

What the Bible Teaches

Based on the book by the same name by R. A. Torrey

This book is a modernization of R. A. Torrey's classic book on systematic theology *What the Bible Teaches*. It includes a cross-referencing scheme to correlate with the 17th edition.

There are several kinds of updates:

(1) Torrey used the King James Version (KJV), which many modern readers (including the Reviser) find difficult to read due to the Shakespearean-era vocabulary and syntax and difficult to pronounce. In general Torrey's extensive KJV quotes have been replaced with New International Version (NIV) quotes.

(2) Torrey's book is actually a somewhat more organized version of his class lecture notes. The numbering scheme varies among sections, which can get confusing. Variations in the scheme have been eliminated.

(3) All Topics and Points have been assigned a reference number, with cross-references to Torrey's work.

(4) When the book was written the dominant religion in the United States was Protestantism. Few English speakers knew anything about Mormonism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Wicca, or other non-Christian religions. Material has been added discussing some religious concepts foreign to Christianity and non-religious philosophies that compete with Christianity such as Existentialism and macro-evolution.

(5) The sequence of presentation has been reversed. Torrey basically presents scripture quotes followed by a "summary" "point". Modern readers are used to an introductory statement followed by supporting material. Even knowing that Torrey has the order reversed, modern readers still have a tendency to read his "point" sentence and then try to connect it with the *following* text rather than the preceding text.

(6) A number of concepts are discussed that are common knowledge today but rarely considered in Torrey's time, e.g., the difference between intelligence and sentience.

(7) Chapter numbers are in increments of ten except in a few cases. This was done to allow insertion of additional material or to subdivide lengthy chapters.

(8) *Even-numbered chapters and points are from Torrey's material and odd-numbered material has been added.*

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What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 10

010.000.000 Torrey: p13

GOD AS SPIRIT

The aim of this book is to ascertain and state in systematic form what the Bible teaches. The format is an introductory Topic statement, followed by one or more Points. Each Point is directly followed by supporting Scriptural excerpts. Comments are added as necessary. For researchers, each Chapter, Topic, Sub-Topic (if any) and Point is given a unique Reference number, and the corresponding page in Torrey's edition is noted.

010.010.000 Torrey: p13, T:I

Topic 10: The Fact that God is Spirit.

John 4:24 *God is [a] spirit*, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

010.010.010 Torrey: p13, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God is Spirit.

010.012.000 Torrey: no

Topic 12: What is the nature of a 'spirit'?

Human languages do not have words that convey the true essence of what a spirit is, just as they lack words that convey the true essence of what man is. Without such words, the best approach is to (a) identify those characteristics, those qualities which are unique to spirits, (b) identify those characteristics which are shared by spirits and other things, and (c) identify those characteristics which spirits do not have.

010.012.011 Torrey: no

POINT 11: A spirit is alive.

Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God ...

010.012.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: A spirit has intellect, intelligence, knowledge.

God, angels, Satan and man plan. They reason. God, angels, man, cats, dogs, horses, chimpanzees, and gorillas (and many other animals) see the events of nature and the activities of men and react.

These are signs of intellect, intelligence, and knowledge.

Psalms 94:10 ... Does he who teaches man lack knowledge?

Note that intelligence does not necessarily imply wisdom. Man obviously is intelligent yet we all do foolish things on occasion.

010.012.012a Torrey: no

POINT 12a: Spirits are intelligent, but not all intelligent creatures are (or have) a spirit.

010.012.013 Torrey: no

POINT 13: A spirit is sentient.

'Sentience' is not the same as intellect or intelligence. A sentient being understands that there is a 'big picture'. It understands abstract concepts such as honesty, loyalty, community, and honor. It can conceive of events in the distant future, e.g., retirement or graduation from college.

A sentient being is alive and has intelligence, but a creature can be alive and intelligent yet not be sentient. Cats, dogs, and horses are intelligent, but probably not sentient.

Ephesians 1:11 In him *we were also chosen*, having been predestined *according to the plan* of him who works out everything in conformity with *the purpose of his will*

010.012.013a Torrey: no

POINT 13a: All spirits are sentient. We do not know whether some creatures that lack a spirit are sentient.

010.012.013b Torrey: no

POINT 13b: In theory, it is possible for a creature to be sentient but lack a spirit.

010.012.014 Torrey: no

POINT 14: A spirit has senses. It can sense its surroundings. It is aware of events occurring around it.

Senses mean the ability to perceive and detect changes in one's environment. Senses do not require physical apparatus such as eyes, ears, a nose, or a tongue. God and the angels can perceive the events of nature and the actions of men even though they lack a physical body.

Psalms 94:9 Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?

010.012.014a Torrey: no

POINT 14a: Almost all living creatures have senses, yet most lack a spirit.

010.012.015 Torrey: p13, T:I, P:1

POINT 15: A spirit is non-corporeal, i.e., it does not have a physical body.

God, the angels, and Satan do not have physical bodies.

Luke 24:39 Revised Standard Version See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself! Handle me, and see; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.

010.012.015a Torrey: p13, T:I, P:1

POINT 15a: Anthropomorphic descriptions do not mean spirits have physical bodies.

OBJECTION: Like many other passages, the following passage says that the LORD has physical body parts, e. g., arms and ears:

Isaiah 59:1-2 [1] Surely *the arm of the LORD* is not too short to save, nor *his ear* too dull to hear. [2] But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

ANSWER: The language is *anthropomorphic*. Humans have a tendency to process information in patterns. It is easiest for us to interpret and understand new information if we can recognize similarities to things with which we are already familiar. *Anthropos* is the Greek word for "Man", and *morphos* is the word for "form". *Anthropomorphism* means ascribing human characteristics and qualities (the "form" of a "man") to something that is clearly not human. Common examples of anthropomorphism are "My car doesn't *want to* start" and "the *long arm* of the law."

Passages such as **Isaiah 59:1-2** mean that God (a spirit) has characteristics or abilities that are *functionally equivalent* to arms or ears. However, in the case of spirits, those abilities do not consist of physical body parts.

010.012.015b Torrey: p13, T:I, P:1

POINT 15b: A spirit is invisible.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the *invisible* God, the firstborn over all creation.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, *invisible*, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

010.012.015c Torrey: p13, T:I, P:1

POINT 15c: Other types of living beings have physical bodies.

010.012.015d Torrey: p13, T:I, P:1

POINT 15d: Man has a dual nature.

Only man has a dual nature - he has a flesh body combined with a non-corporeal spirit, his soul. When Jesus became man He took on this dual nature.

1 Corinthians 2:14-15 New American Bible [14] The natural man [physical man] does not accept what is taught by the Spirit of God. For him, that is absurdity. He cannot come to know such teaching because it must be appraised in a spiritual way. The spiritual man [man's spirit], on the other hand, can appraise everything, though he himself can be appraised by no one.

Note: This passage is exceedingly complex, and deceptively simple. Most translations read "The *unspiritual* man" They give the impression that the passage means "to those who are not religious, godly things seem absurd ..."

The following is a synopsis of a sermon by Fred K. C. Price, Ph.D. explaining the true meaning of the passage:

Hebrews 11:1 Revised King James Version Faith is the *substance* of things *hoped for*, the *evidence* of things not *seen*.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you *have* received it, and it *will be* yours.

The *substance* of something is its *reality*, its embodiment.

For those things obtained by faith, one must believe he has *already* received them *before* he sees them.

Man has a dual nature. His physical body has five senses. His physical body cannot perceive or comprehend spiritual things, because they cannot be sensed with the physical senses. Just as perfume is non-existent to the sense of hearing, what we receive by faith is *at first* non-existent to the five senses. Hence, those things discernable only by the spirit *seem absurd* to the physical side of man's nature.

The spiritual side of man's nature is a 'sixth sense'. It is the only sense that can discern spiritual matters. What we often do, in essence, is say "Perfume doesn't exist. The reason I know is that I *listened* intently, and I didn't *hear* perfume." The reason many people have problems with obtaining blessings is that blessings are obtained through faith, and although spiritual matters cannot be discerned with man's five physical senses, people keep trying to use their physical senses to "hear God's perfume," i.e., they keep looking to receive the things they prayed for *in the future*. Because they lack faith that they *have* received what they asked for, they do not receive it.

Although this is a digression, it must be pointed out that there is one caveat in "ask and you shall receive." One *must* ask for things in accordance with God's will. Consider, for example, a teenager whose father is a multi-millionaire. The child goes to his father and says "Dad, I'd like to try heroin. Can I have fifty dollars?" Any responsible parent would say "Sorry, son, I'll pay for your college education, but I'm not giving you a penny for drugs."

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, *because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

1 John 5:14-15 [14] This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything *according to his will*, he hears us. [15] And if we know that he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of him.

How does one determine "God's will?" By praying, and studying His Word.

010.012.016 Torrey: no

POINT 16: A spirit has no gender.

Neither God nor the angels have gender. Satan and his minions are fallen angels.

Angels and the Angel of the Lord (discussed in Chapter 20) do not manifest themselves as men because they have male gender, but simply because if they want to appear human they must include the appearance of a gender, since gender is a fundamental human characteristic.

010.012.016a Torrey: no

POINT 16a: Some non-spirit beings have gender.

010.012.016b Torrey: no

POINT 16b: Man's spirit has no gender.

Man has a dual nature. His physical body has gender, but his spirit does not.

010.012.017 Torrey: no

POINT 17: A spirit is immortal.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, *immortal*, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

'Immortal' is not the same as 'eternal'. Both the terms 'mortal' and 'immortal' include the concept of a living being. If a rock always existed it would be 'eternal', but not 'immortal', because it has never been alive. God is eternal because He has always existed and always will exist. He is immortal because He is alive and will never die. 'Immortal' deals with the question of whether a living being's life will *end*. It does not consider whether that life had a *beginning*. Angels and men's souls are also immortal because they will never cease to exist. Regarding the question of immortality, the fact that angels and men's souls had a specific beginning is irrelevant.

OBJECTION: Timothy says that *man* can be eternal and only *God* is immortal.

1 Timothy 6:16 [12] ... Take hold of the *eternal life to which you were called* when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. [15] ... *God*, ... [16] *who alone is immortal*

ANSWER: In many fields certain terms that describe similar concepts are often interchanged even though technically they have different meanings. That is what has happened here. What is important are the *concepts*, not the *words*. God is the only thing that has always existed *and* will always exist. Men's spirits, angels, and demons were created at specific points in time. Because it is God's will, these souls will never cease to exist.

All human souls suffer "death." This does *not* mean they cease to exist; Paul described living people as being "dead in their sins." In the spiritual sense, being "dead" means being separated from God by sin.

Ephesians 2:1-2 [1] As for you, *you were dead in your transgressions and sins*, [2] *in which you used to live* when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Being "destroyed," and "perdition" mean being *permanently* separated from God by being cast into the lake of fire on the Day of Judgment.

Revelation 20:10, 14-15 [10] And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. *They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever*. [14] Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. *The lake of fire is the second death*. [15] If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

010.012.017a Torrey: no

POINT 17a: Non-spirit beings are mortal.

010.012.017b Torrey: no

POINT 17b: Man's body is mortal, his soul immortal.

Man has a dual nature. His physical body dies, but his soul, the spirit part of his essence, continues to exist forever.

010.012.018 Torrey: no

POINT 18: A spirit has feelings.

Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. *When he is angry*, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

Exodus 33:19 And the LORD said, "... *I will have mercy* on whom I will have mercy, and *I will have compassion* on whom I will have compassion."

Mark 1:11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, *whom I love*; with you *I am well pleased*."

Also see the story of God's wrath against Korah and the plague in **Numbers 16**.

=== DISCUSSION ===

'Feelings' might not be the same thing as 'emotions'.

Some theologians assert that Jehovah has feelings, e.g., anger, mercy, compassion, love, but He doesn't have emotions. They assert that His 'feelings' are *characteristics*. A person can control emotions, but not characteristics. God has said that He does not change. Therefore, in a given situation He *must* always act in the same manner. These theologians argue that His response is an unchangeable *characteristic*, not a controllable *emotion*.

Whether His responses are characteristics or emotions, they still are feelings.

010.012.019 Torrey: no

POINT 19: A spirit has motivations and an agenda.

God, Satan, and men each have agendas. They and the angels have motivations. God's angels have chosen to follow God's agenda and Satan's angels have chosen to follow Satan's agenda.

Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined *according to the plan* of him who works out everything in conformity with *the purpose of his will*

Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9 [3] Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon [4] ... The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. ... [7] And there was war in heaven. *Michael and his angels* fought against the dragon, and the *dragon and his angels* fought back. [8] But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. [9] The great dragon was hurled down -- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, *who leads the whole world astray*. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

010.012.021 Torrey: no

POINT 21: Spirits enjoy and seek companionship, fellowship, with like-minded beings.

Note that this Point says "like-minded *beings*", i. e., like-minded *entities*, like-minded *living creatures*; it does *not* say "like-minded *spirits*" or even simply "spirits." One of the primary reasons

why God created the angels and man was because He wanted *companionship, fellowship*.

Make no mistake about it -- Israel was Jehovah's *intended bride*. See **Ezekiel Chapter 16**, especially:

Ezekiel 16:8 Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.

(Note to parents -- Ezekiel 16 contains some *very* explicit metaphors that are "not suitable for children." In some translations this is not obvious, but in others it is *very* obvious.)

The Elect will become the bride of Christ. See Chapter 205 "**The Marriage of Christ**."

Similarly, humans seek out other humans and pets with similar personalities. Satan sought other angels with similar attitudes and seeks men who are like-minded.

010.012.022 Torrey: no

POINT 22: Also see "The Personhood of the Holy Spirit".

"The Personhood of the Holy Spirit" lists many characteristics and activities of the Holy Spirit. Many of those items apply to some or all spirits.

010.014.000 Torrey: no

Topic 14: God is a spirit, not a ghost.

010.014.011 Torrey: no

POINT 11: God has always been a spirit. He is not a ghost.

This is a matter of words changing meaning over time. The English word 'ghost' comes from the same root as the German word 'Geist'. Originally, both words simply meant 'spirit'. When the King James Bible was first translated, the term Spiritus Sanctus (literally 'Holy Spirit') was translated as 'Holy Ghost'.

