

Basic Training Lesson 6-2

Who is God? Part 2

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

II. He is Creator

1. *John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

III. He is one

A. History of one

1. *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.

B. How important is the oneness of God?

1. *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.

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 and made claim to be the Father:
John 8:23-27
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.***

25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.

*26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but **he that sent me is true**; and I speak to the world those things which **I have heard of him.***

*27 They understood not that **he spake to them of the Father.***

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

*Rom 9:5 Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and **Christ** himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And **he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise!** Amen. NLT*

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

B. Only One Savior

1. There is no contradiction that the Old Testament said God was the One Savior, and yet the angel announcing the birth of Jesus said: a Savior which is Christ the Lord.” Both are true because the invisible God of eternity had been born as a human baby.
2. 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.***
3. **That is because Jesus is God**, not a second God, a second Savior, or even a second Person, but the same God Israel had worshiped as their invisible God, who was Spirit only and referred to as the Father.

4. But He now made Himself visible in a human body, which in that form referred to Himself as the Son of God or the Son of Man, phrases that refer to the role He served and still serves as our Mediator, Redeemer, and Savior.
 5. But 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**;*
 6. But to worship and honor Jesus as Savior does not mean a second person has become Savior, but the one true God who came in bodily form who lived and died and rose again is Savior!
- c. Only One Creator
1. In the church I was raised, as a boy, I remember being shown pictures of the

throne in heaven with three separate beings around it.

2. But later in life as I began to do a deeper study of the scriptures, I realized that was more of a polytheistic misrepresentation of scripture. Biblical descriptions of the throne in heaven reveal one.

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. Here and other places, Jesus is referring to the prophecy in Daniel 7:9 that speaks of the throne in heaven belonging to the Ancient of Days.
10. Also the Son of Man is there receiving glory as the Victor over the nations.
11. But what I find amazing is the same description given to the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7 is repeated in Revelation 1:12 as the description of Jesus, the Son of Man.
12. And what John saw in heaven was Jesus, the Lamb, being worshipped in heaven in

- the midst of the throne, and all of heaven's inhabitants fell down and worshiped Him!
13. And John also witnessed Jesus receiving the glory of all the nations in Revelation 11:15.
 14. If Jesus was not God, then God, who is a jealous God, would not allow that kind of honor to be given to another, especially on His own throne in heaven!
 15. Remember when Lucifer tried that in Isaiah 14, God cast him out of heaven instantly! But Jesus is God and Jesus is our Creator and Jesus is worthy to be worshipped as Savior and Creator!
- 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. Why do you suppose the devil is still trembling? For one thing, the Lake of Fire is the destiny awaiting him.
 11. And secondly, 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.
- E. Who is the only wise God?
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. The Old Testament LORD and the New Testament Jesus Christ are one and the

same; not two Gods and never identified as two different persons.

8. Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the image of the one person, the invisible God of the Old Testament.

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

9. This made Jesus a problem to Jews who knew there was only one God but refused to accept that Jesus was God.

- v. Why Jesus was a problem to the Jewish people
 - A. He claimed equality with God
 - 1. The first and second commandments didn't allow worship of any other person but God, but Jesus challenged them to carefully search the scriptures because they reveal Jesus was God:
John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
 - 2. But instead, most religious leaders saw Jesus simply as the boy next door who grew up in the home of Joseph the carpenter, whose kids played with their kids:
Mark 6:2-3
2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him,

that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

3. Their problem was that because they were so familiar with His humanity, they would not accept His deity.
4. When Jesus claimed equality with God, they rejected Him as a heretic:

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

- B. I am
 1. Jesus did not deny His equality with God.
 2. For in Exodus 3:14, God revealed His name to Moses: "I AM" meaning the always

existing, self-existent One with no beginning and no creator.

3. In Hebrew it is the four letters Yod, Hei, Vav, Hei. This is called the Tetragrammaton. **[image]**

4. Some translations render that name as Jehovah, or Yahweh, but most often, in our English Bibles, it comes through as LORD.

5. The Jews highly revered and respect that name, "I AM" and would not even speak it out of reverence. But Jesus used that name to describe Himself and used the Greek version, **ego emi** a number of times: *John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

6. His audience understood the significance of this claim to the name of God and sought to stone Him considering it blasphemy.

John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out

of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

7. Jesus made many I AM statements, a fact that we sometimes lose in our English translations. For the sake of easier reading, I AM sometimes gets translated in other ways.
8. For instance, when Jesus came walking on the water to His disciples—something only God could do—His disciples were afraid. But Jesus spoke to them:
Matthew 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I [I AM]; be not afraid. (and Mark 6:50, John 6:20)
9. Literally, the Greek text says: *Have courage, I AM. Don't be afraid.*
10. There are many such statements of Jesus where it makes clear that Jesus identifies Himself as the I AM, the God of the Old Testament. Not another God, not a second

person of God, but the visible image of that God.

11. Here is one of the texts where Jesus identified Himself as the Son of Man quoting from Daniel 7. This was particularly incriminating of Jesus identifying Himself as God:

Mark 14:61-62

61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. (and Luke 22:70)

12. When Jesus made a post-resurrection appearance to His disciples, he said:
Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself [I AM]: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

13. To the woman at the well who spoke of longing for the Messiah/Christ, Jesus said:
John 4:25-26
25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.
26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he [I AM].
14. *John 6:20, 35, 41, 48, 51 I am the bread of Life, and the living bread.¹*

¹ Others: *John 8:12, 18, 23, 24, 28, 58, John 9:9, John 10:7, 9, 11, 14, John 11:25, John 13:19, John 14:3, 6, John 15:1, 5, John 18:5.*