

Basic Training Lesson 6-1

Who is God? Part 1

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

- I. Review
 1. 5 12 5 5 12; 4 1 21 1
 2. In our Basic Training series, we have explored the following topics:
 - a. (1) The importance of truth
 - b. (2) Love and marriage were God's ideas
 - c. (3) Prayer and prayer warfare
 - d. (4) New Testament new birth experience, and the new life
 - e. (5) The Bible is God's Word
 - f. (6) Who is God?
 - g. (7) Worshiping God
 3. We now will take on the big question of, Who Is God?

II. He is Creator

1. We covered in our the last study how that the Bible is trustworthy as the Word of God to mankind. As we do a deep dive into its pages, we soon read of an important question we must consider, Who is God?
2. The first fact about God that we read as soon as we open the Bible is that God is the Creator of everything:

Genesis 1:1-3

1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

3. Then in verse 26, we learn that humanity was the centerpiece of that creation:

Genesis 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our

image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

4. You will remember that in our last mini-series on the Bible is God's Word, that Jesus confirmed those words from Genesis:
Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,
5. And the Apostle John also confirmed that in His gospel:
John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
6. The Bible makes it clear and definite statement that God is Creator of all things.

7. Another truth that quickly becomes apparent is that God's creation owes worship to their Creator:
Psalms 100:1-3
1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
*3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: **it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;** we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*
8. Perhaps you have heard some say: "I am a self-made man!" Oops—I don't think so.
9. We see the same idea expressed in heaven at the end of days:
Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
10. God created us to serve at His pleasure. That's a high calling!

11. Who is God? First of all, He is our Creator.
- III. He is one
 - A. History of one
 1. A second fact that we learn early in scripture is that God is one.
 2. There is but one true God and He is one:
Deuteronomy 6:4-5
4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
 3. This fact distinguished the Israelites—God’s chosen people—from other people groups in the ancient world.
 4. It is worthy of noting that ancient Egypt, the nation from which Israel came out, was a polytheistic nation, having many gods.
 5. But when God called His people out of Egypt, God identified Himself as one.

6. That is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the people who truly followed God throughout history: they had a core belief in a singular God. We will see that is also true of His church today.
7. God gave this foundational truth a very high place of priority by listing it as the first commandment:
Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
8. Unfortunately, we read in the history of Israel that during different periods, they adopted a *progressive* view wanting to be like the nations around them and picked up the worship of the gods of other nations.
9. But we read that when they did, it was always a downhill slide in history.
10. Although God used various names or titles in the Bible such as Jehovah or Yahweh, Lord, Father, King, The Almighty, Word, Holy Ghost, Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus, Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, The Holy

One. They all refer to the same singular God, not permanent divisions or personalities of God.

11. This was one of the core teachings of scripture—part of the basic training—that God told His children to repeat over and over to their children when sitting, walking, lying down, rising up—God is one.

Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

- B. How important is the oneness of God?
 1. How important is it to make an issue about God being one? Is this focus really a basic truth that is necessary to emphasize in a series like this?
 2. Let us read how Jesus answered that question.

Mark 12:28-30

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well,

*asked him, Which is the **first commandment [most important] of all?***

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

3. This was Jesus' answer to the question about what was the most important commandment (Matthew 22:38 says **first and great** commandment): God is one and we must worship Him with everything within us.
 4. As you can see, Jesus was quoting what we just read in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 about God's nature and our responsibility to Him:
Worship one God!
- IV. There is only one

- A. What about other gods identified in scripture?
1. Jesus said the singularity of God and loving Him alone was the most important commandment, so let's deal with some questions on the subject. Like, What about other gods that we read about in the Bible?

Deut 13:1-2

1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

*2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us **go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;***

2. It is not as though the scripture denies that there were claims of other gods, existing, but when the true God spoke of them, He made it clear they were no gods at all:

Isaiah 43:10-11

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye

*may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.***

11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

3. God affirmed that no God came before Him and none were formed after Him.

4. A few chapters later, God revealed this truth to the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 45:21 ... and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

5. Another truth about other gods or idols is seen in 1 Corinthians:

1 Cor 10:19-20

19 Am I saying that idols or food sacrificed to them amount to anything? 20 No, I mean that what the pagans sacrifice is to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. NET

6. Jesus made it plain that He was God from above:

John 8:23-24

23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

7. Paul also identified who that one true God is:

*Rom 9:5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of **Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.***
NIV

8. In other words, scriptures declare that Jesus is that one God from heaven and you better believe it!

B. Only One Savior

1. God stated another important truth about Himself in the 2nd commandment that we need to pay attention to: He is a jealous God. Meaning He is passionate about His

love for us like a groom is for His bride:

Ex 20:4-5

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

2. God declared that He was the only Savior, that He was a jealous God, and would not tolerate His people honoring any other Savior.

