

WHAT the BIBLE TEACHES about GOD and JESUS CHRIST

Lesson 1 - Part 4

GOD THE FATHER

The nature of God

1. We learn to know people by their names. Write down the English names for God. Some Hebrew and some English names are given.

- El
- El Elyon
- El Olam
- El Shaddai
- Elohim -
- - my Lord
- Jehovah (Yahweh) -

2. El means god. El Elyon is God Most High. El Olam is the Eternal God. El Shaddai is the Almighty God. Elohim means the God of Creation. It means two or more but is used as one. Adonai is my Lord. Jehovah or Yahweh is the Self-existing God and it is the personal name for God.

In this lesson we want to learn four things about the nature of God. We will learn that:

- God is spirit
- He does not have an earthly body
- He cannot be seen by people now
- He is alive

John 4:24

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

Why must we worship God in spirit and in truth?

3. We worship God in spirit and in truth because **God is spirit**. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as an earthly body has.

Luke 24:39

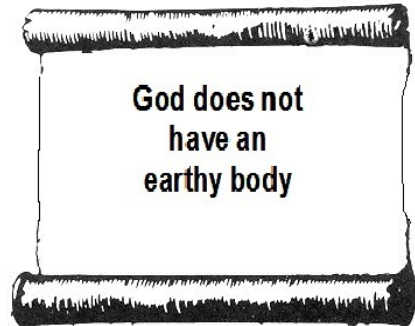
Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost (spirit) does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.



Does God have an earthly body?

4. God does not have an earthly body. He is spirit. He does not have flesh and bones. An earthly body has flesh and bones. God does not have an earthly body.

Who is spirit?



5. God is spirit. We find it difficult to really understand this truth. To help us understand God, the Bible tells us about God in ways we can understand. Words like hands, feet, eyes, and ears make God real to us. They also show us His power, His works, and His interests.

Isaiah 59:1

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

Does the word "arm" show us the power, interest, or the work of God?

6. The word "arm" shows us the power of God.

God sees everything and hears everything. Psalm 34:15 helps us to understand this.

Psalm 34:15

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.

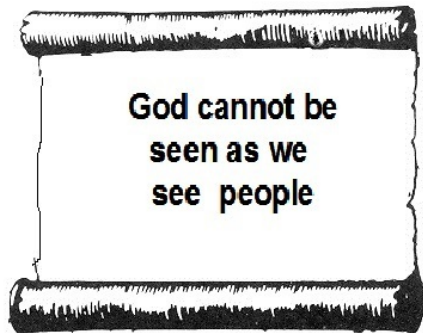
Which words show us that God sees and hears everything?

7. The words “eyes” and “ears” tell us that God sees and hears everything. But God does not have an earthly body because He is spirit. He does not have eyes and ears like the ones we have in our earthly bodies.

What are two things we have learned that tell what God is like?

-
-
- God cannot be seen by people now
- He is alive

8. God is spirit. God does not have an earthly body. He cannot be seen like we see people. Words like “arm,” “eyes,” and “ears” help us understand that God is real and that He has power and interests. God is spirit. People cannot see Him. He has a form but not an earthly body.



Exodus 33:20

“But,” he (God) said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

John 1:18

No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Why has no one ever seen God?

9. No one has ever seen God because no one could live if he saw His form. He is spirit.

Colossians 1:15

He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible (cannot be seen) God, the firstborn over all creation.

What is said about God in this verse?

10. God is invisible. He cannot be seen by people now. Those who accept Jesus as Saviour will see God in heaven.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Revelation 22:4

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

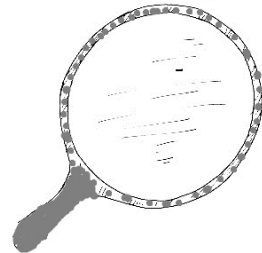
God is spirit. Because God is spirit, He does not have an earthly body and He cannot be seen by people now.

When will the Christians see God?

11. The Christians will see God in heaven. Some men said they saw God.

Exodus 24:9-11

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.



When we look into the mirror we see our faces. It is not the “real us,” but our image in the mirror. We can say, “I saw my face” and also, “I have never seen my face.” Both are true. People did not see God Himself, but they saw His image.

Exodus 33:21-23

Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the radiance (light) of God's glory and the exact representation (image) of his being, sustaining (keeping) all things by His powerful word.

Did people see God Himself or the image of God?

12. People did not see God Himself. They saw His image.

We have learned three things that tell what God is like. What are they?

-
-
-
- He is alive

13. God is spirit, He does not have an earthly body, He cannot be seen by people now, and He is alive.

Sometimes God showed Himself in the form of a man. In these places the Bible speaks of the Angel of the LORD (Jehovah).

Exodus 3:2-5

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not

burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

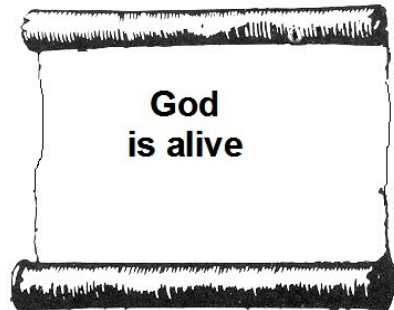
Who appeared to Moses? (verse 2)

Who spoke to Moses? (verse 5)

14. The angel of the LORD (Jehovah) appeared to Moses in the burning bush. God spoke to Moses. God showed Himself as the angel of the LORD (Jehovah). Genesis 16:9-13; Genesis 22:11-18; and Judges 6:11-23 also talk about the angel of the LORD. **Read** these verses.

How did God show himself to people at times?

15. He showed himself as the Angel of the LORD. God cannot be seen by people now. He is spirit and does not have an earthly body. But **God is alive**. He is called the **Living God**.



Psalms 84:2

My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

What is God called in these verses?

16. These verses say that God is living. He is called the living God. Someone who is alive feels, has power, and does things. God feels happy when we obey him, and sad when we do not obey him. He has all power and we can trust in His power. God works and He also gives life.

Psalm 36:9

For with you is the fountain of life...

John 5:26

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

Who is alive and gives life?

17. God is alive and gives life. Because God lives, He can take care of us. We will talk about this in class.

18. We have learned four things that tell what God is like. What are the four things we have learned that tell what God is like?

- God is
- He does not have
- He cannot be
- He is

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GOD AND JESUS CHRIST by Helen Pope.
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