

Sermon Texts and notes that were used in this sermon which most of you might want to have and study for yourselves.

GOD IS A MYSTRY | IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND GOD YOU WILL BE GOD. THIS DOCUMENT IS HELPING TO SEE WHAT IS REVEALED TO US IN SCRIPTURE ALONE.

8“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
9“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV)

4“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!^[*echad = can mean one or a unit*]
5You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

SIDE NOTE: The Hebrew word for “one” is also used of man and woman in Gen. 2:24 for Adam and Eve becoming “one flesh”—two beings becoming “one.” In light of the NT, this would mean that the holy TRINITY of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19) is mysteriously bound together as a unified deity (compare Col. 1:19; 2:9).¹

1. There is only one God

a. He is the only one and no other

Exodus 15:11 – A question is asked, “Who is like unto thee...”

Isaiah 43:10 (NKJV)

10“You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that **I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.**

Isaiah 44:6 (NKJV)

6“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; **Besides Me there is no God.**

- The God of the Bible is **incomparable**. He is **unique**.
- He is One God.
- He commanded that you should have **no other gods** before Him – idol worship is; humans worshiping the works of their own hands / it is nothing but demon worship.

b. He is above idols / false gods

Psalms 95:3 (NKJV)

¹ Jon L. Dybdahl, ed., [Andrews Study Bible Notes](#) (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2010), 227.

3For the Lord is the great God, And the great King **above all gods.**

Paul – in Athens began preaching to idol worshipers said “Acts 17:24–25 (NKJV)

24God, who **made the world and everything in it**, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

25Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since **He gives to all life, breath, and all things.**”

Psalm 96:5 (NKJV)

5For all the gods of the peoples are **idols**, But the Lord made the heavens.

- *The Hebrew word for idols here is elilim – some suggest there is a play on words here. Instead of Elohim but elilim which is nothingness.*

The God of the Bible presents Himself as the only God.

The God of the Bible presents Himself as the creator.

The God of the Bible presents Himself as transcendent.

c. He is the only one to be worshiped

Jesus said, John 14:6 (NKJV)

...“*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*”

There is only one God and one way to salvation.

2. He has revealed Himself to us in many ways

a. Revealed Himself in the natural world.

Romans 1:19–21 (NKJV)

19because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for **God has shown it to them.**

20For since the creation of the world His invisible **attributes** are clearly seen, being **understood** by the things that are made, even His **eternal power and Godhead [Divinity]**, so that they are without excuse,

21because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Psalm 19:1 (NKJV)

1The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ***God has revealed Himself in nature. His revelation is universal. Seen by all. Felt by all.***

1 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

16Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. ***God has revealed Himself in a personal way through Jesus Christ.***

b. The divine nature of God was revealed in OT

Scripture opens with the following words “*In the beginning God...*” Scripture assumes the existence of God to be self-explanatory.

Gen. 1:1 – In the Beginning God created ...

This verse is the theological foundation of Genesis and—by extension—Scripture. God (in contrast to atheism) created alone (in contrast to polytheism) and rules over creation (in contrast to pantheism). Readers are reminded that matter had a beginning (as opposed to materialism) and that the ultimate reality is God (not humanity).²

Gen. 2:24 (Adam and Eve were ONE). Two are spoken of as ONE.

c. Suggestions of more than one entity in the Godhead – Gen. 1:1

Elohim: God speaks of Himself in *plurality*. Though there is a strong emphasis on oneness in the Bible – this oneness is not simplicity but a complex oneness. **Almost all scholars agree.**

Side Note: Psalm 45:6-7 c.f Heb. 1:8-9. The word/title **Elohim** Just like any other words in Hebrew can have one or more meanings but the context determines the right interpretation. **Just like how in English you can have one word “CLOSE” mean two different things but the context determines what is meant.** Even if we disregarded it, there are more texts revealing the plurality of God in the OT. There are more supporting verses like Gen. 1:26. If God said let Us create in Our Image - Was He referring to Angels? Can Angels create? Further more: "In the creation of male and female in the image of God (Gen. 1:26–27), the Persons of the Godhead are represented by in the oneness of man and woman in marriage. Scripture specifies the reality of that image as the Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:30; cf. Job 33:4; 26:13) and the Father creating everything through the Son (Col. 1:15–16; Heb. 1:2b), and hence the reality of the image is a oneness in three, or the Trinity."

Norman R. Gulley, Systematic Theology: God as Trinity (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2011), 24.

