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God's absolute power and sovereignty over all of creation. God continues to sustain and uphold the universe. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul writes, "In him [Christ] all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17, NIV), suggesting God's ongoing role in maintaining the order and existence of the world. The act of creation is often seen as a manifestation of God's glory and creative wisdom. Psalm 19:1 expresses this sentiment: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (NIV). Understanding God as the Creator of the universe provides a framework for understanding the nature of God and humanity's place in the world.God is the Holy TrinityThe Trinity refers to the understanding of God as one essence existing eternally in three distinct persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. The Trinity asserts that there is one God—that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit share the same divine essence. The concept of the Trinity is not explicitly laid out in a single biblical passage but is inferred from various biblical teachings, such as the Great Commission, where Jesus speaks, referencing each entity: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20).Each person of the Trinity is understood to have distinct roles while sharing the same divine nature. The Father is often associated with the role of creator and source, the Son with redemption and revelation (especially in the Incarnation of Jesus), and the Holy Spirit with sanctification and empowerment. The relationships within the Trinity are considered eternal and unchanging. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have existed in a perfect and loving relationship from eternity past. This eternal communion reflects the idea that God is inherently relational. The Trinity is often described as a divine mystery, acknowledging that human language and thought are limited when trying to grasp the nature of God. It goes beyond our ordinary understanding of unity and plurality. The work of redemption involves the Father sending the Son, Jesus Christ, into the world for the salvation of humanity and the Holy Spirit's role in convicting, guiding, and empowering believers. Definition of God"God" is central to many religious and philosophical traditions, representing the ultimate and transcendent being. In monotheistic religions such as Christianity, God is understood as the creator and sustainer of the universe, possessing attributes such as omnipotence, omniscience, and omnibenevolence. God is seen as the source of moral authority and the ultimate object of worship and devotion.Nature of God in the BibleSo, "Who is God?" Among many other biblical and theological works, five stand out. All five words are multiplied by eternity and infinity. In other words, what do we mean when we say, "My love falls impossibly short of God's love?" Everything about God stretches not only across the 100 billion light-years of this universe, but also stretches far beyond this universe to God's throne in heaven. So, what are the five words that answer, "Who is God?"?1. God Is Sovereign "Sovereign" appears hundreds of times in Scripture and is embedded 6,700 plus times in the sacred divine name, YHWH. The latter typically appears as the word "LORD" capitalized in most modern Bible translations. When we think about who God is, we begin by describing Him as all-powerful (omnipotent) and everywhere-present (omnipresent). The biblical heroes of the faith rejoiced in both aspects of God's sovereignty. King David said, "The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all" (Psalm 103:19). Later he prayed, "Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all" (1 Chronicles 29:11).The initial followers of Jesus Christ prayed, "Sovereign Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them" (Acts 4:24). Later the Apostle Paul described God as "the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen" (1 Timothy 6:15-16).So, does God's power and presence permeate every moment and millimeter of your life?Yes! Life is abundant when you recognize and rejoice in both today!3. God Is Holy"Holy" and its synonyms appear more than 1,600 times throughout the Bible. It quickly becomes clear that God is holy, people aren't, God expects us to be holy, and we can't be without His divine transformation.After giving the Ten Commandments, the Lord told His ancient people: "Do not profane my holy name, for I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who made you holy" (Leviticus 22:32). He also told them: "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2). Old and New Testament heroes of faith talk about the dichotomies of holiness, which both challenged them and spurred their faith into action. In the middle of the Bible, we're told, "Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom" (Psalm 45:6). Toward the end of the Bible, we're told, "God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness" (Hebrews 12:10). So, does God's glory and purity permeate your life? Yes! Now is the time to confess any known sins and embrace God's holiness anew. 4. God is LoveJesus and His apostles didn't invent the idea of God's love. Far from it! Remember the Lord's sacred name, YHWH? Here's the first part of how the Lord Himself defines it: "Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD, and he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin'" (Exodus 34:5-7). Did you notice the word "love" appears twice?Actually, "God" and "love" appear adjacent to each other many, many times throughout the Bible, especially in the New Testament. The most famous of those verses is John 3:16. Other famous verses about God's love include Romans 5:5, Romans 5:8, and Romans 8:38-39. Still, others