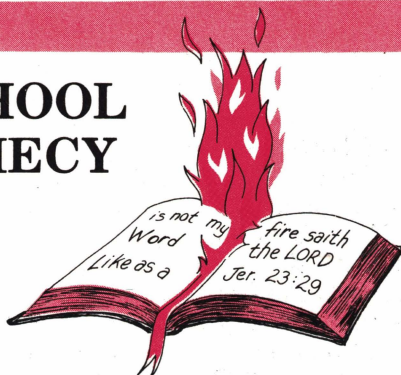


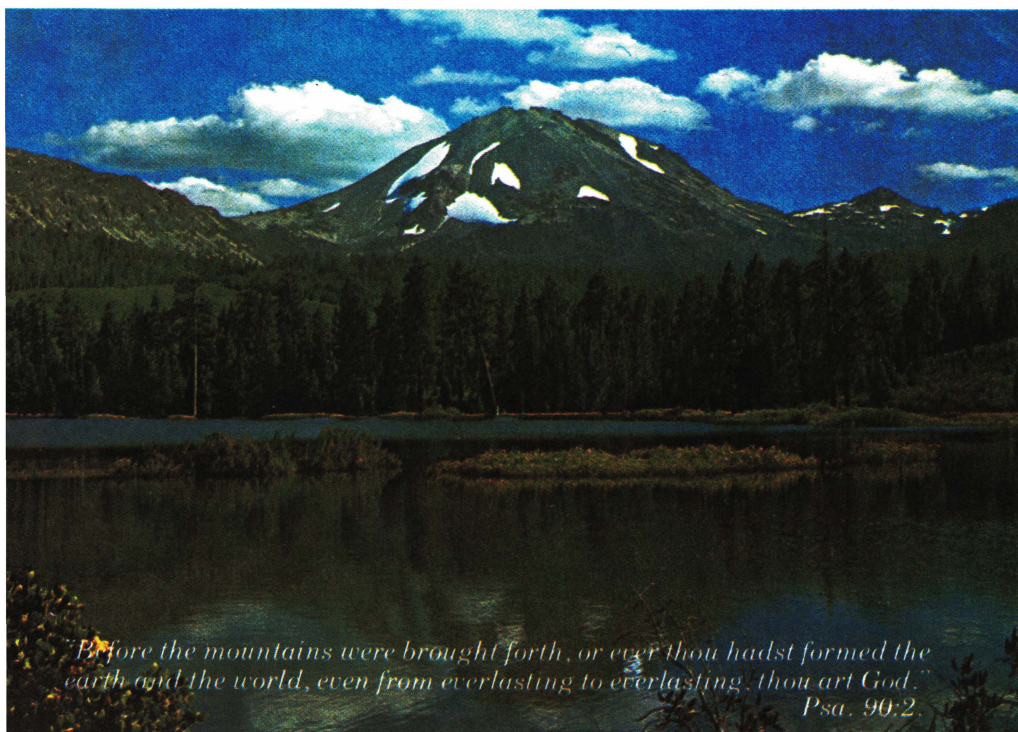
**BIBLE STUDY COURSE**  
**LESSON NO. 4**  
**— FROM —**

**BIBLE SCHOOL  
OF PROPHECY**



**"SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS"**

**JACKSONVILLE, FLA.**



*"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."*  
*Psa. 90:2*

**GOD'S NATURE & PERSONALITY**

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# BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY

## LESSON NO. 4

### GOD'S NATURE & PERSONALITY

#### DECLARATION:

The sole source to men from which to find the knowledge of God — that is, the only possible way to know God intimately, the great Creator of Heaven and Earth, is through the Bible, His Own Word about Himself — His personality, His nature, His attributes! God possesses certain divine personal characteristics that are distinct and definite, but these are known only through the knowledge of His Word — not through spiritual experience. This study of God is not designed to prove God's existence to skeptics, but it is designed to teach those who already truly know that "God is!" Heb. 11:6. Furthermore, this lesson does not contain a study of the names of Deity, nor of the Godhead and God's Unity. The Godhead and Water Baptism will be fully discussed and forthrightly taught in a subsequent lesson.

#### INTRODUCTORY SCRIPTURES:

"To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" (Isa. 40:18), the prophet asked the idolatrous church of old. Jesus declared of His Father, the great creator: "**God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24. All men, especially a true Christian must seek and obtain the true knowledge of God's nature and personality or they will become idolatrous, that is, they will become vain in their imaginations about God — thus making a mental image of what they believe God's likeness and nature to be! "For the invisible things of him 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, neither were thankful; **but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**" Rom. 1:20-21. Even so it is today in our Sick Society. Of Himself, God has declared: "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.**" Isa. 45:7. The New Testament scriptures declare: "No man hath **seen** God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." John 1:18. The key word is "seen." Here the inference is that no mortal man has fully comprehended nor has been shown a full revelation of God. However, we can know the things about God which are revealed through the Holy Scriptures. Deut. 29:29.

### LESSON EXPOSITION:

The Great Creator God, our Great Sovereign and Lord, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:14), declares His own infinite uniqueness: **"I am the Lord, I change not."** Mal. 3:6. **This is God's greatest attribute.** God's love is wonderful — but it can be modified by His righteous judgments, His anger modified by His mercy — but, God never changes His Word through which He has revealed Himself as a Holy God who hates and punishes all sin. "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." Psa. 89:34; I Pet. 1:25.

**"God is not a man,** that He should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Num. 23:19. "For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass." Ezekiel 12:25. God has revealed in His Word, the Holy Bible, all that He desires man to know about Himself — His ways, His looks, that which He loves, that which He hates, what He accepts and what He rejects! Questions are raised again and again such as: "The Bible says, God is love (I John 4:8), so how can God hate, destroy, or cast into hell?" The answer: The Bible reveals God's nature as having two sides: **"Behold therefore the goodness (i.e., the love) and severity of God:** on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off (i.e., without mercy)." Rom. 11:22.

### GOD'S DUAL NATURE.

Jesus Christ came to reveal the true God **and the only true God — the God of the Old Testament.** Jesus did not reveal a "new" God or a "changed" God. He did not speak His own words, but his message that he preached and taught was (in his own words): "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." John 14:24. The God of the Bible loves, hates, is jealous, but is also merciful: **"For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. . .** If thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shall be obedient unto his voice (i.e., His Word); **for the Lord thy God is a merciful God;** he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee." Deut. 4:24, 30-31; Heb. 12:28-29.

### THE WORD WAS GOD.

The Word of a man is what a man really is — **the Word of God is what God really is:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1. Also: "For the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord." I Sam. 3:21. Forasmuch as it is impossible for God to change (Mal. 3:6), or to lie (Heb. 6:18), we can implicitly rely upon what the Holy Scriptures say about God — His nature, His personality, His attributes — that God the Father is the mighty God of the Bible — not the "God" which

philosophers and theologians hypothetically project through their vain imaginations. Today's educated sophisticates reject God's true revelation of Himself in the Bible as the Holy Ghost forewarned: "(They are) ever learning and never able to come unto the knowledge of the truth." II Tim. 3:7.

