy. In fact, the Bible makes claims that mankind did not "discover" until much later. How, then, can you possibly explain the claims of the Bible – except that God was behind the words that were written in it? Consider just one example.

In Leviticus 17:11, God declared, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood." Yet, as recently as the 1700's, people believed that it was a good idea and it was common medical practice to bleed those who were sick. They believed that the toxins were in the blood and blood-letting (bleeding people) would make them well. In fact, it is commonly believed that George Washington was bled to death by those who were trying to make him well. Yet, the Bible taught the now recognizable truth that the life is in the blood – many years earlier!

Or, consider that one thing people cannot do is predict the future with complete certainty.

Although it is not uncommon for individuals to make predictions that do ultimately come true, it is impossible for mankind alone to make such predictive statements that always come true hundreds – if not thousands – of times, with 100% accuracy! Yet, the Bible does exactly that.

Although there are many examples of prophecy in the Bible, just consider the prophecies made about Jesus. Bible scholars have estimated that there are over 300 prophecies that were made and fulfilled about Jesus. Then, consider that these prophecies were made hundreds of years before they were fulfilled. These prophecies include that Jesus was to be born of a virgin (see Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18, 22), that Jesus was to be born in the city of Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1), that Jesus would be crucified (see Isaiah 53:12 and Matthew 27:38), that Jesus' side would be pierced (see Zechariah 12:10 and John 19:34), and even that Jesus would descend from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David (see Matthew 1). Again, we could consider hundreds of prophecies (about many different subjects) that are contained in the Bible. And, they all have been 100% accurate. How, then, could mankind perfectly predict all these events without ever being wrong? The simple answer is that he cannot and that he did not! Instead, God is the only one who could possibly accomplish this.

There is much more that could be said in proving the existence of God. However, one does not have to be informed of all the scientific proofs and theories related to the question in order to know that God exists. You can come to this conclusion by simply observing what He has created and through His Word!

# Three Beings possess the nature of being God

As you consider the God who is eternal, you need to recognize that the Bible teaches there are three separate Beings who each possess the nature of being God. This is often referred to as the "Godhead" or "Trinity." These three are: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each one possesses the attributes of being God, but, each one has a different role/function. While God is manifested in 3 Persons,

there is only one God in that they are all united (i.e. same purpose, same characteristics, etc.).

For instance, consider how the following passages show these three being linked together, yet they are separate Beings. For example, Matthew 3:16-17 says, "When Jesus [God, the Son] was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God [God, the Holy Spirit] descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice [God, the Father] from heaven said: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Other passages also identify each of these three as being God and link the attributes of being God to each one. For instance, concerning the Son, John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Then, in Acts 5:3 says that a certain man lied to the Holy Spirit. But, Acts 5:4 then says that he lied to God." And, just like there are certain characteristics possessed by all those who are part of humankind, there are certain characteristics that are possessed by each of these three. Namely, only these three possess the characteristics of being eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present.

## Some Characteristics Of God

Now, having observed the fact that God is eternal, let's take a few moments to focus on some of God's characteristics in order to gain a better understanding of who He is. Throughout this series of lessons, we'll be focused on how we can serve and glorify this God. However, our efforts must begin with a proper understanding of who God is (as there are many false ideas about God that exist – even among those who profess to be "Christians"). We must recognize that we cannot change who God says He is for something we want Him to be!

#### He is all-powerful

God is omnipotent (all-powerful). Revelation 19:6 calls God "the Almighty." There is nothing that is outside of His power to do or control. This is one of the characteristics that is unique to who God. No one except God has completely limitless power to do anything that He desires to do. Thankfully, as we will see later, God only uses His power to accomplish what is good (since He is also "holy").

God's all-powerful nature is manifested through His creation. Remember, Romans 1:20 said that God's "eternal [limitless] power and divine nature [nature of being God]" have been "clearly seen since the creation of the world." For instance, just consider the power involved in saying, "Let there be light" (as God did in Genesis 1:3) — and light springing into existence!

#### He is all-knowing

God is omniscient (all-knowing). There is nothing outside of God's ability to know. Isaiah 46:9-10 says that God is able to tell how something will end whenever it just begins – and foretell future events long before they ever happen! Surely, no one except an all-knowing God could possibly say what is going to happen with 100% accuracy. Yet, He has done so many times in the pages of the Bible – making prophecies years (sometimes even hundreds of years) before they ever happened.