include 1 John 4:7-10, 1 John 4:16, and 1 John 4:19. But it's not enough to just know about God's love. So, does God's graciousness and passion permeate your life?Yes! Open your heart and arms to receive His love right now. 5. God Is OmnipotentWhen we think about who God is, we can't finish before we talk about Him as all-knowing (omniscient). This doesn't mean God knows all the facts in the universe. Well, that's true; He does, but God knows much, much more. Remember phone books? A million facts, but none that could change your life. By themselves, facts are just facts. God not only has all knowledge but also has all-discernment, all-insight, all-understanding, all-wisdom, and "way-above-our-heads" ways.The Lord puts it this way: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). In other words, "God alone knows" multiplied by eternity and infinity. None of us knows 0.000001% of everything that's true and right and important and life-changing. So, why in the world are we ever tempted to think we know better than God? Do we know better than Him how to run our lives? Not a chance!So, does God's mystery permeate your life? Yes! Humbly acknowledge His higher, heavenly wisdom and ways today. Works of GodThe works of God refer to the actions or deeds attributed to God as revealed in the Bible. These works exhibit God's nature, character, and purpose in relation to creation and humanity. Here are three of the most significant examples of God's works in the Bible:Creation: One of the most fundamental works of God described in the Bible is the creation of the universe. In the book of Genesis, God is described as the creator of the heavens and the earth, bringing order out of chaos and filling the world with life. This act of creation demonstrates God's power, wisdom, and sovereignty over all things.Redemption: Another significant work of God in the Bible is the redemption of humanity through Jesus Christ. God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth to save humanity from sin and reconcile them to himself. This act of redemption is seen as the ultimate expression of God's love and mercy towards humanity, demonstrating his desire to restore broken relationships and offer the gift of salvation.Providence: God's providential care and guidance over creation and human history is also highlighted in the Bible. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God is portrayed as actively involved in the lives of individuals and nations, working out his purposes in the world. This work of providence is seen as a reflection of God's faithfulness, wisdom, and concern for his creation. This providence continues today through the active work of the Holy Spirit.Who is God, According to the Bible?John 4:24 - God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.Numbers 23:19 - God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?Exodus 3:14 - God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"1 John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.Revelation 1:8 - "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."God Is More Than We Can KnowIn this article, I don't want to imply that five words alone can describe who God is. Believe me, I know He is much more! When I read Scripture, I'm reminded that the Lord God is One in Three (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) infinitely and eternally. When I'm stressed, I remember the Lord's presence is with me and thank Him for His infinite and eternal joy and peace. When I've sinned, I recall the Lord's holiness and love and thank Him for His marvelous, amazing mercy and grace. Bottom line: Don't forget to experience who God is each day — so you can enjoy life to the full!Photo Credit: ©iStock/Getty Images Plus/ChristianChanThe late David Sanford's book and Bible projects were published by Zondervan, Tynedale, Thomas Nelson, Doubleday, Barbour, and Amazon. His latest book was Life Map Devotional for Men published concurrently with his wife Renee's book, Life Map Devotional for Women. existence of God, in religion, the proposition that there is a supreme supernatural or preternatural being that is the creator or sustainer or ruler of the universe and all things in it, including human beings. In many religions God is also conceived as perfect and unfathomable by humans, as all-powerful and all-knowing (omnipotent and omniscient), and as the source and ultimate ground of morality.Belief in the existence of God (or gods) is definitional of theism and characteristic of many (though not all) religious traditions. For much of its history, Christianity in particular has been concerned with the question of whether God's existence can be established rationally (i.e., by reason alone or by reason informed by sense experience) or through religious experience or revelation or instead must be accepted as a matter of faith. The remainder of this article will consider some historically influential arguments that have been advanced to demonstrate the existence of God.Arguments for the existence of God are usually classified as either a priori or a posteriori—that is, based on the idea of God itself or based on experience. An example of the latter is the cosmological argument, which appeals to the notion of causation to conclude either that there is a first cause or that there is a necessary being from whom all contingent beings derive their existence. Other versions of this approach include the appeal to contingency—to the fact that whatever exists might not have existed and therefore calls for explanation—and the appeal to the principle of sufficient reason, which claims that for anything that exists there must be a sufficient reason why it exists. The arguments by St. Thomas Aquinas known as the Five Ways—the argument from motion, from efficient causation, from contingency, from