

# who is **God**?

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For 38 years, Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892 life span) pastored Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. He was considered then (and now) the “prince of preachers.” Consider his belief in the urgency of knowing theology (which means “the Knowledge of God):

*“Theology is the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy which can engage the child of God. There is something exceedingly increasing to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity. So deep that our pride is drowned in its infinity. Other subjects we can comprehend and grapple with. In them we feel a kind of self-contentment and go on our way with a thought, “Behold I am wise.” But when we come to this master science, finding that our plumb line cannot sound its depth, that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought, “I am but of yesterday and know nothing.”*

# Who Is God?

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

- Introduction -

## **The Veil In The Tabernacle In The Wilderness - Later In The Great Temples**

Luke 23:44-45

**And it was about the sixth hour (noon), and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour (3 p.m.) [45] And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst (from top to the bottom - Mark 15).**

From the time Moses led the people of Israel out of Egyptian bondage (around 1450 B.C.), knowledge of God was severely restricted. On the next page you will find a drawing of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, which had two rooms, the smaller of which was the Holy of Holies. You will note the Ark of the Covenant was in that room, covered by a lid called The Mercy Seat. On it were two golden cherubim (angels) with their wings outstretched toward each other.

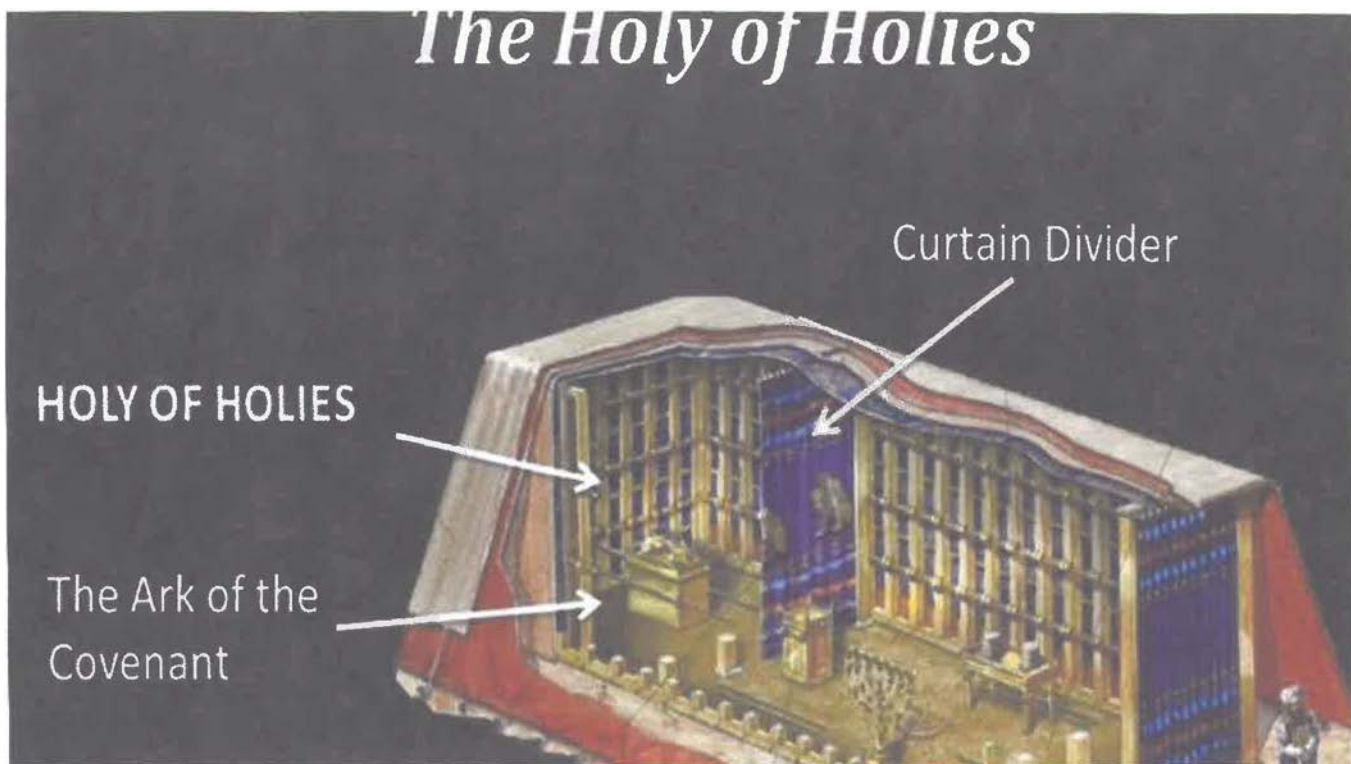
It was commonly accepted that the earthly presence of God dwelt between the two cherubim. It was called the "Shekinah" presence of God. Only the high priest, once each year, could enter the Holy of Holies. He carried a vase filled with blood which was spilled on the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of the Israeli nation. A rope was tied around him, lest he died inside the room; then he could be slowly pulled out of the room. Anyone but the high priest entering the Holy of Holies would be smitten and die.

