

## LESSON FIVE

### GREAT BIBLE THEMES

#### THE NATURE OF GOD

A study of the nature of the Creator of our universe is one of the most challenging topics that can occupy the mind of man. The creation all about us is so definitely governed by law and order that we must look back TO the creation to the Creator. Did you ever spend an hour looking into the starry heavens at night and try to think of the orderliness of all you could see. If you have, you can share with David the feeling that truly, "The heavens declare the glory of God." If you have had occasion to think of the vast amount of life all about us, much of which can only be seen through the microscope, you have also shared with David the conviction that "the firmament sheweth his handiwork." Great and marvelous is the creation about us. Back of such a creation was the designer or creator of it all. As you sit in the quiet of your own room thinking on this topic you will be trying to comprehend the greatness and vastness of such a Creator.

Where can we go to find something of the nature of God? After we have looked in every possible place for an answer to this question we are brought to only one conclusion, that is, we must look to the Bible because here and here alone God makes himself known to us. Someone has said that the one great purpose of the Bible is to reveal God to the people of the earth.

It has been said that God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. In our study today, we want to study the meaning of these terms. Here are our questions: . . .

1. What is meant by the statement that God is Omnipotent? Is God's power limited in any way?
2. What is meant by the statement that God is omniscient? What does the Bible teach about it?
3. Does the Bible teach that God is omnipresent? What Old Testament character was surprised at the Omnipresence of God?
4. What do the answers to these questions mean to you?

## **LET US LOOK TO THE BIBLE FOR OUR ANSWERS**

Three terms that may be applied to God are his omniscience, his omnipotence, and his omnipresence. These big words mean that God is all-wise, all-powerful, and always present. Let us examine them one at the time.

The fact that God is omniscient, or all-wise, is set forth in many places in the Bible. In Job 37:16, we have the statement, "Dost thou know the balancing of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is \_\_\_\_\_?"

In Psalms 147:5 we find, "Great is our Lord, and of great power:

\_\_\_\_\_."

Notice the portion of each of the following references that sets forth the things that the Lord knows. In this way we are gaining a better understanding of his nature.

Psalms 147:4, "He telleth \_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_;  
he calleth them all by their names."

Psalms 139:2-4, "Thou knowest my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, thou understandest my \_\_\_\_\_ afar off. Thou compasseth my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with \_\_\_\_\_.

For there is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, but lo, O Lord, thou \_\_\_\_\_ altogether."

1 Chronicles 28:9, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the thoughts."

Matthew 10:29-30, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground \_\_\_\_\_.

But the very \_\_\_\_\_.

Exodus 3:7, "And the Lord said, I have surely \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters: \_\_\_\_\_ for I \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_."

Acts 15:18,  
" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning of the world.”

As we come to understand that God is truly omniscient, that he knows our sorrows, our needs, our thoughts, and takes thought for even the small things of earth, we are brought to a more worshipful attitude toward him. We may be led to exclaim with Paul, (Romans 11:33), “O the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; how \_\_\_\_\_ are his judgments, and his ways past finding out.”

God is omnipotent. All power belongs to him. In the beginning he merely spoke and his will was done. Notice Genesis 1:3. “And God said, let \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.” Notice also verse 9. “And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: \_\_\_\_\_.”

Other examples may be found in verses 11, 14, 15, and 24, **And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. (AKJV).** As we think of his power to create and sustain a universe as vast as ours, we come to stand in awe of

him and to know more of the meaning of such statements as the one found in Psalms 33:8-9. "Let all the earth \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ; let all the inhabitants of the world \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_. For he \_\_\_\_\_, and it was \_\_\_\_\_; he \_\_\_\_\_, and it \_\_\_\_\_."

Notice the portion of each of the following verses that set forth the mighty power of God:

Jeremiah 32:17, "Ah, Lord God! behold, thou has made the heaven and the earth by thy \_\_\_\_\_ and stretched out arm, and there is \_\_\_\_\_."

Matthew 19:26, "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is \_\_\_\_\_; but with \_\_\_\_\_ all things are \_\_\_\_\_."

Revelation 11:17, "We give thanks, O \_\_\_\_\_, which art, and wast, and art to come: because thou has taken to thee thy \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

Deuteronomy 6:21, "Then thou shall say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ of Egypt with a \_\_\_\_\_." (This refers to the ten plagues sent upon the Egyptians).

The Bible abounds with examples of God's use of his mighty power to bless and protect his faithful people in every age. This creates within us a greater confidence in his promises to bless and care for his people. Notice the power implied in a promise like the one in Hebrews 13:5-6. ". . . for he hath said, I will never \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ . So that we may \_\_\_\_\_ say, The \_\_\_\_\_ is my \_\_\_\_\_, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Such a promise could only be made by the omnipotent Creator. A promise made by any other source would be meaningless because there is no other power in the world that can provide such protection.