However, in the five centuries since the original translation, the meaning of the word 'ghost' has become more limited; it is normally used only to refer to the spirit of a human who has "passed away." This is the reason why most Christian clergy and writings stopped using the term Holy Ghost in the early 1900's. (In German, the term Heilige Geist is still routinely used.)

010.016.000 Torrey: p13, T:l

Topic 16: How is man made in God's image?

010.016.011 Torrey: p13, T:l, P:1

POINT 11: Man is like God in character, not form.

QUESTION: What does it mean, then, when it says:

Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him."

ANSWER: Contrast **Hebrews 1:3** [3] The Son is the radiance of God's glory and *the exact representation of his being*, ...

An *image* is an *inexact copy*. It has some, but not all, of the original's characteristics and qualities.

Colossians 3:9-10 [9] ... you have taken off your old self with its practices [10] and have put on the new self, which is being *renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator*.

Ephesians 4:22-24 [22] You were taught ... [23] to be made new in the attitude of your minds; [24] and to put on the new self, *created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness*.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Compare **1 Timothy 1:17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The words "image" and "likeness" evidently do not refer to visible or bodily likeness, but to intellectual and moral likeness -- likeness "in knowledge", "righteousness" and "holiness of truth".

010.020.000 Torrey: p14, T:II

Topic 20: The manifestation of Spirit in visible form.

To 'manifest' means to appear or to make one's presence known or felt. For instance, a virus manifests itself by causing specific symptoms of illness.

010.020.010 Torrey: p14, T:II, P:2

POINT 10: A spirit may manifest itself in visible form.

John 1:32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him."

Hebrews 1:7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

Acts 2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

=== DISCUSSION ===

For many years the Catholic Church expressly prohibited any depiction of angels, because people tend to equate their visual perception of an item with its true essence. Although angels may take on human appearance, that is not their natural form or appearance. However, now that artistic depictions of angels are commonplace, most people tend to conceive of them as having human form, perhaps with wings.

010.030.000 Torrey: p14, T:III

Topic 30: God manifested in visible form.

010.030.010 Torrey: p14, T:III, P:3

POINT 10: God has in times past manifested Himself in visible form.

Exodus 24:9-10 [9] Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up [10] and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire,

clear as the sky itself.

010.040.000 Torrey: p14, T:IV

Topic 40: What was seen in these manifestations of God.

010.040.010 Torrey: p14, T:IV, P:4

POINT 10: The prophets and elders did not see God Himself, i.e., God in His invisible essence. They saw a manifestation of God.

John 1:18 *No one has ever seen God* [Jehovah], but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side [Jesus], has made him known.

Exodus 33:18-23 [18] Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." [19] And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. [20] But," he said, "*you cannot see my face*, for no one may see me and live." [21] Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. [22] When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until have passed by. [23] Then I will remove my hand and *you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.*"

=== DISCUSSION ===

QUESTION: Is there any contradiction between **Exodus 24:9- 10** ([9] Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up [10] and *saw the God of Israel.*), **Isaiah 6:1** (In the year that King Uzziah died, *I saw the Lord seated on a throne*, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.), and **John 1:18** (No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.)?

ANSWER: No. For instance, we can see a 'manifestation' of a person on live television without ever seeing the actual person. So, men have seen a manifestation of God, and it is true to say those men saw God. No man ever saw God as He is in His invisible essence, and so it is true to say "No man has seen God at any time."

010.040.020 Torrey: p16, T:IV, P:5

POINT 20: The Angel of the Lord is clearly identified with God; it is a visible manifestation of God.

"The Angel of the Lord" in the Old Testament is a manifestation of God. Clear distinction is drawn in the Bible in the original languages between "An angel of the Lord" and "The Angel of the Lord." Some translations always preserve this distinction; others do not.

When examining the following passages it is important to note that God sometimes refers to Himself in the third person. A similar situation would be a statement by Dr. Torrey that "R. A. Torrey is biblical scholar."

Genesis 16:7-10, 13 [7] The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. [8] And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. [9] Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." [10] The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count. ... [13] She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now

seen the One who sees me."

Here, "the angel of the Lord" in verse 10 is clearly identified with the Lord (Jehovah) in verse 13.

Genesis 21:17-18 [17] God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. [18] Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

Genesis 22:11-12 [11] But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. [12] "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Here, "the angel of the Lord" in verse 11 is identified with God in verse 12.

Judges 2:1-2 [1] The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, [2] and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this?"

The Bible often states that God did certain actions. In referring to some of those actions, "the angel of the Lord" distinctly says "**I**" did those actions.

Also consider the following, especially verse 14.

Judges 6:11-14, 19-24 [11] The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. [12] When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." [13] "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt? But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." [14] The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" ... [19] Gideon went in, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak. [20] The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. [21] With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. [22] When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!" [23] But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." [24] So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

QUESTION: Just who was this "The Angel of the Lord?"

Judges 13:18, Revised Standard Version And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is *wonderful*?"

Compare **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In the Hebrew, the word for "wonderful" in the passage in which "the Angel of the Lord" gives it as his name, is practically the same as the word in Isaiah, where it is given as the name of the coming Christ.

Malachi 3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

ANSWER: The angel of the Lord was the Son of God before His permanent incarnation.

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.

"The angel of the Lord" does not appear after the birth of Christ. Although the term may occur in some translations, it is always a mistranslation.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 20

020.000.000 Torrey: p18

THE UNITY OF GOD

020.010.000 Torrey: p18, T:l

Topic 10: The Fact of the Unity of God.

020.010.010 Torrey: p18, T:l, P:1

POINT 10: The Lord our God is one Lord, and there is no god besides Him.

Deuteronomy 4:35 You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other.

Isaiah 43:10 You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

Isaiah 44:6 This is what the LORD says -- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. ... **1 Timothy 2:5-6** [5] For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, [6] who gave himself as a ransom for all men -- the testimony given in its proper time.

Mark 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good -- except God alone."

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

020.012.000 Torrey: no

Topic 12: Nothing is even similar to God.

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none *like* me.

=== DISCUSSION ===

Two things can be very similar, yet not identical. There aren't additional gods, and there aren't even beings *similar to* God.

QUESTION: **Genesis 1:27** says "*So God created man in his own image*, in the image of God he created him." Doesn't that mean that man is like God?

ANSWER: Man *is* like God, but only to a limited extent. Man was created. He cannot survive without God's continuing help. He has a physical body. He experiences death of the physical body. He has gender. He changes. He has limited knowledge. He has limited power.

Like man, angels were created and they have limited knowledge and power.

020.014.000 Torrey: no

Topic 14: The Importance of the Unity of God

020.014.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: God's unity is the most important commandment.

Mark 12:28 ... "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one."

020.014.022 Torrey: no

POINT 22: Mormonism denies the most important commandment. It preaches that the Trinity is three separate gods and any male can become a god. It is a non-Christian polytheistic religion.

Mormonism claims to be the *only* true Christian religion; however, it preaches that there are many gods.

020.020.000 Torrey: p18, T:II

Topic 20: The Nature of the Divine Unity.

020.020.012 Torrey: p18

POINT 12: God is a 'compound' unity, not a 'simple' unity. There are several persons in this one God.

=== DISCUSSION ===

Unfortunately, the English language does not include the concept of a 'compound' unity. 'Collective' nouns such as 'family' and 'people' probably are the closest in concept, e.g. when a political leader says "We are one people." or a parent says "My family *is* coming home for Christmas."

020.020.012a Torrey: p18

POINT 12a: The Hebrew word translated "one" in these passages denotes a compound unity, not a simple unity.

Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Genesis 11:6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

We find a similar use of the Greek word for "one" in the New Testament.

1 Corinthians 3:6-8 [6] I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. [8] The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Compare **John 17:22-23** [22] I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: [23] I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

020.020.012b Torrey: p18

POINT 12b: The Old Testament word most frequently used for God is plural in form.

020.020.012c Torrey: p18

POINT 12c: God uses plural pronouns in speaking of Himself.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

020.020.012d Torrey: p18

POINT 12d: Here, the LORD says He was sent by the LORD Almighty.

Zechariah 2:10-11 [10] "Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD. [11] "Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you."

In this excerpt it is most likely that the LORD who is speaking is 'the Angel of the Lord', who, as we have seen, was Jesus before He became man, and the LORD Almighty who will send the speaker is Jehovah.

020.020.012e Torrey: p18

POINT 12e: "The Angel of the Lord" is at the same time distinguished from and identified with the Lord.

See the discussion on "The Angel of the Lord" in the preceding chapter.

020.020.012f Torrey: p18

POINT 12f: The Word was God. The Word also was *with* God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with God*, and the Word *was God*.

020.020.012g Torrey: p18

POINT 12g: Each member of the Trinity is clearly distinguished.

We shall see later that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all clearly distinguished from one another (e.g., **Matthew 3:16, 17; 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14.**)

020.020.022 Torrey: no

POINT 22: Triune deity: One God consisting of three persons.

The Judeo-Christianity God is a 'triune' Deity. He is *one* God consisting of three *distinct* persons. This 'three-in-one' concept is termed 'triune': 'tri' meaning 'three' and 'une' meaning 'one'.

020.020.032 Torrey: no

POINT 32: Unique to Christianity.

Christianity is unique in that it believes there is only one God, but that God consists of three distinct persons.

020.020.042 Torrey: no

POINT 42: Multiple persons in one God is not a psychiatric disorder.

It is important not to confuse tri-unity with *Multiple Personality Disorder*, a psychiatric disorder introduced to the public by books and movies such as *Sybil* and *The Three Faces of Eve*. In Multiple Personality Disorder, a victim of severe physical abuse suffers a mental breakdown, and his personality divides itself into distinct sections which manifest themselves as distinct personalities. This breakdown is so extensive that each personality has distinct *brainwave patterns*. Although the various personalities *appear* to be totally separate, there is still only one *person*.

The Bible makes it clear that God consists of three distinct *persons*, not simply three *personalities*.

002.020.052 Torrey: p20, T:II

POINT 52: God is not both three and one in the same sense.

God is not three and one in the same sense. In what sense can He be one and three? A perfectly satisfactory answer to this question is manifestly impossible from the very nature of the case: (1) Because God is Spirit, and numbers belong primarily to the physical world, and difficulty must arise when we attempt to conceive spiritual being in the forms of physical thought (2) God is infinite, we are finite. He "dwells in the light no man can approach unto." Our attempt at a philosophical explanation of the tri-unity of God is an attempt to put the facts of infinite being into the forms of finite thought and of necessity can be, at the best, only partially successful. This much we know -- that God is essentially one, and that He also is three. There is but one God: but this one God makes Himself known to man as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and they are separate personalities.

John 14:16-17 [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever -- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Mark 1:10-11 [10] As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. [11] And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

In a sense, God is like a partnership. There can be three partners, and they are "the partnership". And yet, there is only *one* partnership.

020.020.062 Torrey: no

POINT 62: Triunity is not polytheistic.

Three persons in one God is not the same as three separate gods, just as three persons in one family is not three separate families.

Mark 12:28 ... "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one."

SUMMARY OF DOCTRINE CONTAINED IN THESE SCRIPTURES.

There is one God eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 30

030.000.000 Torrey: p21

THE ETERNITY OF GOD

030.010.000 Torrey: p21, T:l

Topic 10: God eternal

030.010.010 Torrey: p21, T:l, P:1

POINT 10: God is eternal. His existence had no beginning and will have no ending. He always was, always is and always will be. (Compare Exodus 3:14) He is the I Am -- Jehovah.

Genesis 21:33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the LORD, the Eternal God.

Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Habakkuk 1:12 O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish.

Psalms 90:2, 4 [2] Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ... [4] For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Psalms 102:24-27 [24] So I said: "Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. [25] In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. [26] They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. [27] But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says -- he who lives forever, ...

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men

are without excuse.

030.010.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: When the Bible talks about 'In the beginning' it refers to the beginning of the things God created, i.e., Heaven and Earth, not the beginning of God, since God had no beginning.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created* the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-2 [1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning.

Psalms 102:25 *In the beginning you laid the foundations* of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,* from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

030.020.000 Torrey: p21, T:II

Topic 20: God immutable.

030.020.010 Torrey: p22, T:II, P:2

POINT 10: God is unchangeable. His counsel, nature, motivations, agenda, purpose and character are always the same.

Malachi 3:6 I the LORD do not change.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

1 Samuel 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind. (See the same at **Numbers 23:19**.)

Hebrews 6:17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

=== DISCUSSION ===

OBJECTION: Jonah 3:10, Revised Standard Version And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said he would do unto them; and did it not.

This says that God repented.

The New International Version says When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

ANSWER: Obviously, the New International Version provides a clearer meaning of the passage. God remained the same in character, infinitely hating sin, and in His purpose to punish sin with judgment. But because Nineveh changed its attitude toward sin, God had to change His attitude toward Nineveh. If God remains the same, if His attitude toward sin and righteousness are unchanging, then He must change His dealings with men as men turn from sin to repentance. His character is

always the same, but His dealings with men change, as they change from a position that is hateful to His unchangeable hatred of sin, to one that is pleasing to (His unchangeable love of righteousness).

God always rewards righteousness and repentance and punishes sin and inequity. If God had punished the Ninevites after they repented, He would have changed His character.

OBJECTION: Genesis 6:6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

ANSWER: (1) Man's wickedness was so great and hateful that His very creation was an object of great grief to God. This does not necessarily imply that God wished, all things considered, that he had not created man, but only just as is said, that He grieved that He had. Many things that we do are a grief to us, and yet, everything considered, we do not wish that we had not done them.

(2) By God's repenting that He had man is meant (as the context, verse 7, clearly shows) that He turned from His creative dealings with man to His destroying dealings (verse 7). This was necessitated by man's sin. The unchangeably holy God must destroy man who has become so sunken in sin.

030.030.000 Torrey: p22, T:III

Topic 30: God self-existent

030.030.010 Torrey: p22, T:III, P:3

POINT 10: God has life in Himself. He is self-existent. God not only exists from eternity, but also exists from Himself.