### **GOD IS SOVEREIGN.**

**Sovereign means: "above all others; supreme in power; independent of all others."** Why is it so difficult for "moderns" to intellectually accept the very word our Great Sovereign has given us in His revelation of Himself as:

- (1) "Jacob have I loved, **but Esau have I hated.**" Rom. 9:13; Mal. 1:2.
- (2) "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: **I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal;** neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." Deut. 32:39. Is God like this? O Yes!
- (3) "**And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die.**" Gen. 6:17. Would God do such a terrible thing? The answer is Yes!
- (4) "All their wickedness is in Gilgal: **for there I hated them;** for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of my house, **I will love them no more.**" Hosea 9:15. (Can God hate? O my!)
- (5) "When Israel was a child, **then I loved him,** and called my son out of Egypt." Hosea 11:1.
- (6) "The Lord trieth the righteous: **but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.**" Psa. 11:5.
- (7) "**Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;** And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground." Gen. 19:24-25. God did it!
- (8) "**And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem;** and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech." Judges 9:23.
- (9) "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; **and God smote him there for his error;** and he died by the ark of God." II Sam. 6:7. God's Judgments are righteous!
- (10) "But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, **and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.**" I Sam. 16:14. (Let God's Word be true and every man a liar — Rom. 3:4).
- (11) "**And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people,** and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died." Num. 21:6. (God's Word declares it true). Also I Cor. 10:9.

- (12) "And it came to pass by the way in the inn, **that the Lord met him (Moses), and sought to kill him.**" Ex. 4:24. Moses had broken God's covenant of circumcision.
- (13) **God changes not!** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17.
- (14) "There is one lawgiver (i.e., God), **who is able to save and to destroy.**" James 4:12.
- (15) **The Holy Ghost slew Ananias and Sapphira** because "they agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord." Acts 5:5, 9-10. (It wasn't a heart attack, but divine judgment).
- (16) Jesus warned: "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: **but rather fear him which is able (i.e., God) to destroy both soul and body in hell.**" Matt. 10:28.
- (17) Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day: "Ye fools and blind. . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites . . . ye serpents, ye generations of vipers, **how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**" Matt. 23:17, 27, 33.
- (18) "**God spared not the angels that sinned. . . (God) spared not the old world, but saved Noah. . . (God) turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes** condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those (i.e., right here in our own Sick Society) that after should live ungodly." II Pet. 2:4-6.

### **GOD'S DELIGHT: UNDERSTAND & KNOW ME.**

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, **that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord, which exercise (1) lovingkindness, (2) judgment, and (3) righteousness, in the earth:** for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Jer. 9:23-24. Jesus declared: "And this is life eternal, **that they may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**" John 17:3.

**Where do we begin our Quest For the Knowledge of God?** Right here: "If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, **and find the knowledge of God.** For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth (i.e., thru His Word) cometh knowledge and understanding." Prov. 2:3-6. But alas, the apostle of our Lord laments: "Awake to righteousness, and sin not: **for some (i.e., professing Christians) have not the knowledge of God;** I speak this to your shame." I Cor. 15:34.

**GOD'S WILL: INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.**

The Holy Ghost exhorts every Christian "to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, **and increasing in the knowledge of God.**" Col. 1:10. Our knowledge of God even at best is only partial (I Cor. 13:9-10), or incomplete, as the Holy Ghost cried out: "**O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out." Rom. 11:33. **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of the knowledge of God.** Prov. 1:7. What God has revealed about Himself in the Bible we cannot reject or accept in part — for, "the secret things belong unto the Lord our God: **but the things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever. . .**" Deut. 29:29.

**THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS NOT OPTIONAL.**

Here is the command of the Spirit to every true Christian: "**Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God** (i.e., about God as revealed in His Word), and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Cor. 10:5. This knowledge of God's ways, about His personality, His nature, and His attributes is vital — because America and our Sick Society are identical with Israel in their declension and backsliding — here is God's rebuke: "The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, **because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. . .** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (i.e., of God)." Hosea 4:1, 6.

God does not request that a Christian know and understand him (Jer. 9:23) — He demands it! Why? Because a Christian who finds the true knowledge of God will fear God! God warns: If His people reject or apathetically ignore the knowledge of God as revealed in His Word, He rejects them! Hosea 4:6; Isa. 5:13. Christian grace and virtue is all attained through increasing our knowledge of God. II Pet. 1:2-3; John 6:45.

**SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Gen. 38:7,10	Num. 11:1	Jer. 12:7-9	Psa. 5:5
I Sam. 2:6-8	Num. 16:25-35	Ezekiel 7:9	Psa. 58:3
I Sam. 25:38	Deut. 28:15-35	Ezekiel 9:4-6	Prov. 16:14
Psa. 145:4-13	Rom. 9:23-24	John 15:1-2	John 6:45-46
Nahum 1:2-3	Ex. 34:14	Acts 17:22-30	Isa. 66:15-16

## PART A. GOD'S LIKENESS

### I. GOD'S PERSON & PERSONALITY.

**a.** **God is a Spirit!** John 4:24. God is not "spirit" as some of today's cults espouse and teach, but, God is "a Spirit," separate, apart, and unique in the spirit world — thus possessing personal identity as individuality and particular being. Pagans and even educated heathens of past ages and of our own modern times who reject God's revelation of Himself, always resort to idolatry — to sculptured images, pictures, or mental images of what they believe to be God's likeness. The Bible condemns this idolatry: "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." Acts 17:29. Because of this idolatry resulting from vain imaginations and not from God's revelation of Himself, God gave up on these men of the past. Rom. 1:21-25. Will God do less with today's Sick Society and idolatrous Christian culture? "God changes not!" — He will give them up!

### BIBLE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S FORM & SHAPE.

(1) **"So God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. . . **so the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; **and man became a living soul.**" Gen. 1:27; 2:7. Thus we see God forming man of the dust of the ground — God then complemented this act of creation, **making man into His own image**, and "man became a living soul." And thus God's Word reveals that our creation was divinely endowed with God's own image (shape) and form — His very own likeness!

(2) "(God) hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high." Heb. 1:2-3. Jesus came from Heaven to bring God's message to a rebellious church (John 12:49; Matt. 15:24) — but, He also came to reveal God's image and likeness — **the revelation that God the Father is a person, possessing individuality and being.**

(3) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **Who, being in the form of God**, thought it not robbery to be equal with God." Phil. 2:5-6. Let this fact be established: Jesus was in His Spirit, in His form, and in His shape — the very manifestation of the True God of Old Testament revelation!

(4) Jesus declared: "And the Father himself, which hath sent me,



hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, **nor seen his shape.**" John 5:37. God has voice and shape!

(5) "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh.**" I Tim. 3:16. **Manifest means: "Apparent to the 5 senses or mind; to make clear or evident; obvious; to prove."** God's likeness and personality is clearly apparent to the 5 senses of men through Jesus Christ. Before proceeding further, let's ponder this grave warning from the Holy Ghost: "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.**" I John 2:22. Cf. Col. 2:2-4.

(6) Jesus further declared: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." John 14:9. The image, form, and shape of God the Father is clearly and overtly revealed (manifested) through Jesus Christ — He was the express image of the person of God — and this is obvious, clear, and evident to every true believer in Christ.