Around 900 B.C., King Solomon erected the first actual Temple in Jerusalem. The interior was the same as in the Tabernacle, and, again, the great veil covered the entrance to the Holy of Holies. That veil clearly made it impossible for anyone but the High Priest (and then only one brief visit per year) to know but about the Shekinah, the glory of God.

We know from the dimensions given us in Exodus of the Tabernacle, what the size of that huge veil must have been. Authorities are quite united that the veil was 30 feet wide and 30 feet high. Some experts believe the veil must have been about 4 inches thick - and thereby impossible to tear in two.

But note that it was torn from the top to the bottom, not vice versa. This means it could only have been rendered supernaturally. And for the first time, human beings could learn - and see for themselves - the Ark and the Glory of God. Hebrews 10:19-22 **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, [20] By a**

# The Holy of Holies



Artist's drawing of the interior of The Tabernacle In The Wilderness

**new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; [21] And having an high priest over the house of God; [22] Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

God not only desires for all of His children to be knowledgeable about Him, He promises that we may do so with boldness! We do not come to Him in fear, but we do come in holy respect and awe - a factor not always prevalent in churches today.

In these next few Wednesday nights, let us boldly pursue the knowledge of our Heavenly Father as we open the sacred pages of His Word. We will be blessed, for sure, and we will not be as liable to fall into theological error.

By the way: THEOLOGY means THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD!

## CONFUSION AND ERROR

There are so many misconceptions about God in the world today. One can accurately place the blame for mankind's ills on our misconceptions about Him. An incorrect view of the Creator "is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our

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3 What was once a lofty and majestic view of God has been replaced by a divine “buddy,”  
4 concept conceived on the basis of ignoble thoughts of Him. We talk a lot about  
5 “worship,” but do we really understand what the word means?  
6

It is the opinion of this pastor that many “worship worship!” What do I mean by that? Singing a few choruses on Sunday morning and/or lifting our hands as we sing does not necessarily define worship. Worship - true worship - means living our lives in the way God intended all seven days a week. And we are to know what that means in a practical way because worship is clearly defined for us in Scripture. The more we know about God, the more we understand how we should live. We cannot live improper lives before God in ways that defy Scripture by saying, “Well, God loves me and He’ll understand me.” In years gone by, a business woman told me, “God and I have our own little thing going.” Not in a million years do you have “your own little thing going.” God’s redemptive acts are universal; His laws are universal; His decrees not “bendable.” This is why we MUST know as much about God as is possible!

7 The way we speak to one another, the way we treat our mates, the way we respond to  
8 hurting people, the way we study His Word, etc., these are all expressions of worship of  
9 the One and Only God. This may come as a shock: **God does not *primarily* exist to**  
10 **make us happy; We exist to make Him happy!**  
11

### 12 **GOD IS NOT THE ‘MAN UPSTAIRS’**

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14 He is known as Jehovah (Yahweh). God is the One “who is and who was and who is to  
15 come.” He is a Person, not an “it.” We will study His traits of personality. We may  
16 say that God is “absolute,” for there is no other god and there cannot be another.  
17

18 We used to sing a chorus with errant theology. The lyrics included, *There’s no god like*  
19 *Jehovah.* I cringed everytime I heard it and would not personally sing that line. The  
20 word “like” indicates that “compared to other gods, He is the tops!” The truth is:  
21 *There’s no god BUT Jehovah!* Even the consideration that “He is the best of all gods is  
22 rank idolatry! Idolatry is the consideration of God to be anything other than Who He  
23 truly is!  
24

25 God is timeless. He is not a “becoming God.” Psalm 90:2 **Before the mountains**  
26 **were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from**

1 everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. 1 Tim. 6:15-17 Which in his times he  
2 shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of  
3 lords; [16] Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can  
4 approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and  
5 power everlasting. Amen.

### 6 THE UNIVERSE CANNOT CONTAIN HIM

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8  
9 We sometimes comfortably seat God on a throne in Heaven – “up there, somewhere.”  
10 However, God is not only timeless, as we will study later, space cannot contain Him.  
11 Note Solomon’s wise conclusion: I Kings 8:27 **Will God indeed dwell on the earth?**  
12 **behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this**  
13 **house that I have builded?**

14  
15 Scientists now believe “space” as we understand it and which is observable with the most  
16 exquisite of instruments is at least 13.8 BILLION light years in dimension. When we  
17 remember that light travels at 186 thousand miles PER SECOND, and that this immense  
18 thing called “space” cannot contain God we are reduced to respectful silence! And awe!  
19 Infinite space is an impossibility.

20  
21 Yet our God spoke the word and space “was.” (Genesis 1) Scoffers doubt creation and  
22 some claim all this began with an explosion. Well...who created the combustible “stuff”  
23 that triggered that “explosion.? There had to be a beginning. *“In the beginning,*  
24 *God....”*

### 25 GOD IS SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE

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27  
28 Jesus taught us: John 4:24 **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship**  
29 **him in spirit and in truth.**

30  
31 Our Lord defined that as well: Luke 24:39 **Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I**  
32 **myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**

33  
34 Now wait a minute: Doesn’t Scripture claim that God has bodily parts – eyes (1 Kings  
35 8:29 **That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward**  
36 **the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there:)** ears (Psalm 34:15 **The**  
37 **eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry); hands**  
38 **( Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the**  
39 **earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:)** feet (Psalm 8:6 **Thou madest**  
40 **him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under**

1 **his feet).** Yes....but these are all symbolic representations to make God even more real  
2 to our understanding.

