

LESSON SIX

GREAT BIBLE THEMES

THE NATURE OF GOD, CONTINUED

In our last lesson we noticed the omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence of God. In it we examined a few passages which show that the Creator is all-wise, all-powerful, and always present. We feel sure that these ideas are too great to be fully comprehended by the human mind. As we come to a greater understanding of his majesty and power, we may be led to think of ourselves as Isaiah did when he said, (Isaiah 6:5), "Then said I, _____; for I am _____; because I am a man of _____, and I dwell in the midst of a people of _____; for mine eyes have _____."

A proper conception of God will always have a wholesome effect upon our lives. Do you sense the greatness of our study of the Almighty One?

For today we want to notice a number of other characteristics of our Creator. These are suggested by the following questions: . . .

1. What is meant by the statement that God is immutable? What does this prove about his promises?
2. God is referred to as the great "I AM". What does this mean?

3. What does it mean to say that God is holy? Can God be tempted with evil? If not, why not?
4. What do you understand to be meant by the expression that "God is love?"
5. Give several other moral characteristics of God.
6. God is said to be a jealous God. What does this mean?

LET US LOOK TO THE BIBLE FOR OUR ANSWERS

One characteristic of God is suggested in Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, _____; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

This same idea is given in James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom _____, neither _____."

The idea here is that God does not vary or change. We refer to this characteristic when we say that he is immutable, meaning he does not change. At times a person may make a promise and many years later refuse to keep it because he has changed his mind about it. But the promises of the Lord are sure and steadfast because He is immutable.

Another characteristic is given in Psalms 102:27, "But thou _____, and thy years shall _____." See also Psalms 90:2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from _____, _____, _____."

_____." This idea of the eternity of God is set forth in a beautiful way in Psalms 102:24-27, "I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days; thy years are _____.

Of old has thou laid the _____ of the earth: and the heavens are the _____ of thy hands. They shall perish, but _____;

yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed. But _____, and thy years _____.

_____." Notice a question Moses raised when God wanted to send him to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. How did God want the people to think of him? Exodus 3:13-14, "And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, the God of your fathers hath sent me unto you: and they shall say to me, _____

_____? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, _____

_____ hath sent me unto you." This term just means that He always was, always is, and always will be.

Let us notice some of the moral characteristics of God. In Isaiah 6:3 we find the statement, "And one cried unto another, and said, _____/ _____/ _____/ is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." In one of the visions of John, he saw four beasts who declared (Revelation 4:8), "Holy, _____/ _____/ Lord God _____, which _____, and _____ and to _____."

This means that the very nature of God is pure and is not subject

to anything that would degrade or defile. Thus, it is impossible for him to be impure because this would be contrary to the very nature of his being. Notice carefully the statement you write in the following blanks. (James 1:13), "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for _____

_____ _____; neither tempteth he any man." Evil cannot tempt him because there is no basis in his being for such a temptation, for he is holy, and his holiness makes it impossible for sin to tempt him.

Since He is holy we should exalt and praise him as stated in Psalms 99:5, "Exalt ye _____
our _____, and _____ at his footstool; for _____."

The following references from the Old and New Testament give a reason for wanting people to be holy: . . .

Leviticus 11:45, "For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore _____
_____ _____; for _____
_____."

1 Peter 1:15-16, "But as he which hath called you _____
_____, so be ye _____ in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be _____ for _____."

This characteristic of the Creator helps to explain his unchanging attitude toward sin, because it is contrary to his holy nature. He abhors it in the lives of the people of earth. Thus He told the people of Israel (Isaiah 59:1-2), "Behold, the Lord's hand is not

_____ , that it cannot _____ ; neither his ear
 _____ , that it cannot _____ ; But your
 _____ have _____ between
 _____ and _____ ,

 _____ have _____
 _____ from you, that He will not
 hear." This presents a dark picture to us as we recall that all
 have sinned. The beautiful part of the picture is that we can be
 brought to God by the _____ of _____ .
 (See Ephesians 2:13). This is more clearly brought out in 1 Peter
 3:18. "For Christ also hath _____
 _____ , the
 _____ for the _____ , that he might
 _____ , being _____
 _____ in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit."

Another moral characteristic of God is stated in 1 John 4:8, "He
 that _____ knoweth not
 _____ ; for _____
 _____ ." This states another basic characteristic of
 God's nature. It means that he earnestly seeks the highest good
 for his creatures. He sincerely desires the best for them, and is
 willing and anxious to plan and work for their best interest, even
 to the extent of giving himself to accomplish this end. (You will
 need to re-read and meditate on the meaning of this
 characteristic to come to better appreciate it.) Notice that this
 statement is more than the fact that God loves us. "God is Love"
 is a statement of his basic nature. This is manifested many ways.
 Notice that God was the first to love, 1 John 4:10, "Herein is
 _____ , not that we _____ ,
 but that _____ ,

and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." This was not because of our goodness, but in spite of our sins. Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth _____ toward us, in that, while _____, _____."

The fact that his love lead him to give Christ for your welfare is stated in the golden text of the Bible, John 3:16, "For God _____ the world, that _____, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

An illustration of the fact that He seeks our greatest good is seen in his chastening those whom he loves. See Hebrews 12:6-7. "For whom the Lord _____, he _____, and _____ every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as _____; for what _____ is he whom the _____."

The following references show God's _____ or justice: Psalms 11:7, "For the _____ Lord loveth _____; his countenance doth behold the upright."

Psalms 119:137, "_____ art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments."

Psalms 129:4, "The Lord is _____: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked."

The following verses show that God is _____.
Deuteronomy 10:17, "For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a _____ God, a _____, and a _____, which _____, nor taketh reward:"

Acts 10:34, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that _____."

Romans 2:11, "For there is a _____ with God."

The following verses each mention the fact that God is _____.
Deuteronomy 4:31, "For the Lord thy God is a _____, he will not _____ thee, neither _____ thee, nor _____ the covenant of thy fathers."

Psalms 116:5, "Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is _____."

Psalms 145:8, "The Lord is _____, and full of _____; slow to _____, and of _____."

Another attribute of God is given in each of the following references: Psalms 78:40, "How oft did they _____ him in the wilderness, and _____ him in the desert!"

Judges 10:16, "And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the Lord: and his soul was _____ for the _____."

TEST

1. God (is, is not) a respecter of Persons. _____
2. What separates man from God? (a) love, (b) sin, (c) distance, (d) time _____
3. God makes known his love to his children by: (a) leaving them alone, (b) by allowing them to do as they please, (c) over looking their willful disobedience (d) chastening them. _____
4. We come to God through: (a) living good moral lives only, (b) thinking we are near God, (c) Christ's blood, (d) first covenant. _____
5. God's promises may not always be relied upon, for God may not keep his promises. (True or False) _____
6. God is a creature of time; that is, he had a beginning and will have an ending to his existence. (True or False) _____
7. God cannot be tempted with evil. (True or False) _____
8. Since God is holy, man cannot be holy. (True or False) _____
9. God is: (a) grieved, (b) indifferent, (c) quickly angered, (d) amused, when his people do wrong. _____
10. Those who worship God acceptably must worship him: (a) according to their conscience only, (b) as various men have

directed, (c) in truth, (d) only in time of trouble.

Score: 10 for each correct answer

Correct answers to questions in lesson 5.

1. (Omnipresence)
2. (a)
3. (c)
4. (false)
5. (no)
6. (false)
7. (yes)
8. (a)
9. (b)
10. (b)

List below others who wish to take this course.