## Understanding the Bible

## God

**Does God exist?** Our answer to this question is a very definite "YES!"

This confidence is based on the Bible which God has given us. (see pamphlet 1) "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness" 2 Tim.3:16. It is vital to our eternal salvation that we receive and accept this instruction. Jesus, in prayer to God said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" John 17:3.

God has always existed. The very first verse in the Bible is "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" Gen.1:1. It is written in the Psalms that He is "from everlasting to everlasting" Psa.90:2. The prophet Isaiah tells us that He is "the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity" Isa.57:15, and the apostle Paul tells us of "the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God" 1 Tim.1:17.

God's "dwelling place" or home is in Heaven. When instructing his disciples [and us] how to pray, Jesus said "Our Father which art in heaven" Matt.6:9.

Yet, God is everywhere by His "spirit". "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD" Jer.23.24.

God is One. This is emphasised throughout the Bible. God declares of Himself "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me" Isa.45:5.

Moses was commanded to teach the nation of Israel "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD" Deut.6:4. This vital doctrine is also strongly maintained in the New Testament. Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth about the pagan practice of offering sacrifices to the many idols of wood and stone. He said, "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things..." 1 Cor. 8:6. When writing to Timothy, Paul said, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" 1 Tim.2:5.

It should also be noted that Jesus is the Son of God and never claimed to be equal with his Father. "The Father is greater than I" Jesus said, John 14:28.

When we consider God as Creator and maintainer of all things, we can only marvel at His Almighty power, His wisdom and perfect understanding. "In whose hand is the soul [life] of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind" Job 12:10. "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable" Psa.145:3.

The Bible tells us about two aspects of God's character. The apostle Paul describes these as "the goodness and the severity of God" Rom.11:22. His goodness is described in Psa.86:15. "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

On the other hand, Psa.145:20 says "The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy." Indeed, God has shown Himself as a God of vengeance to the wicked and will do so in the future, for He has said "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" Rom.12:19.

Above all, God is a God of love. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" 1 John 4.8

The strongest evidence of His love toward mankind is the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16.

Seize the opportunity of getting to know God now! Then you can have the hope of living for ever!

Note: all quotes are from the King James version