



BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

Who Is Like Our God?

The Incomparable Character and Glory of God

The Short Answer

No one. Scripture repeatedly asks, "Who is like God?" because the answer is unmistakable: there is no one like Him. God alone is eternal, self-existent, all-powerful, all-knowing, perfectly holy, completely just, unfailingly faithful, overflowing in steadfast love, sovereign over creation, and worthy of all worship.

**Exodus 15:11 · Deuteronomy 4:35, 39 · Psalm 86:8-10 · Isaiah 40:18-31
Micah 7:18-20 · John 1:1-18 · Colossians 1:15-20**

Opening Memory Anchor

There is no one like God - and this incomparable God has made Himself known.



WELCOME

This guide is meant to send you back to Scripture

The Bible does not introduce God as one spiritual being among many. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture presents Him as utterly unique. He has no rival, no equal, and no beginning. He creates but is not created; sustains all things but is sustained by nothing; and is perfectly holy, righteous, wise, loving, merciful, faithful, and true.

Yet the wonder of Scripture is not simply that God is infinitely greater than humanity. The wonder is that this God makes Himself known and draws near.

Part One introduces the biblical foundation of God's incomparability in accessible language. Part Two explores deeper questions about God's being, attributes, transcendence, immanence, the Trinity, divine emotion, human freedom, suffering, judgment, and how God's incomparable character is ultimately revealed through Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE NOTE

This study primarily provides Scripture references and careful paraphrases so readers can open and read the passages in their preferred Bible translation. Brief quoted wording may vary somewhat between translations.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

The goal of studying God's attributes is not merely to collect facts about God. Biblical theology should lead to biblical worship. The more clearly God is seen as He has revealed Himself, the more fitting the response becomes: wonder, trust, obedience, humility, love, and worship.



PART ONE

BEGINNER GUIDE - There Is No One Like God

MEMORY ANCHOR

God is not merely greater than everything else. He is in a category all His own.

1. WHAT DOES "WHO IS LIKE OUR GOD?" MEAN?

It is one of Scripture's great worship questions. Read Exodus 15:11; Psalm 35:10; Psalm 71:19; Psalm 86:8; Psalm 89:6-8; Micah 7:18. The expected answer is: no one. God is incomparable.

2. DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD?

Yes. Read Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; 44:6-8; 45:5-6; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6. Biblical faith does not claim merely that Israel's God is stronger than competing gods. The LORD alone is God.

MEMORY ANCHOR

God has no divine competitor.

3. WHY DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT SOMETIMES MENTION "OTHER GODS"?

Scripture describes what surrounding nations worshiped and may use their language for supposed gods, yet repeatedly exposes idols as powerless. Read Psalm 115:1-8; Isaiah 44:9-20; Jeremiah 10:1-16. Humans make idols; God made humans. Idols must be carried; God carries His people.



The Uncreated Creator

4. IS GOD PART OF THE UNIVERSE?

No. Genesis 1 begins with God already present before the created order. God creates the heavens and earth; He is not simply the largest or oldest object inside the universe. Read Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 90:2; John 1:1-3; Acts 17:24-25.

5. DID ANYONE CREATE GOD?

No. Everything created has its existence because God gave it existence. God did not begin. Psalm 90:2 describes Him as God from everlasting to everlasting. God is the uncreated Creator.

6. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT?

God possesses life in Himself and does not depend on anything outside Himself for existence. Exodus 3:14 and Acts 17:24-25 point to this truth. The theological term is aseity.

MEMORY ANCHOR

Everything needs God. God needs nothing.

7. DOES GOD EVER RUN OUT OF STRENGTH?

No. Isaiah 40:28 says God does not grow weary. Human strength and attention are depleted; God's are not.

8. IS GOD ALL-POWERFUL?

Scripture presents God's power as unrivaled. Read Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 19:26; Revelation 19:6. Omnipotence means God possesses unlimited power to accomplish everything consistent with His nature and will.



God's Knowledge, Presence, and Eternity

9. DOES "ALL-POWERFUL" MEAN GOD CAN DO LITERALLY ANYTHING?

Scripture says God does not lie, deny Himself, or become evil (Titus 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:13; James 1:13). These are not weaknesses but expressions of His perfection.

10. DOES GOD KNOW EVERYTHING?

Yes. Read Psalm 139:1-6; 147:5; Isaiah 46:9-10; Matthew 10:29-30; Hebrews 4:13. Omniscience means God's knowledge is complete.

11. DOES GOD HAVE TO LEARN?

No. Isaiah 40:13-14 asks who has instructed the Lord. No one educates God. See also Romans 11:33-36.

12. IS GOD EVERYWHERE?

Yes. Read Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28. Omnipresence means there is nowhere beyond God's presence or authority while God remains distinct from creation.

13. DOES THAT MEAN GOD IS EVERYTHING?

No. God created everything; Scripture does not teach that everything is God. Creator and creation remain distinct.

14. IS GOD ETERNAL?

Yes. Read Psalm 90:1-2; Isaiah 57:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 1:8. Before creation existed, God was God, and He remains God forever.



God's Unchanging Holiness and Goodness

15. DOES GOD CHANGE?

Scripture emphasizes God's faithfulness and constancy. Read Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8. Immutability means God's unchanging perfection and faithfulness.