degrees of perfection, and from final causes or ends in nature—are generally regarded as cosmological. Something must be the first or prime mover, the first efficient cause, the necessary ground of contingent beings, the supreme perfection that imperfect beings approach, and the intelligent guide of natural things toward their ends. This, Aquinas said, is God. The most common criticism of the cosmological argument has been that the phenomenon that God's existence supposedly accounts for does not in fact need to be explained, theism: Intellectual background The argument from design also starts from human experience: in this case the perception of order and purpose in the natural world. The argument claims that the universe is strongly analogous, in its order and regularity, to an artifact such as a watch; because the existence of the watch justifies the presumption of a watchmaker, the existence of the universe justifies the presumption of a divine creator of the universe, or God. Despite the powerful criticisms of the Scottish philosopher David Hume (1711–76)—e.g., that the evidence is compatible with a large number of hypotheses, such as polytheism or a god of limited power, that are as plausible as or more plausible than monotheism—the argument from design continued to be very popular in the 19th century. According to a more recent version of the argument, known as intelligent design, biological organisms display a kind of complexity ("irreducible complexity") that could not have come about through the gradual adaptation of their parts through natural selection; therefore, the argument concludes, such organisms must have been created in their present form by an intelligent designer. Other modern variants of the argument attempt to ground theistic belief in patterns of reasoning that are characteristic of the natural sciences, appealing to simplicity and economy of explanation of the order and regularity of the universe.Perhaps the most sophisticated and challenging argument for the existence of God is the ontological argument, propounded by St. Anselm of Canterbury. According to Anselm, the concept of God as the most perfect being—a being greater than which none can be conceived—entails that God exists, because a being who was otherwise all perfect and who failed to exist would be less great than a being who was all perfect and who did exist. This argument has exercised an abiding fascination for philosophers; some contend that it attempts to "define" God into existence, while others continue to defend it and to develop new versions.It may be possible (or impossible) to prove the existence of God, but it may be unnecessary to do so in order for belief in God to be reasonable. Perhaps the requirement of a proof is too stringent, and perhaps there are other ways of establishing God's existence. Chief among these is the appeal to religious experience—a personal, direct acquaintance with God or an experience of God mediated through a religious tradition. Some forms of mysticism appeal to religious tradition to establish the significance and appropriateness of religious experiences. Interpretations of such experiences, however, typically cannot be independently verified.Giotto: The NativityThe Nativity, fresco by Giotto, 1303–05, depicting the birth of Jesus; in the Arena Chapel in Padua, Italy.The Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) also appeal to revelation, or to claims that God has spoken through appointed messengers to disclose matters which would otherwise be inaccessible. In Christianity these matters have included the doctrine of creation, the Trinity, and the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Various attempts have been made to establish the reasonableness of the appeal to revelation through the witness of the church and through signs and miracles, all of which are thought to herald the authentic voice of God. (This is the context in which Hume's classic critique of the credibility of reported miracles—that no amount or kind of evidence can establish that a miracle has occurred—must be understood.) Yet appeals to revelation by the various religions conflict with each other, and the appeal to revelation itself is open to the charge of circularity. "O, taste and see that the Lord is good" - Psalm 34:8According to Tozer, the goodness of God "disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and of quick sympathy, and His unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank, and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people."Just like his other attributes, God's goodness exists within his immutability and infinite nature so that he is unchangingly, always good. His mercy flows from his goodness. "In his goodness to us, we see that He has purposed to be good in a special way to his people" (Ligonier.com)As with God's other perfect attributes, Christians find it easier to affirm the goodness of God when things are going well. When life takes a nosedive, though, that's when we begin to question God's goodness to and for us.When the Psalmist writes, "O, taste and see that the Lord is good," (Psalm 34), He is inviting us not just to believe that God is good but to experience God's goodness. And, interestingly, as Desiring God writer Andrew Wilson notes in his article on the subject of God's goodness, "the psalmist affirms his experience of God's goodness from a place of suffering. In verse 19, he makes the remarkable announcement, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." Even with a good God, who is sovereign over everything and has the power to do whatever he likes, good people still suffer. His punchnline, though, comes in the next phrase: "but Yahweh delivers him out of them all." Evil happens, but "none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned" (34:22).Image