

WHO IS GOD AND WHAT IS HE LIKE?

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The Bible says that God is bigger than anything we could possibly imagine. He created the universe, and His presence fills it. — That's big.

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Jeremiah 23:24: Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? says the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? says the LORD.

The Bible says that God made the earth, and all the animals, birds, and fish, and He made the first man and woman. Everything He made was beautiful and very good—because God is beautiful and very good.

Genesis 1:31: And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

He has extreme intelligence. He knows everything. And He is present everywhere. He is not bound by our dimension of time. He created time. He lives both within our time dimension and beyond it. He exists in our concept of past, present, and future all at the same time. He is eternal.

Deuteronomy 33:27: The eternal God is your refuge.

The Bible says that this huge, intelligent eternal being is a person. He talks. He is willing to talk to us. And we can talk to him.

Isaiah 57:15: For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits 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.

The Bible tells us about several people who got to see visions of Him. They see Him sitting on a throne, and He has an appearance similar to human appearance. Maybe that is how He looks, or maybe that is just how He appears through human eyes. Either way, He is a person who talks and invites us to talk to Him.

Daniel 7:9: I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days 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.

Ezekiel 1:26–28: And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon

the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spoke.

God is holy and righteous. "Righteous" is a word the Bible uses to describe always doing that which is right. God has a moral standard--a standard of right and wrong--and He always follows it. And He wants us to follow it too.

Leviticus 19:2: Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, You shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

Daniel 9:14: ... for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he does....

The Bible says that God's moral standard is good and that it is good for us to follow it. God loves us and wants the best for us.

The Bible describes God using various word pictures—like Father, King, and Judge. He is a loving, wise, merciful, gracious, patient, forgiving, just, and fair Father, King, and Judge.

Psalm 68:5: A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 47:6–7: Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing you praises with understanding.

Isaiah 33:22: For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

And one of my favorite descriptions is that God is a place of safety in a time of trouble. The verse says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

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