We should notice, however, before taking up another point, that God's power is only limited by his own infinite nature. By this we mean that God could not be untrue or deceitful because these things are contrary to the nature of his being.

God is a Spirit, and is omnipresent, always present. This truth is very comforting and encouraging to the believer and should have a very sobering effect upon the believer's entire life. We cannot hide from his presence. Notice Jeremiah 23:23-24, "Am I a God \_\_\_\_\_, saith the Lord, and not a God \_\_\_\_\_? Can any \_\_\_\_\_ himself in \_\_\_\_\_ that I shall not \_\_\_\_\_? saith the Lord. Do not I \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_? saith the Lord." The same idea is set forth in Hebrews 4:13. "Neither is there \_\_\_\_\_ that is not \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_; but all things

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ unto  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of him with whom we have to do.”

**You will enjoy reading the entire 139<sup>th</sup> (Psalm 139:1-24, O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand:**

**when I awake, I am still with thee. Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (AKJV)** in this connection. Notice verses 7-

12. "Whither shall I go from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_? or whither shall I flee from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_? If I ascend up into heaven,  
\_\_\_\_\_ [ \_\_\_\_\_: if I make  
my bed in hell (the unseen world), behold, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. If I take the wings of the  
morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
\_\_\_\_\_ shall thy \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and thy right \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. If I say,  
Surely the darkness shall cover me: even the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. . . . the darkness and the light are  
\_\_\_\_\_ to thee.

Paul declared the nearness of God to the people of Athens. Acts 17:27-28. "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. For in him we \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_,  
and \_\_\_\_\_."

We have an interesting story in Genesis 28:10-22 (**Genesis 28:10-22, And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone,**

**which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. (AKJV)),**

which tells of a night when Jacob was away from home. That night as he used stones for his pillow, he dreamed of a ladder extending from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it. Verse 16 says, “And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : and I \_\_\_\_\_ .” He was surprised at the

fact of God’s omnipresence. Do you suppose we too might be just as surprised at times to be reminded that God is always present?

Let us notice two additional thoughts from Psalms 139. As the writer of this Psalm thought of the infinite knowledge of God, he declared (verse 6), “Such \_\_\_\_\_ is too

\_\_\_\_\_ for me; it is high, I cannot \_\_\_\_\_ .” We, too, may say that the

knowledge of the power of the Almighty One is too great for us to fully comprehend. Secondly, let us notice the prayer in the last two verses. Since God knows our hearts and thoughts completely, and we can hide nothing from him, we too, can make these verses our prayer. Search me, O God, and

\_\_\_\_\_ ; try me, and \_\_\_\_\_ : And

see if there be any \_\_\_\_\_ , and lead me in the

\_\_\_\_\_ .

**NOTE:** If you have hurriedly gone through this lesson you have missed much of its value to you. Re-study and re-think these great thoughts again. Spend a good deal of time on your answer

to the last question on page 1. "What do the answers to these questions mean to you?" Remember you are giving your own conclusions as the deep convictions of your own soul. You are not answering them for anyone else. Do you think that the individual who placed an empty chair in his study to remind him of the presence of God could have been blessed by this constant reminder?

## TEST

1. Three terms that may be applied to God are: his omniscience, his omnipotence and his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jacob was made to realize the: (a) omnipresence, (b) omnipotence, (c) omniscience of God, when he dreamed of a ladder extended from earth to heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Psalms 147:4 tells of the: (a) omnipresence, (b) omnipotence, (c) omniscience of God.
4. God does not know the future. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Can man go anywhere to get away from the presence of God? (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_
6. There are some things too hard for God. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Does God know the thoughts of man's mind? (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where can we go to get a knowledge of the nature of God? (a) from the stars? (b) from plant life? (c) from the Bible (d) from the air? \_\_\_\_\_
9. God is: (a) always in heaven, (b) not far from everyone of us, (c) near to us only when we pray. \_\_\_\_\_
10. When God said, "Let there be light and there was light," he demonstrated his: (a) omnipresence, (b) omnipotence, (c) omniscience. \_\_\_\_\_

**Score:** 10 points for each correct answer \_\_\_\_\_

### CORRECT ANSWERS FOR QUESTIONS IN LESSON NUMBER 4

1. (d)
2. (true)
3. (c)
4. (b)
5. (false)
6. (did)
7. (b)
8. (c)
9. (true)
10. (b)

List below others who wish to take this course.