'Self-existent' means no one created Him. This is the opposite of 'cause and effect'.

John 5:26, f. h. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

030.030.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: Because of His eternal nature, God didn't need to be created.

== DISCUSSION ==

QUESTION: "Who created God?"

ANSWER: This question presupposes that God's nature is fundamentally similar to something in the universe. It assumes that God is governed by the same laws of physics that govern our universe.

These are erroneous assumptions.

God is infinite. He is not located only in a particular place at a particular time. He cannot be divided into distinct parts or sections. He does not have 'component parts' such as 'spirit' eyes, skin, and teeth, a left side, or a right side.

God is a spirit. A spirit is non-corporeal; hence, God does not have a physical body.

God is eternal. *Because* He is eternal, He did not need to be created. In fact, *because* He is eternal, God *could not* have been created, since it is not possible to create something that already exists.

God existed *before* Heaven, Earth, and the universe existed. Therefore, He *could not* be subject to

the laws of the universe (which require that nothing can occur without something causing it to occur) because those laws did not exist until He *created* them.

QUESTION: Suppose you are wrong. For the sake of argument, let's assume God *did* have to be created.

ANSWER: Ultimately, this line of reasoning is self-defeating. If God had to be created and was created, then what created the thing that created God? What created the thing that created the thing that created God, and so on?

Ultimately, the mere fact that we exist proves that at *some* point either (a) something must have spontaneously come into existence with no cause, or (b) something always existed, and it created the universe.

In theory, it is possible that something simply came into existence totally spontaneously, with no cause. But it is equally possible *in theory* that whatever created the universe always existed. *In practice*, there is one huge difference: nothing has ever presented itself and said "I just popped into existence spontaneously, and then I created the universe." On the other hand, God *does* say "I have always existed and I created the universe."

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 35

035.000.000 Torrey: no

SOME PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPTS OF DIVINITY

This chapter explains some concepts of general theology. The Topics do not necessarily apply to the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit of the Bible.

None of the terms defined in this chapter refers to a specific religion or denomination except 'triune deity' and Replacement Theology.

If you are reading this book from the beginning, you can skip this chapter initially. You will need to read about Pantheism for Chapter 40 and Deism for Chapter 50.

Philosophers and those who study comparative religion have studied the *concept* of a divine being in the abstract. Various religions have different concepts of divine being(s). Christianity is monotheistic, not polytheistic, non-pantheistic and non-deistic. Those abstract concepts will now be explained, in preparation for a discussion of the omnipresence and personality of God.

In this chapter 'God' refers to the God of Judaism and Christianity, whereas 'god' refers to either (a) the concept of a divine being in the abstract, e.g. "a god is superior to man", or (b) the being(s) worshipped by any non- Judeo-Christian religions.

035.012.000 Torrey: no

Topic 12: Heresy

Heresy means false doctrine, or false teachings.

035.012.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: Heresy can result from an intention to mislead.

A teaching can be false because the teacher knows it to be false and wants to mislead his listeners.

035.012.022 Torrey: no

POINT 22: Heresy can result from good-faith mistake.

Many modern Christians don't like to discuss religion with non-Christians because "I know the

person is sincere about his religion." A false teaching done or believed in good faith is still a false teaching.

035.012.032 Torrey: no

POINT 32: Heresy can result from misunderstanding or misinterpreting valid doctrine.

=== DISCUSSION ===

The Bible teaches that those who are not saved will be *destroyed*. Many Christians wrongly interpret this as "cease to exist."

As discussed in the chapter "The Future Destiny of Unbelievers" (Torrey: p307, T:VIII, P:"Destruction":1), this term means that something is ruined to the point where it cannot serve the purpose for which it was designed.

035.012.042 Torrey: no

POINT 42: Some doctrines heretical to Christianity.

Some concepts discussed in this chapter are considered heresy by Judeo-Christianity, e.g.:

(a) Deism Christian doctrine: God gets involved in the affairs of man. He led the Israelites out of Egypt (**Exodus 12:51**), parted the Red Sea (**Exodus 14:21**), and tumbled the walls of Jericho (**Joshua 6:20**).

(b) Polytheism Christian doctrine: the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are the only God.

(c) Pantheism Christian doctrine: God has always existed. He created Heaven and Earth. He is distinct from that which He created.

(d) Replacement Theology Christian doctrine: In **Genesis 17:7** God made an *everlasting* covenant with Abraham.

(e) Universalism Christian doctrine: God doesn't lie. He said He hates sin and those who do not accept Jesus will be condemned to continual torment. He meant exactly what He said.

(f) Reincarnation Christian doctrine: **Hebrews 9:27- 28** [27] Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, [28] so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

035.022.000 Torrey: no

Topic 22: Blasphemy

Blasphemy means to speak of God in an impious manner.

=== DISCUSSION ===

Jesus and St. Stephen were condemned because each said that Jesus was God. The Pharisees considered it blasphemy to claim someone is the equal of God.

John 5:18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

John 19:7 The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

035.032.000 Torrey: no

Topic 32: Prophecy: future history divinely revealed.

Prophecy is *future history* revealed by God in advance. In other words, the events prophesied *have already happened* -- they just haven't happened *yet*. Prophecy is different from fortune-telling, 'predicting the future', clairvoyance, or 'psychic predictions' because only prophecy is divinely-inspired. Any predictions that are not divinely-inspired are not prophecy.

Prophecy is a direct revelation from God, communicated through a man. It is a *gift* from God, not a power or ability the man possesses. A true prophet cannot prophesy whenever he wishes or on any subject he wishes, e.g., which horse will win a particular race or what the price of a particular stock will be in six months. A true prophet can only prophesy the things that God reveals to him.

035.042.000 Torrey: no

Topic 42: The source of basic law.

035.042.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: Basic laws: laws involving moral issues.

There is a difference between 'basic' law and 'mundane' law. Basic law has to do with issues of morality, e.g., is abortion wrong. Mundane law has to do with everyday affairs, e.g., highway speed limits.

035.042.014 Torrey: no

POINT 14: Legal system: rules governing behavior, handed down by a governing authority.

A "legal system" is a set of rules intended to encourage certain types of behavior and discourage other types of behavior. It is decreed by a governing authority such as a legislature or a military governor. On the other hand, rules set by an entity that lacks governing authority are not a "legal system"; an example is a set of corporate by-laws.

035.042.016 Torrey: no

POINT 16: God's legal systems.

Because God is a governing authority, each of the following qualifies as a legal system or part of one:

(a) The Decalog (the Ten Commandments) (b) The entire set of Old Testament commandments (613) (c) The changes by Jesus during His life on Earth

035.042.018 Torrey: no

POINT 18: Jurisprudence: the philosophy of law.

All legal systems have certain common traits. Hence, certain analytical concepts can be applied to every legal system, even God's legal systems. The study of the *philosophy* of law is called

jurisprudence.

035.052.000 Torrey: p27

Topic 52: Deism: god doesn't get involved.

Deism describes the relationship between a god and his creation. A deistic god creates a universe and puts into it all the necessary powers of self-action and development. He sets it going, and then he sits back and watches passively.

035.062.000 Torrey: no

Topic 62: Monotheism: one god

Monotheism deals with the nature of god. A monotheistic religion believes that there is one god. The opposite is polytheism, which believes that there are two or more gods.

035.072.000 Torrey: no

Topic 72: Polytheism: multiple gods

Polytheism is the opposite of monotheism. A polytheistic religion believes that there is more than one god.

=== DISCUSSION ===

A prime example of modern polytheism is Mormonism. This religion claims to be a Christian denomination and uses the name "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints." It claims to believe in the Bible, Jehovah, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost. However, regarding the nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Joseph Smith, Jr., *founder of the Mormon religion* preached "these three constitute three distinct personages *and three Gods*." Mormonism is really a polytheistic religion, and hence, not Christian.

035.082.000 Torrey: no

Topic 82: Triune deity: One God consisting of three persons.

035.082.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: 'Triune' explained

The concept of a 'triune' deity deals with the nature of God. Christianity believes there is a single God consisting of three distinct persons. This 'three-in-one' concept is termed 'triune': 'tri' meaning 'three' and 'une' meaning 'one'.

035.082.022 Torrey: no

POINT 22: Unique to Christianity.

Christianity is unique in that it believes there is only one God, but that God consists of three distinct persons.

=== DISCUSSION ===

The Koran, the scripture of the Moslem (also spelled "Muslim") religion, says that Jesus was not God and is not divine. Hence, Islam does not believe in the triune deity. In the Koran, a chapter is called "sura."

Sura 4:157 (Koran) "But they killed him [Jesus] not nor crucified him, but *so it was made to appear to them*. They killed him not. Nay, God raised him up unto himself."

In other words, the Koran teaches that Christ was not crucified or killed by some other means. God raised him directly up into Heaven, as He did with Elijah and Enoch.

Sura 5:75 (Koran) "They do blaspheme who say God is Christ, the Son of Mary."

Sura 5:78 (Koran) "Christ, the Son of Mary, was no more than an apostle."

Some Christians erroneously believe that Allah, the god worshipped by Moslems, is simply Jehovah under a nother name. Consider, e.g. the *official Catechism of the Catholic Church*, expressly approved in writing by Pope John Paul II. Point 841 reads:

"The Church's relationship with the Muslims. 'The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day.'" (italics in the original)

035.082.032 Torrey: no

POINT 32: Triunity is not polytheistic.

Three persons in one God is not the same as three separate gods, just as three persons in one family is not three separate families.

Mark 12:28 ... "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one."

035.092.000 Torrey: p25

Topic 92: Pantheism : god is the universe and the universe is god.

The Judeo-Christian God is omnipresent. This conception of God's *location* must be balanced by the conception of God as a person, a distinct entity. Otherwise we run into the heresy known as *pantheism*, i.e., the belief that god is not only everywhere and *in* everything, but that god *is* everything *and* everything is god. A pantheist believes that god has no existence separate from that which he created.

Pantheism is a perception of a god's nature. Religions that worship 'Nature', 'Mother Earth', 'the Universe', etc., are pantheistic.

035.102.000 Torrey: no

Topic 102: Replacement Theology: Jesus broke Jehovah's covenant

035.102.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: Replacement Theology claims that Jesus cancelled (set aside) God's covenant with Israel.

This assertion is based on **Hebrews 10:9** Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. **Hebrews 10:9 New American Bible** reads ... In other words, he takes away the first *covenant* to establish the second.

Matthew 27:51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

This excerpt is often interpreted as meaning that the covenant with the Jews was torn up by the crucifixion of Jesus.

035.102.022 Torrey: no

POINT 22: God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham.

Genesis 17:7-8 [7] I will establish my covenant *as an everlasting covenant* between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. [8] The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.

035.102.032 Torrey: no

POINT 32: The tearing of the curtain destroyed the separation imposed in the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Temple was divided into three sections. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies, where God would visibly manifest Himself. The Holy of Holies was separated from the Inner Court by the curtain. Only Temple priests could enter the Inner Court, and only Jews could enter the Outer Court.

When the curtain was torn in **Matthew 27:51**, God tore away that which separated Him from His people. Christ's death opened the way to salvation for *all* men, both Jew and Gentile; it tore down the curtain between Jew and Gentile forever.

035.112.000 Torrey: p39, T:III

Topic 112: Universalism: Everyone will be saved

Universalism can be summed up simply: "God is telling the truth about the existence of Heaven, but He is lying about Hell. *Everyone* will be saved, regardless of what they have done, and whether they repent or not."

A similar view is "Okay, perhaps God *will* condemn the absolute *worst* sinners, such as Adolph Hitler, but He'll let *most* unrepentant sinners into Heaven."

There is a fundamental flaw in this logic: if God will lie about Hell, why should we believe Him about Heaven? Why not assume He is lying about Heaven, but telling the *truth* about Hell?

Leviticus 20:14 New American Bible If a man marries a woman and her mother also, the man and the two women as well *shall be burned to death* for their shameful conduct, so that such shamefulness may not be found among you.

Leviticus, Chapter 20 contains a long list of crimes punishable by *death*. **Leviticus 20:14** is the only section that specifies death by fire, a particularly horribly painful way to die. Anyone who can read that chapter and still believe God isn't telling the truth about Hell is simply fooling himself.

2 Peter 2:4-9 [4] For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; [5] if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven

others; [6] if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; [7] and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men [8] (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) -- [9] if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

035.122.000 Torrey: no

Topic 122: Reincarnation: Souls repeatedly obtain new bodies.

Many non-Christian religions espouse *reincarnation*, the belief that after a creature dies its soul goes into another creature, usually at the birth of that creature. When the second creature dies, the soul moves on to a third creature, and so on. Some religions teach that the type of new creature and the events the new creature will face are determined by the *karma* the previous creature accumulated, i.e., there is a supernatural 'record book' of good and bad deed that follows the soul from one life to the next. Some religions teach that souls can ultimately make up for all sins they have ever committed and that when they do they reach *Nirvana*, i.e., they cease to exist.

A common 'proof' of reincarnation is *past-life regression*, usually done with hypnotic regression, an application of hypnosis in which a person is mentally regressed to an earlier period in his life. Under hypnosis, he recalls events in detail and can relive the events as they occurred, including the emotions, pain, etc.

The early 1950's bestseller *The Search for Bridey Murphy* describes how an amateur dabbling in hypnosis decided to try regressing someone back to the womb. When he was successful, he tried to regress the person even *further*, to see what would happen. The person described an *earlier life*, in great detail, detail the person could not possibly have known. Since the early 1980's, this technique has become quite popular.

The Bible provides an alternative explanation for the phenomenon of alleged past lives: *contact with familiar spirits*, a polite word for *demons*. Such activity goes under many names, some old, some new: spiritism, sorcery, shamanism, spirit guides, witchcraft, channelling, mediums, 'remote viewing', 'scientific' remote viewing, fortune-telling, wizardry. Such contact with the spirit world is so hateful to God that in Leviticus he declares:

Leviticus 20:27 A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads.

Leviticus 19:31 Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 40

040.000.000 Torrey: p23

THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD

Read the discussion of Pantheism in Chapter 35 before reading this Chapter.