16. THEN WHY DOES SCRIPTURE SOMETIMES SAY GOD "RELENTED"?

Exodus 32:14 and Jonah 3:10 describe genuine interaction between God and people. Jeremiah 18:7-10 shows that announced judgments and blessings may include real responses to repentance or rebellion. God's dealings may change while His character and ultimate purposes remain faithful.

17. IS GOD HOLY?

Yes. Read Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:1-7; Psalm 99; Revelation 4:8. God is morally perfect and incomparable in majesty.

18. IS GOD GOOD?

Yes. Read Psalm 34:8; 100:5; 145:9; Mark 10:18; James 1:17. Goodness belongs to God's character.

19. IS GOD LOVING?

Yes. 1 John 4:8,16 says God is love. His love is displayed in creation, covenant faithfulness, compassion, forgiveness, discipline, salvation, and supremely in the giving of His Son. Read John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 4:9-10.



Justice, Mercy, Faithfulness, and Wisdom

20. IS GOD ALSO JUST?

Yes. Read Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:14; Isaiah 30:18; Romans 3:21-26. God's love and justice do not compete. His justice belongs to His perfect character.

21. IS GOD MERCIFUL?

Wonderfully so. Read Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 103; Micah 7:18-20; Luke 6:36; Ephesians 2:4-7; Titus 3:3-7. Micah asks, "Who is a God like You?" and emphasizes forgiveness, compassion, and covenant faithfulness.

MEMORY ANCHOR

God's greatness is not only seen in His power, but also in His mercy.

22. IS GOD FAITHFUL?

Always. Read Deuteronomy 7:9; Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 10:23. God keeps His promises.

23. IS GOD WISE?

Perfectly. Read Job 12:13; Psalm 104:24; Romans 11:33; Romans 16:27; Ephesians 3:10. God never needs a better plan or overlooked counsel.

24. IS GOD SOVEREIGN?

Yes. Read Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:34-35; Isaiah 46:9-11; Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:11. Nothing can remove God from His throne.



God's Nearness and Self-Revelation

25. DOES GOD HAVE EMOTIONS?

Scripture speaks of God's love, compassion, delight, anger, grief, jealousy, and mercy. These communicate real truth, but God's responses are never sinful, confused, irrational, manipulated, or based on incomplete information.

26. DOES GOD CARE ABOUT INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE?

Yes. Read Psalm 139; Matthew 6:25-34; 10:29-31; Luke 12:6-7; John 10:14. God's greatness does not make Him distant.

27. HOW CAN GOD BE BOTH HIGH ABOVE US AND NEAR TO US?

Isaiah 57:15 holds both together. God is transcendent - infinitely above creation - and immanent - genuinely present and active within it.

MEMORY ANCHOR

God is higher than imagination can reach - and nearer than creation can escape.

28. CAN HUMANS FULLY UNDERSTAND GOD?

No. Read Job 11:7-9; Psalm 145:3; Isaiah 40:28; Romans 11:33-36. A finite mind cannot contain the infinite God, yet He can be truly known because He reveals Himself.

29. WHY CAN PEOPLE KNOW GOD AT ALL?

Because God reveals Himself through creation, Scripture, His acts in history, and supremely through Jesus Christ. See Psalm 19 and Hebrews 1:1-3.



Creation, Scripture, and Jesus

30. WHAT DOES CREATION REVEAL ABOUT GOD?

Creation reveals something of God's power, wisdom, goodness, and divine nature. Read Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-23; Acts 14:15-17. Creation is not God, but it points beyond itself to its Maker.

31. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REVEAL THAT CREATION ALONE DOES NOT?

Creation may testify to a glorious Creator, but it does not explain the Gospel. Scripture reveals God's covenant dealings, commands, promises, redemptive plan, Christ's death and resurrection, and the hope of new creation.

32. HOW DOES JESUS SHOW US WHAT GOD IS LIKE?

Read John 1:1-18; 14:8-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-4. Jesus does not merely tell people about God; He reveals God personally.

33. DID JESUS BEGIN TO EXIST AT BETHLEHEM?

No. Jesus' human life began in Mary's womb, but the eternal Son did not begin there. John 1, John 17:5, and Colossians 1:16 point to His preexistence.

34. HOW CAN JESUS BE GOD AND ALSO PRAY TO GOD?

The Father and Son are distinct Persons while Scripture affirms the full deity of the Son and one God. Jesus' prayers reveal His relationship with the Father and His genuine human life.



Father, Son, Spirit, and Our Response

35. WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit speaks, teaches, guides, can be grieved, distributes gifts according to His will, and is identified with God. Read Acts 5:3-4; John 14:16-17,26; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 4:30.

36. IF GOD IS SO GREAT, WHY WOULD HE CARE ABOUT HUMANITY?

Psalm 8 asks this question. Humanity does not demand God's attention by its greatness; God freely chooses to love, create, bless, pursue, and redeem. Human worth is grounded in bearing God's image and being loved by the Creator.

37. WHY DID GOD CREATE PEOPLE?

Not because He was lonely. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed eternally before creation. Humanity was created for God's glory and to live in relationship with Him, representing His rule. Read Genesis 1:26-28; Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11.

