

Lesson Two: GOD

A nation never rises above its religion and idea of God. People's view of their ultimate destiny and their view of authority comes from their view of God.

The way a nation looks at God will determine their lifestyle, values and moral fabric.

- I. The nature of God – toward a definition of God.
 - a. God is Spirit (John 4:24).
 - i. The word "spirit" means **incorporeal being**.
 - b. God is a person.
 - i. Self-awareness (Ex. 3:14).
 - ii. Self-determination (Job 23:13).
 - iii. Intelligence (Gen. 18:19).
 - iv. Emotion (Ex. 3:7-8).
 - v. Volition or Will (John 4:34). Isa 43:12; Isaiah 45:5-7
 - c. God is life ("The Living God," 1 Sam. 17:26). Psalm 102:25-27
 - d. God is self-existent ("I am that I am," Ex. 3:13-15).
 - e. God is immutable or unchanging
 - i. Since God is perfect (Ps. 102:25-27), any changes in His being would make Him **less than perfect**.
 - f. God is not limited by time and space.
 - g. God is "one Lord" (Deut. 6:4), a reflection of **His unity**.
- II. The attributes of God – the description of God. All are seen in Ps 139.
 - a. The absolute attributes of God (found exclusively in God).
 - i. Omniscience (Ps. 139:1-6). – **He knows everything**
 - ii. Omnipresence (Ps. 139:7-11). **He is every where**
 - iii. Omnipotence (Ps. 139:12-16). **He is all powerful**
 - b. The comparative attributes of God (true to a much lesser extent in people).
 - i. God is **holy** (Ps. 111:9).
 - ii. God is **love** (1 John 4:8, 16)
 - iii. God is **good** (Mark 10:18).
- III. The law of God.
 - a. The law of God is the extension of His **nature and attributes**.
 - b. The natural law of God is the means by which He chooses to **govern the world** He created (Gen. 8:22).
 - c. God expresses **His will** concerning moral issues in the moral law of God.
 - d. The expression of God's will concerning relationships is called the **social law** of God.
 - e. The spiritual law of God is the expression of God's will relating to a person's **relationship** with Him. Jn 1:12; 1 John 1:1-4
- IV. The work of God – His method of doing things. What does God do?

- a. God consistently works out His eternal plan by **guiding and overseeing** all things by His wise and holy purpose. Gen 50:20
- b. The works of God fit into a single eternal and unchangeable **plan**.
- c. The work of God is based upon God's **sovereignty**.
 - i. Salvation begins with the initiative of God, yet people are also responsible to respond.
 - ii. God's work is based on His wisdom.
 - iii. The work of God is consistent with His nature.
 - iv. The work of God is committed to glorify God.
 - v. The work of God is both active and passive. God does not have to judge sin actively but he can do so if he chooses

V. The Trinity.

- a. God is a Trinity which means He exists in unity in three **eternal persons**.
- b. Each member of the Trinity is equal in **nature** yet distinct in **person** and submissive in **duties**. The Father sent the Son and the Son sent the Spirit. Jn 15:26
- c. The Trinity explained by negatives.
 - i. The Trinity is not equivalent to three Gods (**tritheism**).
 - ii. The Trinity is not three manifestations of God. (**modalism**)
 - iii. The Trinity does not teach that the Father created either the Son or the Holy Spirit.
 - iv. The Bible does not describe the Son or the Holy Spirit as **mere attributes** of the Father.
 1. Let me give you three words: the individual members of the Trinity are **co-equal**; **co-substantial**; and **co-eternal**.
- d. The proofs of the Trinity.
 - i. The Old Testament plural name for God is **Elohim**.
 - ii. A Trinitarian formula in the worship of God (Isa. 6:3). And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"
 - iii. Describing three distinct persons as God (Gen. 19:24); Isa. 9:6; Gen. 1:2).
 - iv. The Trinity was apparent at the baptism of Jesus Mt 3:16
 - v. Jesus spoke of sending the Holy Spirit from the Father. John 15:26
 - vi. The apostolic benediction (2 Cor. 13:14) and the baptismal formula (Matt. 28:19).
- e. The names of God.
 - i. Elohim (translated "God") is the **creative** or strong name.
 - ii. Jehovah (translated Lord) is called the **covenant** name of God. Ps 23
 - iii. Adonai (primary name of God) means **Lord or Master**.
 - iv. The Father is the **personal name** of God. Speaks to our relationship...