040.010.000 Torrey: p23, T:I

Topic 10: God is everywhere

040.010.010 Torrey: p23, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God is everywhere. He is in all parts of the universe and near each individual. In Him each individual lives and moves and has his being.

Psalms 139:7-10 [7] Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? [8] If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. [9] If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, [10] even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 [23] "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? [24] Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Acts 17:24-28 [24] The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. [25] And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. [26] From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. [27] God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. [28] For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."

Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says -- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."

040.020.000 Torrey: p23, T:II

Topic 20: God is not everywhere in the same sense.

040.020.010 Torrey: p24, T:II, P:2

POINT 10: God is in some places in a way that He is not in other places. There is a fullness and manifestation of His presence in some places that there is not in others. "Heaven" is the place where at the present time, the presence and glory of God is especially and visibly manifested.

John 14:28 You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that *I am going to the Father*, for the Father is greater than I.

John 20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, *I am returning to my Father* and your Father, to my God and your God."

Ephesians 1:19-21 [19] ... That power is like the working of his mighty strength, [20] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him *at his right hand in the heavenly realms*, [21] far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Revelation 21:2-3, 10, 22- 23 [2] I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, *coming down out of heaven from God*, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ... [10] And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ... [22] I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. [23] The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Revelation 22:1-2,3 [1] Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [2] down the middle of the great street of the city. ... [3] No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

Isaiah 66:1 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?"

Mark 1:9-11 [9] At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. [10] As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. [11] And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

God the Father is especially manifested in heaven.

040.020.012 Torrey: p24, T:II, P:2

POINT 12: God the Son has been especially manifested on earth.

See also **John 3:13**, the entire gospels and "the Angel of the Lord" in the Revised Version Old Testament.

040.020.014 Torrey: p24, T:II, P:2

POINT 14: God the Son is now in heaven.

Acts 7:56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Ephesians 1:19-20 [19] ... That power is like the working of his mighty strength, [20] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms ...

040.020.016 Torrey: p24, T:II, P:2

POINT 16: God the Holy Spirit is manifested everywhere.

040.020.016a Torrey: p24, T:II, P:2

POINT 16a: The Holy Spirit is manifested in nature.

Genesis 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Psalms 104:30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

040.020.016b Torrey: p24, T:II, P:2

POINT 16b: The Holy Spirit is manifested in all believers.

John 14:16-17 [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever -- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Romans 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

040.020.016c Torrey: p24, T:II, P:2

POINT 16c: The Holy Spirit is with unbelievers.

John 16:7-11 [7] But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. [8] When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; [10] in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; [11] and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

040.020.018 Torrey: p24

POINT 18: Through the Spirit, the Father and the Son dwell in the believer.

John 14:16-17, 19-20, 23 [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever -- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ... [19] Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ... [23] Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Also consider **Matthew 28:19- 20** [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 50

050.000.000 Torrey: p25

THE PERSONALITY OF GOD

Be sure to read the discussion of Pantheism and Deism in [Chapter 35](#).

050.010.000 Torrey: p25, T:I
Topic 10: **God a living God.**

050.010.010 Torrey: p26, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God is a living God. He hears, sees, knows, feels, wills, acts, and has a personality. He is to be distinguished from idols, which are things, not persons. He is to be distinguished from the things He created, such as Heaven and Earth.

Jeremiah 10:10-16 [10] But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath. [11] "Tell them this: "These gods, who did not make the heavens and the earth, will perish from the earth and from under the heavens." [12] But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. [13] When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses. [14] Everyone is senseless and without knowledge; every goldsmith is shamed by his idols. His images are a fraud; they have no breath in them. [15] They are worthless, the objects of mockery; when their judgment comes, they will perish. [16] He who is the Portion of Jacob is not like these, for he is the Maker of all things, including Israel, the tribe of his inheritance -- the LORD Almighty is his name. Note the context, verses 3-9, especially 5, 8, 9:

Jeremiah 10:3-9 [3] For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. [4] They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter. [5] Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good." [6] No one is like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. [7] Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nation and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you. [8] They are all senseless and foolish; they are taught by worthless wooden idols. [9] Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. What the craftsman and goldsmith have made is then dressed in blue and purple -- all made by skilled workers.

Above, God is distinguished from idols, which are things, not persons. "Their idols cannot speak" and "cannot walk." "[T]hey can do no harm nor can they do any good." In contrast, Jehovah "is the living God, the eternal King." "When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath." He has "wrath" and "indignation" separate from His creatures.

Acts 14:15 Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the *living God, who made* heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 [8] The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia -- your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, [9] for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead -- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.

Psalms 94:9-10 [9] Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see? [10] Does he who disciplines nations not punish? Does he who teaches man lack knowledge?

050.020.000 Torrey: p26, T:II

Topic 20: God's relation to the affairs of man.

050.020.010 Torrey: p27, T:II, P:2

POINT 10: God has a present, personal interest and an active hand in the affairs of man. He makes a path for His people and leads them. He delivers, saves and punishes.

Joshua 3:10 This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

Daniel 6:20-22, 26-27 [20] When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" [21] Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! [22] My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." [26] [The king said] "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. [27] He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

1 Timothy 4:9-10 [9] This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance [10] (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

Hebrews 10:28-31 [28] Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. [29] How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of

the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." [31] It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

=== DISCUSSION ===

The God of the Bible is not only to be distinguished from the God of the Pantheist, who has no existence separate from its creation, but also from the god of the Deist, who has created the world and put into it all the necessary powers of self-action and development, and set it going, and left it to go of itself. God is personally and actively present in the affairs of the universe.

050.030.000 Torrey: p27, T:III

Topic 30: God as Creator.

050.030.010 Torrey: p27, T:III, P:3

POINT 10: God is the Creator of all existing things.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3 [1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning. [3] Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

050.030.020 Torrey: no

POINT 20: 'Creation' need not by physical.

God created angels. Angels are spirits. Spirits do not have physical bodies.

Luke 24:39 Revised Standard Version See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself! Handle me, and see; for *a spirit does not have flesh and bones* as you see that I have.

050.040.010 Torrey: p27, T:IV, P:4

Topic 40: God's present relation to the world He has created.

050.040.010 Torrey: p28, T:IV, P:4

POINT 10: God sustains, governs and cares for the world He created. He shapes the whole present history of the world.

Psalms 104:27-30 [27] These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. [28] When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. [29] When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. [30] When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Isaiah 45:5-7 [5] I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, [6] so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other. [7] I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

Psalms 75:6-7 [6] No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man. [7] But

it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

050.050.000 Torrey: p28, T:V

Topic 50: The extent of God's care and government.

050.050.010 Torrey: p28, T:V, P:5

POINT 10: God's care and government extend to all His creatures.

Matthew 6:26, 28-30 [26] Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? [28] "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. [29] Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. [30] If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

Matthew 10:29-30 [29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. [30] And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

050.050.020 Torrey: p28, T:V, P:6

POINT 20: God's care and ministry and government extend to the individual.

Genesis 39:20-21 [20] Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, [21] the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

Daniel 1:9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, ..."

1 Kings 19:5-7 [5] Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." [6] He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. [7] The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."

050.050.030 Torrey: p28, T:V, P:7

POINT 30: God's care and ministry and government extend to the minutest matters.

Matthew 10:29-30 [29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. [30] And *even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

050.050.035 Torrey: no

POINT 35: God controls all creation and nature.

Psalms 147:4 He *determines the number of the stars* and calls them each by name.

Compare **Matthew 10:30** And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Cosmology is the study of the origin and development of the universe, e.g., how galaxies, etc., form, develop and change. With the aid of modern technology such as radio-telescopes and the Hubble Space Telescope, astronomers and cosmologists have proved conclusively that the number of stars is

not fixed. Stars explode and "die" and new stars are continually being born.

There is a significant difference between these passages. Census-takers merely count, they do not *decide*. A judge, a jury, or a manager *determines* how something will be. **Matthew 10:30** can reasonably be interpreted as meaning "God sits by passively and counts the number of hairs on your head." But **Psalms 147:4** makes it clear that God *decides* how many stars will exist at any moment.

Reviser's Note: I do not want to get into the topic of evolution in detail; *the point of the Bible is the salvation of Man's eternal spirit, not the logistics of how he obtained his temporary physical body.* It's perfectly obvious that many scientists and many Christians disagree about evolution.

Since the beginning of the Twenty-First Century cosmologists, have determined the age of the universe: **13.7 billion years**. The Earth and our Sun are **4.55 billion years old**. Also, for about the first 800 million years of our solar system's existence, the Earth was regularly hit by large meteors, asteroids, etc. The conditions made life impossible. In other words, Earth has only been able to support life for about 3.8 billion years.

Stephen Jay Gould was a professor of biology at Harvard University near the end of the Twentieth Century and one of the leading evolutionary biologists. To explain the sudden appearance of entirely new life forms in the fossil record he developed the theory of punctuated equilibrium, which says that for the most part evolution proceeds without any obvious changes, but suddenly a master gene becomes active and there is a substantial change from a parent to its offspring. Gould guesstimated that human beings are the result of roughly **sixty trillion** beneficial mutations--each of which was purely an accident.

Again, keep in mind that Professor Gould was not some uninformed nit-wit--he is considered one of the leading theorists. *Let's see how his theory holds up under unbiased scrutiny:*

1. Simple observation proves that the vast majority of mutations are *detrimental*, i.e., they harm the offspring.
2. Observation proves that most mutations which are not detrimental are neutral, i.e., they neither benefit nor harm the offspring.
3. This means that only a *very small percentage* of mutations are *beneficial*.
4. If humans are the result of 60 trillion *beneficial* mutations, those mutations had to occur over the 3.8 billion years that the earth could support life. ***That comes out to 15,789 beneficial mutations per year.***
5. ***Divided by 365.25 days, that comes out to forty-three beneficial mutations per day!!!***
6. ***That is more than one beneficial mutation per hour!!!***
7. ***Every hour, for 3.8 billion years!!***
8. ***And . . . all of those beneficial mutations would have to be passed on to offspring!***
9. What if Professor Gould was way off base on his guesstimate? What if he was too high by a factor of four? That would be "only" fifteen trillion mutations. That would still come out to ***ten*** beneficial mutations per day for 3.8 billion years!

050.050.040 Torrey: p29, T:V, P:8

POINT 40: God's control and government extend to the wicked devices and doings of evil men, and of Satan, and He makes even these work out His own glory and His people's good.

Psalms 76:10 Surely *your wrath against men* brings you praise, and the survivors of your wrath are restrained.

Genesis 50:20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good* to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Acts 2:22-23 [22] Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. [23] This man was handed over to you *by God's set purpose and foreknowledge*; and you, *with the help of wicked men*, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Job 1:12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Luke 22:3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 60

060.000.000 Torrey: p30

THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

060.010.000 Torrey: p30, T:I

Topic 10: The fact that God is omnipotent.

060.010.010 Torrey: p30, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God can do all things. Nothing is too hard for him. All things are possible with Him. God is omnipotent, all-powerful.

Job 42:2 I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.

Genesis 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.

Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

060.010.012 Torrey: p31, T:I

POINT 12: All nature is absolutely subject to God's will and word.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Psalms 33:6-9 [6] By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. [7] He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. [8] Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. [9] For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Psalms 107:25-29 [25] For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. [26] They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. [27] They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end. [28] Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. [29] He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

Nahum 1:3-6 [3] The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet. [4]

He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade. [5] The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it. [6] Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.

Jonah 1:4, 11-13, 15 [4] Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. [11] The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" [12] "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. ... " [13] Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. [15] Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

060.010.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: Life and death are subject to God's will and word.

John 5:28-29 [28] "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice [29] and come out -- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

Matthew 28:52-53 [52] The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. [53] They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

1 Kings 20:1, 4-6 [1] In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover." [4] Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: [5] "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. [6] I will add fifteen years to your life. ...'"

060.010.012a Torrey: no

POINT 12a: Satan does not have unrestrained power of death.

Many people erroneously think that Satan can cause death directly, i.e., that Satan can kill people. There is no basis for this in the Bible. Satan can tempt people into situations the natural consequences of which normally lead to death, e.g., drug addiction or showing off by driving recklessly. Although God may forgive the *eternal* consequences of sin, i.e., damnation, He does *not* prevent the *natural* consequences of either sin or foolishness. For example, if a thief is sentenced to prison and later repents of his sin, God does not automatically arrange for him to be released from prison.

If Satan had the power to kill at his sole discretion, he would simply kill every person who lives in righteousness.

060.010.014 Torrey: p31, T:l

POINT 14: All men are absolutely subject to His will and work.

James 4:12-15 [12] There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you -- who are you to judge your neighbor? [13] Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." [14] Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that

appears for a little while and then vanishes. [15] Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Happy is the man who voluntarily subjects himself to God's will and word.

060.010.016 Torrey: p31, T:I

POINT 16: Angels are subject to God's will and word.

Hebrews 1:13-14 [13] To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet" ? [14] Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

060.010.018 Torrey: p31, T:I

POINT 18: Satan is absolutely subject to God's will and word.

Job 1:12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but *on the man himself do not lay a finger.*"

Job 2:6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but *you must spare his life.*"

Luke 22:31-32 [31] Simon, Simon, *Satan has asked* to sift you as wheat.

Revelation 20:1-3 [1] And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. [2] *He seized the dragon*, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, *and bound him for a thousand years.* [3] He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

The final sentence of **Revelation 20:3, New American Bible**, reads After that the dragon *is to be released* for a short time. (This translation is mentioned because it shows that there is no *requirement* that God set him free.)

060.020.010 Torrey: p31, T:II

Topic 20: The exercise of God's omnipotence limited by His will.

060.020.010 Torrey: p31, T:II, P:2

POINT 10: The exercise of God's omnipotence is limited by His own wise and holy and loving will. God can do anything, but will do only what infinite wisdom and holiness and love dictate.

=== DISCUSSION ===

QUESTION: Why doesn't God simply destroy Satan?

ANSWER: It would not be wise to destroy him yet. The only way God, saved men, and the angels can live in true peace and harmony is if those who would ultimately reject God are not present. Adam and Eve were given Paradise with no effort or travail on their part. Because they did not have to suffer for it and had nothing to compare to, they did not appreciate the magnificence of God's gift.