Furthermore, consider Romans 11:33-36 to demonstrate how the wisdom and knowledge of God are always true and far above mankind: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? And who has ever given to God, that he should be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen."

#### He is ever-present

God is omnipresent (ever-present). There is nothing God does not see. There is no place where we can hide ourselves from God's sight. This is another one of the characteristics unique to God. He sees every place at all times! Proverbs 15:3 says,

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, observing the wicked and the good."

Psalm 139:1-12 also demonstrates the point that you cannot hide from God and escape His presence (in a poetic way): "Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away. You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, Lord. You have encircled me; you have placed your hand on me. This wondrous knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it. Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I live at the eastern horizon or settle at the western limits, even there your hand will lead me; your right hand will hold on to me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light around me will be night' - even the darkness is not dark to you. The night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to you."

#### He is holy

God is holy. In Revelation 4:6-8, there is a great picture of four living creatures around the throne of God (who are magnificently described). Around the throne, they never stop proclaiming the holiness of God (verse 8), saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come."

The holiness of God means that He is completely separated from everything that is evil. 1 John 1:5 says that "God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him." Habakkuk 1:13 says that God's eyes "are too pure to look on evil" (favorably) and that God "cannot tolerate wrongdoing." So, when people sin (as we'll talk about in lesson four), they separate themselves from this holy God (according to Isaiah 59:1-2). For, since God is a holy God, He expects us to be holy (entirely separated from evil). 1 Peter 1:15-16 says, "But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy."

#### He is loving

God is loving. As we'll discuss in lesson four, whenever people sin, they are doomed for everlasting destruction. As a result of this sin, people cannot do anything to save themselves. But, thank God that He loved mankind enough to send His Son to die to save us from our sin! John 3:16 says, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." God loves each person and does not want anyone to be punished. Rather, He wants everyone to know the truth and be saved.

1 Timothy 2:4 describes God by saying, "who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." This salvation from sin would have been impossible without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Therefore, God "proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). This is the greatest kind of love anyone has ever shown us or ever could show us – saving us from the eternal punishment we deserved for sinning against God and giving us the opportunity to have everlasting life in Heaven!

#### He is gracious and merciful

God is gracious and merciful. God's love is demonstrated through the grace and mercy He has given everyone the opportunity to receive. Titus 2:11 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people." Ephesians 2:4-7 says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

Notice that God's grace and mercy are not hidden or such scarce resources that only a few people have access to them. Instead, God's grace has appeared so as to make salvation available for "all people" and God is "rich in mercy" because of "his great love that he had for us" and has displayed "the immeasurable riches of his grace." But, what does it

mean for God to be gracious and merciful? God's grace is seen in that He gives us an opportunity to have eternal life in Heaven. So, it is God giving us something we do not deserve. Then, God's mercy is seen in the fact that He gives us the opportunity to avoid eternal punishment in Hell. So, it is God *not* giving us what we *do* deserve.

#### He is impartial

God is impartial. One day, we will all be judged by God (2 Corinthians 5:10). As you anticipate this day, you can know that God's judgment will be entirely righteous! He will not condemn you to Hell because He does not like you or because he likes someone else better. Nor will He be bribed or unjustly swayed by anything or anyone. Instead, everyone will be fairly judged on the basis of how they have lived their lives in comparison to His word, as revealed in the Bible (as we'll consider in lesson three).

For instance, Romans 2:5 speaks of "God's righteous judgment." Then, Romans 2:6-11 goes on to explain: "He will repay each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For there is no favoritism with God."

#### He is jealous

God is jealous. In giving the Old Law, God commanded Israel not to serve or worship other gods. Exodus 20:5 says, "Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...." God has always demanded to come first. It is unacceptable for anyone to serve and worship anybody or anything else rather than the one true and living God!

Clearly, God demands your allegiance. He will not accept second place in your life – nor should He have to accept second place! Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one

and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24). So, an idol can be anything or anyone you try to serve or worship — and that steals the allegiance you should give to God. It can be a statue. It can be money. It can be a job. It can be a certain possession. It can be a family member. It can be yourself. It can be an addiction. Therefore, if you are giving the allegiance that belongs to God to anything or anyone else, know that God is jealous.

