

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course
An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

GOD IS A SPIRIT Lesson 2 Part 1 of 2

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God is a Spirit (John 4:24). A spirit is a living personality, invisible to mortal vision. Man is mortal. Thus man, in his limited vision, cannot see God.

We are surrounded on every hand by materialism. Many say they will believe only in the things they can see. But the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 4:18, *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

This means that the man who only believes in what he can see, believes only in things that cannot last. Those of us who believe God, though we cannot see Him, believe what He has said about heaven though we cannot see it. We believe His revelation about being born again, though it be an invisible operation of God. Through the eyes of faith, the things that we look to are eternal things which can never be taken away from us. Praise the Lord.

Moses possessed this kind of faith. Look carefully at what the scripture says about him in Hebrews 11:27. *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

Notice, he saw the invisible, by faith. Now, God is invisible to mortal vision. If this were not true He would not be eternal, for the things which are not seen are eternal.

Though unseen by us, God lives and rules the whole universe that He Himself created. Being invisible, He has nevertheless revealed Himself in wonderful ways: through the things He has made, through the Bible, the written word, and through His Son who came in the flesh to declare, or reveal, the person of God.

Let's read John 1:18. *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

This scripture has been perverted in almost all of the new translations. We recognize the Authorized King James Version as being the word of God for the English-speaking people of the world, and primarily so, because of the gross changes and alterations made in the new translations. Many of the new versions will read "the only begotten God" in John 1:18, implying that Jesus Christ was a separate God. This is absolutely false, as we learned very conclusively in our last lesson.

How is it that the SON declared the Father? Well, verse 1 of the same chapter says. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* And in verse 14 of the same chapter we read, *And*

the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

God is invisible, but the Word, God the Word, took upon Himself a body of flesh so that God might be declared. We cannot see Him because He is a spirit, so God placed upon Himself a veil of flesh, a human body, so that we might have the opportunity to observe Him.

1. God is a Spirit.

In John 4, Jesus is speaking to the woman at the well. In verses 22-24, He says, *Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

The "a", in **God is a Spirit** is known as an indefinite article. It distinguishes and identifies what follows. This identifying article is removed from many of the new translations of the Bible. They simply say, "God is Spirit." Well, this is inaccurate. God is A Spirit. You see, angels are spirits - good angels, bad angels, fallen angels. Devils are spirit beings of a sort.

So God is NOT spirit, He is A Spirit. That is. He is a living personality (though unseen by human eyes), and, because God is a living personality. He is a Spirit.

2. When God or angels appeared to men, either a vision was seen or a manifestation took place. In a vision God works a miracle on the human eyesight, and eternal beings, spirit beings, are seen. For example, in Daniel 9:20-21 the Bible says, *And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.*

Here is an angel being shown to or being seen by Daniel. Daniel said he had seen him earlier in a vision.

Also in Revelation, (these are just two of many, many places that we could cite from the scriptures), we find: *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:..... And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like*

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unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle (Revelation 1:10-13).

John describes His appearance in the next few verses. Then in verse 17 he says, *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.* Now, what has happened? John has had a vision of God Himself, God the Son, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We find many visions recorded throughout the Bible. One of the most striking is recorded in Revelation 9:17. *And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire.....*

a. A vision is God working a miracle on the human eyesight so that eternal beings can be seen. It may be good angels (Daniel 9), it may be God Himself (Revelation, chapter 1), or it may be evil angels (Revelation, chapter 9), but such sighting constitutes a vision.

3. The second kind of revelation is a manifestation. This is where a heavenly being takes a human form for a few minutes, or for a few years. Angels often appeared as men throughout the Bible. For example, we can read the account of such an event in Judges 13:9-11. *And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him. Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am.*

Another such case, and one that I particularly like, is found in Luke 24. The unbelieving disciples of the Lord have gone to His grave on the third day after His crucifixion. There they are met by two angels, who ask a striking question: *Why seek ye the living among the dead?* (Luke 24:5). And in verse 6 they make the glorious announcement, *He is not here, but is risen.* Two angels gave the grand news, that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead (John 20:11-12).

Now, angels are spirits (Hebrews 1:13-14) and are, therefore, invisible (2 Corinthians 4:18), but they were manifest by taking on a human form.

Since we are studying the doctrines of God, let us see what the Bible says in this connection regarding God. Did the invisible God ever manifest Himself?

In John 1, which we have already considered, the Bible says He did. Again, in 1 Timothy 3:16 the Bible says; *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH.*

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God is invisible; yes. Has any man ever seen God? Only as God has manifested Himself. What is it to be manifest? The verb form of manifest means "to make evident." The adjective form of the word means "readily perceived." So a Biblical manifestation is an event wherein a heavenly being takes a human form for a few minutes, or as in the case of Jesus, for several years.

We learn from the verse just quoted that man has SEEN the invisible God. God has been seen, not in His unveiled glory, but rather as He has clothed Himself in a manifestation of human flesh.

By the way, let's just go ahead and kick those modern versions one more time. **God was manifest in the flesh.** This is a clear, glorious statement from the Holy Bible that the Lord Jesus Christ was indeed the Creator of the universe, veiled in a body of human flesh. This verse has been altered and changed in all the modern translations to something like "he was manifest in the flesh." Such a statement is meaningless. Every one of us is manifest in the flesh. Your incarnation and mine do not constitute the mystery of godliness.

My friends, any book that attacks all the precious, fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith could certainly not be a Christian Bible. The modern translations certainly cannot have God's seal of approval upon them.

notes

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Name _____

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1. What is the definition of a manifestation?
2. Why is the "a", in **God is a Spirit** important?
3. How is it that the SON declared the Father?
4. Did the invisible God ever manifest Himself?
5. What is a Spirit?
6. What is the definition of a vision?
7. What do the new translation do to the Holy Bible, when the replace to word "God" with the word "He"?
8. Has any man ever seen God?
9. What is the purpose of this Lesson?
10. What is the key verse in this Lesson?
11. What is it to be manifest?
12. What are the two types of appearances spirits make to human beings?
13. What are the new versions implicating when they change the reading of John 1:18 to "the only begotten God"?
14. What kind of faith did Moses possess?
15. **God is invisible to mortal vision.** Show what verse proves this statement.
16. The worlds cliché is "seeing is believing", but the Bible says what? (use scripture to prove you answer)
17. How does GOD reveal himself to his universe?

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Scripture Memorization: John 4:22-24; 1 Timothy 3:16;
2 Corinthians 4:18. Write these verses out on the back page of this paper.(must be in KJV)

True/False

- Changing one or two words in the Bible does not destroy the true meaning.
- GOD has never become flesh, He is always a spirit.
- God is Spirit.
- Jesus Christ is God veiled in human flesh.

any questions?