God allows Satan to test each of us, for two reasons: (a) so God can see, in full view of others, who is truly faithful to Him, and (b) so those who see God condemn particular souls know that the

condemnation is just. How could any fair, rational being worship God if He simply created souls and immediately judged them, saying "This huge group on my left is condemned for eternity. I know they haven't done anything wrong, but I'm omniscient. I know that if I tested them they would fail. I'm going to take a short-cut and not bother to test them."

By his malevolence, Satan is working out part of God's benevolent plans.

060.032.000 Torrey: no

Topic 32: Paradoxes and inadequate language do not preclude omnipotence.

== DISCUSSION ==

An argument commonly raised by non-believers is "If God is all-powerful, can He create a rock so big He can't lift it?"

The question really involves a logical paradox. It falls into the same category as "an irresistible force meeting an immovable object". If a force is truly irresistible, it can move *any* object. Conversely, if an object is truly immovable, it can resist *any* force.

These arguments really involve word games and overly-legalistic logical games. They do not prove that God is *not* omnipotent. They prove that Man has an incomplete or inaccurate understanding of this aspect of God's nature. They simply prove what everyone already knows - that human language is not perfect and is not capable of fully describing God's divine nature.

060.042.000 Torrey: no

Topic 42: The Biblical concept of "omnipotence" must be different from the way we interpret "omnipotence".

The following is a synopsis of an argument in *Atheism: The Case Against God* by George H. Smith. Smith claims it is a proof that an omnipotent god cannot exist. However, that is only one possible conclusion. An alternative conclusion that is equally valid (without considering other evidence) is that, as applied to God, our *interpretation* of the term "omnipotent" is not correct.

1. Something that does *not* exist has no characteristics.
2. If something exists (we'll call it "X") but has absolutely no characteristics, it is not possible by any means to distinguish this X from something that does not exist.
3. If X exists without characteristics, and therefore can not be distinguished from things that do not exist, *for all practical purposes* X might as well not exist, since even the mere fact of its existence cannot be determined by any means.
4. If something exists and has characteristics (we'll call it "Y"), Y *must* act in conformity with its characteristics.
5. Characteristics constitute *limitations* on what Y can do.
6. If a god exists, it has characteristics. Otherwise, as indicated in item 3, for all practical purposes it might as well not exist.
7. If a god exists and has characteristics, those characteristics constitute limitations on what that god can do.

8. A god that is limited in what it can do is not "all powerful", not "omnipotent", *even if those limitations are created solely by the god's characteristics.*

The word "omnipotent" is usually interpreted as meaning "able to do anything whatsoever". *Funk and Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary*, 1980, defines "omnipotent" as "Almighty; not limited in authority or power."

The God of the Bible has many characteristics, some detailed in this book, e.g.: (1) He is eternal; (2) He is immortal; (3) He is triune, i.e, three persons in one God; (4) He hates sin so much that He *must* take out His anger over sin on *something*; (5) He loves righteousness; (6) He gets jealous; (7) He gets angry; (8) He is merciful; (9) He feels compassion; (10) He is omniscient.

Obviously, Smith's argument proves that the "able to do anything" concept is self-contradictory; it falls in the same class as the "irresistible force meets immovable object."

However, Smith's argument does not prove that God is not omnipotent. It merely proves that *human languages do not contain words that correctly describe this supernatural characteristic of God.*

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 70

070.000.000 Torrey: p32

THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD

070.010.000 Torrey: p32, T:I

Topic 10: The fact that God is omniscient.

070.010.010 Torrey: p32, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God knows everything. He is perfect in knowledge. His understanding is infinite.

1 John 3:19-20 [19] This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence [20] whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and *he knows everything*.

Job 37:16 Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who is *perfect in knowledge*?

Psalms 147:5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

070.020.000 Torrey: p23, T:II

Topic 20: What God knows.

070.020.010 Torrey: p32, T:II, P:1

POINT 10: He sees all that occurs in every place and keeps watch upon the just and the wicked.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Ezekiel 8:12 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.'"

070.020.020 Torrey: p32, T:II, P:2

POINT 20: God knows everything in nature, every star and every sparrow.

Psalms 147:4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

070.020.030 Torrey: p33, T:II, P:3

POINT 30: He watches all mankind and considers each person's works. He sees the ways of men, and He examines all each man's goings.

Psalms 33:13-15 [13] From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; [14] from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth -- [15] he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

Proverbs 5:21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.

070.020.040 Torrey: p33, T:II, P:4

POINT 40: He knows all man's deeds and experiences.

Psalms 139:2-3 [2] You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. [3] You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

070.020.050 Torrey: p33, T:II, P:5

POINT 50: He knows all man's words.

Psalms 139:4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

070.020.060 Torrey: p33, T:II, P:6

POINT 60: He knows all man's sorrows.

Exodus 3:7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering."

It seems sometimes as if He does not know man's sorrows. It must have seemed so sometimes to Israel in Egypt, but He did, and in time He proved it.

070.020.070 Torrey: p33, T:II, P:7

POINT 70: He understands all our motives. He understands our thoughts from a distance.

Psalms 139:1-2 [1] O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. [2] You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

1 Chronicles 28:9 And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

070.020.080 Torrey: p33, T:II, P:8

POINT 80: God's knowledge extends to minutest particulars.

Matthew 10:29-30 [29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. [30] And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

070.020.090 Torrey: p34, T:II, P:9

POINT 90: God has always known everything that will ever happen.

Acts 15:16-18 [16] 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, [17] that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' [18] that have been known for ages.

Torrey's 1898 edition renders verse 18 as "Known unto God are all his works *from the beginning of the world.*"

Isaiah 46:9-10 [9] Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. [10] I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

070.020.100 Torrey: p34, T:II, P:10

POINT 100: God knows from the beginning what each individual man will do.

1 Peter 1:20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Mark 13:32 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Matthew 20:17-19 [17] Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, [18] "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death [19] and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

Exodus 3:19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

Acts 3:17-18 [17] Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. [18] But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

2 Kings 7:1-2 [1] Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria." [2] The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?" "You will see it with your own eyes," answered Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it!"

Psalms 41:9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

Galatians 1:15-17 [15] But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased [16] to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, [17] nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

1 Peter 1:1-2 [1] ... To God's elect, ... [2] who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge

of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

070.020.110 Torrey: p35, T:II, P:11

POINT 110: The whole plan of the ages and each man's part in it has been known to God from all eternity.

Ephesians 1:9-12 [9] And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, [10] to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment -- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. [11] In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, [12] in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 3:6, 8-9 [6] This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. ... [8] ... I am ... to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9] and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Colossians 1:25-26 [25] I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness -- [26] the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.

There are no afterthoughts with God. Well may we exclaim:

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 80

080.000.000 Torrey: p36

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

080.010.000 Torrey: p36, T:I

Topic 10: The fact of God's Holiness.

080.010.010 Torrey: p36, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God is holy, absolutely holy.

Isaiah 6:3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Joshua 24:19 Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins."

Psalms 22:3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

Psalms 99:5, 9 [5] Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy. [9] Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

Isaiah 5:16 But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness.

John 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name -- the name you gave me -- so that they may be one as we are one.

1 Peter 1:15-16 [15] But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; [16] for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

God is called the Holy One of Israel about thirty times in Isaiah, and is so called also in Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and elsewhere.

In the New Testament, God the Son is spoken of as *the holy* one.

1 John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

The third person of the Trinity is constantly spoken of as the Holy Spirit. Holiness is the essential moral nature of God.

Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says -- he who lives forever, *whose name is Holy*: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."

With reference to the Holy Spirit, the word Holy is both His name and a description of His character.

080.020.000 Torrey: p37, T:II

Topic 20: What does Holy mean?

080.020.010 Torrey: p37, T:II, P:2

POINT 10: Holy means free from all defilement, pure. "God is holy" means "God is absolutely pure."

Leviticus 11:43-45 [43] Do not defile yourselves by any of these creatures. Do not make yourselves unclean by means of them or be made unclean by them. [44] I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground. [45] I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

Deuteronomy 23:14 For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.

Note the context of this verse.

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

080.022.000 Torrey: p37, T:II

Topic 22: God's rituals and actions remind us of His holiness.

080.022.012 Torrey: p37, T:II, P:2

POINT 12: Many of the Old Testament rituals were specified by God specifically to remind us of His holiness.

The truth that God is Holy is the fundamental truth of the Bible, of the Old Testament and the New Testament, of the Jewish Religion and the Christian Religion. All of the following were intended to teach, emphasize and burn into the minds and hearts of the Israelites the fundamental truth that God is Holy, unapproachably holy:

- the Mosaic system of washings
- divisions of the tabernacle
- divisions of the people into ordinary Israelites, Levites, Priests and High Priests, who were permitted different degrees of approach to God, under strictly defined conditions

- insistence upon sacrifice as a necessary medium of approach to God
- God's directions to Moses in **Exodus 3:5** "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."
- God's direction to Joshua in **Joshua 5:15** The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.
- the strict orders to Israel in regard to approaching Sinai when Jehovah came down upon it

080.022.014 Torrey: p37, T:II, P:2

POINT 14: Some Old Testament punishments were to emphasize God's Holiness.

- the punishment of Uzziah in **2 Chronicles 26:16- 26** - the doom of Korah, Dathan and Abiram in **Numbers 16:1-33** - the destruction of Nadab and Abihu in **Leviticus 10:1-3**

080.030.000 Torrey: p37, T:III

Topic 30: How the Holiness of God is manifested.

080.030.002 Torrey: no

POINT 2: Absolute power has not corrupted God.

There is an old saying that "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." God *has* absolute power. He has the *ability* to do *anything* without fear of reprisal. He could *force* us to love Him unconditionally; He could *force* us to do *anything* He wants and we would be powerless to resist. His holiness is demonstrated by the fact that He gives to each person that which the person deserves -- heavenly rewards to the righteous and eternal punishment to the wicked.

Job 34:11-12 [11] He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves. [12] It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.

080.030.004 Torrey: no

POINT 4: God has not gotten 'judge-itis'.

In human legal systems, a judge has to keep order in his court. One of the ways to do this is by punishing people for contempt of court. Also, few questions are clear-cut. On most issues, a judge has a lot of discretion; regardless of which way he decides, no one can say he is clearly wrong. Hence, even lawyers, litigants, and witnesses who cannot stand the sight of the judge will usually pretend to honor and respect him, in the hope that he will not cause problems for them.

Because he holds a lot of power, has a lot of prestige, and few people will speak out against him, it is not uncommon for a judge to become very haughty, arrogant, and condescending; he also develops a sense that he is always right and often becomes quite angry when challenged, even if he is obviously wrong. (By no means is this limited to male judges.) One lawyer referred to this combination of arrogance, condescension, etc., as 'judge-itis'.

God's holiness is manifested in that even though He has power, prestige, and authority and He *is* always right, He has not let His position affect His sense of justice or cloud His judgment.

080.030.006 Torrey: no

POINT 6: God doesn't 'plea bargain'. He doesn't 'make deals'. He can't be 'bought' or bribed.

In the American legal system, a criminal accused of a serious crime usually can make a 'plea bargain' with the prosecutor. For instance, a criminal is charged with two counts each of aggravated assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, and rape, crimes for which he could be imprisoned for life. He agrees to plead guilty to one count of aggravated assault with a five-year sentence, and the prosecutor agrees to drop the other charges.

God doesn't plea bargain. He doesn't 'cut deals'. He can't be 'bought' or bribed with large donations. He requires *genuine repentance* of *all* sins and a sincere desire to *try* to follow His holy ways.

080.030.010 Torrey: p38, T:III, P:3

POINT 10: The Holiness of God manifests itself in a hatred of sin.

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

Genesis 6:5-6 [5] The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. [6] The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

Deuteronomy 25:16 For the LORD your God detests anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.

Proverbs 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

Proverbs 15:26 The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked, but those of the pure are pleasing to him.

Proverbs 6:16-19 [16] There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: [17] haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, [18] a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, [19] a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

Galatians 5:19-21 [19] The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21] and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 [9] Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor *adulterers* nor male prostitutes nor *homosexual offenders* [10] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 9 has caused translators some problems. The word "offenders" does not occur in the Greek text. According to Ken Barker, General Editor of the NIV translation committee, the NIV translators added it to clarify a distinction that began in the 1970's -- the idea that a person is a

"homosexual" be cause of homosexual "*orientation*" rather than homosexual *activity*. Other translations translate "male prostitutes" as "sodomites"

It must be pointed out that God hates homosexual *activity*. The sexual orientation of the participants is irrelevant. Of course, it is possible for two heterosexuals of the same gender to engage in sexual activity together. God hates the *acts*, not the mere *feelings* or 'sexual orientation':

Leviticus 18:22 Do not *lie with* a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 20:13 If a man *lies with a man as one lies with a woman*, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads. In the **New American Bible** "their blood ..." is rendered as: they have *forfeited* their lives.

It should also be noted that male prostitutes generally have male customers, not female customers. Hence, in **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** "male prostitutes" is also discussing homosexuality; it is not saying that God only hates prostitution if the prostitute is male.

Confer **Deuteronomy 23:18** You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both.

080.030.020 Torrey: p38, T:III, P:4

POINT 20: The Holiness of God manifests itself in delight in righteousness and holiness.

Proverbs 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'

Leviticus 20:26 You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

080.030.030 Torrey: p38, T:III, P:5

POINT 30: The Holiness of God manifests itself in His never doing wickedness or iniquity.

Job 34:10, 12 [10] So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong. [12] It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.

080.030.032 Torrey: no

POINT 32: 'Wickedness' and 'iniquity' mean *unfair* actions. A just punishment is not 'wicked' or 'inequitable', no matter how harsh the punishment. God punishes the wicked who do not repent and seek His forgiveness.

Job 34:11 He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves.

Job 4:8-9 [8] As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. [9] At the breath of God they are destroyed; at the blast of his anger they perish.

