

GOD AND THE HOLY TRINITY

It is a mighty subject ... when you come to consider God. It is not a mere doctrine to be bandied about, or a point of view to take or leave – and it doesn't matter one way or the other. ... *What you believe about God affects what you believe!* Mormons believe in “God”, Muslims believe in “God”, Roman Catholics believe in “God”, Jews believe in “God”, Unitarians believe in “God” ... but their “God” is totally alien to the God of the Bible. That, of course, is a big statement to make in today's religious climate but it is nonetheless true as our various Confessions of Faith affirm. It is many Bible studies on their own to look at and examine the “God” of our other religions and sects but I don't want to take your concentration away from the one true God of the Bible, that we worship.

Since we are studying our own Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) I want to read what it says regarding **God and the Holy Trinity**.

From the vantage point of our finite and limited minds let's not “*study*” this God but let's *consider* Him!

THE INCOMPARABLE GOD He is unique. He stands alone. There is not another like Him. He has no equal.

- * He never began in a ‘community’ along with other gods.
- * He never craved any other company. He was complete and completely satisfied with His own!
- * He had all He needed. His Name is perfection. His company is perfection. His work is perfection. There is/was nothing God required.
- * He is eternal, - He never had a beginning and He will never have an end; there is no such thing as ‘time’ in eternity. God was never born, and God will never die.
- * There has never been a ‘period’ when God was not.
- * Everything He desires He has. When He put the stars in their place in the galaxies the scientists haven't even found yet, He had no need to discuss it with anyone, - He just did it ... and it took nothing out of Him!

- * What He decided to do in eternity ... He decided to do, and there was no-one He needed to discuss His plans with.
- * As wide as eternity is ... God is greater! As high and as deep ... the presence of God fills it all!
- * We won't even lower the tone of the conversation by mentioning any of the pretenders to His Throne. God stand on His own. His Person, His mind, His will ... everything about Him is beyond the capabilities of anything or anyone matching up to His inimitability and matchless character.

THE INEXPLICABLE GOD

- * Where did He come from? The Bible makes absolutely no attempt to tell you where He came from.
- * It makes no attempt either to explain to you the tremendous depth of His Being. Could we understand it, even if it did?!
- * The Bible simply begins by telling you God is. Not one word in the Bible sets out to explain God.
- * Unbelievers can throw up all the 'smart' evolutionist and atheistic comments ... but the truth of the matter is that God doesn't explain to you where He came from ... *and it is not necessary for us to know, in order to believe in Him.*
- * We cannot know all about God for the simple reason our minds cannot take even the smallest of it in!
- * Even if God *did* have needs (*which He doesn't*) we could not supply them, for all that we have is what He has first given us!
- * He doesn't need us ... then, why did He create man? Why did He create something that would cause Him heartache?
- * Again, it's unexplainable. Did He create man, and then man managed to wriggle from the leash of God's control ... and sin entered? ... God didn't intend it to turn out the way it did?
- * Not at all! The very thought is an insult to God! No, God created man with a free will ... but man chose to sin. When man sinned his will was no longer free ... but bound by sin.
- * Did God plan that? Yes, He did. How? Why? I don't know ... but neither do I let on to know the deep and hidden things of the mind of God.

- * If God didn't plan it ... it means He was caught unawares. That's not my God! That's not the Alpha and the Omega.
- * But then, the catastrophes and judgements that God planned ... it's so unfair! Yes, it is, I agree with you; and I don't understand why it is God has worked out His plan the way He has. But He is God, with His own peculiar mind and ways ... but the Bible tells me, [Gen. 18:25 Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?](#)
- * That includes all the things I can't understand. God is unexplainable ... yes, if I was God I would do things differently ... but I'm not ... and *He is ... and that's that!*
- * God has never stopped to consult me, you, or anyone else. He doesn't do that, - He is a law unto Himself and He is under no obligation to give an account of what He does.
- * ... And when you think you have come to understand Him ... well, then it has not been the one true God you have been focussing on.
- * Epictetus was an ancient philosopher (55-135 AD), "Were I fully able to describe God, I should be God myself, or God must cease to be what He is." ... Yes, Epictetus got it right!
- * He is **the incomparable God**, He is **the inexplicable God** ...

THE INTIMATE GOD

- * The gods of other religions do not come up to the standard of our God ... for they are no gods at all. But they all are set up to be distant and remote from their worshippers. ... But what about our God?
- * For some reason known only to Himself He created the worlds and the inhabitants of this planet. Why? ... He didn't need to ... but He did.
- * Did He need company ... other than His own? No, but yet look at the first thing God did when He created man, [Gen. 1: 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them ... He spoke to him.](#)
- * What is at the conclusion of the Book? [Rev. 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great](#)

voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

- * Throughout the Bible you find God speaking with the prophets and His servants; in the New Testament He came and lived among them for over thirty years.
- * He spoke to the large crowds, He spoke to the individuals. He's the personal, intimate God Who draws near to His people.
- * There is not a thing He doesn't know about you. There's not a minute detail that escapes Him. There's not a moment He takes His gaze from you.
- * He never leaves you ... not even when it seems you leave Him.
- * He's always there, - it's what He promised.
- * He is the intimate and eternal God and there is nowhere closed to Him. He has access into wherever He wants to go.
- * He pursues relentlessly those who are His ... and He takes a hold of them, - a hold that neither pain, sickness, coldness of heart, tiredness ... or even death can break.
- * For all the magnificence of His Being He knows and loves you with an intimacy no-one else knows and loves you with.
- * Who else would plan to love you, to direct your paths and to bring you into contact with the King the way that He has worked it out?
- * Yes, **I am my Beloved's and He is mine**. One of my favourite hymns is, "When peace like a river attendeth my soul ... It is well with my soul". The words were written by Horatio G. Spafford. Two major traumas happened in Spafford's life.
 - * The first was the great Chicago Fire of October 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a wealthy businessman).
 - * Shortly after, while crossing the Atlantic, all four of his daughters died in a collision with another ship. Spafford's wife Anna survived and she sent him home a telegram, with only two words, "Saved alone."
 - * Several weeks later, as Spafford's own ship passed near the spot where his daughters died, he wrote the words of the famous hymn.

- * The tune is named after the ship on which Spafford's children perished, the *S.S. Ville de Havre*.
- * One of the verses of the hymn goes, "For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live: If Jordan above me shall roll, No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul".
- * The writer of the tune for the hymn was Philip P. Bliss; he himself died in a tragic train crash shortly after writing the music.
- * Our God is intricately involved in this world, - all its goings on; ... even when it seems He is nowhere to be found.

Conclusion.

- * Yes, He is He is **the incomparable God**. Yes, too He is **the inexplicable** God ... His nature and personality, His ways and His plans are beyond our understanding.
- * But, praise Him, this same God is **the intimate God** Who is known and loved by His own particular people. He gives us just enough of a glimpse; it's like the woman in the [Song of Solomon 2:9](#) *behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, showing himself through the lattice*.
 - * She can see *something* of Him; she wants to see more, but she has to be satisfied with what she can see, - for the moment, - through the lattice.
- * It is away beyond me to explain Him, - I wouldn't even try; I couldn't, and I wouldn't because it would be so inadequate.
- * I just simply tell you a wee bit of what the Word says about Him ... just for now.
- * It's enough ... what the Word tells us ... but some day, - as John wrote, - [I Jn. 3:2](#) *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*.