

GREAT BIBLE DOCTRINES - LESSON 1 THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Introduction: Psalm 100:3---"Know that the Lord is God! It is He that made us, and we are His..."

1. The Existence of God

- A. The Bible begins with God - Genesis 1:1 - and is full of Him. The Bible does not argue the existence of God. It assumes it as an evident fact.
- 1) "The fool says...there is no God" - Psalm 14:1.
 - 2) "Anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him" - Hebrews 11:6.
 - 3) God is the first and greatest reality, the ground of all other being ("I am") - Exodus 3:14.
- B. Logical arguments for God's existence
- 1) Intuition - All cultures have believed in a supreme being - Ecclesiastes 3:11.
 - 2) Cause - Every effect requires a cause. A tree requires a seed; a house requires a builder; so the creation requires a Creator.
 - 3) Design - A watch requires a designer; a novel requires an author. These could not come by accident. So also the wonderful universe and our wonderful bodies require an intelligent Designer.
 - 4) Morality - Humans have a moral conscience, a sense of right and wrong. The animals do not have this. It must have come from God who is the perfect standard of morality.
 - 5) Prophecy - The hundreds of fulfilled prophecies in scripture could only have come from God, for humans cannot foretell the future.
 - 6) Christ - Humans could not have invented the character and teachings of Jesus. And there is plenty of solid, eyewitness evidence that Christ rose from the dead. Only God could do this.
 - 7) Experience - Sober and credible people all through history have testified to their experience of God. God is proved when his promises come true.

Inert matter does not purpose or act by itself. It must be moved or affected by mind. It is far more reasonable to believe that behind all matter and all creation there is a great eternal mind that we call God. The assumptions of the atheist require far more faith than those of the Christian.

2. God's nature

- A. God is spirit - John 4:24; Acts 17:29. (We can know about God with the mind but can only know him with our spirit through the Holy Spirit - 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Ephesians 2:18; 6:18; Jude 20; Romans 8:26, 27.)
- B. God is a person - not just "mind" or "goodness" or "a principle" or "a force".

- 1) His names in scripture:
 - a) El --the mighty or powerful one (first appears in Genesis 14:18). This is a title rather than a personal name.
 - b) Elohim - plural of El - Genesis 1:1.
 - c) Ya or Yahweh (or Jehovah) --the eternal, self-existent One; the personal, covenant, revealing God, companion of man. (This is God's memorial name - compare Exodus 3:14, 15. The ASV translates it "Jehovah;" the AV, RSV, NASB, and NIV translate it "LORD" (in capital letters). It is written in the Hebrew, "YHWH" (tetragrammaton).
 1. YHWH-Jireh: The LORD Will Provide - Genesis 22:13, 14.
 2. YHWH-Rapha: The LORD Your Healer - Exodus 15:26.
 3. YHWH-Nissi: The LORD My Banner - Exodus 17:8-15.
 4. YHWH-Shalom: The LORD Our Peace - Judges 6:24.
 5. YHWH-Ra-ah: The LORD My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1.
 6. YHWH-Tsidkenu: The LORD Our Righteousness - Jeremiah 23:6.
 7. YHWH-Shammah: The LORD is Present - Ezekiel 48:35.
- 2) The Scriptures ascribe personal attributes to God: He thinks - Romans 11:34; He has free will - James 4:5; He is sorry - Genesis 6:6; is angry - 1 Kings 11:9; grieves - Genesis 6:6; is jealous - Deuteronomy 6:15; loves - Revelation 3:19; hates - Proverbs 6:16.
- 3) We are created in God's image - Genesis 1:27 - and we have personality; therefore God has personality.
- 4) There is only one true God - Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Ephesians 4:4-6. (There are three persons within his oneness - Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

3. The attributes of God

A. Attributes that arise from his nature:

- 1) Perfect knowledge (omniscience) - Job 37:16; Psalm 147:4,5; Romans 11:33; 1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13; Isaiah 46:9,10).
- 2) Limitless power (omnipotence) - Job 42:2; Genesis 17:1; 18:14; Matthew 19:26; Psalm 135:6; the exception being that God cannot do something contrary to his nature, such as lying - Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2.
- 3) Present everywhere (omnipresence) - Jeremiah 23:23, 24; Psalm 139:7-12; Acts 17:27.
- 4) Eternal, having neither beginning nor ending - Psalm 90:2; Exodus 3:14; Revelation 1:8.
- 5) Unchanging (immutable) - Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:27; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8.

- B. Some attributes that arise from his character:
- 1) Infinite holiness - Isaiah 6:3; 57:15; Revelation 4:8; 1 Peter 1:15, 16; James 1:13.
 - 2) Infinite goodness - Psalm 145:9; Matthew 19:17.
 - 3) Infinite righteousness - Psalm 116:5; 145:17; Romans 2:6, 11.
 - 4) Infinite mercy and loving kindness - Psalm 103:8; Ephesians 2:4; Romans 5:8.
 - 5) Infinite love - 1 John 4:8; John 3:16; Romans 8:38, 39.
 - 6) Infinite faithfulness - 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 3:9.
 - 7) Infinite orderliness - 1 Corinthians 14:33.
 - 8) Infinite wisdom - Romans 16:27; 11:33; Daniel 2:20; 1 Corinthians 1:25.

4. Our relationship to God.

- A. We should "have faith in God" and trust him as a Father - Mark 11:22; Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 14:1; Matthew 6:9-13. No other is as trustworthy as God.
- B. We should recognize God as our Creator and Lord and humble ourselves before him - Ephesians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5, 6; Genesis 1:26, 27.
- C. We should reverence him and serve him in godly fear - Hebrews 12:28; Psalm 89:7.
- D. We should worship him in spirit and truth - John 4:24; Ephesians 2:18; 6:18; Romans 8:15, 16; Matthew 15:8, 9.
- E. We should realize that all blessings come from him and should be thankful - James 1:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 1:21.
- F. We should have "no other gods before him" - Exodus 20:3; Matthew 4:10; Romans 1:25.
- G. We should seek to obey him in all things - Ecclesiastes 12:13.
- H. We should realize that we are accountable to him - Romans 14:10-12; Hebrews 12:23.

Conclusion: Particularly let us think of God as our Creator, Father, and Judge. Let us thank and reverence him as Creator, trust and love him as our Father, and fear and obey him as our Judge.

Thought questions for discussion:

1. What has caused "doctrine" to be a negative word in many people=s minds today? Is "doctrine" used as a negative word in scripture? What is "doctrine" from a Biblical standpoint, and what is the good sense of the word?
2. Is fear of God good?

3. Do you have trouble humbling yourself before God when your will and his conflict? What can you do about this?
4. Do you have trouble expressing reverence to God? In what concrete ways can you show reverence?
5. What causes some people to get distorted, bad and unbiblical concepts of God? How do these misimpressions of God affect people=s lives? What can be done to correct the wrong ideas of God?
5. When we understand God as the scriptures present him, what will be the result?
6. Why does modern man not want to believe in God?

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