080.030.034 Torrey: no

POINT 34: A fair divine being has no choice but to punish the unrepentant sinner. It would be unjust, *it would be wicked*, for God to give the wicked person the same reward He gives to the righteous.

Job 34:11-12 [11] He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves. [12] It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.

=== DISCUSSION ===

A heresy that is becoming increasingly popular is *Universalism*. Universalism claims that because "God is love" He will save *everyone*, even the unrepentant sinner. An easy response to this is "Do you mean to say that God will let Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, and other mass murderers into Heaven?" Some Universalists respond "Well, ... maybe He won't accept *a few* of the *worst* sinners, but He'll take everybody *else*." For proof this is untrue see Point 10, "The Holiness of God manifests itself in a hatred of sin".

As Gary R. Habermas and J. P. Moreland say in *Immortality: The Other Side of Death*, "... It would be unjust to allow evil to go unpunished and to reward evil with good, even when the good was not sought in a genuine, informed way." p. 164.

080.030.036 Torrey: no

POINT 36: God's Holiness is manifested in that even though He is omnipotent, answers to no one, and has no fear of reprisal or punishment, He treats all men equal, by not playing favorites.

Romans 2:6, 11 [6] God "will give to each person according to what he has done." [11] *For God does not show favoritism.*

080.030.038 Torrey: no

POINT 38: God holds Himself to the same standards as He holds those He created. No one gave Him authority to run things. It would be unjust if He didn't hold everyone, including Himself, to a single standard.

Job 34:11-12 [11] He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves. [12] It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.

080.030.040 Torrey: p38, T:III, P:6

POINT 40: The Holiness of God is manifested in the separation of the sinner from God.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

080.030.042 Torrey: p38, T:III, P:6

POINT 42: Atonement is necessary for a sinner to approach God.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Hebrews 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy *through the sacrifice of the body of*

Jesus Christ once for all.

All approach to God is on the ground of shed blood. In the strongest way, the holiness of God demands atonement. Any doctrine which holds that atonement is required only for governmental expediency does not go to the root of the matter. Any belief that atonement is required only because God requires man to have a **strong motive** also does not go to the root of the matter. The first and fundamental reason why "without shedding of blood there is no remission" is because God is Holy and sin must be covered before there can be fellowship between God and the sinner.

080.030.044 Torrey: p38, T:III, P:6

POINT 44: God will ignore a sinner's prayers until the sinner repents.

Isaiah 59:1-2 [1] Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. [2] But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

080.030.050 Torrey: p39, T:III, P:7

POINT 50: The Holiness of God manifests itself in the punishment of the sinner.

Exodus 34:6-7 [6] 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, [7] maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

Genesis 6:5-7 [5] The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. [6] The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. [7] So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth -- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air -- for I am grieved that I have made them."

Psalms 5:4-6 [4] You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. [5] The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. [6] You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the LORD abhors.

God does not punish the sinner merely because it is in the sinner's best interest. God is Holy. God *hates* sin. His holiness and hatred of sin, like each of His attributes, is living and active and must manifest itself. His holy wrath at sin must strike.

See **Isaiah 53:6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The literal translation of the Hebrew for "has laid on" is "caused to strike upon".

Any view of the punishment of sin that leaves out the thought of its being an expression of God's holy *hatred* of sin, is not only unbiblical, but shallow and dishonoring to God. God is holy, infinitely holy, and *infinitely hates sin*. We get glimpses at times of what God's hatred of sin must be, in our own burning indignation at some enormous iniquity, but God is infinitely holy and God's wrath at the *smallest* sin is infinitely greater than ours at the greatest enormity.

God is love, it is true, but the love is not of the sentimental sort that sends costly bouquets and tender

missives to moral monsters, as some of our Universalist theologians would have us think.

Hebrews 12:29 ... our "God is a consuming fire."

God's love to sinners will never be appreciated until seen in the light of His blazing wrath at sin.

Also see the discussion of Universalism in [Chapter 35](#).

080.030.060 Torrey: p40, T:III, P:8

POINT 60: The holiness of God manifests itself in His making an infinite sacrifice to save others from sin over into holiness. The death of Christ is not merely a manifestation of the love of God but of His holiness as well.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ...

080.040.000 Torrey: p40, T:IV, P:40

Topic 40: Practical inferences from the doctrine that God is Holy.

080.040.012 Torrey: p40, T:IV

POINT 12: We must approach God with the respect, awe, and reverence that He deserves.

Hebrews 12:28-29 [28] Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, [29] for our "God is a consuming fire."

Exodus 3:4-5 [4] When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." [5] "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Isaiah 6:1-3 [1] In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. [2] Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. [3] And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Even the holy seraphim covered their faces and their feet in His presence. They have four wings for worship and only two for service.

080.040.014 Torrey: p41, T:IV

POINT 14: The pure light of God's holiness reveals the blackness of our sin.

Isaiah 6:5-6 [5] "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." [6] Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

Compare **Job 42:5-6** [5] My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. [6] Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

If any man thinks well of himself, he has never met God. Nothing will demolish self-righteousness like one real sight of God. In dealing with self-righteous persons get them into the holy presence of God if you can.

080.040.016 Torrey: p41, T:IV

POINT 16: There is no forgiveness without atonement. Sin must be covered from the holy gaze of God, and nothing will cover it but blood.

Hebrews 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

080.040.018 Torrey: p41, T:IV

POINT 18: God's love is so great that Christ died for us even while we were sinners.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The wonderfulness of God's love! It would be no wonder if an unholy God could love unholy men; but that the God whose name is Holy, the Infinitely Holy God, could love beings so utterly sinful as we are, that is the wonder of the eternities. There are many deep mysteries in the Bible, but no other so profound as this.

Consider this analogy -- a gang beats you and your family, steals your belongings, kidnaps, rapes, and murders several family members. They are captured and sentenced to life in prison. They show no remorse; as they are dragged out of the courtroom, they laugh at you and spit on you and one of them punches you.

Later, as a result of drug and alcohol abuse, one suffers massive liver failure another suffers massive kidney failure, and a third suffers heart failure. Without transplants, each of them will die. They are still arrogant, selfish, and unrepentant.

You are found to be the only person who can donate the necessary organs. If you donate the organs, **you** will die. Would **you** donate the organs, because you believe that **some** of them can be turned around?

Jesus died for us **while we were still sinners.**

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 90

090.000.000 Torrey: p42

THE LOVE OF GOD

090.010.000 Torrey: p42, T:I

Topic 10: The fact that God is Love.

090.010.010 Torrey: p42, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God is love. Not merely God loves, but God is love. Love is the very essence of His moral nature. He is the source of all love.

1 John 4:8, 16 [8] Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. [16] And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

=== DISCUSSION ===

QUESTION: What is love?

1 John 3:16-17 [16] This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. [17] If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Matthew 5:44-45 [44] But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Love is a desire that the one loved will fare well. It is delight at seeing the loved one live well, not simply by accumulating material possessions, but by having peace, harmony, happiness and contentment, as well as having enough possessions to meet the person's physical needs.

090.020.000 Torrey: p42, T:II

Topic 20: Whom does God love?

090.020.010 Torrey: p43, T:II, P:2

POINT 10: God loves His Son Jesus. God's Son is the original and eternal Object of His love.

Matthew 3:17 (Jesus' baptism) And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 17:5 (The Transfiguration) While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Luke 20:13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.'

Note: In the parable of the vineyard owner, the owner symbolizes Jehovah and the owner's son symbolizes Jesus.

John 17:24 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

If God is eternal love, that love must have an eternal object. There must, because of a necessity in the Divine Being Himself, be a multiplicity of persons in the Godhead. The eternal object of the Divine Love is the Eternal Son.

090.020.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: Jehovah loves Jesus because of Jesus' willingness to sacrifice so that others who cannot save themselves may be saved.

John 10:17-18 [17] The reason my Father loves me is that *I lay down my life* -- only to take it up again. [18] *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.* I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

090.020.020 Torrey: p43, T:II, P:3

POINT 20: God loves those who are united to the Son by faith and love.

John 16:27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

John 14:21, 23 [21] Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." [23] Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

As we will see shortly, God loves all men. However, He has an especial love for those who are in Christ.

John 17:22-23 [22] I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: [23] I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that *you* sent me and *have loved them even as you have loved me.*

God feels precisely the same love toward those who are in Christ that He feels toward Christ Himself. Of course there is a love of God to those who are now in Christ which is antecedent to their

love to Christ.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

090.020.030 Torrey: p44, T:II, P:4

POINT 30: God loves the world - the whole human race, and each individual in it.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that *whoever* believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 [3] This is good, and pleases God our Savior, [4] who wants *all* men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, *not wanting anyone to perish*, but everyone to come to repentance.

090.020.040 Torrey: p44, T:II, P:5

POINT 40: God loves the sinner, the ungodly, those steeped in sin.

Romans 5:6-8 [6] You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. [7] Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. [8] But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 [4] But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions -- it is by grace you have been saved.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'

God does not have the same love for the unrepentant sinner that He has for those who live in Christ. See **John 14:21, 23** and **John 17:22-23** in Point 20 above.

Romans 8:30-39 [30] And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. [31] What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? [33] Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died -- more than that, who was raised to life -- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? [36] As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39] neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God has an especial interest in lost ones.

Luke 15:7-10 [7] I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one

sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. [8] "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? [9] And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' [10] In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

The difference in God's love can be understood by a father's love for an upright and faithful son as compared to his love for a wayward son.

090.030.000 Torrey: p44, T:III

Topic 30: How does the Love of God manifest itself?

090.030.010 Torrey: p44, T:III, P:1

POINT 10: God's love manifests itself in ministering to the need and joy of those He loves, and protecting them from all evil.

Isaiah 48:14, 20-21 [14] "Come together, all of you, and listen: Which of the idols has foretold these things? The LORD's chosen ally will carry out his purpose against Babylon; his arm will be against the Babylonians. [20] Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to the ends of the earth say, "The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob." [21] They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and water gushed out.

Deuteronomy 32:9-12 [9] For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance. [10] In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, [11] like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions. [12] The LORD alone led him; no foreign god was with him.

Deuteronomy 33:3-4, 12 [3] Surely it is you who love the people; all the holy ones are in your hand. At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive instruction, [4] the law that Moses gave us, the possession of the assembly of Jacob. [12] About Benjamin he said: "Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders."

090.030.020 Torrey: p45, T:III, P:2

POINT 20: God's love manifests itself in chastening and scourging His loved ones for their profit, that out of this chastening the peaceable fruit of righteousness may come.

Hebrews 12:6-11 [6] because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." [7] Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? [8] If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. [9] Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! [10] Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

090.030.030 Torrey: p45, T:III, P:3

POINT 30: God's love is shown in that it pains God to see His loved ones suffer, even when that

suffering comes from His own hand.

Isaiah 63:9 In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

090.030.040 Torrey: p45, T:III, P:4

POINT 40: God's love is manifested in His never forgetting those He loves. It may seem to us that He forgets, but He never does.

Isaiah 49:15-16 [15] Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! [16] See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

090.030.050 Torrey: p46, T:III, P:5

POINT 50: God's love has manifested itself by His making the greatest sacrifice in His power for those He loves -- the sacrifice of His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10 [9] This is how God showed his love among us: He *sent his one and only Son into the world* that we might live through him. [10] This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

=== DISCUSSION ===

Sacrifice is the measure of love. The fact that He *allowed* the sacrifice of Christ, His only begotten Son, is the measure of God's love.

Compare **Genesis 22:12** "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because *you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.*"

090.030.052 Torrey: no

POINT 52: God's love is shown by the fact that He does not hold Himself to a lesser standard than that which He expects from us.

God *asked for* the sacrifice of Abraham's only son. However, He did not require Abraham to actually go through with it and, in fact, expressly forbade it. As discussed above on page 57, 58, God does not hold Himself to a lesser standard than what He expects from us. To atone for our sins, God allowed the *actual* sacrificial death of Jesus.

090.030.054 Torrey: no

POINT 54: Jesus' love is shown by the His voluntary submission to torture and death so that sinners can be saved.

Although we frequently think of God *the Father* when we hear the word "God", of course, Jesus is *also* God, and Jesus *didn't* sacrifice *his* son, since He didn't have one. Jehovah didn't *order* Jesus to become man and undergo death. Jesus *volunteered* to save men and *allowed* Himself to be degraded, tortured, and crucified.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 [5] For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man

Christ Jesus, [6] *who gave himself as a ransom for all men* -- the testimony given in its proper time.

John 10:15, 17-18 [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father -- and *I lay down my life for the sheep*. [17] The reason my Father loves me is that *I lay down my life* -- only to take it up again. [18] *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord*. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

Jesus did not undergo crucifixion because He was outnumbered and unable to prevent it.

090.030.056 Torrey: no

POINT 56: Jesus' love is proved in that He could have prevented His crucifixion, but He allowed it so that sinners can be saved.

Matthew 26:53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

2 Kings 19:35 That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning -- there were all the dead bodies!

A single legion is ten thousand (a Roman legion was around 6,000). Jesus could have had more than 120,000 angels appear instantly to defend Him if He requested it. The Angel of the LORD was Jesus before He became man. Obviously, Jesus had the power to prevent His own death. If He had done so, sinners would not be saved.

090.030.060 Torrey: p46, T:III, P:6

POINT 60: God's love manifests itself in His forgiving sins.

Isaiah 38:17 Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

090.030.070 Torrey: p46, T:III, P:7

POINT 70: God's love manifests itself: (1) in His imparting life to those dead in trespasses and sins. (2) In His raising them up with Christ. (3) In his making them sit with Christ in the heavenly places. (4) In His showing to us in the ages to come the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-9 [4] But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions -- it is by grace you have been saved. [6] And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [7] in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.

God has only begun to do for us. The fullness of His love is not yet manifested. It is just beginning to unfold itself.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been

made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

090.030.080 Torrey: p47, T:III, P:8

POINT 80: God's love manifests itself in His granting us that "we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

090.030.090 Torrey: p47, T:III, P:9

POINT 90: God's love manifests itself in His rejoicing over His saved people with joy and singing.