**b.** "No Man Hath Seen God At Any Time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him," said Jesus. John 1:18. Before jumping to premature conclusions, we must look at the definition of "seen": (1) It means "to have gotten knowledge of through the eyes; look at. (2) **To have gained understanding, as, I have seen your point; seen through; to understand the true nature of.**" For all biblical revelations of God's nature and personality to harmonize, the definition of "seen" must be aptly applied as that in italics: (2) "To gain understanding, as, I have seen your point; seen through; to understand (all) the true nature of." No mortal man has ever seen the full and complete understanding of God's nature, ways, and personality!

### **BIBLE EVIDENCE THAT GOD HAS BEEN SEEN, BUT NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD.**

(1) In Christ's own words: "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, **and hath learned of the Father** (notice, this is not the knowledge of God, just about God), cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen (i.e., fully understood) the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father." John 6:45-46. Remember this point without failure, that God's revelation of Himself to man is only partial, not complete! "**For we know in part**, and we prophecy in part. . . For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: **now I know in part**; but then shall I know even as also I am known." I Cor. 13:9-12; Deut. 29:29.

(2) The day of the revelation or manifestation of a complete knowledge of God is yet future: "**The earth shall be full of the know-**

ledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Isa. 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14. This is at Christ’s return and shall be a superior quality of His kingdom right here on this earth for 1000 years!

### THEY SAW GOD!

(3) **“Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. . . also they saw God, and did eat and drink.”** Ex. 24:9-11. The Holy Scriptures declare that these men saw God. It had to be with their eyes (5 senses), because “no man has comprehended nor fully understood God at any time!” This however, was only a fragmentary or partial revelation of God!

(4) **“And (Moses) said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. . . And (God) said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the Lord said, Behold. . . while my glory passeth by, I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”** Ex. 33:18-23. Here, God reveals another fact about His manifestation to man — **“no man can see my face and live!”**

## **c.** GOD REVEALS HIS FORM & FEATURES

### DISCUSSION:

**Does a spirit have form? shape? features that set one spirit apart from another spirit?** The Bible declares that the answer to this mystery is YES! God is a Spirit, distinct, different, and unmistakably unlike any other spirit. God has created His angels spirits (Heb. 1:7; Psa. 104:4), and each of these possess personal identity, even names, separate and apart from the other, just as each human being differs one from the other. Luke 1:19. Jesus explained the difference between a spirit and a body after His resurrection: **“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”** Luke 24:39. In Biblical manifestation, angels always appear as men, and are spoken of in a masculine gender. Spirits have hands, feet, heads, eyes, ears, hair, a mind, and feelings. God also reveals that he possesses a soul! So God created man in His own likeness and image — we bear His likeness in body, soul, and spirit. I Thess. 5:23.

Man’s body makes him earth conscious;  
 His spirit makes him God-conscious;  
 His soul makes him self-conscious;  
 setting him apart from the animal kingdom.

**(1) GOD HAS HANDS & FEET.**

“And (Adam & Eve) heard the voice of the Lord God **walking** in the garden in the cool of the day.” Gen. 3:8. God declares: “I have made the earth, and created man upon it: **I, even my hands**, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.” Isa. 45:12. “And he (Jesus) came and took the book out of **the right hand** of him that sat upon the throne.” Rev. 5:7. “And they saw the God of Israel: and there was **under his feet** as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone.” Ex. 24:10.

**(2) GOD HAS A MOUTH — HE SPEAKS.**

Jesus declared: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth **out of the mouth of God.**” Matt. 4:4. God declares: “So shall my word be that goeth forth **out of my mouth**: it shall not return unto me void.” Isa. 55:11.

**(3) GOD HAS A MIND — HE THINKS.**

God declares: “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former **shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.**” Isa. 65:17. “For I know **the thoughts that I think** toward you, saith the Lord, **thoughts** of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jer. 29:11; Psa. 40:5; Micah 4:12.

**(4) GOD HAS EYES — HE SEES ALL.**

“**For the eyes of the Lord** run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” II Chron 16:9. God warned Israel: “When ye spread forth your hands, I will hide **mine eyes** from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, **I will not hear.**” Isa. 1:15.

**(5) GOD HAS A HEART & SOUL — WITH FEELINGS & EMOTIONS.**

“And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, **and it grieved him at his heart.**” Gen. 6:6. “The Lord said **in his heart**, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake.” Gen. 8:21. “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, **my soul** (God’s) shall have no pleasure in him.” Heb. 10:38. “For in these things **I delight**, saith the Lord.” Jer. 9:24. God said of Christ: “Behold, my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom **my soul** is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him. . .” Matt. 12:18.

**(6) GOD HAS EARS — HE HEARS ALL.**

“Behold, **the Lord’s hand** is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither **his ear** heavy, that it cannot hear.” Isa. 59:1. “**For the eyes of the Lord** are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but **the face of the Lord** is against them that do evil.” I Pet. 3:12.

### (7) GOD HAS A FACE & NOSE — HE SMELLS.

“And I saw a great white throne, and him (God) that sat on it, **from whose face** the earth and the heaven fled away.” Rev. 20:11. “Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering to God for **a sweetsmelling savour.**” Eph. 5:2. God rebuked Israel thusly: “I hate, I despise your feast days, and **I will not smell** in your solemn assemblies.” Amos 5:21.

#### SUMMARY:

The Holy Bible is **the** Word of God — and it contains an adequate analogy of our wonderful Creator — His likeness, His form, His features! However, in Songs, in Psalms, in Proverbs, in Parables, and in Similies, you may very well read in the Bible: “He will cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.” Psalms 91:4. This is a simile or figure of speech so very common to Jewish canon to express the great care and concern of God for His people Israel. God is not a grotesque being as a gremlin caricatured in a horror comic strip — His features were manifested in Christ, the image of the invisible God. We too bear resemblance, for we also are His offspring. Acts 17:29. Col. 1:15. However, God doesn’t sleep (Psalms 121:3-4), neither does He tire nor get weary (Isaiah 40:28) as men do!

#### SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Rom. 15:3	Psa. 94:8-11	Psa. 101:6	Jer. 6:8
Deut. 23:14	Ex. 20:22	Psa. 11:5	Jer. 12:7
Psa. 66:7	Psa. 33:18-19	Isa. 1:14	Exod. 3:7
Ezekiel 8:18	James 5:4	Gen. 8:21	I Sam. 3:10-11

**[d.] THEOPHANIES OF GOD.** A theophany is a manifestation of God (that which is evident or obvious to the 5 senses) in human form.

(1) Jesus Christ was the greatest theophany of the Invisible God: “In whom (i.e., Christ) we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: **Who is the image of the invisible God.**” Col. 1:14-15.

(2) **Also: God appeared unto Abraham in the form of a man.** “And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground. . . And the Lord said (i.e., to the two angels with Him), Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do. . . And the (two) men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: **but Ab-**

**raham stood yet before the Lord.”** Gen. 18:1-2, 17, 22. Here, God’s manifestation was exactly human as also was the two accompanying angels, for “Abraham took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, **and they did eat.”** Gen. 18:8. Compare this manifestation with others revealed in the Holy Scriptures: Gen. 32:30; Judges 13:22.