38. WHAT IS THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO A GOD LIKE THIS?

Worship - including reverence, trust, gratitude, repentance, obedience, love, humility, prayer, and generosity. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 95; Romans 12:1-2; Revelation 4-5.

BEGINNER SUMMARY

There is one God: the uncreated Creator, eternal, self-existent, all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere present, holy, good, loving, just, merciful, faithful, wise, and sovereign. He can be truly known because He has revealed Himself, supremely through Jesus Christ.



PART TWO

WANT TO GO DEEPER? - INTERMEDIATE

THE INCOMPARABLE GOD: HIS BEING, ATTRIBUTES, AND SELF-REVELATION

READER NOTE

Some sections introduce historic theological terms. They are included to help readers recognize ideas they may encounter elsewhere; mastering the terminology is not necessary to understand the biblical truths being discussed.

INTERPRETIVE POSTURE

God is greater than every human description of Him. Yet Scripture's language about God is not meaningless. God is beyond complete human comprehension - but He is not unknowable.

39. WHAT DOES "INCOMPARABLE" ACTUALLY MEAN?

God is not merely the greatest member of a category. Scripture places God as Creator and everything else as creature. Isaiah 40 repeatedly asks what could possibly be compared with Him.

40. WHAT IS THE CREATOR-CREATURE DISTINCTION?

Reality is not different levels of the same kind of being. There is the Creator, and there is creation. Angels, humans, galaxies, and every spiritual and physical creature belong on the creation side. Read Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Romans 1:25; Revelation 4:11.



God's Attributes and Unity

41. WHAT ARE GOD'S "ATTRIBUTES"?

Attributes are characteristics Scripture reveals about God: holiness, love, justice, wisdom, omnipotence, omniscience, faithfulness, mercy, eternity, and more. They describe the one God as He truly is.

42. DO GOD'S ATTRIBUTES EVER COMPETE WITH ONE ANOTHER?

No. God's love is holy love; His justice is wise justice; His mercy is righteous mercy; His power is good power. Everything God is exists in perfect harmony.

43. IS GOD MADE UP OF DIFFERENT "PARTS"?

No. Christians have historically used divine simplicity to express that God is not assembled from separate parts. The central point is straightforward: God's character is perfectly unified.

MEMORY ANCHOR

God is not made of pieces, and His attributes never compete.

44. DOES THE BIBLE USE THE TERM "DIVINE SIMPLICITY"?

No. It is theological language developed while reflecting on biblical teaching about God's unity, independence, perfection, and unchanging character. Christians have differed over how precisely to explain it.

45. CAN PEOPLE REFLECT GOD'S CHARACTER?

Yes, as creatures. Humans can reflect love, mercy, justice, wisdom, goodness, and faithfulness. Theological books sometimes call these communicable attributes; qualities unique to God are often called incommunicable attributes. Scripture itself does not organize them under these labels.



Infinity, Spirit, and Divine Emotion

46. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS INFINITE?

God is not an unimaginably large physical object. His perfection is not bounded by creaturely limitations. His knowledge, power, life, and presence do not reach a creaturely boundary.

47. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS SPIRIT?

Jesus says God is spirit (John 4:24). Scripture's references to God's hands, eyes, arms, wings, or face use human-like imagery to communicate genuine truths. This is often called anthropomorphic language. The eternal Son later truly took on human nature in the incarnation.

48. DOES THE BIBLE DESCRIBE GOD WITH HUMAN EMOTIONS TOO?

Yes. Scripture describes God as loving, grieving, delighting, becoming angry, showing compassion, and expressing jealousy. The term anthropopathic language is sometimes used. These descriptions communicate genuine truth while God's responses remain perfectly holy and wise.

49. CAN GOD BE HURT OR OVERWHELMED THE WAY PEOPLE CAN?

Historic Christians have used impassibility to emphasize that God cannot be manipulated, conquered, destabilized, or forced to suffer against His will. This does not make God cold. Jesus Christ truly suffered, grieved, experienced pain, and died. Christians differ over precisely how to describe God's unchanging nature alongside Scripture's emotional language.

SUMMARY

God's love and compassion are completely real, but never imperfect or out of control.



Transcendence, Immanence, and Creation

50. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS TRANSCENDENT?

God is infinitely above and independent from creation. Read 1 Kings 8:27; Isaiah 40:12-26; 55:8-9; Acts 17:24. Creation does not define or contain Him.

51. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS IMMANENT?

God is genuinely present and active within creation. Read Psalm 139; Acts 17:27-28; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3. Creation exists moment by moment because God sustains it.

52. WHY MUST TRANSCENDENCE AND IMMANENCE STAY TOGETHER?

Transcendence without nearness can make God seem uninvolved; nearness without transcendence can confuse God with creation. Scripture holds both together.

53. IS THE UNIVERSE PART OF GOD?

Biblical Christianity distinguishes God from creation. Pantheism identifies God with everything. Panentheism is a broad term for views in which everything exists "in" God in ways that may blur the Creator-creature distinction. Romans 1:25 distinguishes Creator from created things.

54. IS GOD A DISTANT CREATOR WHO STARTED THE UNIVERSE AND THEN STEPPED AWAY?

No. Deism historically pictured God primarily as Creator without ordinary providential involvement. Scripture's God speaks, covenants, judges, rescues, answers prayer, sustains creation, and enters creation in Jesus Christ.