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

Compare **Luke 15:23-24** [23] Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. [24] For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 100

100.000.000 Torrey: p48

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS, OR JUSTICE, OF GOD

Preliminary Note: The words "Righteous" and "Just", also "Righteousness" and "Justice", in the English Bible represent the same Hebrew and Greek words in the Old and New Testaments.

100.010.010 Torrey: p48, T:I

Topic 10: The fact that God is Righteous.

100.010.010 Torrey: p48, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God is righteous. He is just.

Ezra 9:15 O LORD, God of Israel, you are righteous! ...

Psalms 116:5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

Psalms 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.

Jeremiah 12:1 You are always righteous, O LORD, when I bring a case before you.

John 17:25 Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

100.020.000 Torrey: p48, T:II

Topic 20: What is Righteousness?

100.020.010 Torrey: p48, T:II P:1

POINT 10: What is it to be righteous, or just?

Ezekiel 18:5 Suppose there is a righteous man who does what is just and right.

Zephaniah 3:5 The LORD within her is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame.

To be just, or righteous, is to have that character that leads one to always do that which is right.

The Hebrew word, according to its etymology, means "right" or "straight." The etymology of the English word "righteous" is the same. The etymology of the Greek word is "custom" or "usage, i.e., that which conforms to custom.

The Righteousness or Justice of God is that attribute that leads Him always to do right. It is not to be limited, as it so often is in modern theological usage, to His punitive justice. This, as we shall shortly see, is only one manifestation of the Justice, or Righteousness of God, and not the one that is most prominent in Biblical usage.

Holiness seems to have more reference to God's character as He is in Himself; Righteousness to His character as manifested in his dealings with others.

100.030.000 Torrey: p49, T:III

Topic 30: How the Righteousness or Justice of God is manifested.

100.030.010 Torrey: p49, T:III, P:10

POINT 10: The Righteousness of God is manifested in His loving righteousness and hating iniquity.

Psalms 11:4-7 [4] The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. [5] The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. [6] On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. [7] For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.

100.030.020 Torrey: p50, T:III, P:2

POINT 20: The Righteousness of God is manifested in His visiting upon sinners the punishment due to their sins.

Exodus 9:23-27 [23] When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; [24] hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. [25] Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields -- both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree. [26] The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were. [27] Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he said to them. "The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong."

2 Chronicles 12:5-6 [5] Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the LORD says, 'You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.'" [6] The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is just."

Daniel 9:12, 14 [12] You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. [14] The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

Revelation 16:5-6 [5] Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; [6] for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."

100.030.030 Torrey: p50, T:III, P:3

POINT 30: The Righteousness of God is manifested in His bestowing upon the righteous the reward due for their faithfulness.

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day -- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

1 Kings 8:31-32 [31] When a man wrongs his neighbor and is required to take an oath and he comes and swears the oath before your altar in this temple, [32] then hear from heaven and act. Judge between your servants, condemning the guilty and bringing down on his own head what he has done. Declare the innocent not guilty, and so establish his innocence.

Psalms 7:9-11 [9] O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure. [10] My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. [11] God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.

Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

100.030.040 Torrey: p51, T:III, P:4

POINT 40: The Righteousness of God is manifested in His protecting and delivering His people from all their adversaries.

Psalms 98:1-3 [1] Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. [2] The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. [3] He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalms 103:6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

Psalms 129:1-4 [1] They have greatly oppressed me from my youth -- let Israel say -- [2] they have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but they have not gained the victory over me. [3] Plowmen have plowed my back and made their furrows long. [4] But the LORD is righteous; he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 [6] God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you [7] and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

In modern theological discussions we hear more of the Justice, or Righteousness of God in its relation to the punishment of sinners, but in the Bible we read of it more in relation to the protection of His people. In modern usage it is more frequently held up as an attribute of God at which sinners should tremble; in the Bible it is constantly dwelt upon as an attribute of God at which His people should rejoice and be confident.

Psalms 96:11-13 [11] Let the heavens *rejoice*, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; [12] let the fields *be jubilant*, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will *sing for joy*; [13] they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, *he comes to judge* the earth. He will judge the world *in righteousness* and the peoples in his truth.

Jeremiah 9:24 "but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

Psalms 116:5-6 [5] The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. [6] The LORD protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me.

Psalms 145:5, 15-19 [5] They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. [15] The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. [16] You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. [17] *The LORD is righteous* in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. [18] The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. [19] He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

Revelation 15:2-3 [2] ... They held harps given them by God [3] and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Even the righteousness of God in the punishment of the sinner is sometimes spoken of in relation to its connections with the deliverance or avenging of His people.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 [6] God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you [7] and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

Revelation 19:1-2 [1] After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, [2] for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

Revelation 16:4-6 [4] The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. [5] Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; [6] for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."

Here, it is the vindication and avenging of His people, rather than the suffering of the wicked, that is the prominent thought.

100.030.050 Torrey: p52, T:III, P:5

POINT 50: The Righteousness of God is manifested in His keeping His promises.

Nehemiah 9:7-8 [7] You are the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham. [8] You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites and Girgashites. You have kept your promise because you are righteous.

100.030.060 Torrey: p52, T:III, P:6

POINT 60: The Righteousness of God is manifested (1) In His providing a propitiation when sin was forgiven. (2) In His justifying the person who has faith in the substitute, Jesus.

Romans 3:25-26 [25] God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished -- [26] he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

100.030.070 Torrey: p52, T:III, P:7

POINT 70: The Righteousness of God is manifested in the forgiveness of the sins of the believer when they are confessed.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 110

110.000.000 Torrey: p53

THE MERCY, OR LOVING KINDNESS, OF GOD

In the 17th Edition Torrey stated:

Preliminary Note: The same Hebrew word is sometimes translated "mercy" and other times translated "loving-kindness". These two words, therefore, mean precisely the same thing. The Hebrew word should have been translated uniformly one way or the other. The word "mercy" in our English translation of the Old Testament is in a few instances a translation of another Hebrew word. This latter word corresponds to the Greek word always translated "compassion" in the New Testament. It covers essentially the same thought as the other word. In fact, in the quotation in **Romans 9:15** it is translated by the Greek word for mercy. The primary meaning of the word most frequently used is "kindness", especially kindness exercised toward the suffering or sinning. It is so translated thirty-nine times in the Authorized Version. In thirty-one of these instances it is used of the kindness of man toward man, in the remaining eight of the kindness of God toward man.

Reviser's Note: Unlike Torrey, I am not trained in either Hebrew or Greek. The excerpts in this New International Edition are mainly taken from the New International Standard Bible, not the 1885 Revised King James Version Torrey refers to. In any given context, the New International translators probably used whichever word sounded better in English; however, I do not know that for certain. The important point is: do not draw inferences from the use of one word rather than the other -- the difference does not exist in the original language.

110.010.010 Torrey: p53, T:l

Topic 10: The fact that God is Merciful.

110.010.010 Torrey: p53, T:l, P:1

POINT 10: God is Merciful, full of mercy.

Psalms 103:8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Deuteronomy 4:31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.

Psalms 62:11-12 [11] One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, [12] and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.

Psalms 145:8-9 [8] The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. [9] The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Psalms 86:15 But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

110.020.000 Torrey: p54, T:II

Topic 20: Toward whom is the mercy of God manifested?

110.020.010 Torrey: p54, T:II, P:1

POINT 10: God shows mercy as He sees fit. He is absolutely sovereign in the exercise of His mercy.

Romans 9:15, 18 [15] For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." [18] Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

But it should be remembered that while God is absolutely sovereign in the exercise of His mercy, while no one can dictate upon whom He shall have mercy, in point of fact He wills to have mercy on all upon whom He can have mercy.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

110.020.012 Torrey: no

POINT 12: No man can order, command, or demand God's mercy or blessings, as some New Age practitioners claim.

Some New Age preachers, including some Christian clergy who do not recognize disguised New Age practices, proclaim what is being called 'blab and grab' theology: that 'true believers' can call God up at will and *demand* whatever they want -- riches, power, etc., and He will provide it, indeed He *must* provide it.

These people may be calling up *spirits*, perhaps even spirits who can influence the affairs of men, but as the preceding Point indicates, the 'demanders' have no power over *God*. Certainly, *God's* faithful angels are not going to betray Him by influencing men in opposition to His will. For those who succeed in calling up spirits, there is only one other source, and it is not divine:

1 John 4:1-3 [1] Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. [2] This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, [3] but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

110.020.020 Torrey: p54, T:II, P:2

POINT 20: God's mercy is manifested toward those who fear or love Him: His servants, who

walk before Him with all their hearts.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Exodus 20:6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Psalms 103:11, 17-18 [11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; [17] But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children -- [18] with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

2 Chronicles 6:14 He said: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth -- you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue whole- heartedly in your way.

110.020.022 Torrey: p54, T:II, P:2

POINT 22: "Fear of the LORD" does not mean stark terror. In the Bible it is nearly synonymous with "love of God".

"The fear of the LORD" does *not* mean mortal dread of being brutally stricken at any moment for the smallest error. It means a healthy respect for His authority and power and righteousness. It is the "fear" any child ought to have for the good parent: respect for the parent's authority and fear of just and reasonable punishment for wrongful acts.

As used in the Bible, "fear of the LORD" is almost synonymous with a "love of God". God wants men to be filled with joy. Jesus came so that man may have life and have it abundantly. **John 10:10** Compare the following three excerpts; they look at the same practical attitude toward God from different points of view.

Proverbs 8:13 *To fear the LORD is to hate evil*; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 16:6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.

1 John 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. ...

110.020.030 Torrey: p55, T:II, P:3

POINT 30: God has mercy on every man who confesses and forsakes his sins.

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

110.020.040 Torrey: p55, T:II, P:4

POINT 40: God has mercy on those who trust in the Lord. "The LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man."

Psalms 32:10 Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

110.020.050 Torrey: p55, T:II, P:5

POINT 50: God has mercy on those who call upon Him in faith.

Psalms 86:5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Romans 10:12-13 [12] For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile -- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, [13] for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

God isn't a voice-operated appliance that fulfills every request on demand. He requires true acceptance, not mere empty words. In the following excerpt, the demon ignored the exorcists not because they were Jews, but because they lacked faith -- after all, Paul remained a Jew, even after he accepted Christ.

Acts 19:13, 15 [13] Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." [15] One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

Faith is an essential part of calling on God successfully.

Acts 3:16 *By faith in the name of Jesus*, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

Acts 3:16 Revised Version reads: And his name [Jesus], *by faith in his name*, has made this man strong whom you see and know; and the faith which is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

110.020.060 Torrey: p55, T:II, P:6

POINT 60: God has mercy on His afflicted people.

Isaiah 49:13 Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

110.030.000 Torrey: p55, T:III

Topic 30: How is the mercy of God manifested?

110.030.010 Torrey: p56, T:III, P:1

POINT 10: The mercy of God is manifested in his pardoning sin when confessed and forsaken.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Jonah 4:2 He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

Jeremiah 3:12-13 Go, proclaim this message toward the north: "'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the LORD, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the LORD, 'I will not

be angry forever. [13] Only acknowledge your guilt -- you have rebelled against the LORD your God, ... and have not obeyed me," declares the LORD.

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Numbers 14:18-20 [18] 'The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.' [19] In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now." [20] The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked.

The manifestation of God's mercy lies at the basis of many other manifestations. Nevertheless, it is not true, according to Biblical usage, that "mercy is exercised only when there is guilt."

110.030.020 Torrey: p56, T:III, P:2

POINT 20: The mercy of God is manifested in his bearing long with sinners even when they harden their hearts and persist in sins.

Nehemiah 9:16-18, 26-27, 30- 31 [16] But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. [17] They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, [18] even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies. [26] But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they put your law behind their backs. They killed your prophets, who had admonished them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies. [27] So you handed them over to their enemies, who oppressed them. But when they were oppressed they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies. [30] For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. [31] But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Confer: **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

110.030.030 Torrey: p57, T:III, P:3

POINT 30: The mercy of God is manifested in His delivering from sickness, sorrow and oppression.

Psalms 6:1-4 [1] O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. [2] Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony. [3] My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long? [4] Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

Philippians 2:27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on

him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

Exodus 15:13 In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

110.030.040 Torrey: p57, T:III, P:4

POINT 40: The mercy of God is manifested in His maintaining the security of those who trust Him.

Psalms 21:7 For the king trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken.

110.030.050 Torrey: p57, T:III, P:5

POINT 50: The mercy of God is manifested in His acting as a defense and refuge in the day of trouble.

Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 120

120.000.000 Torrey: p58

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

120.010.000 Torrey: p58, T:I

Topic 10: The fact that God is faithful.

120.010.010 Torrey: p58, T:I, P:1

POINT 10: God is faithful.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is *the faithful God*, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A *faithful God* who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Isaiah 49:7 This is what the LORD says -- the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel -- to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of *the LORD, who is faithful*, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

1 Corinthians 1:9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And *God is faithful*; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 The one who calls you is *faithful* and he will do it.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But *the Lord is faithful*, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, *he is faithful* and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

120.020.000 Torrey: p58, T:II

Topic 20: What does "faithful" mean?

120.020.012 Torrey: p59, T:II

POINT 12: "Faithful" means to "stay" or "support".

(1) THE ETYMOLOGY -- The Hebrew root from which the words translated "faithful" and "faithfulness" in the Old Testament are derived means to prop or stay or support. The intransitive use of the word signifies to stay oneself or be supported; hence, the word "faithful", as applied to a person, means someone a person can safely lean upon. The Greek word used in the New Testament means trustworthy or to be relied upon, but this Greek word is the same used in the Septuagint for the Hebrew word mentioned above, and of course gets its meaning from this usage.

120.020.022 Torrey: p59, T:II

POINT 22: Usage of the word "faithful".

In each of the following excerpts, the word in italics was translated as "faithful" in the 1885 Revised King James Bible, as indicated in Torrey's 17th Edition:

Psalms 119:86 All your commands are *trustworthy*; help me, for men persecute me without cause.

Proverbs 14:5 A *truthful* witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies.