### **e. GOD’S MANIFESTATION THROUGH VISIONS.**

(1) God declared: “Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak to him in a dream.” Ex. 12:6. Some of God’s greatest personal manifestations that are apparent to the 5 senses, made clear, and prove His being and individuality, are revealed through the visions of the holy prophets and apostles. The following one is perhaps the greatest: “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. . . And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God.” Act 7:55-59. And by the way, he really, really saw what the scriptures relate — not something abstract and hypothetical as taught by perverted teachers.

(2) Now for the second most scintillating vision of the manifestation of God as recorded in the prophetic scriptures: “(Daniel) beheld till the thrones were cast down, **and the Ancient of Days (God) did sit**, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened (this was God). . . I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man (this is Jesus Christ) came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days (i.e., God the Father), and they brought him near before him.** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him (Christ).” Dan. 7:9-14.

(3) Here is God’s Revelation of Himself to the Apostle John: “And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain (i.e., Jesus), having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. **And he (i.e., Christ) came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne (i.e., God the Father).”** Rev. 5:6-7; Also Rev. 4:1-11. This manifestation of God is apparent to the mind of a true Christian; it is clear, it is obvious, and it helps prove the uniqueness, the being, and individuality of God. Cf. also Josh. 5:13-15; 6:1-2.

### **f. GOD REVEALS HIS BEING & INDIVIDUALITY THROUGH HIS WORD.**

(1) "Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?" Prov. 30:4. God is a Father and possesses parental love and concern — but, He demands discipline and obedience.

(2) "And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord." I Sam. 3:21.

(3) "For thus saith the high and lofty One that **inhabiteth eternity**, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isa. 57:15.

(4) Jesus prayed: "**Holy Father**, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, **that they may be one, as we are.**" John 17:11.

(5) "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at his coming. **Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father**; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power (i.e., at the end of the 1000 year millenium). For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death: For he (i.e., God the Father) hath put all things under his (Christ's) feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest (i.e., made clear to the minds of all Christians) that he (i.e., God) is excepted, which did put all things under him (Christ). And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him (i.e., God the Father) that put all things under him, **that God may be all in all.**" I Cor. 15:23-28. This is a composite and vividly detailed manifestation of God's being and individuality — it is clear, apparent to the 5 senses, obvious, and proves His uniqueness of person — the very God — possessing Being and Individuality. In the words of the holy prophet: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, **even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**" Psalm 90:2.

### **g. GOD'S REVELATION THROUGH NATURE!**

(1) "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language,

where their voice is not heard.” Psalm 19:1-3. All the wonders of nature declare that the great Creator God is, but it does not teach the knowledge of His being and individuality as a real person, with soul, with heart, with mind that possess deep feelings and desires.

(2) “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things which are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse.**” Rom. 1:20. Nature, the firmament, and all creation about us, ever reveal a divine object lesson of perfect law, perfect plan, perfect order, perfect method. This glorious creation about us with its millions of wondrous phenomena pulsing ever in harmony with eternal law must have a Creator; **that Creator which all nature reveals must be omniscient and omnipotent.** However, nature does not reveal the knowledge of that Creator, His love, His being, what He accepts, nor what He rejects — that is, what that Creator demands of His greatest creation — man!

### **SUMMARY:**

God has declared to those who ponder intellectual questions about His likeness: “To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. **Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number (i.e., the planets): he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. . .** Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.” Isa. 40:25-28.

### **GOD MANIFESTED IN ALL NATURE.**

(1) **To skeptics and unbelievers of His Word, God has revealed Himself through nature:** “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against. . . men who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest (i.e., clearly understood) in them, for God hath shewed it unto them. . . so that they are without excuse.” Rom. 1:18-20. All the forces of nature — heat, light, electricity, and gravitation — are silent and invisible. We never see them; we only know they exist by seeing the effects they produce. So it is with God, the very creator of these natural forces that serve men to their good if properly respected. God, though invisible, is evidenced everywhere by his visible works in nature — especially the four seasons of each year, a wondrous phenomenon, operational with no assistance from men nor their technology!

### **GOD MANIFESTED THROUGH ALL HIS WORD.**

(2) **To believers of His Word, God's manifestation of Himself (i.e., a clear and obvious revelation) is through His unadulterated Word, through faith.** "For without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe (1) **that he is (i.e., He Possesses Being)**, and (2) **that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**" Heb 11:6. God has revealed Himself through various forms in manifesting Himself — therefore, no vain concept of God is accepted by Him, but is a provocation to Him. "The world by wisdom knew not God." I Cor. 1:21.

We must not be filled with vain imaginations about God, nor stare with inquisitiveness into the darkness of the spirit world, vainly striving to see God's likeness. The children of Israel sought to see God upon Mount Horeb where Moses had ascended to commune with God: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish." Ex. 19:20-21.

### **GOD WILL BE MANIFESTED IN JUDGMENT**

(3) **"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."** Eccles. 12:13-14. What does our Great Creator demand of me (or you), a creature made in His divine image? **This is the knowledge of God that counts:** "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Micah 6:8. What a revelation!

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Psa. 8:1-9

Heb. 8:11

I Tim. 1:17

John 1:14

I Kings 22:19-23

II Chron. 30:22

I Tim. 6:16

I John 5:7

Isa. 6:1-8

Isa. 66:1-2

Acts 17:22-30

Col. 2:9



## PART B. GOD'S DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

### DISCUSSION:

"Great is our Lord, and of great power: **his understanding is infinite.**" Psa. 147:5. Also: "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; **and his greatness is unsearchable.**" Psa. 145:3. Further: "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." Gen. 17:1. And further: "Ye shall be holy: **for I the Lord your God am holy.**" Lev. 19:2; I Pet. 1:15-16. These revelations of God about Himself declare: (1) God has infinite understanding; (2) Unsearchable greatness; (3) Power unlimited (Almighty); and, (4) He is Perfect in Holiness. **The word infinite means: "lacking limits; endless; unmeasurable; very great; vast."** God's attributes are limitless and unmeasurable — His Omnipotence (All Powerful) — His Omniscience (All Wise) — His Omnipresence (Everywhere Present) — His Holiness (He is The Holy One). **The word attribute means: "To think of as belonging to; to ascribe to; a characteristic or quality of a person or thing."** Now listen to this Word: "**Ascribe ye greatness unto our God.** He is our Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Deut. 32:3-4. God's attributes of greatness are all Divine — Infinite, Unsearchable, Limitless, Immeasurable! "I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker." Job 36:3. Also: "**Ascribe ye strength unto God.**" Psa. 68:34.

### GOD'S SILENCE.

God's silence is often interpreted by ignorant and unbelieving men to be a manifestation of weakness or tolerance — God is neither weak nor tolerant! Voices in heaven will cry out as the prophetic scriptures reveal in the time of the end: "We give thee thanks, **O Lord God Almighty,** which art, and was, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." Rev. 11:17. Also: "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. . . These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; **thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself (i.e., as a man):** but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. Now consider this, ye that forget God, **lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.**" Psa. 50:3, 21-22.

## I. GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE!

### DISCUSSION:

**The word Omnipotence means: "having unlimited power or authority; all-powerful."** This divine attribute can only be ascribed to God. His power has no limits except by his own decreed restraints.