#### He is good and severe

God is good and severe. Perhaps all you have heard about God is that He is a loving, gracious, and merciful God. Some say that a loving God could never condemn anyone to the fires of Hell (which we'll discuss in lesson two). Now, He certainly is loving, gracious, and merciful (as we discussed earlier). He wants to save everyone. Yet, He is not these things alone!

Hebrews 10:31 also says that it is "a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God" if we are living in a disobedient way. He is also called a "consuming fire" in Hebrews 12:29. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says that God will "give relief" to those who are afflicted due to their faithfulness to Christ and take "vengeance with flaming fire" on those who "don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." These, He says, will "pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the Lord's presence and from his glorious strength." So, Romans 11:22 simply tells us to consider both of these characteristics of God: "Therefore, consider God's kindness and severity: severity toward those who have fallen but God's kindness toward you - if you remain in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off." So, both goodness (as seen in His love, grace, and mercy) and severity (as seen in His vengeance) are characteristics of God. He wants everyone to be saved eternally and does not want to punish anyone. Yet, He will punish those who reject Him for all of eternity, while saving those who obey Him!

#### He is faithful

God is faithful. 1 Corinthians 1:9 says, "God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship

with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide a way out so that you may be able to bear it." Furthermore, Titus 1:2 informs us that God "cannot lie."

Therefore, we can fully trust in God! He is trustworthy. He will never deceive or mislead us! We can trust Him enough to give our entire lives over to His service, knowing that He will reward those who do so. Even when we cannot see the promises He has made, we can be sure that He will deliver them to those who are faithful to Him.

#### He is patient

God is patient. Though some were questioning why Christ had not yet returned, the apostle Peter assured the Christians he wrote to in the letter of 2 Peter that Christ would return (2 Peter 3:10). He informed them that God has not yet sent Christ a second time (to end the world) because God is patient toward those who are in sin. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance."

God could send His Son to destroy the world the moment that we sin – and we would forever be lost in our sins. However, He chooses to wait, enduring the wrongs we do to Him when we sin. He does this because He desires that we will repent of our sins, obey Him, and be saved! So, He is being patient toward us because He desires for us to be saved. Yet, He has also told us that His patience with us is not endless. The very next verse says that there will be a day on which He will send Christ and end this world (2 Peter 3:10).

#### He is unchanging

God is unchanging. The Bible writer James says that God "does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). Hebrews 13:8 also says that Jesus Christ remains the same: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Although people change, God remains the same!

The consistency of God should be a great comfort to us. For, the God we can serve today is the same God we have been studying about. His nature has not changed. He continues to be holy, merciful, loving, gracious, severe, faithful, patient, etc. And, He will be exactly the same tomorrow and for every day – even into eternity! Additionally, the word God has spoken to us in the pages of the Bible "endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25). This consistency allows us to find stability in a world full of change and to fully trust in and obey Him concerning the promises He has made.

What does the Bible teach concerning God's existence today?

What does the Bible teach concerning God's

existence in the future?

How can you know that there is a God?

Conclusion

This is the God of the universe – the one true and living God! Fulfilling your true purpose in life depends on you having an accurate understanding of who this great and awesome God is! So, what should you take from this study? (1) A firm conviction that there really is an eternal God (who has revealed Himself to you through creation and through His word) and that three Beings possess the nature of being God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). (2) A basic understanding of some of God's characteristics – that He is all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, holy, loving, gracious and merciful, impartial, jealous, good and severe, faithful, patient, and unchanging. While we could discuss more, I

What three Beings possess the nature of being God?

#### 2. Some Characteristics Of God

What does it mean for God to be all-powerful?

What does it mean for God to be all-knowing?

What does it mean for God to be ever-present?

What does it mean for God to be holy?

What does it mean for God to be loving?

What does it mean for God to be gracious and merciful?

## **Study Questions**

hope that this lesson has helped you to understand

Why is it essential to know the answer to this question?

#### 1. God Was, Is, And Always Will Be

who God is!

What does the Bible teach concerning God's existence in the past?

What does it mean for God to be impartial?
What does it mean for God to be jealous?
What does it mean for God to be good and severe?
What does it mean for God to be faithful?
What does it mean for God to be patient?
What does it mean for God to be unchanging?