

THE NATURE OF GOD

We need to know the nature of the God of the universe who seeks to share Himself with humanity.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ What is God really like? What is His nature (His innate and essential qualities)? Many have tried to describe Him, but let's go to the primary source – His Word.
- ❖ In Exodus 3:1-15, Moses meets and hears from God for the first time. God says of Himself:
 - “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸So I have come down to deliver them...” (v. 7-8).
- ❖ Moses discovered that it is God’s nature to see His people, feel their pain, open His ear to their cry and send help in time of need.
- ❖ During this encounter, Moses asks God to tell him who He is and God replies, “...I AM WHO I AM.”(v. 13)
 - “...This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations” (v. 13, 15).
- ❖ God is “I AM WHO I AM” – the One who has no history and no future. The One who lives in the eternal present. The One who invented time but supersedes time, who sees the day Adam was created as clearly as He sees the 10th billion day of eternity. He is the “I AM”, the self-existing One.
- ❖ Shortly before Moses died, he gathered the children of Israel together and gave them a lengthy lecture, re-stating the law to the new generation. At various times he elaborates on his understanding of God’s nature, which he gained as Israel’s leader during more than 40 years of encounters with God.
- ❖ Some of the things he mentions are (all references from Deuteronomy unless otherwise noted):
 - God loves fiercely and wants no competitor (4:24).
 - God is merciful and gracious (4:31; see also 2 Chronicles 30:9).
 - God is a wonderfully diverse deity (10:17-18).
 - God is our refuge (33:27; see also Psalm 46:1-7; 2 Samuel 22:32-33)
 - He is God above all (4:39; see also Isaiah 44:6-8, 45:5, 14-22).
 - He is the mighty God (10:17, 11:2)
- ❖ Later in the Old Testament the sons of Korah tell us:
 - God is our faithful guide (Ps. 48:14, 37:23; see also 1 Corinthians 1:9, 10:13).
- ❖ A myriad of other scriptures reveal to us the person and nature of God:
 - He is *our* God (Joshua 1:9; Psalm 48:14; Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 21:3).
 - He is totally fair and impartial (Acts 10:34).
 - He is a just judge (Ps. 50:6).
 - God is our defense (Ps. 59:9b).

KEY SCRIPTURES: 2 Peter 1:1-4; Exodus 3:1-15; Deuteronomy 4:24, 4:31, 10:17-18, 33:27; Psalm 46:1-7, 48:14, 99; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 John 1:5-7, 3:1, 4:7-8, 4:16

- ❖ Jesus described God to the woman at the well in Sychar:
 - God is Spirit (John 4:24). Therefore, God is omnipresent.
- ❖ Uniquely in scripture, 1 John 1:5-7 highlights this fact:
 - God is light.
- ❖ Then, as the ‘love apostle’, and the ‘last man standing’ among New Testament authors, John calls our attention to the great truth that has transformed millions of lives:
 - God is love (1 John 3:1, 4:7-8, 16). Because God is love, we are called to love our brothers and sisters in Christ and to love those outside the Body of Christ, in the same way Jesus loves them (see Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31; John 13:34-35, 15:12, 15:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22).
- ❖ And from Moses in the Pentateuch to John in the Apocalypse, we read of one of God’s greatest attributes:
 - God is holy [set apart, consecrated, distinct] (Leviticus 11:44a, 45b, 19:2b; Psalm 99:3, 99:9; Revelation 4:8; 1 Peter 1:16). And He calls us to be holy also.
- ❖ In summary, here are a few of the things we know about the God who IS: He exists. He jealously loves His people. God is merciful and gracious. He is our refuge. He is our guide. God is Spirit. He is faithful. He is light. He is love. He is holy.
- ❖ And the God of the universe seeks to reveal Himself to us.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Review the listed attributes of God and share experiences of how group participants have seen these attributes evident in their lives.
2. Share other attributes of God that are meaningful to individuals in the group (with scripture references).
3. Why does God want to reveal Himself to us and in what ways (besides His Word) has He given us knowledge of His nature? Discuss.

Prayer Time

Oh, that I might know You, Lord. Thank You for Your word so I can read and learn of You.

Start-up: What topic do you think you know the most about? Share something about it with the group.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)
- 👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

*Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*