“For there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or few.” I Sam. 14:6. The Prophet David declared: **“The remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.”** Psa. 76:10. God literally did this in Noah’s day: “The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and **the rain from heaven was restrained.**” Gen. 8:2. Isaiah cried to the Lord: “Thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?” Isa. 63:15. Even though God is all-powerful, yet he restrains or limits that power to His own discretion: “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.” Psa. 103:13-14.

### **a. GOD THE CREATOR.**

- (1) “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Gen. 1:1.
- (2) “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?” Jer. 32:27.
- (3) “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: **for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**” Rev. 4:11.
- (4) “**God hath made of one blood all nations of men** for to dwell on all the face of the earth, **and hath determined the times before appointed,** and, the bounds of their habitation; 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.**” Acts 17:26-27.
- (5) “For the creature (i.e., man) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him (i.e., God) who hath subjected the same in hope.” Rom. 8:20.
- (6) God taught His servant Job out of the whirlwind in a questioning manner: “Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the cornerstone thereof. . . When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed. . .” Job 38:4-11.
- (7) “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why has thou made me thus?” Rom. 9:20.
- (8) **God created the angels:** “And of the angels he saith, Who

maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire." Heb. 1:7; Psa. 104:1-5.

(9) **God Created Everything Visible and Invisible.** "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." Col. 1:16. Creation thru Christ, the Word of God. John 1:1-4.

(10) Of His Father, Jesus declared: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen." Matt. 6:13.

**b.** **God's Word — Unlimited!** "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb. 11:3. **God spoke all physical and material creation into existence from nothing — except man!** Gen. 1:20-28. Man was carefully and elaborately created by God's own hands! As the prophet declared: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psa. 139:14.

### DISCUSSION:

If God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth (and all things which are therein) is not Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient, He would not be God. "The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet." Nahum 1:3. All things were created for His pleasure and by His own counsel. "(God) worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Eph. 1:9, 11. God limits his own omnipotence by His own decree so that man can trust God, rely on God, and come to obey and love Him. God destroyed the entire world of Noah's Day and all therein that he had created, by the Great Flood, but He promised all succeeding generations of Noah's descendants: "And I will establish my covenant (i. e., promise) with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth." The rainbow is a token of this promise of God! Gen. 9:11-16. God's Word is never altered to fit men or circumstances.

**God's Word promises:** "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against (until) the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." II Pet. 3:6-7. The greatest hope and consolation of Christians, their greatest knowledge possible of the Almighty God, is that God the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ never change. Cf. Mal. 3:6; Heb. 6:18-19; 13:8; James 1:17.

**God's greatest demonstration of His Omnipotence was shown**

**in Christ's resurrection** — the creation of a perfect human body from corruption into incorruption — from mortal into immortality: "And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power (unlimited), Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised Him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places." Eph. 1:19-20; I Cor. 15:42-50.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Psa. 8:1-8	Psa. 50:10-12	Rev. 11:16-17	Rev. 21:22
Psa. 22:28	Exod. 6:3	Isa. 45:7	Psa. 2:9-12
Psa. 24:1-2	Psa. 104:1-30	Psa. 145:20	Jer. 5:22

## **II. GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE**

### **DISCUSSION:**

**Omnipresent means: "to be present in all places at the same time."** "God is in heaven, and thou upon earth" says the Wisdom of God. Eccles. 5:2. The Prophet and Psalmist of God revealed: "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there. . . If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee. . . the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. . . My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, Yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." Psa. 139:7-16. **My, what a stimulating and exciting revelation!** Before we were born or even thought of, God's Book of Records (Vital Statistics) in heaven already contained our description and biography! As God told the prophet: "Before I formed thee in the belly (i.e., his mother's) I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Jer. 1:5. And again, let us exclaim with the Apostle by the Holy Ghost: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God: how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out." Rom. 11:33.

### **AN EXAMPLE OF GOD'S UNIVERSAL PRESENCE.**

**God is present everywhere, but His being; that is, His personal, individual presence is on His throne in the City of God, Heaven.** "The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." Psa. 11:4. The New Testament scriptures reveal the same: "Let us come boldly to (God's) throne of grace." Heb. 4:16. Also: "It is Christ that died, Yea rather,

that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 8:1-2; I Pet. 3:22. Study these carefully. **God's presence is like the sunshine** and we all are aware of its absolute necessity to life. It also is absolutely impartial in its effect on all matter. However, the orb of heat and light men call the sun is 93,000,000 miles from our planet, but its presence is felt everywhere. It illumines a fallen leaf by the roadside just as impartially as it does mighty Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain. Likewise, God is on His throne in the heaven of heavens, but His literal presence is everywhere — by His Spirit! Remember: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." Psa. 115:16; 48:1-2.

### **GOD IS A SPIRIT & HE HAS A SPIRIT!**

**This is not enigmatic — it is a paradox — for God is a Person — though not human.** Is not Gabriel a person? — the Bible calls this arch-angel (spirit) a man, and so he is! Dan. 9:21; cf. Gen. 32:24; Mk. 12:25. There are no contradictions in God's Word about Himself. Each fragmentary revelation of God's personality fits into the whole composite revelation.

### **THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**

(1) "**And the spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters." Gen. 1:2.

(2) "But they rebelled, and vexed **his holy Spirit**: therefore he was turned to be their enemy and he fought against them." Isa. 63:10. "**His holy Spirit**" is possessive, as belonging to God, and emanating from His very presence.

(3) "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but **the Spirit of God.**" I Cor. 2:11. Remember, the Spirit of God has 7 manifestations: Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5. Also: "There is one body, **and one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph. 4:4-6. Like the sun which God created, God is omnipresent. "His (i.e., the sun's) going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: **and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.**" Psa. 19:6; cf. Matt. 12:18.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Ex. 31:1-3	Dan. 4:9	I Pet. 4:14	Psa. 51:11
Gen. 41:38	Eph. 4:30	Job 27:3	Gen. 6:3
Zech. 7:12	Isa. 48:16	Num. 11:29	Heb. 12:10
Psa. 47:8	Isa. 6:1	Matt. 23:22	Rev. 3:21

**a. GOD SEES & HEARS EVERYTHING.**

(1) "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, **beholding the evil and the good.**" Prov. 15:3.

(2) "Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt require it. **Thou (i.e., God) hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand.**" Psa. 10:14.

(3) "And the Lord said, I have surely **seen** the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have **heard** their cry by reason of their taskmasters: for I **know** their sorrows." Ex. 3:7.

**b. GOD SEES OUR HEARTS — HE KNOWS OUR THOUGHTS.**

(1) "And (Jesus) said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; **but God knoweth your hearts.**" Luke 16:15.

(2) "**For the Lord searchest all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.**" I Chron. 28:9.

(3) "Hell and destruction are before the Lord: **how much more then the hearts of the children of men.**" Prov. 15:11.

(4) "Shall not God search this out? **for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.**" Psa. 44:21.

(5) "O God, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, **thou understandeth my thoughts** afar off. Thou compasseth my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether." Psa. 139:1-3.

**c. GOD KEEPS OUR RECORDS.**

(1) Moses said to God: "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin —; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of **thy book** which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of **my book.**" Ex. 32:32-33.

(2) Another of God's prophets declared: "Put thou my tears into thy bottle: **are they not in thy book?**" Psa. 56:8.