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

3. Let us consider that truth alongside something an angel from God said about the birth of Jesus:

Luke 2:10-11

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

*11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.***

4. Was that angel confused? Was he aware of what God had spoken to Isaiah that there was only one Savior, and that God was a jealous God who would not tolerate worship of another Savior?
5. There is no contradiction here; the angel knew there was only one Savior—the invisible God of eternity—but now He was being born in a human baby.
6. It became evident years later, as people heard the teaching of Jesus, that Jesus was in fact the Savior of the world:

*John 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the **Christ, the Saviour of the world.***

7. It is not a contradiction that the Bible identifies Jesus as the Savior when it had said that God was the only Savior. **That is because Jesus is God.**
8. Jesus was not a second God, or a second Savior, He was the same God Israel had worshiped as an invisible God who was Spirit only, referred to as the Father. But He now made Himself visible in a human body, referred to as the Son of God. A phrase that refers to a role God serves.
9. The scriptures make clear that God is Savior and Jesus is Savior:
***Titus 3:4** But after that the kindness and love of **God our Saviour** toward man appeared,...*
***Titus 3:6** Which he shed on us abundantly through **Jesus Christ our Saviour**;*
10. But to worship and honor Jesus as Savior does not identify a second person as a Savior, but the one true God who came in

bodily form who lived and died and rose again as Savior!

c. Only One Creator

1. In the church I was raised, as a boy, I remember being shown pictures of three separate beings around the throne in heaven.

2. But later in life as I began to do a deeper study of the scriptures, I read differently about that throne in heaven:

Isaiah 44:6, 24

*6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.***

*24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens **alone**; that spreadeth abroad the earth **by myself**;*

3. God did all the creation all by Himself. So how do we understand this verse?

*Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who **created all things by Jesus Christ:***

4. Paul acknowledged that this was a mystery from the beginning, but that God revealed that mystery: Jesus was God Himself doing the creating.

5. Jesus is the one and true God, and not another god or a second-person god who stood beside Him creating.

6. In another place, Paul added this about Jesus the Creator:

*Col 1:16 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:***

7. And again in Revelation 4 we read of just one throne and one sitting on it:
*Rev 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and **one sat on the throne.***
Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
8. Jesus said that glorious throne was His:
*Matt 25:31 When the **Son of man** shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall **he sit upon the throne of his glory:***
9. John saw Jesus—the Lamb—being worshipped in heaven in the midst of the throne, and all of heaven’s inhabitants fell down and worshiped Him!
10. If Jesus was not God, then God, being a jealous God, would not allow that kind of honor to be given to another, especially on His own throne in heaven!

11. When Lucifer tried that, God cast him out of heaven! But Jesus is God and Jesus is our Creator and Jesus is worthy to be worshipped!
- D. Is there any like God?
1. Let's consider one final question about the existence of other gods.
 2. We read that there were no gods around before God; there have been no other gods that came along after God; there is no other Savior but God; and no other Creator but God.
 3. And God who is called by the name, Jesus Christ, is the only God.
 4. Here is another question to ponder: Could there not possibly exist somewhere out there, another being, maybe not another god, but perhaps something or someone like god? Are there other god-like beings out there?

5. The Greeks, Romans of ancient days, and, Hindus and Buddhists and others of modern days, proclaim there are other gods out there, other than Jesus. What do we make of those claims?

6. God revealed this truth to Isaiah the prophet:

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

7. God said that not only is there not another god out there, there is not even another god-like being out there.

8. Even the devil, who as Lucifer once dwelt in heaven, knows of the one God:

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

9. Why would the devil tremble at the fact that there is one God?

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

10. Jesus watched the devil fall from heaven. So why is the devil still trembling? Because it was Jesus who was responsible for his ultimate eviction from heaven.
 11. It did not take more than one god to remove the devil from heaven. The devil is terrified enough of the single God.
 12. But another reason the devil is still trembling is because there are a lot of one-God believers around to whom Jesus gave the authority to cast out devils.
- v. Conclusion
1. The teaching that God is one is a foundational teaching of scripture.
 2. Moses, the one who spoke with God on the mountain, believed in one God who existed as one entity, being, or person, when he wrote down God's words in the Book of Deuteronomy.

3. The scriptures teach that He is the only God; He is the only Creator; and He is the only Savior.
4. The apostle Paul and Jude the brother of Jesus both wrote letters about Jesus and included this phrase about Him: **“the only wise God.”**
1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.
5. *Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*
6. God is one and His name is Jesus.
7. So what does this truth mean to us? If Jesus is who He said He was, we need to seek Him as our Lord of all and love Him with all our heart, soul, and might.
8. We read that all the inhabitants of heaven bow down and worship before Jesus on the one and only throne in heaven.

9. So why not get in that practice now?
Worship Him with your life!
10. Surrender to Him in repentance, submit to Him by being baptized in His name, and become His child by being filled with His Spirit.