Study carefully: Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:27; Isa. 6:1-8 – do you feel like there is more than one entity represented in these verses?

Exod. 23:20-21 – This angel of the Lord (Malak)

Isa. 63:8-11; Isa. 48:16; Prov. 30:4; **Gen. 11:7; 3:22; 1:26**

It seems to me that there is more than one within the Godhead.

Psalm 110:1 (NKJV)

¹The LORD [YHVH] said to my LORD [YHVH], “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” C.f Eph. 1:22

The NT helps us to understand this dual revelation of God. The NT brings to light that which the OT hinted at – *The other members of the Godhead.*

John 1:1, 14, 18; Heb. 1:2, 3, 8, 9-14; Col. 2:9

Acts 13:32-35 c.f Ps. 2:7; Heb. 1:5; Ps. 16:10 c.f Acts 2:27 – in OT God the Father speaks about Jesus – NT confirms that.

² Jon L. Dybdahl, ed., [Andrews Study Bible Notes](#) (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2010), 6.

SIDE NOTE: *We do not serve a demi god. If Jesus was not God then yours and mine faith would be in vain. The word begotten does not mean that Jesus had a birth or a beginning. Far from that. The Father had no wife, nor did the Father create Jesus for a creature could not save us. A creature cannot be worshipped, that would be idol worship. Notice what most scholars say on the word GK. monogenes: "58.52 μονογενής, ἕς: pertaining to what is unique in the sense of being the only one of the same kind or class—'unique, only.' τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν 'he gave his only Son' Jn 3:16; τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἀπέσταλκεν ὁ θεός 'God sent his only Son' 1 Jn 4:9; τὸν μονογενῆ προσέφερεν ὁ τὰς ἐπαγγελίας ἀναδεξάμενος 'he who had received the promises presented his only son' or '... was ready to offer his only son' He 11:17. Abraham, of course, did have another son, Ishmael, and later sons by Keturah, but Isaac was a unique son in that he was a son born as the result of certain promises made by God. Accordingly, he could be called a μονογενής son, since he was the only one of his kind." Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 590.*

What is attributed to God the Father is also attributed to Jesus
The oneness of God is not destroyed by the introduction of Jesus. In fact, Jesus said, John 10:30 (NKJV)

30I and My Father are one." We do not serve a demi god. If Jesus is not Divine, as He claim in John 1:1 then our salvation is in vain. How can a creature save us. How can a creature forgive sins?

Homework: Go and find all the attributes of God and compare with all the attributes of Jesus and you will find that they are the same.

d. Yet another entity which is not explained in the OT

Exod. 31:3; 35:31; Numb. 11:25; Gen. 6:3

Isaiah 63:10 (NKJV)

10But they rebelled and **grieved His Holy Spirit**; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.

This is one of the clearest verses amongst many in the OT indicating another entity within the Godhead. We should expect the NT to reveal this entity as it has revealed the second person of the God.

John 14:16–17 (NKJV)

16And I will pray **the Father**, and **He** will give you another **Helper**, that **He** may abide with you forever—**[Jesus – Father – Helper]**

17the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor **knows Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He dwells with you and will be in you.**

The use of God's titles three times in OT

Numb. 6:24-27; Ps. 29:3-5; Isa. 6:1-3

3. There is only one Immanent God – very close w/ His creation.

a. He is a personal God

Deut. 4:7 – No other people have such a God who is so near.

Psalms 139 – the whole psalm shows the closeness of God. Our dependence on Him and How important He is to us. **Read it.**

b. We know more about God through Jesus

1 John 4:13–16 (NKJV)

¹³By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

¹⁵**Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**

¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

c. We Commune with God through the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”**

Romans 8:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also **helps** in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself **makes intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷Now He who **searches** the hearts **knows** what **the mind of the Spirit** is, because He makes **intercession** for the saints according to the will of God.

CONCLUSION

He is the **Omnipresent** – God is everywhere (**Ps. 139:7-12**)

He is the **Omniscience** – God is all knowing (**Ps. 139:1-4**)

He is the **Omnipotence** – God is all powerful (**Matt. 19:26**)

He is the **Eternal One** – God has always and will always be there (**Ps. 90:2**)

He is **Immutable** – God never changes (**Mal. 3:6**)

He is **good and Love** (**Ps. 145:9; 1 John 4:8**)

He is **Righteousness** – He is holy, just and righteous (**Ps. 19:7-9**)

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