Matthew 24:45-46 [45] "Who then is the *faithful* and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? [46] It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

Matthew 25:21, 23 [21] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and *faithful* servant! You have been *faithful* with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' [23] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and *faithful* servant! You have been *faithful* with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a *trustworthy* saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the worst.

Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are *trustworthy* and true."

The Biblical usage of the word conforms to its etymology. The thought will come out more fully and definitely as we come to see how the faithfulness of God is manifested. Therefore, the proposition "God is faithful" means *God is a being upon whom we can absolutely rely or stay ourselves*.

120.030.000 Torrey: p59, T:III

Topic 30: The extent of God's faithfulness.

120.030.010 Torrey: p59, T:III, P:1

POINT 10: God's faithfulness is great.

Lamentations 3:23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

120.030.020 Torrey: p60, T:III, P:2

POINT 20: God's faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Psalms 36:5 Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

Psalms 89:2 I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

120.030.030 Torrey: p60, T:III, P:3

POINT 30: All God's work is done in faithfulness.

Psalms 33:4 For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

120.040.000 Torrey: p60, T:IV

Topic 40: How the faithfulness of God is manifested.

120.040.010 Torrey: p60, T:IV, P:1

POINT 10: God's faithfulness is manifested in His keeping His promise and covenant. His fulfilling every word that goes out of His mouth regardless of what man does.

Hebrews 10:23, 36-37 [23] Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. [36] You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. [37] For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay."

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

1 Kings 8:23-24, 56 [23] and said: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below -- you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. [24] You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it -- as it is today. [56] "Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses."

Psalms 89:32-34 [32] I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; [33] but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. [34] I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.

Psalms 119:89-90 [89] Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. [90] Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

120.040.020 Torrey: p61, T:IV, P:2

POINT 20: God's faithfulness is manifested in the unflinching defense and deliverance of His servants in times of trial, testing and conflict.

1 Peter 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Psalms 89:20-26 [20] I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him. [21] My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. [22] No enemy will subject him to tribute; no wicked man will oppress him. [23] I will crush his foes before him and strike down his

adversaries. [24] My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted. [25] I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. [26] He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'

This might well be called "The Faithfulness Psalm." (See verse 1, etc.)

120.040.030 Torrey: p61, T:IV, P:3

POINT 30: God's faithfulness is manifested in His standing by His people and saving them even when they are unfaithful to Him.

Lamentations 3:22-23 [22] Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. [23] They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Jeremiah 51:5 For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD Almighty, though their land is full of guilt before the Holy One of Israel.

2 Timothy 2:13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

1 Samuel 12:20-22 [20] "Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. "You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. [21] Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. [22] For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own."

120.040.040 Torrey: p61, T:IV, P:4

POINT 40: God demonstrates his faithfulness by not letting Satan tempt His children beyond their ability to resist, and God always provides an escape.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

120.040.050 Torrey: p62, T:IV, P:5

POINT 50: God's faithfulness is shown in strengthening and protecting those He has called, guarding them from the evil one, sanctifying them wholly and preserving them entire -- spirit, soul and body -- without blame at the coming of Jesus. This confidence of God's children in regard to their future is not in their faithfulness, but in His.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 [8] He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:23- 24 [23] May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24] The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

John 10:28-29 [28] I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. [29] My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them

out of my Father's hand.

120.040.060 Torrey: p62, T:IV, P:6

POINT 60: God's faithfulness is manifested in His chastening His children when they go astray.

Psalms 119:75 I know, O LORD, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

Hebrews 12:6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.

120.040.070 Torrey: p62, T:IV, P:7

POINT 70: God's faithfulness is manifested in His forgiving His children when they confess their sins.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Our confidence that God will forgive our sins when confessed rests upon two known facts about God: God is righteous and God is faithful. To doubt that your sin is forgiven when you have confessed it is to question His righteousness and His faithfulness as well as His veracity. It is not humility, but presumption.

120.040.080 Torrey: p63, T:IV, P:8

POINT 80: God's faithfulness is manifested in His answering the prayers of His children.

Psalms 143:1-2 [1] O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief. [2] Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.

The Righteousness, Mercy and Faithfulness of God run along nearly parallel lines, and they are all pledged to the deliverance, defense and complete and eternal salvation of God's people.

What the Bible Teaches

Chapter 130

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS

Part 2

130.030.000 Torrey: p75, T:III

Topic 30: Seven distinctly Divine Offices are ascribed to Jesus Christ.

130.030.010 Torrey: p75, T:III, P:1

POINT 10: The Son of God, the Eternal Word, the Lord, is Creator of all created things.

Hebrews 1:10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands."

John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

130.030.020 Torrey: p75, T:III, P:2

POINT 20: The Son of God is the Preserver of all things.

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

130.030.030 Torrey: p75, T:III, P:3

POINT 30: Jesus Christ has power on earth to forgive sins.

Mark 2:5-10 [5] When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." [6] Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, [7] "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" [8] Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? [9] Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' [10] But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" ...

Luke 7:48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Note: Jesus taught that sins were sins against Himself.

Luke 7:40-47 [40] Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. [41] "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. [42] Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" [43] Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. [44] Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. [45] You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. [46] You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. [47] Therefore, I tell you, *her many sins have been forgiven* -- for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

He speaks of both Simon and the woman, as sinners, being debtors to himself.

Compare: **Psalms 51:4** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

130.030.040 Torrey: p76, T:III, P:4

POINT 40: It is Jesus Christ who raises the dead.

John 6:39, 44 [39] And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. [44] No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

QUESTION: Didn't Elijah and Elisha raise the dead?

ANSWER: No, God raised the dead in answer to their prayer, but Jesus Christ will raise the dead by His own word. During his humiliation it was by prayer that Christ raised the dead.

John 11:41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

130.030.050 Torrey: p77, T:III, P:5

POINT 50: Jesus Christ shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation into the likeness of His glorious body.

Philippians 3:20-21 [20] ... the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

130.030.060 Torrey: p77, T:III, P:6

POINT 60: Jesus Christ shall judge the living and the dead.

2 Timothy 4:1 In the presence of God and of *Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead*, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

Note: Jesus Himself emphasized the Divine character of this office:

John 5:22-23 [22] Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, [23] that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

130.030.070 Torrey: p77, T:III, P:7

POINT 70: Jesus Christ is the giver of Eternal Life.

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

John 17:2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

130.040.000 Torrey: p77, T:IV

Topic 40: In the Old Testament, certain statements are made distinctly of Jehovah, God. In the New Testament, statements that are extremely similar are considered to refer to Jesus Christ.

Many statements which are made distinctly of Jehovah, God, in the Old Testament are taken in the New Testament to refer to Jesus Christ, i.e., in New Testament thought and doctrine Jesus Christ occupies the place that Jehovah occupies in Old Testament thought and doctrine.

130.040.010 Torrey: p77, T:IV, P:(1)

POINT 10: Text: Jehovah/Jesus is eternal and created Heaven and Earth.

Psalms 102:24-27 [24] So I said: "Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. [25] In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. [26] They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. [27] But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

Hebrews 1:10-12 [10] He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. [11] They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. [12] You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

130.040.020 Torrey: p78, T:IV, P:(2)

POINT 20: Text: Someone will come calling to make way for the LORD.

Isaiah 40:3-4 [3] A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. [4] Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

Matthew 3:3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

Luke 1:68-69, 76 [68] Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. [69] He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David [76] And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

Of course, the "one calling in the desert" is John the Baptist.

Reviser's Note: I disagree with Torrey on this Point. **Matthew 3:3** clearly indicates that **Isaiah 40:3-4** is a prophesy about the coming Messiah. Hence, the passage does not refer to Jehovah.

130.040.030 Torrey: p78, T:IV, P:(3)

POINT 30: Text: God/Jesus will have vengeance on the wicked.

Jeremiah 11:20 But, O LORD Almighty, you who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.

Revelation 2:23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

130.040.040 Torrey: p78, T:IV, P:(4)

POINT 40: Text: God/Jesus is the light.

Isaiah 60:19 The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Luke 2:30-32 [30] For my eyes have seen your salvation, [31] which you have prepared in the sight of all people, [32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

130.040.050 Torrey: p78, T:IV, P:(5)

POINT 50: Text: God closed the eyes of many who witnessed miracles so they could not believe.

Isaiah 6:1, 3, 10 [1] In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. [3] And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." [10] "Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

John 12:37-41 [37] Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. [38] This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" [39] For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: [40] "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn - - and I would heal them." [41] Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

130.040.060 Torrey: p79, T:IV, P:(6)

POINT 60: Text: Jehovah/Jesus will be a stone that will make men fall.

Isaiah 8:13-14 [13] The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, [14] and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.

1 Peter 2:7-8 [7] Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," [8] and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message -- which is also what they were destined for.

130.040.070 Torrey: p79, T:IV, P:(7)

POINT 70: Text: Do not fear.

Isaiah 8:12-13 [12] Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. [13] The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread,

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

130.040.080 Torrey: p79, T:IV, P:(8)

POINT 80: Text: The Lord can send venomous snakes to punish those who seek to test Him.

Numbers 21:6-7 [6] Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. [7] The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

1 Corinthians 10:9 We should not test the Lord, as some of them did -- and were killed by snakes.

130.040.090 Torrey: p79, T:IV, P:(9)

POINT 90: Text: God/Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

Isaiah 40:10-11 [10] See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. [11] He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

130.040.100 Torrey: p80, T:IV, P:(10)

POINT 100: God/Jesus will seek after those who are lost.

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 18 [11] For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. [12] As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. [18] Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?

Luke 19:10 [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

130.040.110 Torrey: p80, T:IV, P:(11)

POINT 110: LORD always refers to the Deity unless clearly indicated.

In the Old Testament, LORD always refers to God except where the context clearly indicates otherwise. In the New Testament, LORD always refers to Jesus except where the context clearly indicates otherwise.

130.050.000 Torrey: p80, T:V

Topic 50: The way the name of God the Father and Jesus Christ are coupled together

130.050.010 Torrey: p81, T:V, P:1

POINT 10: The name of Jesus Christ is coupled with that of God the father in numerous passages in a way in which it would be impossible to couple the name of any finite being with that of the Deity.

2 Corinthians 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

1 Thessalonians 3:11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 [4] There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. [6] There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Titus 3:4-5 [4] But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, [5] he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Romans 1:7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

James 1:1 James, a servant of God *and of the Lord Jesus Christ*, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

"We", "God and I"

2 Peter 1:1-2 [1] Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: [2] Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 2:2-3 [2] My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 14:1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; *trust also in me*.

Jeremiah 17:5-7 [5] This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. [6] He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. [7] But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him."

Revelation 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, *and to the Lamb*."

Revelation 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne *and to the Lamb* be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

John 5:22-23 [22] Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, [23] that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

130.060.000 Torrey: p81, T:VI

Topic 60: Divine Worship to be given to Jesus Christ

130.060.005 Torrey: p83, T:VI

POINT 5: Jesus Christ is a person to be worshipped by angels and men, even as God the Father is worshipped.

130.060.010 Torrey: p81, T:VI, P:1

POINT 10: Jesus Christ accepted without hesitation a worship which good men and angels declined with fear (horror).

Matthew 28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and *worshipped him*.

Luke 24:52 Then they *worshipped him* and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Matthew 14:33 Then those who were in the boat *worshipped him*, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Acts 10:25-26 [25] As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. [26] But Peter made him get up. "*Stand up, he said, 'I am only a man myself.'*"

Revelation 22:8-9 [8] I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to

me. [9] But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. ***Worship God!***"

Matthew 4:9-10 [9] "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." [10] Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: '***Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.***'"

QUESTION: Isn't the verb translated "worship" in these passages, sometimes used to refer to the reverence paid to men in high positions?

ANSWER: Yes, but not in this way by worshippers of Jehovah, as is seen by the way in which both Peter and the angel drew back when such worship was offered to them.

130.060.020 Torrey: p82, T:VI, P:2

POINT 20: Prayer is to be made to Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2-3 [2] To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who ***call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*** -- their Lord and ours: [3] Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 [8] Three times ***I pleaded with the Lord*** to take it away from me. [9] But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, ***for my power*** is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that ***Christ's power*** may rest on me.

Acts 7:59 While they were stoning him, ***Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."***

130.060.030 Torrey: p83, T:VI, P:3

POINT 30: It is God the Father's will that all men pay the same divine honor to the Son as to Himself.

Psalms 45:11 The king is enthralled by your beauty; ***honor him***, for he is your lord.

John 5:22-23 [22] Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, [23] that all may honor the Son ***just as they honor the Father***. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Revelation 5:8-9, 12- 13 [8] And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty- four elders fell down ***before the Lamb***. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. [9] And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. [12] In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" [13] Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne ***and to the Lamb*** be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

130.060.040 Torrey: p83, T:VI, P:4

POINT 40: The Son of God, Jesus, is to be worshipped as God by angels and men.

Hebrews 1:6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "***Let all God's angels worship him.***"

Philippians 2:9-11 [9] Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, [10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 45:21-23: [21] Declare what is to be, present it -- let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. [22] "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. [23] By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

In each of these unmistakable ways, God in His word distinctly proclaims that Jesus Christ is a Divine Being, that Jesus is God:

- using numerous Divine names for Jesus
- ascribing all the distinctively Divine attributes to Jesus
- predicating several Divine offices to Jesus
- by referring statements which in the Old Testament distinctly name Jehovah God as their subject to Jesus Christ in the New Testament
- coupling the name of Jesus Christ with that of God the Father in a way in which it would be impossible to couple the name of any finite being with that of the Deity
- teaching that Jesus Christ should be worshipped as God the Father is worshipped

Note: Whoever refuses to accept Jesus as his Divine Savior and Lord is guilty of the enormous sin of rejecting God. A man often thinks he is good because he never stole or never murdered or never cheated. "Of what great sin am I guilty?" he complacently asks. "You are guilty of the awful, damning sin of rejecting God," we reply. But suppose one questions or denies His divinity. That does not change the fact nor lessen his guilt. Questioning or denying a fact never changes it. Suppose that one denies the goodness of a man who is in fact the soul of honor. It would not alter the fact but simply make the questioner guilty of awful slander. So denying the fact of the Deity of Jesus Christ does not make it any less a fact, but it does make the denier guilty of awful blasphemous slander.
