

## Our Father In Heaven

All that can be known of God is found in the record He inspired: The Bible. No where else is there further definitive information about Him. No other person, or record provides a description about God's personage apart from what the Bible declares. None fully present His purpose.

## The Creator

**"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"**. Genesis 1:1. These first words of the Bible declare God as the 'Creator'. The importance of this record is the God given testimony that the earth and mankind upon it exist by design, not chance... and what a beautiful earth He has given us!

Not everyone accepts this. However, people have no excuse for rejecting God as the Creator: ... "because that which may be known of God is manifest...For the invisible things of him (God) from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God." Romans 1:19,20 The point of these words is to remind us that despite all the efforts to discredit the Creator with current information, wisdom, philosophy and scientific explanations, we need to stop and consider the logic of hearing from God directly through his written word the Bible.

## There are no other Gods

The Bible is quite clear and declares that **God has no equal**. "*I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, ***there is no God beside me***: ... That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. ***I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else**. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*." Isaiah 9:5, 6, 18

When the nation of Israel had succumbed to making god/idols out of wood and metal, the Creator challenges them to consider the foolishness of what they were doing: "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One". Isaiah 40: 18, 25 No carved or engraved image can represent God!

## The name of the LORD

God does have a name! You may have noticed in the quotes above, that the word "LORD" is all in capital letters. This is the result of the translators identifying the name God chose to reveal. So everywhere you see LORD or GOD all in capitals, it is God's memorial name.

God has several names. Initially He was known to Abraham as 'El Shaddai' or God Almighty. This name was indicative of his power evidenced through creation. Genesis 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, "I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect".

Moses was a descendant of Abraham who 400 years later God called to lead the children of Israel out of slavery from Egypt. Reluctant to do so, he asked God, " Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, **What is his name?** what shall I say unto them?" Exodus 3:13

Most of the Old Testament of the Bible was written in Hebrew. The answer God provides is: "And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **The LORD God** of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: **this is my name for ever**, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations. And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, **I am the LORD.** The name to be given to the Children of Israel: YHWH (pronounced Yahweh or Jehovah in English)

God was very specific in the purpose of this change of name! He clarifies the reason in Exodus 6:3 "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them... v7 And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

#### The Promise of Salvation found in the name of the LORD God

How does God want us to understand the significance of the name 'LORD God'? This new name Yahweh Elohim speaks of God's intentions. V6,7,8 of this same chapter uses 'I will' 7 times in respect of how he 'will' deliver the children of Israel from Egypt. However, it also speaks of His plan which he promised to Abraham: "and in thee **shall all families of the earth be blessed**" which tells us that God through a descendant of Abraham would provide the means (Jesus Christ) to forgive sins and restore the faithful to fellowship with God.

This principle of salvation offered to mankind becomes a foundation principle of the Bible. It will be a key feature of our future studies in this 'Preparing for Baptism' series.

#### The Glory of God – His Character

Probably one of the most profound verses of the Old Testament is found in Numbers 14:21 And the LORD said... But *as truly as* I live, all **the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.**

The 'glory' referred to are the characteristics that God portrays. His purpose then is to fill the earth with Godly people. This was the original intent of His creation, and this has not changed. But when the first man and woman sinned against God, a plan of salvation was put into effect which is now declared in His name, Yahweh Elohim which means 'He who will be manifested in a multitude of holy ones'. Mankind had fallen from grace, so, God made a promise of a redeemer who would reconcile man to God. The whole Bible is a declaration of how God, (the Creator, El Shaddai, Yahweh Elohim) will take men and woman who believe, and transform them from sinners condemned by God to saints, through the death of the promised Messiah.

#### Then Comes the End

The New Testament provides a record of Jesus, who fulfills the promises of the Old Testament. (Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:12-14) Even before his birth, God called his name 'Jesus' which means savior for he will "save people from their sins." Matthew 1:21.

The New Testament pronouncement shifts our focus to seeing God as "**Our Father in Heaven**". Jesus also says: "**I am come in my Father's name**, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive". John 5:43, and again: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the **Father**, but by me". John 14:6

Therefore as Christians, we expect the time "when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." 2

Thessalonians 1:7-12

The Apostle Paul provides a worthy commentary of much of what we have considered in this topic. He said... "As I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. **God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth**, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ... That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being..." Acts 17:23-28

#### Then Cometh the End

The return of Jesus Christ to the earth is the next step of the plan of God to fill the earth with his glory. The Bible is very explicit in providing a clear vision for the believers. The expectation is that Jesus upon his return will work with the citizens of the earth to teach responsibility to God. He will rule for a period of 1000 years during which he will establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. When he has completed his work to eradicate the wicked and exalt the purpose of God, the result will be the removal of sin and death from the earth. The Kingdom will then be given over to God so that He will be all in all. This means God alone will be exalted in that day. This is the lesson of the following passage.

**“Then cometh the end**, when he (Jesus) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that **God may be all in all.**” 2 Corinthians 15:24-28

The invitation to participate in these future events and the hope offered through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ are open to anyone who will hear. Jesus comments in Luke 12:32 “Fear not, little flock; for it is your **Father’s** good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” And again: 2 Corinthians 6:18 “...and will be a **Father** unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” And again, one more: “Behold, what manner of love the **Father** hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:” 1John 3:1

God’s purpose from the beginning was to fill the earth with people who believe and honor Him. It is his plan and ‘good pleasure’ to fulfill that purpose in giving believes the kingdom.

Our purpose in the following lessons is to share the knowledge of the Bible principles that will connect you to the deep and significant call of the Good News of the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ. We welcome questions and comments on the material and pray God will bless your search for His truth.

Sincerely,

The Christadelphians

A few more characteristics of God.

God is one! Deuteronomy 6:4

God has universal and unlimited knowledge: Psalm 139:1-6; Hebrews 4:12, 13; Proverbs 15:3

*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.* Psalm 33:13; 44:21

God only has immortality and dwells in light unapproachable by men: 1 Timothy 6:16

God is light 1 John 1:5

God is love 1 John 4:7,8 Exodus 34:6; Psalm 18:25; Proverbs 15

God dwells in heaven Psalm 115:16 (earth has been given to man)

God create the heavens and the earth by the word of his mouth Psalm 33:6-9

God has Unlimited Power Isaiah 40:25-29; 45:5-7, 12, 18

God Is present everywhere: Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23,24; Acts 17:24-28

God is Eternal and Unchanging: James 1:17; Mal 3:6

God is Impartial in Judgment: Deuteronomy 10:17; Ecclesiastes 11:7-10; 12:13, 14

God has Un-derived Immortality: Psalm 90:1,2; Deuteronomy 32:39,40 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:14-16

God is a Jealous God and able to dispense righteous wrath: Exodus 34:14; Nahum 1:2,3; Isaiah 13:6-11; Isaiah 42:13,14; Jeremiah 25:31-33; Exodus 20:5 *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

God has the knowledge, power, and desire to do everything He has said. His love has been demonstrated time and again and we can be the beneficiaries of His love.