Sovereignty, Freedom, Foreknowledge, and Prayer

55. IF GOD ALREADY KNOWS EVERYTHING, ARE HUMAN CHOICES REAL?

Scripture teaches both God's knowledge and governance of history and meaningful human choices for which people are responsible. Christians differ over exactly how sovereignty, foreknowledge, and freedom fit together. The central truths remain: God is sovereign; God knows; humans genuinely choose; humans are responsible.

56. DOES GOD KNOW FUTURE HUMAN CHOICES?

The broad witness of Scripture presents God's knowledge as comprehensive (Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalm 139). Open theism proposes that certain future free choices are not yet definite realities known as settled facts. Supporters emphasize passages where God tests, regrets, responds, or speaks conditionally; critics point to Scripture's comprehensive portrayal of God's knowledge and governance. This study favors the synthesis that God fully knows the future while genuinely interacting with creatures within history.

57. DOES GOD EVER CHANGE HIS MIND?

Scripture uses relational language describing God responding to repentance, prayer, rebellion, and intercession, while also distinguishing Him from fickle or mistaken humans. 1 Samuel 15 contains both kinds of language. God's historical interactions are real; His eternal character is not unstable.

58. HOW CAN PRAYER MATTER IF GOD ALREADY KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Prayer is one of the means God chooses to use within His providence. Prayer does not inform an ignorant God; it is genuine relationship with the sovereign God who responds to His people's prayers.



Worship, Creation, and the Problem of Suffering

59. IF GOD NEEDS NOTHING, WHY DOES HE WANT WORSHIP?

Not because He is insecure. Worship is fitting because God is worthy. Romans 1 describes humanity's distortion as exchanging the Creator's glory for created things. Worship aligns creatures with reality.

60. IF GOD NEEDS NOTHING, WHY DID HE CREATE US?

Not to fill a deficiency. John 17:24 points to the Father's love for the Son before the world's foundation. Creation expresses divine freedom, goodness, wisdom, and glory.

MEMORY ANCHOR

Creation adds nothing God lacked; it displays the goodness He freely gives.

61. WHY WOULD A PERFECT GOD CREATE A WORLD THAT COULD FALL?

Scripture tells much about creation, sin, redemption, judgment, and God's victory, but does not give an exhaustive philosophical explanation for "why this world?" Christians offer different inferences. The Bible's emphasis moves forward: God will defeat evil and bring creation to fulfillment in Christ.

62. IF GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL AND GOOD, WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

Scripture does not deny suffering's horror. Job grieves, Psalms lament, Jeremiah weeps, and Jesus suffers. Some suffering is connected to sin, injustice, fallen creation, discipline, persecution, or consequences, but Scripture does not reveal the hidden reason behind every tragedy. Christian hope rests in the God who enters suffering in Christ, defeats death, and promises new creation (Romans 8:18-39; Revelation 21:1-5).

PASTORAL SAFEGUARD

Never use God's sovereignty to minimize grief, excuse abuse, silence lament, or avoid justice.



Evil, Wrath, and Final Judgment

63. DOES EVIL PROVE GOD IS NOT GOOD?

The existence of evil is a serious intellectual and pastoral challenge. Christianity does not teach that evil is an equal eternal force or that God is morally evil. James 1:13 rejects that idea. Scripture begins with good creation, describes evil as rebellion, and moves toward evil's defeat.

64. WHY DOES GOD JUDGE IF HE IS LOVING?

Perfect love does not require moral indifference. God is compassionate and patient, calls sinners to repentance, forgives, and judges evil. The cross reveals mercy and justice meeting in God's redemptive work.

65. DOES GOD'S WRATH CONTRADICT HIS LOVE?

No. Biblical wrath is God's holy opposition to sin, never an uncontrolled temper. Romans 1-5 holds wrath, guilt, righteousness, grace, and love together.

66. WHAT DOES GOD'S INCOMPARABLE JUSTICE MEAN FOR FINAL JUDGMENT?

Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:22-29; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:5-11; Revelation 20:11-15. Human judges can misunderstand, overlook motives, show favoritism, or be corrupted. God cannot. The New Testament gives Jesus a central role in final judgment. Christians disagree about some details concerning final punishment and end-times sequence, but Scripture clearly teaches final accountability.

For victims, evil does not receive the final word. For sinners, repentance matters. The Judge is also the Savior who calls sinners to Himself. Judgment should produce seriousness and Gospel urgency, not manipulation or fear-based coercion.

MEMORY ANCHOR

The Judge of all the earth knows perfectly, judges rightly, and cannot be corrupted.



The Cross and the Trinity

67. WHY IS THE CROSS SO IMPORTANT FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD?

The cross prevents simplistic ideas about God's character. Holiness is not dismissed; sin is not trivialized; justice matters; mercy is extended; love acts sacrificially. Romans 3:21-26 presents Christ's saving work as demonstrating God's righteousness while God justifies sinners who trust in Jesus.

68. DOES THE CROSS MEAN JESUS HAD TO CONVINCE AN ANGRY FATHER TO LOVE US?

No. John 3:16 begins with the Father's love. Romans 5:8 says God demonstrates His love through Christ's death. 2 Corinthians 5:19 describes God reconciling the world to Himself in Christ. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit act in perfect unity in redemption.