(3) God assured us further: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a **book of remembrance** was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine when I make up my jewels." Mal. 3:16-17.

(4) Jesus warned; "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matt. 12:36.

(5) Everything done or said in our lifetime is kept in God's records, reserved for judgment: "**For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing**, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccles. 12:14.

(6) "**In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men** by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." Rom. 2:16.

(7) At God's Last Judgment: "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books** were opened: and **another book** was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of **those things which were written in the books**, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

### SUMMARY:

God's angels keep records for God on all human activities with accuracy (Eccles. 5:6) — and, God will balance those records for or against each of us with finality. **God is patient with sinners, but He is not tolerant with their sin!** The scriptures declare God's infinite longsuffering thusly: "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord: Behold, the husbandman (i.e., God — John 15:1) waiteth for the precious fruit (i.e., harvest of souls) of the earth, and hath long patience for it until he receive the early and latter rain." James 5:7. God's records will determine His severity or mercy at His Great Judgment Seat. God's trusted servant, Job, confidently declared: "Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, **and my record is on high.**" Job 16:19. God's day of final judgment will be attended by every person who ever lived on this earth. God is ever-present, and whatever we say or do, "God hast seen it; for He beholdest mischief and spite" — "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do**" — that is, Our Great Creator! Psa. 10:14; Heb. 4:13.

### SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Psa. 14:2	Psa. 94:12-16	John 2:24-25	Heb. 4:12
Prov. 21:2	I Sam. 16:7	Acts 10:1-4	Rev. 2:23
Jer. 17:10	Rev. 3:5	Rev. 17:9	Luke 16:2

### III. GOD'S OMNISCIENCE.

#### DISCUSSION:

**Omniscient means "knowing all things."** The inference also means to be all-wise by virtue of omniscience — unlimited knowledge. Only God can be omniscient! Man could not trust God completely in faith if God did not possess all knowledge — past, present, and future. God is sovereign in power, knowledge, and wisdom.

#### GOD HAS A MASTER PLAN FOR MAN'S PARTICIPATION!

**God invites men to fit in His plan of redemption and reconciliation!**

It has been "blueprinted" and revealed through God's Word! **Men can accept God's plan or reject it!** God will not fit into men's plans and schemes and lifestyles — God is too big and too holy! Men must humble themselves and renounce all sin and self-will to fit into God's great plan as the Bible reveals (Matt. 23:11-12; Micah 6:8) — into His ways and life-styles! Isa. 55:6-9. Through His foreknowledge (omniscience), God is prepared for every crisis in human affairs well in advance of the erupting crises. **Men do not spring surprises on God either in acts or responses** — no person, group, or nation springs a "headliner" on God.

**God rules in the affairs of men and nations** — His plans being implemented by His Sovereign Power, Knowledge and Wisdom. "For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations." Psalm 22:28. Also the prophet Daniel declared: "The demand (is) by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, **and setteth up over it the basest of men.**" Dan. 4:17. By God's foreknowledge (omniscience), the Book of Life was written before the foundation of the world, inscribed with the names of God's elect of all ages — that is, those who would accept participation in God's Great Master Plan of Redemption. Rev. 17:8. **Ponder this revelation: "The Lord hath made all things for himself: Yea, even the wicked for the day of evil."** Prov. 16:4. The prophecies of the Holy Scriptures prove beyond a doubt the foreknowledge and, i.e., the omniscience of God.

**a.** God revealed his omniscience thusly: "Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: **before they spring forth I tell you of them.**" Isa. 42:9.

**b.** "For whom he did foreknow (i.e., through His omniscience), he also did predestinate (i.e., foreordained) to be conformed to the image of his Son. . . Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." Rom. 8:29-30. Caution is needed



here: God's foreknowledge preceded His predestination or foreordination in bringing men into His Great Master plan, whom God, by His omniscience foreknew would repent and serve Him obediently!

**c.** **"He hath chosen us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his (God's) will."** Eph. 1:4-5. God formulated His master plan without seeking man's counsel (in fact, even before man's creation), and God implements that great plan without regarding men's protests.

**NOTE THIS WARNING CAREFULLY:** Even the greatest among God's saints don't know who all His elect are — so the Gospel of Grace must be preached to every creature. **God also warns Christians: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."** I Cor. 10:12; cf. Rom. 11:19-22 also. Jesus also revealed this truth through this sober warning: "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Matt. 20:16.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Isa. 48:3,5	Eph. 1:11	Job 26:6-7	John 12:37-43
Acts 2:22-23	Acts 15:18	Matt. 13:35	Matt. 25:34
Acts 13:48	Heb. 4:3	John 17:24	I Pet. 1:20

## **IV. GOD'S HOLINESS.**

### **DISCUSSION:**

To walk worthy of the Lord well pleasing, the Holy Ghost exhorts all Christians: "Being fruitful in every good work, **and increasing in the knowledge of God.**" Col. 1:10. **The knowledge of God's Holiness is vital — this is what counts!** The knowledge of His divine attributes of Omnipotence, Omnipresence, and Omniscience are important to a Christian — but, to know, to really be knowledgeable of God's Holiness is indispensable! "If ye know that he is righteous (Holy), ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." I John 2:29. Also: "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." Psalm 145:17.

"Thus saith the high and lofty one who inhabiteth eternity, **whose name is Holy.**" Isa. 57:15. The cherubim and seraphim before God's throne cry out day and night in remembrance of His Holiness: "**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.**" Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8. David, God's prophet exhorted: "Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, **and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.**" Psa. 30:4.

### **BE YE PARTAKERS OF MY HOLINESS, SAITH GOD!**

Holiness, righteousness, godliness are attributes ascribed to God that He will impart to those who obediently fit into His Great Master Plan of Redemption. This order of divine acceptance be sure to remember: God (1) Foreknew, (2) Predestinated, (3) Called, (4) Justified, and (5) Glorified. Rom. 8:30.

### **GOD'S CALLING & ACCEPTANCE IS CONTINGENT UPON MAN'S OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD UNTO HOLINESS.**

(1) "God hath. . . called us unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth (holiness), despiseth. . . God." I Thess. 4:7-8.

(2) "That we might be partakers of his holiness." Heb. 12:10.

(3) "As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (i.e., behaviour)." I Pet. 1:15.

(4) **"Elect, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."** I Pet. 1:2. The Whole Truth!

### **GOD'S HOLINESS IS MANIFESTED THROUGH HIS HOLY SAINTS!**

(5) "What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." II Cor. 6:16-18. God's conditions, holiness of heart, mind, and body for His dwelling with and in a person, is obvious and clear.

**God desires fellowship with man as Adam enjoyed in the Garden of Eden before his sin destroyed it.** But "if we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness (i.e., not in the light of God's Word), we lie, and do not the truth." I John 1:6. Men can be restored to fellowship with God through the righteousness of Jesus Christ which is imparted to those who repent and accept Him as Lord and Master. "If we walk in the light (of God's Word), as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7. However, "Whosoever doeth not righteousness (i.e., liveth not a holy life) is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." I John 3:10.

