

## Lesson 2

# God

## God's Existence

The Bible does not attempt to prove that there is a God. The first verse in the Bible reads as follows: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). No further discussion or debate is needed concerning the existence of God. Man's wisdom will never lead to a knowledge of God. This can only come through faith.<sup>1</sup>

Every person has been given two clear testimonies of God's existence. One of these testimonies is **the world** that God has created. This *outward* testimony is easily observed by all men. Another testimony is the conscience that He has placed *within* every person.<sup>2</sup> The Bible clearly describes the person who rejects these testimonies: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Psalm 14:1).

Atheists deny the existence of God not because of logical or scientific arguments. Their real reason for denying God's existence is a *moral* reason. Denying God's existence is a way of seeking to avoid being responsible to an Almighty Creator. If there is no God, I can live any way in which I please. I don't need to ever fear judgment for my sin. Those who claim that there is no God are "corrupt" and do many unclean works. They hope that there is not a God who will one day hold them accountable for their thoughts, words, and deeds.

## Who Is God?

Though many religions involve the worship of numerous gods and goddesses, the Bible plainly teaches that there is only *one* true God. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is **one** Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4). "For there is **one** God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5).<sup>3</sup>

Within the one God, there are three eternal Persons, known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This understanding cannot be obtained through man's wisdom. Man can only know God when God reveals Himself to man. In the Bible, God has revealed Himself as a Triune God (three in one). "The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion of the **Holy Ghost**, be with you all. Amen." (II Corinthians 13:14).

## The Triune God

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<sup>1</sup> I Corinthians 1:21; Hebrews 11:6

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:19-20; Romans 2:15

<sup>3</sup> Deuteronomy 4:35; I Kings 8:60; John 17:3; I Corinthians 8:4

The doctrine of the Godhead is most clearly taught in the New Testament, but is confirmed by the Old Testament. God uses a plural pronoun when referring to Himself. "And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image" (Genesis 1:26). "Go to, let **us** go down, and there confound their language" (Genesis 11:7). Other Old Testament indications of the Trinity include: the Son spoken of as distinct from the Father;<sup>4</sup> and the Spirit spoken of as distinct from the Father.<sup>5</sup>

Several times, the three Persons of the Godhead are mentioned together in the New Testament. "For **Christ** also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to **God**, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the **Spirit**" (I Peter 3:18).<sup>6</sup> "Elect according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through sanctification of the **Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of **Jesus Christ**: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied" (I Peter 1:2).

## Review Questions

### True or False

1. The Bible teaches that there are three Persons in one God.
2. The Bible writers often wrote to prove that God exists.
3. People become atheists because there are many sound intellectual and scientific arguments to support their viewpoint.
4. There are several passages in the Bible that mention all three Persons of the Godhead.

### Multiple Choice

5. God's existence can be clearly seen through:
  - a. logical thinking
  - b. scientific study
  - c. creation and conscience
  - d. studying history

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<sup>4</sup> Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 48:16;

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 40:13

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 12:4-6;

6. The Bible teaches that:

- a. there are many Gods
- b. there are three Gods
- c. there is one God
- d. there is no God

7. The doctrine of the Godhead is most clearly taught in:

- a. the New Testament
- b. the Old Testament
- c. the Koran
- d. Hindu writings

### **Fill in the Blanks**

8. "In the beginning \_\_\_ created the heaven and the earth"

9. Atheists do not truly deny God's existence because of logical or scientific evidence, but because of \_\_\_ reasons.

10. The three Persons in one God are the \_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_.

### **For Further Study**

1. Is God called "the Father" because He is the Father of all of mankind? (see John 8:44)

2. How does Isaiah 6:3 suggest that God is a Trinity?

3. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. How do these verses teach that God is a Triune God?

4. How does Revelation 22:16-19 teach the doctrine of the Trinity?

5. What difference between God and idols is mentioned in Psalm 115:3-9 and I Thessalonians 1:9?

6. Is God an impersonal force or a Person? (see Genesis 1:3; Exodus 20:2-3; Isaiah 45:5)

7. Did God have a beginning? Will God have an end? (see Genesis 21:33; Psalm 102:27; Isaiah 9:6)

8. What does Romans 1:21-23 teach about the beginning of the worship of many gods and goddesses?

9. Is it pleasing to God when we make images or likenesses of Him? (see Exodus 20:4; Leviticus 26:1)

10. List some names of God in the Bible: (see Genesis 14:18; Genesis 15:2; Genesis 17:1; Genesis 21:33; Exodus 6:3; Exodus 7:1; I Samuel 1:3; Romans 1:25; II Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 4:6)

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