69. WHAT DOES THE TRINITY HAVE TO DO WITH GOD'S INCOMPARABILITY?

Christianity teaches that the one God has eternally revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine arises because Scripture teaches: there is one God; the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God; and Father, Son, and Spirit are personally distinct.

70. DOES "THREE PERSONS" MEAN CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN THREE GODS?

No. Historic Christianity rejects three gods. The Father is not the Son; the Son is not the Spirit; the Spirit is not the Father; yet each is fully divine. Human analogies such as water, eggs, or clovers usually fail. Scripture's own language is safer.



Monotheism, Nicaea, and the Incarnation

71. HOW IS THE CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD DISTINCTIVE AMONG MONOTHEISTIC FAITHS?

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all confess one God and take God's moral authority and human accountability seriously. Christianity shares with Judaism a biblical heritage rooted in the Old Testament Scriptures. Yet these traditions differ substantially concerning God, revelation, covenant, salvation, and Jesus. Islam strongly emphasizes divine oneness, commonly called tawhid. Historic Christianity confesses one God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and uniquely proclaims that the eternal Son became human in Jesus Christ. Judaism and Islam do not affirm Jesus as God incarnate. Recognizing these differences should promote clarity without disrespect or caricature.

72. DID CHRISTIANS INVENT THE TRINITY CENTURIES AFTER JESUS?

The technical vocabulary developed over time, but the biblical questions came first. The Council of Nicaea in AD 325 addressed whether the Son was eternal and fully divine or a created being. Homoousios - often rendered "of the same substance" or "of one being" - affirmed that the Son truly shares the divine nature. Councils help explain how earlier Christians wrestled with Scripture but do not possess authority equal to Scripture.

73. WHAT DOES THE INCARNATION MEAN?

The incarnation means the eternal Son truly became human without ceasing to be divine. Read John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:14-18. Jesus is truly God and truly human.



Christ and the Holy Spirit

74. WHY IS THE INCARNATION SO ASTONISHING?

The One through whom the universe was made entered the world as a child. The One who sustains creation experienced hunger. The Lord of glory was rejected. The Author of life was killed. Philippians 2 presents Christ's humility as revealing the astonishing character of divine love.

75. DOES JESUS REVEAL WHAT GOD'S GREATNESS REALLY LOOKS LIKE?

Yes. Human cultures often define greatness through domination, status, wealth, or force. Jesus washes feet, serves, welcomes children, touches the unclean, confronts hypocrisy, and gives Himself for His creatures. Divine greatness includes self-giving love without surrendering holiness, authority, justice, or majesty.

76. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEAL THE INCOMPARABLE GOD?

The Spirit is active throughout Scripture: in creation, prophetic witness, Jesus' conception and ministry, new life, sanctification, gifts, and glorifying Christ. Read Genesis 1:2; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Luke 1:35; John 14-16; Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 12; Titus 3:4-7. God gives His Spirit to dwell within His people.

77. IF GOD CANNOT BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, CAN THEOLOGY EVER BE ACCURATE?

Yes. Incomprehensibility does not mean complete unknowability. Finite creatures cannot know God exhaustively, but can truly know what He has revealed.

MEMORY ANCHOR

God can be truly known without being completely comprehended.



Speaking Truthfully About God

78. WHY DO CHRISTIANS SOMETIMES DESCRIBE GOD BY SAYING WHAT HE IS NOT?

Some truths become clearer by denying creaturely limitations of God: He is not created, finite, dependent, ignorant, or morally corrupt. This approach is sometimes called apophatic or negative theology. Scripture also positively reveals God as loving, holy, just, faithful, merciful, wise, and good.

79. CAN HUMAN WORDS REALLY DESCRIBE GOD?

Yes, but not exhaustively. When Scripture says God is good, the statement is true. Created goodness reflects God's original and perfect goodness. Human language can speak truthfully because God chose to communicate using it.

80. IS GOD MALE?

God is not biologically male in His divine nature; God is spirit. Scripture overwhelmingly uses masculine titles such as Father, King, and Lord, while also using maternal imagery for care and compassion. The Son truly became the man Jesus. God's divine nature is not a biological sex.

81. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT HUMANS ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE?

Genesis 1:26-28 gives humanity a unique role representing God within creation. The image has been connected with representation, relational capacity, moral responsibility, rationality, vocation, and unique status. The New Testament ultimately points to Christ as the perfect image and believers being renewed into Christlikeness.

82. CAN PEOPLE BECOME GOD?

Not as divine beings equal to the Creator. Theosis, especially associated with Eastern Christianity, describes believers sharing by grace in God's life and being transformed into Christlikeness. 2 Peter 1:4 speaks of participation in the divine nature. Creator and creature remain distinct.



Idolatry, Fear, and the Future

83. WHY IS IDOLATRY SO SERIOUS?

Idolatry exchanges the incomparable God for something created. Read Exodus 20:1-6; Psalm 115; Isaiah 44; Romans 1:18-25; 1 Corinthians 10:14. Money, romance, politics, power, family, success, nation, approval, pleasure, or religious leaders can become functional idols when given ultimate allegiance.