Credit: ©Thinkstock Who is God in the Bible? How do humans fit into his plans? The first appearance of God in the Bible, not surprisingly, is in the book of Genesis. Its first verse informs us that "in the beginning," meaning before the physical universe existed (before space, time, matter and so on), our Creator made everything that is visible and invisible. It is not until far later that it is revealed that the Being who became Jesus was used by the Father to create everything (Colossians 1:16 - 19).The English word God used in Scripture comes from the Hebrew word Elohim which is used more than 2,600 times in the Old Testament. It is a word used to denote a group composed of more than one individual (Strong's Concordance), much like "team" denotes more than one person. Depending on the context, and other relevant verses, this word can refer to either to the Father, Jesus or both.God is a personal, all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal, loving, spirit-composed family currently composed of the Father and Jesus Christ (see John 10:30 - 31, 17:20 - 23, 1John 3:1 - 2). The Being known as the Father is the Sovereign Ruler of all. He has always possessed righteous character and is full of mercy and grace. His existence is a living definition of perfect love (1John 4:8). Although greater than His Son in authority, he nevertheless shares all that he has with him,Jesus ChristThe Being who became Jesus, before his human birth, existed for all eternity with the Father. He is the God of the Old Testament who was both the Lord and Lawgiver. He is revealed in the Gospels and the entire New Testament as the Word. In order to become the perfect sacrifice for sin, he willingly gave up His power and glorious existence to become a flesh and blood human being. He offered himself, through the cross, as the perfect atonement for man's sins.AttributesGod has many attributes such as perfect faithfulness, impartiality, mercy and holiness. He is also long-suffering and full of grace and truth. He has chosen never to lie (Hebrews 6:17 - 18) and never to change in character (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17). The Bible states we share the same basic appearance as our Creator (head, hair, eyes, ears, mouth, etc.).Most of the Christian world defines God (Elohim) as a closed group of three beings (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The Bible, however, does not teach that the Holy Spirit is an individual like the Father and Son. Instead, it is currently composed of two beings who intend to add countless converted humans to the family.The plan of God is ultimately to offer a full chance at salvation to every human being. This plan begins when a person is called. They must then repent, be baptized, and receive his spirit. They must then lead a life of building righteous character within themselves. After a faithful life, they are resurrected, given a spiritual body that will never die, and made to be sealed forever in holiness.

No other question is more important than "Who is God?" Learn about the roles, nature, and works of God to more deeply understand Him. Find Scriptures that provide context while revealing His character.Get this one right — and experience who He is each day — and you'll enjoy life to the full! We see this in Deuteronomy 7:12-13, Psalm 16:2, John 10:10, and James 1:17. We also see this today. "I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord, apart from you I have no good thing." (Psalm 16:2)"The man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems, for he sees at once that these have to do with matters which at the most cannot concern him for very long." - A. W. TozerWho Is God?DefinitionNature of GodWorks of GodAccording to the BibleWho Is God?The Bible does not give one specific definition of God. Instead, it assumes God's existence from the beginning and reveals His nature and work throughout. God is understood as the supreme being and the creator of the universe. God is Our CreatorThe Bible begins with the statement, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1, NIV).This verse introduces the notion that God initiated the existence of the world through a deliberate and purposeful act of creation. God is thought to have brought the universe into existence without pre-existing materials. This idea emphasizes God's absolute power and sovereignty over all of creation. God continues to sustain and uphold the universe. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul writes, "In him [Christ] all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17, NIV), suggesting God's ongoing role in maintaining the order and existence of the world. The act of creation is often seen as a manifestation of God's glory and creative wisdom. Psalm 19:1 expresses this sentiment: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (NIV). 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Here's the first part of how the Lord Himself defines it: "Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD, and he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin'" (Exodus 34:5-7). Did you notice the word "love" appears twice?Actually, "God" and "love" appear adjacent to each other many, many times throughout the Bible, especially in the New Testament. The most famous of those verses is John 3:16. Other famous verses about God's love include Romans 5:5, Romans 5:8, and Romans 8:38-39. Still, others include 1 John 4:7-10, 1 John 4:16, and 1 John 4:19. But it's not enough to just know about God's love. So, does God's graciousness and passion permeate your life?Yes! Open your heart and arms to receive His love right now. 5. 