



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: God Himself!

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We have been blessed this legislative session with rich discussions about God's leaders and what we can learn from their lives and their work. This study looks at God Himself, and what we can know of Him and His works. These notes only provide a "glance", opening a window for you to think more of this. We will continue our series of brief weekly studies during the summer and fall. These are available by email to leadership outside the Capitol. Please let us know if we miss you in this.

INTRODUCTION

How do we gain knowledge, even wisdom on a topic or issue? We ask of one who has invested a lifetime of study and has a history of success in application. After all, a **synonym for wisdom is "wise living"**¹. Henry David Thoreau, a prolific writer of a century past, had much to say about life. He concluded: "Most men live lives of quiet **desperation.**"² Worry abounds in our culture today. We face a struggling economy, upcoming elections, failing health, and a declining moral conscience. We reflect on God's promise that He keeps in perfect peace, the one whose mind is focused on Him (Isaiah 26:3). A. W. Tozer wrote in his now classic text:³ "*The most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.*" What we understand about God's character, attributes, and works give ultimate guidance to even the non-believer!

GOD TELLS US ABOUT HIMSELF

*Jeremiah 9:23-24 The Lord says, "Let not a wise man speak with pride about his wisdom. Let not the strong man speak with pride about his strength. And let not a rich man speak with pride about his riches. But let him who speaks with pride speak about this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who shows loving-kindness and does what is fair and right and good on earth. For I find joy in these things," says the Lord.*⁴

God reveals Himself in the Holy Scriptures. He also demonstrates His power as a **show of Sovereignty** to some and a **show of His loving-kindness** to others. After Solomon's reign in Israel, there was a series of kings who did evil in the sight of the Lord. King Ahab ruled a very weak Israel amidst stronger, neighboring countries. The king of Aram besieged the capitol of Israel, demanding high tribute, making them his servants/vassals. At first, Ahab agreed to the surrender terms until he learned of their boast in the power of their gods and plans to plunder the city. A prophet of God told Israel's King Ahab to make a surprise attack on the much larger army camped outside the city. The Lord scattered the Aram army, bringing a great victory for Israel. A year later, Ben-hadad, king of Aram, returned with a vast army that "filled the country". He was told that the God of Israel protected their city and hillsides. Ben-hadad mounted his attack from the plains. Israel met them, killing a hundred-thousand soldiers the first day and chasing those remaining into a walled city. The wall collapsed, killing them also (1Kings 20:1-30). Many people today feel that **they know about God**. This is of little value, and can even be hazardous, as King Ben-hadad learned. Knowing that God is Sovereign is helpful; **knowing Him personally is life changing!**

GOD SHARES HIS ATTRIBUTES

*Exodus 6:2-3 And God said to Moses, "I am Yahweh—"the Lord." I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—"God Almighty"—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them."*⁵

The English language lacks the richness of Hebrew. An adjective is often needed for us to distinguish attributes of distinctive nouns. Hebrew scribes contributed to this language challenge by refusing to include the vowels when writing God's Name. Bible translators have used "LORD," "GOD," "I AM," and Jehovah when referring to Yahweh. A simple **synonym for Yahweh is "My God,"** or "our God".⁶

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERSHIP STUDY – WEDNESDAY: 7 TO 7:50 AM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH (LAST 7 AM STUDY FOR 2012)

LEADERS/STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS: 12:05 TO 12:55 PM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM – CAPITOL 264WEST

Kansas

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YAHWEH IS PERSONALBLE/KNOWABLE

*Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*⁷

The Apostle Paul explains that we develop relationships by investing time and emulating the one we want to know personally. Paul gives specific directions and invites us to follow his example.⁸

SIX QUALITIES OR VIRTUES

1. **Seek the truth.** What is true is found in God (2 Timothy 2:25-26), in Christ (Ephesians 4:20-21), in the Holy Spirit (John 16:13), and in God's Word (John 17:17).
2. **Practice what is honorable,** worthy of respect, noble, and dignified.
3. **Do what is right** in harmony with God's standards (Exodus 20:3-17).
4. **Strive to be pure,** morally clean, with no corruption.
5. **Act in a way that is lovely,** pleasing, amiable, kind, or gracious.
6. **Be of good repute,** highly regarded, and thought well of. This is done by practicing kindness, courtesy, and respect for others.

God is peace (Romans 16:20; Ephesians 2:14), makes peace with sinners through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20), and gives perfect peace in trouble (Philippians 4:7).⁹ Are you living in peace today, at this time?

CONCLUSION

Yahweh, our God, is personable and knowable. Like with any friend, we can learn of Him through His written Word. We can become close by following the example of His other close friends. Most of all, we can fellowship with Yahweh God through prayer. Please reflect on this model prayer that Jesus taught to His followers:

Mathew 6:9-13 "Pray like this:

*Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."*¹⁰

¹ Webster's New World College Dictionary (Wiley & Son Inc.) 2005.

² John Bartlett, Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. (Little, Brown and Company). 2002. p506.

³ A. W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy. (Harper Collins) 1961. p1.

⁴ The Holy Bible, New Life Version. (Christian Literature International). 1969.

The Holy Bible, New Living Translation. (Tyndale House Publishing). 2007

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Joseph Rotherham, Rotherham's Emphasized Bible.

(www.teleiosministries.com). 1902.

⁷ The Holy Bible, New American Standard Version. (Lockman Foundation). 1995.

⁸ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson) 2006. p1797.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ The Holy Bible, New Living Translation. (Tyndale House Publishing). 2007