84. HOW DOES KNOWING GOD IS INCOMPARABLE CHANGE FEAR?

It puts every other power in perspective. Isaiah 40 addresses people facing intimidating rulers and directs attention to God's greatness. Threats can be real, but no earthly power becomes ultimate. See Matthew 10:28-31.

85. HOW DOES THIS CHANGE ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Believers may still feel afraid, as the Psalms show. Confidence rests in God's character rather than human control. Nothing in the future can surprise God into helplessness. This does not guarantee preferred circumstances; it means the future belongs to the wise, powerful, faithful, good God.

86. HOW DOES GOD'S INCOMPARABILITY PRODUCE HUMILITY?

Romans 11 asks who has known the Lord's mind or first given to Him. Humans are recipients before achievers. Every breath, ability, and moment is given and sustained.

87. HOW DOES IT PRODUCE CONFIDENCE?

The believer's confidence rests not in being powerful or impressive enough, but in God. 2 Corinthians 4 describes Gospel treasure carried in fragile jars of clay so the surpassing power is clearly God's.



Prayer, Worship, and Obedience

88. HOW DOES IT CHANGE PRAYER?

Prayer becomes more than a wish list. It is encounter with the God who knows, cares, has power to act, possesses perfect wisdom, and remains worthy when the answer is difficult. The Lord's Prayer begins with God Himself: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."

89. HOW DOES IT CHANGE WORSHIP?

Worship moves away from self-centered evaluation. Revelation 4-5 centers on God's worthiness: the Creator is worthy; the Lamb is worthy. Biblical worship is God-centered because reality itself is God-centered.

90. HOW DOES IT CHANGE OBEDIENCE?

God's commands are not arbitrary rules from a powerful stranger. They flow from the character of the Creator who knows what is good. Obedience does not earn God's love; for those saved by grace, it becomes a response of trust. See John 14.

91. HOW DOES IT CHANGE SUFFERING?

It does not make pain painless or answer every "why." It gives suffering a larger horizon. God entered suffering in Christ; resurrection means death does not have final authority. Romans 8 ends not with an explanation of every tragedy but with confidence that nothing can separate God's people from His love in Christ.



People, Knowledge, Distance, and Abuse

92. HOW DOES IT CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE TREAT OTHERS?

If every person is created by the incomparable God and bears His image, no person is disposable. Human value cannot finally be measured by usefulness, health, intelligence, wealth, ethnicity, age, status, productivity, or popularity. James warns against dishonoring the poor; Jesus dignifies those others ignore.

93. CAN A PERSON HAVE CORRECT THEOLOGY ABOUT GOD AND STILL NOT REALLY KNOW HIM?

Yes. James 2:19 warns that even demons possess correct information about God's oneness. Biblical knowledge matters deeply, but truth about God should lead toward trust in God.

94. WHAT IF GOD FEELS DISTANT?

Feelings of divine absence appear throughout Scripture. Psalm 13 asks, "How long?" Psalm 22 begins with anguished abandonment language later spoken by Jesus. Biblical lament brings perceived distance to God. God's presence is not measured solely by emotional sensation.

95. WHAT IF SOMEONE HAS BEEN HURT BY PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED TO REPRESENT GOD?

Their actions must not automatically be attributed to God. Ezekiel 34 and Matthew 23 condemn leaders who exploit God's people. No pastor, teacher, prophet, ministry, institution, or movement becomes God's equal.

PASTORAL SAFEGUARD

Claims such as "God told me" must never bypass accountability, manipulate conscience, excuse abuse, demand unquestioning loyalty, or shield leaders from examination. God alone deserves absolute allegiance.



Jesus, Eternity, and the Biblical Storyline

96. WHY IS JESUS THE CLEAREST ANSWER TO "WHO IS LIKE OUR GOD?"

Because the incomparable God comes near. John 1 says the eternal Word became flesh. Jesus forgives sins, commands creation, welcomes children, confronts hypocrisy, touches lepers, weeps, serves, gives His life, and rises from the dead. The God beyond comparison is the God revealed in Jesus Christ.

97. WHAT WILL GOD'S PEOPLE DISCOVER IN ETERNITY?

Not that God was less glorious than imagined. Revelation's final vision is filled with worship. God's servants see His face; the Lamb is their light; the redeemed live in restored creation. Finite creatures will never exhaust infinite glory.

THE GENESIS-TO-REVELATION STORYLINE

GENESIS - The uncreated God creates everything.

EXODUS - The LORD defeats Egypt's gods and reveals His name.

THE LAW - Israel is commanded to worship God alone.

HISTORICAL BOOKS - Kings rise and fall under God's authority.

PSALMS - Creation and nations worship the incomparable King.

WISDOM - God's wisdom surpasses human understanding.

PROPHETS - Idols are exposed; the Holy One has no equal.

GOSPELS - The eternal Son enters creation and reveals the Father.

ACTS - The risen Christ reigns and the Spirit empowers witnesses.

EPISTLES - The Church lives in light of God's grace, holiness, sovereignty, and glory.

REVELATION - Every rival falls; God and the Lamb reign.

MEMORY ANCHOR

The Bible begins with God creating everything and ends with everything rightly worshiping God.