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God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.Revelation 1:8 - "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."God Is More Than We Can KnowIn this article, I don't want to imply that five words alone can describe who God is. Believe me, I know He is much more! When I read Scripture, I'm reminded that the Lord God is One in Three (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) infinitely and eternally. When I'm stressed, I remember the Lord's presence is with me and thank Him for His infinite and eternal joy and peace. When I've sinned, I recall the Lord's holiness and love and thank Him for His marvelous, amazing mercy and grace. Bottom line: Don't forget to experience who God is each day — so you can enjoy life to the full!Photo Credit: ©iStock/Getty Images Plus/ChristianChanThe late David Sanford's book and Bible projects were published by Zondervan, Tynedale, Thomas Nelson, Doubleday, Barbour, and Amazon. His latest book was Life Map Devotional for Men published concurrently with his wife Renee's book, Life Map Devotional for Women. existence of God, in religion, the proposition that there is a supreme supernatural or preternatural being that is the creator or sustainer or ruler of the universe and all things in it, including human beings. In many religions God is also conceived as perfect and unfathomable by humans, as all-powerful and all-knowing (omnipotent and omniscient), and as the source and ultimate ground of morality.Belief in the existence of God (or gods) is definitional of theism and characteristic of many (though not all) religious traditions. For much of its history, Christianity in particular has been concerned with the question of whether God's existence can be established rationally (i.e., by reason alone or by reason informed by sense experience) or through religious experience or revelation or instead must be accepted as a matter of faith. The remainder of this article will consider some historically influential arguments that have been advanced to demonstrate the existence of God.Arguments for the existence of God are usually classified as either a priori or a posteriori—that is, based on the idea of God itself or based on experience. An example of the latter is the cosmological argument, which appeals to the notion of causation to conclude either that there is a first cause or that there is a necessary being from whom all contingent beings derive their existence. Other versions of this approach include the appeal to contingency—to the fact that whatever exists might not have existed and therefore calls for explanation—and the appeal to the principle of sufficient reason, which claims that for anything that exists there must be a sufficient reason why it exists. The arguments by St. Thomas Aquinas known as the Five Ways—the argument from motion, from efficient causation, from contingency, from degrees of perfection, and from final causes or ends in nature—are generally regarded as cosmological. Something must be the first or prime mover, the first efficient cause, the necessary ground of contingent beings, the supreme perfection that imperfect beings approach, and the intelligent guide of natural things toward their ends. This, Aquinas said, is God. The most common criticism of the cosmological argument has been that the phenomenon that God's existence supposedly accounts for does not in fact need to be explained, theism: Intellectual background The argument from design also starts from human experience: in this case the perception of order and purpose in the natural world. The argument claims that the universe is strongly analogous, in its order and regularity, to an artifact such as a watch; because the existence of the watch justifies the presumption of a watchmaker, the existence of the universe justifies the presumption of a divine creator of the universe, or God. Despite the powerful criticisms of the Scottish philosopher David Hume (1711–76)—e.g., that the evidence is compatible with a large number of hypotheses, such as polytheism or a god of limited power, that are as plausible as or more plausible than monotheism—the argument from design continued to be very popular in the 19th century. According to a more recent version of the argument, known as intelligent design, biological organisms display a kind of complexity ("irreducible complexity") that could not have come about through the gradual adaptation of their parts through natural selection; therefore, the argument concludes, such organisms must have been created in their present form by an intelligent designer. Other modern variants of the argument attempt to ground theistic belief in patterns of reasoning that are characteristic of the natural sciences, appealing to simplicity and economy of explanation of the order and regularity of the universe.Perhaps the most sophisticated and challenging argument for the existence of God is the ontological argument, propounded by St. Anselm of Canterbury. According to Anselm, the concept of God as the most perfect being—a being greater than which none can be conceived—entails that God exists, because a being who was otherwise all perfect and who failed to exist would be less great than a being who was all perfect and who did exist. This argument has exercised an abiding fascination for philosophers; some contend that it attempts to "define" God into existence, while others continue to defend it and to develop new versions.It may be possible (or impossible) to prove the existence of God, but it may be unnecessary to do so in order for belief in God to be reasonable. Perhaps the requirement of a proof is too stringent, and perhaps there are other ways of establishing God's existence. Chief among these is the appeal to religious experience—a personal, direct acquaintance with God or an experience of God mediated through a religious tradition. Some forms of mysticism appeal to religious tradition to