**a. GOD LOVES!**

- (1) **"Judah hath profaned the holiness of God which he loved."** Mal. 2:11.
- (2) **"For I the Lord love judgment."** Isa. 61:8.
- (3) **"For God so loved the world** (i.e., collectively) **that he gave his only begotten son. . ."** John 3:16.
- (4) Jesus said: **"If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him (i.e., on an individual basis), and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."** John 14:23.
- (5) Thus saith the wisdom of God: **"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."** Prov. 8:17.

**SUMMARY:**

**"God is love."** I John 4:8. But conversely, **"Love is not God"** as modern theology espouses God to be. **God is also a jealous God** — He becomes angry and outraged against men that rebel against His Word. **God declared of His rebellious church of old: "I will love them no more** — for the wickedness of their doings will I drive them out of my house." Hosea 9:15.

**God Has Another Side.** The Holy Ghost warns even Christians to **"Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness (i.e. love), if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."** Rom. 11:22. The apostle of Jesus Christ warned: **"Keep yourselves in the love of God."** Jude 21. God's love is like an ocean, but the only means by which one may remain in it is: **"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."** John 15:10. **God is not just a bundle of love** — He is the source of divine love to those who accept it through Christ in complete obedience to His Word. If God has truly put His love in an individual, that person will keep God's Commandments. I John 5:3.

**b. GOD HATES!**

- (1) **"These six things doth the Lord hate; Yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."** Prov. 6:16-19.
- (2) **"The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."** Psa. 5:5.

(3) "The Lord trieth the righteous: **but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.**" Psa. 11:5.

(4) "As it is written, **Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.**" Rom. 9:13; cf. Mal. 1:2-4.

### **SUMMARY:**

God possesses all the emotions that He endowed to man as Creator — Love, joy, pleasure, jealousy, grief, anger, hatred! The apostle exclaimed to God's saints: "I am jealous over you with godly jealousy." II Cor. 11:2. The apostle also taught: "Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?" Rom. 3:5-6. **Through God's foreknowledge, He calls, chooses, justifies, and glorifies His elect.** The call of God through His church is: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. **And whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. However: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him," said Jesus. John 6:44. Moreover: "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his." II Tim. 2:19. Further, ponder this: "For (God) saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. . . Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth." Rom. 9:15-18. For an answer to this mystery, let all true children of God (i.e., His elect) exclaim with the apostle: "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. Let God's Word be true about God, and every man a liar (Rom. 3:4), even this mystery of godliness!

### **c.] WHO DOES GOD REJECT?**

(1) **All who reject the knowledge of God!** "There is no knowledge of God in the land. . . my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge (i.e., of God), I will also reject thee." Hos. 4:1, 6; cf. I Sam. 15:23; Hos. 6:6; Rom. 1:28.

(2) **Christians who bear no fruit!** In this allegory the Holy Ghost warns: "But that (i.e., that Christian) which beareth thorns and briars is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned." Heb. 6:8; cf. John 15:6; Matt. 13:22; Deut. 29:18-20.

(3) **A Reprobate! This means "to become unprincipled; depraved."** To the church of old the prophet pronounced this judgment: "Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the Lord hath rejected them." Jer. 6:30. Why? "They were all given to covetousness; they were not ashamed of their abominations which they practiced; they

would not repent and return to walk in God's ways." (Jer. 6:13-17). Cf. II Kings 17:20; Jer. 7:29; Titus 3:10-11.

(4) **All Who Practice Sinning!** "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not. . . **whosoever committeth sin is of the devil.**" I John 3:6-8. Jesus warned: "Except ye repent (i.e., quit sinning — turn away from sin), ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. **The Holy Ghost warns unequivocally:** "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Heb. 10:26. This warning means what it says! **Of Sampson:** "And he wist not that **the Lord was departed from him.**" Jud. 16:20. **Of Saul:** "**But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from God troubled him.**" I Sam. 16:14. **Of the Laodicean church:** "I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:16. The Lord left that church but He offered to return if "they would be zealous, and repent (Rev. 3:19)."

(5) **Those Who Do Not Live Godly!** "Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. **God's grace teaches all Christians to live holy:** "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation (i.e., grace by which we are saved) hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:11.

Jesus stressed this very contention: "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple.**" Luke 14:27. A Cross + Crucifixion of the flesh = Sanctification and Holiness. **The Holy Ghost's grave warning:** "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person (i.e., among Christians), as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: **for he found no place of repentance,** though he sought it carefully with tears." Heb. 12:16-17.

### **SUMMARY:**

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31)" when God becomes angry (Luke 14:21). God is long-suffering — infinite in patience and mercy. I Pet. 3:20. He waited on men to repent for 120 years in Noah's days because: "The Lord is not slack (i.e., tolerant) concerning his promise (i.e., tolerant in judging men for their wickedness), as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Pet. 3:9. God made Hell because His foreknowledge told Him that men and angels would sin and not repent. Matt. 25:41. Because of God's patience, arrogant and ignorant men depict God as tolerant with sin. "**The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked:** the Lord

hath his way in the whirlwind (i.e., tornadoes) and in the storm (i.e., hurricanes, etc.), and the clouds are the dust of his feet.” Nahum 1:3.

### SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Matt. 10:30	Jer. 6:8	Hos. 9:12-15	Prov. 1:24-30
Jer. 12:7-8	Jer. 43:4	Amos 5:21-24	Matt. 25:41
Jer. 15:6-7	Zech. 8:17	Isa. 1:14-20	John 12:37-43

## V. A GOD OF JUDGMENT.

### DISCUSSION:

“**For the Lord is a God of judgment:** blessed are all they that wait for him.” Isa. 30:18. Also: “Thus saith the Lord. . . let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise (1) Lovingkindness, (2) **Judgment**, and (3) Righteousness in the earth.” Jer. 9:23-24. God’s judgments are true and righteous altogether, that is, through His Word. Psa. 19:9. For instance: “For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth (Psa. 33:4)” — and, “I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right (Psa. 119:75),” said David the prophet. **God will bring every individual into judgment (Eccles. 11:9), every work (Eccles. 12:14), and every sin (Heb. 9:27).** “(God) will judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.” Psa. 9:8.

### **a.** WHERE DO GOD’S JUDGMENTS BEGIN?

(1) “**For the time has come that judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” I Pet. 4:17-18. A vivid illustration was given to the early church of Jesus Christ (by God) which is our example also: “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost. . . thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost.” Acts 5:3-5. This rebellious disciple with his wife Sapphira both died in God’s house, victims of God’s divine judgments. Here, God overtly manifested His disapproval and judgment as a warning to God’s people. However, if all rebellious disciples of Christ were justifiably sentenced to have God’s judgment executed suddenly upon them without divine restraint, churches of today would be filled with dead bodies! cf. Amos 8:3.

(2) “Yea, the stork in the heavens knoweth her appointed times; and

the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; **but my people know not the judgment of the Lord.**" Jer. 8:7. This accusation sounds familiar, and is truly applicable to today's church. Also: The prophet cried: "(Lord), when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." Isa. 26:9. God's judgments begin with His own people.

### SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Deut. 32:35-36	Prov. 29:26	Hab. 1:12	Matt. 5:21
Psa. 10:4-5	Amos 5:15	Ezek. 18:30	Jer. 2:13
Ezek. 38:18-23	Amos 3:1-2	Ezek. 9:1-6	John 7:24

#### **b.** GOD CAN REPENT OF HIS JUDGMENT!

(1) "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. For the Lord shall judge his people, **and repent himself for his servants**, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left." Deut. 32:35-36.

(2) "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; **and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.**" Jonah 3:10.

#### SUMMARY:

God's actions and responses to men's sins and rebellion are always in perfect accord with His revealed judgments — His Word. Ezek. 44:23-24. God has warned men well in advance of His judgments. However, God's judgments can often be modified or restrained by man's proper response — that is, Repentance! God says to all rebellious men and nations as to Israel: "Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause my anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord. . . Only acknowledge thine iniquities, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God. . . and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord." Jer. 3:12-13. So repent! Verse 14.

#### REMEMBER — GOD NEVER CHANGES.

God very often gets weary of repenting, that is, restraining His judgments through His longsuffering — toward nations and His own people! **"But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the Lord."** Jer. 12:17; cf. Jer. 18:7-10. "Thou hast forsaken me, saith the Lord, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee and destroy thee (i.e., God's own people); **I am weary of repenting.** And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; and I will bereave them of

children, I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways (i.e., they won't repent)." Jer. 15:6-7. This warning from the Lord is equal to His warning proffered to the Laodicean church: "I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:16-19. Who judges for God among His people? "And the righteous men, they shall judge them." Ezek. 23:45. Also: "Do not ye judge them that are within (i.e., the church). But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." I Cor. 5:9-13.

### SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Joel 2:12-14	Gen. 6:6	Jer. 16:17-18	Psa. 107:43-45
Amos 7:1-6	Ex. 32:14	I Sam. 15:29	I Cor. 6:1-3
Ezek. 22:1-2	I Cor. 2:15	Isa. 28:5-6	II Chron. 19:6-7

## VI. GOD'S CONCERN & CARE.

### DISCUSSION:

God cannot be seen by proud and vain men, because He cannot be diagnosed in a chemist's test tube, nor weighed on a technician's scales, nor analyzed under a scientist's microscope, nor peered at through an astronomer's telescope. Galileo, the inventor of the telescope, looked far out into space through his new invention, then stated: "I can't see God, therefore he doesn't exist." Science and technology have produced a "god" with no heart nor soul. In King Solomon's expression of the vastness and majesty of God, we concur: "But will God indeed dwell on earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee: how much less this house that I have builded? Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day." I Kings 8:27-28. God answered by fire!

**THE DECLARATION:** "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nahum 1:7. Also: "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. **Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.**" Psalm 145:15-16. God's goodness is manifested to turn men to God, as Jesus explained: "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matt. 5:45. The Holy Ghost also exclaimed: "**The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.**" Rom. 2:4. **It is not God's fault that famine and want exist in a world of abundance.** These tragedies are the results of religious superstition (as in India, Bangladesh, etc.), greed, and sloth! All of these human characteristics, God abhors and rewards with want!



**a. GOD CARES FOR ALL HIS CREATION**

(1) "He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. . . He causeth the grass to grow for cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. . . These wait all upon thee that thou mayest give them their meat in due season." Psa. 104:10-27.

(2) "Thou (God) visiteth the earth, and waterest it. . . Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly. . . thou makest it soft with showers . . . **Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.**" Psa. 65:9-11.

(3) "**For (God) maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.**" Matt. 5:45.

**SUMMARY:**

God loves all his creation impersonally — but, only obedient, God-fearing men can receive and enjoy God's personal affection and love with His fellowship. "The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. **The Lord preserveth all them that love him:** but all the wicked will he destroy." Psa. 145:18-20.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT:** "Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire." Heb. 12:28-29. Also: "And his (God's) mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation." Luke 1:50. And: "Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. . . By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." Psa. 33:6-8. God has warned rebellious and sinful men of His conditions that lead to divine favor: "**But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.**" Isa. 66:2. This will ever lead men to true repentance and to God's personal love and fellowship, for: "NOW (God) commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30. This is the true grace of God. I Pet. 5:12.

**b. GOD'S CARE FOR HIS OWN!**

(1) "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." Psa. 34:15-16.

(2) "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psa. 55:22.

(3) Jesus revealed: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) **for your heavenly Father knoweth** that ye have need of all these things. **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**" Matt. 6:31-33.

(4) To Christians the Apostle Peter exhorts: "Casting all your care upon him; for he (i.e., God) careth for you." I Pet. 5:7.

### SUMMARY:

"The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy." Psa. 147:11. Also: "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Verse 3. **Most men are prone to forget that God has children, but also, the Devil has children.** Who does God watch over with a jealous, personal love? Those who truly love Him — His own children. Read Psa. 101:6-8. Note: "**The children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil.**" I John 3:10. Jesus rebuked His adversaries thusly: "**Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do (John 8:44)**" — this is a great revelation!

**God Chastens His Children Who Are Rebellious, even though He loves them.** "Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble. . . He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction." Psa. 107:11-20; Heb. 12:5-11. (Study this carefully).

God's conditions for Receiving His Special Guardianship, His personal love, and continuous fellowship is vividly and clearly revealed: "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, **because we keep His Commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**" I John 3:21-22.

**THE EPITOME:** "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, **and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**" Heb. 11:6. God hath said: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee (Heb. 13:5)"; as the apostle quoted from the Old Testament: "He will not fail thee nor forsake thee (Deut. 31:6)"; but this promise is only given upon this condition: Obedience to God's Word. John 8:31; James 1:7,22.

**David warned Solomon:** "If thou seek him (God), he will be found of thee; **but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever.**" I Chron. 28:9. The New Testament scriptures warn of "Cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray." II Pet. 2:14-15. If God's children forsake Him (do not follow Christ obediently), the Lord will forsake them — "And God is no respecter of persons." Rom. 2:11; Acts 10:34-35.

### **c. A WARNING.**

God's Nature and Personality are revealed (manifested) throughout the Holy Scriptures — "Precept upon precept. . . line upon line. . . here a little, there a little" — and, those who reject God's revelation of Himself in any other manner or from any other source will "fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken." Isa. 28:9-13.

### **FINAL & CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF GOD'S NATURE & PERSONALITY AS THIS LESSON PRESENTS:**

(1) "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God." Psa. 9:17.

(2) "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law; That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked." Psa. 94:12-13.

(3) **At Christ's Judgment Seat:** "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, Ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matt. 25:41. Christ is patient but not tolerant!

(4) **At God's Judgment Seat:** "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them (i.e., to hide). And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God, and the books were opened. . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:11-15. God can destroy!

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Psa. 18:25-26	Heb. 4:14-16	I John 5:14-15	John 15:7
Psa. 91:14-16	Jonah 2:8	Isa. 1:28	Isa. 54:17
I Chron. 28:9	Jer. 23:33	Psa. 33:18-19	Psa. 7:11
Ezra 8:22	Deut. 31:16-17	Psa. 89:7	Mal. 4:1-3

# Lesson No. 4

## The Bible School of Prophecy

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This Lesson Prepared For  
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P.O. Box 26446 Jacksonville, FL 32226 U.S.A.

Brother Ray Pringle, *Editor*  
Sister June Carpenter, *Associate Editor*

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