Key Passages to Read Slowly

EXODUS 15:1-18 - What has God done? What makes Him unlike every supposed rival? Why does rescue lead to worship?

DEUTERONOMY 4:32-40 - Moses emphasizes that Israel has witnessed something unparalleled. The conclusion: the LORD is God; there is no other.

1 KINGS 8:22-30 - Solomon acknowledges that even the highest heavens cannot contain God. The temple cannot enclose Him.

PSALM 86 - There is none like God; God alone is great and does wondrous things. Therefore: teach me Your way. True theology moves toward discipleship.

ISAIAH 40 - Notice the repeated questions: Who measures the oceans? Who weighs mountains? Who teaches God? To whom can He be compared? Who calls the stars? Then notice the ending: the incomparable God gives strength to the weary.

ISAIAH 44-46 - Humans manufacture idols; God forms humanity. Idols must be carried; God carries His people. Idols cannot announce history; God declares His purposes.

MICAH 7:18-20 - "Who is a God like You?" The answer emphasizes forgiveness, steadfast love, compassion, and covenant faithfulness.

JOHN 1:1-18 - The Word existed in the beginning, was with God, was God, created all things, became flesh, and makes the Father known.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20 - All things were created through and for Christ; He is before all things; all things hold together in Him.

REVELATION 4-5 - Chapter 4 centers worship on the Creator; chapter 5 on the Lamb. Creation's proper destination is worship.



Hard Questions - Quick Review

Is there anyone like God? No.
Did God have a beginning? No.
Does God need creation? No.
Can God be fully comprehended? No.
Can God truly be known? Yes, because He reveals Himself.
Is creation God? No.
Is God distant from creation? No.
Does God change in His character? No.
Does God genuinely interact with people? Yes.
Does God know the future? Scripture strongly presents His knowledge as comprehensive.
Does God's sovereignty make prayer meaningless? No.
Does God's love eliminate justice? No.
Does God's justice eliminate mercy? No.
Will God finally judge evil? Yes.
Is God's judgment arbitrary or uninformed? No.
Does God's power mean He can lie or become evil? No.
Is Jesus a created being? No.
Is Jesus truly God? Yes.
Is Jesus truly human? Yes.
Is the Holy Spirit God? Yes.
Do Christians worship three gods? No.
Can humans become equal with God? No.
Why can humans know God? Because God has made Himself known.



Key Terms & Study Conclusion

ASEITY - God's self-existence and independence. Everything depends upon God; God does not depend upon creation.

ANTHROPOMORPHIC LANGUAGE - Human physical imagery used to communicate genuine truths about God.

ANTHROPOPATHIC LANGUAGE - Terms familiar from human emotional experience used to describe God's genuine responses.

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES - Qualities creatures can reflect in limited ways, such as love, mercy, justice, and faithfulness.

DIVINE SIMPLICITY - Theological language expressing that God is not composed of separate parts and His attributes exist in perfect unity.

HOMOIOUSIOS - Nicene term meaning "of the same substance/being," used to affirm the Son truly shares the divine nature.

IMMANENCE - God's genuine presence and activity within creation.

IMMUTABILITY - God's unchanging perfection, character, and faithfulness.

IMPASSIBILITY - Historical term emphasizing that God cannot be involuntarily controlled, overwhelmed, or emotionally manipulated.

INCARNATION - The eternal Son becoming truly human without ceasing to be divine.

INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES - Divine perfections creatures do not share as God possesses them, such as self-existence.

INCOMPREHENSIBILITY - Finite creatures cannot understand God exhaustively, though He can be truly known.

OMNIPOTENCE - God's unlimited power to accomplish everything consistent with His nature and will.

OMNIPRESENCE - God's presence everywhere while remaining distinct from creation.

OMNISCIENCE - God's complete and perfect knowledge.

PANTHEISM - The belief that God and the universe are ultimately identical.

PANENTHEISM - A broad term for views describing everything as existing "in" God in ways that may blur the Creator-creature distinction.

APOPHATIC / NEGATIVE THEOLOGY - Describing God partly by denying creaturely limitations of Him.

TAWHID - The Islamic term emphasizing the oneness and uniqueness of God.

THEOSIS - A term especially associated with Eastern Christianity for transformation and participation by grace in God's life without becoming God by nature.

TRANSCENDENCE - God's infinite greatness above, independence from, and distinction from creation.

TRINITY - One God eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - personally distinct yet fully divine.

Scripture does not introduce God as humanity's religious attempt to explain the universe. It begins with God.

Before anything created existed, God was. He did not emerge from matter, defeat an older creator, inherit His throne, get elected to authority, or become divine. He simply is.

Everything else receives existence; God possesses life in Himself. Everything else changes; God remains faithful. Everything else is limited; God is not. Everything else depends; God sustains. Everything else can be compared with something; God ultimately cannot.

Yet the great surprise of Scripture is that the incomparable God does not remain unknown.

He speaks. He reveals His name. He enters covenant. He hears prayer. He forgives sinners. He judges evil. He dwells with His people. He sends His Son. He gives His Spirit. He promises resurrection. He will dwell with redeemed humanity forever.

Christianity therefore does not end the question "Who is like our God?" with cold philosophical distance.