establish the significance and appropriateness of religious experiences. Interpretations of such experiences, however, typically cannot be independently verified.Giotto: The NativityThe Nativity, fresco by Giotto, 1303–05, depicting the birth of Jesus; in the Arena Chapel in Padua, Italy.The Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) also appeal to revelation, or to claims that God has spoken through appointed messengers to disclose matters which would otherwise be inaccessible. In Christianity these matters have included the doctrine of creation, the Trinity, and the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Various attempts have been made to establish the reasonableness of the appeal to revelation through the witness of the church and through signs and miracles, all of which are thought to herald the authentic voice of God. (This is the context in which Hume's classic critique of the credibility of reported miracles—that no amount or kind of evidence can establish that a miracle has occurred—must be understood.) Yet appeals to revelation by the various religions conflict with each other, and the appeal to revelation itself is open to the charge of circularity. "O, taste and see that the Lord is good" - Psalm 34:8According to Tozer, the goodness of God "disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and of quick sympathy, and His unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank, and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people."Just like his other attributes, God's goodness exists within his immutability and infinite nature so that he is unchangingly, always good. His mercy flows from his goodness. "In his goodness to us, we see that He has purposed to be good in a special way to his people" (Ligonier.com)As with God's other perfect attributes, Christians find it easier to affirm the goodness of God when things are going well. When life takes a nosedive, though, that's when we begin to question God's goodness to and for us.When the Psalmist writes, "O, taste and see that the Lord is good," (Psalm 34), He is inviting us not just to believe that God is good but to experience God's goodness. And, interestingly, as Desiring God writer Andrew Wilson notes in his article on the subject of God's goodness, "the psalmist affirms his experience of God's goodness from a place of suffering. In verse 19, he makes the remarkable announcement, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." Even with a good God, who is sovereign over everything and has the power to do whatever he likes, good people still suffer. His punchnline, though, comes in the next phrase: "but Yahweh delivers him out of them all." Evil happens, but "none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned" (34:22).Image Credit: ©Thinkstock Who is God in the Bible? How do humans fit into his plans? The first appearance of God in the Bible, not surprisingly, is in the book of Genesis. Its first verse informs us that "in the beginning," meaning before the physical universe existed (before space, time, matter and so on), our Creator made everything that is visible and invisible. It is not until far later that it is revealed that the Being who became Jesus was used by the Father to create everything (Colossians 1:16 - 19).The English word God used in Scripture comes from the Hebrew word Elohim which is used more than 2,600 times in the Old Testament. It is a word used to denote a group composed of more than one individual (Strong's Concordance), much like "team" denotes more than one person. Depending on the context, and other relevant verses, this word can refer to either to the Father, Jesus or both.God is a personal, all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal, loving, spirit-composed family currently composed of the Father and Jesus Christ (see John 10:30 - 31, 17:20 - 23, 1John 3:1 - 2). The Being known as the Father is the Sovereign Ruler of all. He has always possessed righteous character and is full of mercy and grace. His existence is a living definition of perfect love (1John 4:8). Although greater than His Son in authority, he nevertheless shares all that he has with him,Jesus ChristThe Being who became Jesus, before his human birth, existed for all eternity with the Father. He is the God of the Old Testament who was both the Lord and Lawgiver. He is revealed in the Gospels and the entire New Testament as the Word. In order to become the perfect sacrifice for sin, he willingly gave up His power and glorious existence to become a flesh and blood human being. He offered himself, through the cross, as the perfect atonement for man's sins.AttributesGod has many attributes such as perfect faithfulness, impartiality, mercy and holiness. He is also long-suffering and full of grace and truth. He has chosen never to lie (Hebrews 6:17 - 18) and never to change in character (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17). The Bible states we share the same basic appearance as our Creator (head, hair, eyes, ears, mouth, etc.).Most of the Christian world defines God (Elohim) as a closed group of three beings (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The Bible, however, does not teach that the Holy Spirit is an individual like the Father and Son. Instead, it is currently composed of two beings who intend to add countless converted humans to the family.The plan of God is ultimately to offer a full chance at salvation to every human being. This plan begins when a person is called. They must then repent, be baptized, and receive his spirit. They must then lead a life of building righteous character within themselves. After a faithful life, they are resurrected, given a spiritual body that will never die, and made to be sealed forever in holiness.

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