

Who is God? And how can we know God? These are important questions for any society to answer. In our society they were once rarely asked because the answers were so obvious that they weren't necessary. But in the new multi-cultural America that is no longer the case. The Dalai-Lama, who claims to be a god incarnate, is accepted by many, and Islamic mosques are no longer an unusual sight in America. The Judeo-Christian heritage of exclusively defining God as the God of Israel, the God of the Bible, is being challenged as never before, and old questions are taking on new significance. Fortunately, the answers haven't changed. The Scriptures open with the declaration, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1). This is unique. Pagan gods are generally themselves created beings rising like the rest of creation out of some kind of primeval chaos. But the true God is an eternal, uncreated being by whose command all things came into existence. And that is one way we can know God; through his great work of creation. The psalmist declares, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.*" (Psalm 19:1). This is a universal language that all men can understand and its testimony reaches to all men, "*There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world*" (Psalm 19:3-4). This testimony is so overwhelming that the Scriptures teach, "*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God*" (Psalm 14:1). This testimony is so clear that it leaves all men, atheists and agnostics, without excuse for not acknowledging and worshipping the true God. As Paul states it, "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse*" (Romans 1:18-20).

But clear and important as this testimony is, it is not sufficient. It testifies to the existence and greatness of God, to his goodness and mercy in sustaining his creation, but it shows us nothing of how to approach God and deal with the problem of sin. As Paul reminds Timothy, "*...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*" (2 Timothy 3:15). It is only through the Scriptures that we can really begin to know God. It is only in the Scriptures that we find God's plan of redemption revealed. It is only in the Scriptures that we can come to a full understanding of what God expects of us, of how we are to approach and worship Him, and of how we

can be delivered from sin, and death, and hell. If we would really know the true God, his being, his attributes, and his works, we must search the Scriptures. The Scriptures teach that God is eternal, immutable, and the source of all blessings. *"Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God"* (Psalm 90:2); *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning"* (James 1:17). It is only from the Scriptures that we realize the full extent of God's love and his mercy, that we begin to appreciate his faithfulness, that we can understand his righteousness and his holiness and that we can begin to fear his justice.

But the ultimate revelation of God was made in the person and work of His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. He was God incarnate and in Him was a revelation of deity as never before. As the Apostle John described it, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). Paul describing Christ states, *"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person"* (Hebrews 1:1-3). Not only is Christ the great prophet foretold by Moses, through whom we have a full and final prophetic revelation of the true God, but He is God, an incarnate representation of deity. As scripture says, *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus"* (1 Timothy 2:5), and only through Him can we come to the true God and really know Him.

Almost three millennia ago the question arose as it still does today, "Who is God?" Is it the Lord, the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, or is it Baal? The prophet Elijah had an answer, and on Mount Carmel he confronted and confounded the priests of Baal and proved that the Lord God of Israel was the true God. Today we too have an inspired word to identify the true God and reveal Him to us, the Holy Scriptures, the very word of God. If you desire to know who the true God is; if you desire to understand and worship the true God; we invite you to study the Scriptures with us. If you desire to know Him who *"created the heavens and the earth"*; if you desire to know Him of whom the Scriptures say, *"salvation is of the Lord"*, it would be our privilege to reveal Him to you through the word of God. Do you desire to be delivered from your sins and receive the *"righteousness of God in Jesus Christ"* and that *"holiness without which no*

*man shall see the Lord*"? These blessings can only come from the true God and are only revealed in His word. We pray that you will study that word that you might serve Him in this life and dwell with Him forever in the life to come.