It ends in worship:

No one is like Him.

And there is no greater privilege than to know the One who has no equal.



Personal Study, Application & Review

1. READ ISAIAH 40 SLOWLY

Underline every question God asks. Circle descriptions of His power. Identify statements about His care for weak or weary people. What does the chapter teach about the relationship between God's greatness and compassion?

2. IDENTIFY FALSE COMPARISONS

Complete: "Sometimes God is unconsciously imagined as a bigger version of _____. A parent? Boss? Pastor? Political leader? Harsh authority figure? Unreliable friend? Compare that picture with Scripture. God is not a magnified version of flawed human authority.

3. IDENTIFY FUNCTIONAL IDOLS

Ask: What created thing feels necessary for life to be meaningful? What loss feels as though it would destroy all hope? Whose approval feels indispensable? What produces the deepest security? What receives the greatest fear? These questions may reveal where a created thing is being asked to carry a weight only God can bear.

4. TURN ATTRIBUTES INTO PRAYER

God is holy - confess sin and ask for holiness.

God is wise - entrust unanswered questions to Him.

God is sovereign - release the illusion of total control.

God is faithful - remember His promises.

God is merciful - approach Him honestly.

God is just - ask Him to make wrong things right.

God is loving - rest in the love revealed through Christ.

God is incomparable - worship Him.

1. What does Scripture mean when it asks, "Who is like God?"

2. What is the Creator-creature distinction?

3. What does God's self-existence mean?

4. What does omnipotence mean?

5. Why does God's inability to lie not make Him less powerful?

6. What does omniscience mean?

7. What does omnipresence mean?

8. How is omnipresence different from pantheism?

9. What does God's immutability mean?

10. How should passages describing God "relenting" be understood alongside His unchanging character?

11. What is transcendence?

12. What is immanence?

13. Why must both be maintained?

14. What does it mean to say God can be truly known without being fully comprehended?

15. What is anthropomorphic language?

16. What is divine simplicity trying to protect?

17. Why did God not need to create humanity?

18. Why does God command worship?

19. What biblical truths form the foundation of Trinitarian doctrine?

20. How does Christian belief about Father, Son, and Holy Spirit distinguish Christianity from other forms of monotheism?

21. Why is Jesus not simply another created representative of God?

22. How does the incarnation reveal God's incomparable character?

23. How does the Holy Spirit make God's presence personal to believers?

24. Why does God's love not eliminate His justice?

25. What does Scripture clearly teach about final judgment?

26. How does the cross reveal multiple attributes of God together?

27. Why is idolatry fundamentally a problem of comparison?

28. How should God's incomparability change fear?

29. How should it change prayer?

30. How should it change suffering?

31. How should it change worship?



Further Study, Memory Anchors & Final Reflection

The best place to continue is Scripture itself.

Consider reading: Exodus 3; Exodus 15; Exodus 34:5-9; Deuteronomy 4; Psalm 86; Psalm 90; Psalm 103; Psalm 139; Isaiah 6; Isaiah 40; Isaiah 44-46; Micah 7:18-20; John 1; John 14-17; Romans 8; Romans 11:33-36; Colossians 1; Hebrews 1; Revelation 4-5; Revelation 21-22.

BIBLEPROJECT - God / Character of God resources

Accessible visual and biblical studies tracing God's character and identity through Scripture.

J. I. PACKER - KNOWING GOD

A widely read introduction connecting biblical teaching about God's character with knowing and worshiping Him.

A. W. TOZER - THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY

A short devotional exploration of God's attributes. Tozer writes devotionally rather than as a comprehensive systematic theologian.

A TRUSTED SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Readers wanting deeper study may benefit from comparing established systematic theologies representing different Christian traditions. Because theologians sometimes reach different conclusions, use such works as study aids rather than substitutes for Scripture.

RESOURCE SAFEGUARD

Listing a resource does not mean 3Nails endorses every theological position, interpretation, methodology, publication, or conclusion it contains. Compare sources carefully and continually return to Scripture.

FINAL MEMORY ANCHORS

Everything needs God. God needs nothing.

God is not merely greater than creation. He is the Creator.

God is higher than imagination can reach - and nearer than creation can escape.

God is not made of pieces, and His attributes never compete.

God can be truly known without being completely comprehended.

Creation adds nothing God lacked; it displays the goodness He freely gives.

The Judge of all the earth knows perfectly, judges rightly, and cannot be corrupted.

The Bible begins with God creating everything and ends with everything rightly worshiping God.

There is no one like God - and this incomparable God has made Himself known.

FINAL REFLECTION

Look at creation: He made it. Look at time: He stands before it. Look at knowledge: He possesses it perfectly. Look at power: it belongs to Him. Look at holiness: He defines its perfection. Look at justice: His judgments are righteous. Look at mercy: He delights to forgive. Look at faithfulness: He cannot betray His character. Look at love: the Father gives the Son, the Son gives Himself, and the Spirit gives life. Look at death: Jesus walked out of the grave. Look toward eternity: God remains.

Scripture's question receives Scripture's answer: There is no one like Him.

Because this incomparable God has made Himself known through His Word and supremely through Jesus Christ, the proper response is faith, worship, surrender, and love.

Who is like You, O LORD?

No one.