### 4 Invisibility

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6 Such verses are most helpful to us because no person has ever seen God. “But didn’t the  
7 Lord appear to the people of Israel at Horeb?” Well, let’s check out the Scriptures:  
8 Deut. 4:15-19 **Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner**  
9 **of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of**  
10 **the fire: [16] Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the**  
11 **similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, [17] The likeness of any beast**  
12 **that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, [18] The**  
13 **likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in**  
14 **the waters beneath the earth: [19] And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and**  
15 **when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven,**  
16 **shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath**  
17 **divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.** No, God was not visible to them  
18 lest they were tempted to make likenesses of Him. God Himself warned Moses about  
19 this: Exodus 33:20 **And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man**  
20 **see me, and live.** The Apostle Paul warned young Timothy about this very truth: 1  
21 Tim. 6:16 **Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can**  
22 **approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and**  
23 **power everlasting. Amen.**

24  
25 But....are there not scriptures that verify people have seen God? Isaiah 6:1 is a good case  
26 in point: Isaiah 6:1 **In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting**  
27 **upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.** R. A. Torrey  
28 commented: *A man may see the reflection of his face in a glass. It would be true for the*  
29 *man to say, ‘I saw my face,’ and also ‘I never saw my face,’ – only a reflection of it.*  
30 *R. A. Torrey WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES / Revell*

### 31 GOD IS DEAD ? FORGET IT !

32  
33  
34 After a devastating earthquake in California, one TV personality opened his monologue  
35 by observing, “The God-Is-Dead rally schedule for tonight has been cancelled!”  
36 Scriptures call Him “the living God” in Joshua 3:10 **And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall**  
37 **know that the living God is among you...** Paul in effect said “amen” when he wrote:1  
38 Thessalonians 1:9 **For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we**  
39 **had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;**  
40

41 In his classic Lectures in Systematic Theology, Thiessen wrote: “Life implies feeling,

1 power, activity. God has all of these. He also is the source of all life—plant, animal,  
2 human, spiritual and eternal.” Pg. 120 God is alive whereas the idols worshiped by  
3 pagans are stone-cold dead.

## 4 5 THE “PERSON” OF GOD 6

7 That subtitle almost sounds blasphemous, that is, calling God “a Person.” But follow this  
8 closely:

9  
10 You, as a human being, a person, have a personality. God also has a multi-faceted  
11 personality. Today we hear so many sermons on God’s love (which is very true);  
12 however, He is much, much more than love. Love is but one of the many facets of His  
13 personality. This leaves many people with a truncated concept of God. Let’s take a  
14 look at just a few of these “facets” of our Heavenly Father’s personality:

15  
16 1. Intellect Acts 15:18 **Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of**  
17 **the world.** Thiessen writes about this intellect, all-knowledge, facet of God’s  
18 personality: *God knows Himself and all other things, whether they be actual or merely*  
19 *possible, whether they be past, present, or future, and that He knows them perfectly and*  
20 *from all eternity. He knows things:*

- 21 ✓ *immediately*
- 22 ✓ *simultaneously*
- 23 ✓ *exhaustively*
- 24 ✓ *truly*                      *ibid: page 124*

25 God is never “surprised.” He has never uttered these words: “I didn’t know that....!”

26  
27 2. Volition (The exercise of His will) Psalm 115:3 **But our God is in the**  
28 **heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.**

29  
30 3. God speaks (communicates - primarily through His written Word). At the outset of  
31 Holy Scripture we are informed that God verbalizes His thoughts: Genesis 1:3 **And**  
32 **God said, Let there be light: and there was light.**

33  
34 4. God sees. Genesis 11:5 **And the Lord came down to see the city and the**  
35 **tower, which the children of men builded.** Nothing is hidden from His view.  
36 Whether good, bad or indifferent, God sees.

37  
38 5. God hears. Psalm 94:9 **He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that**  
39 **formed the eye, shall he not see?** Our thoughts are just as known to God as the words  
40 that we speak.

1 6. Yes, we know that God is love; however, He also can be angered. Deut. 1:37  
2 **Also the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in**  
3 **thither.** God was angry at Moses for allowing “the majority” of opinion to sway him  
4 away from his purpose for being. We don’t hear much today about the anger of God.  
5

6 7. God is compassionate. Psalm 111:4 **He hath made his wonderful works to be**  
7 **remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.** To those who love and  
8 obey Him, who serve Him from their hearts, God shows compassion.  
9

10 Now if we continue with these factors of God, we will be here for weeks His personality  
11 facets are varied and innumerable. This is why we must study Him, know Him,  
12 understand how He deals with us. To factor your life on just ONE of His personality  
13 traits is a severe mistake.  
14

## 15 GOD’S ATTRIBUTES

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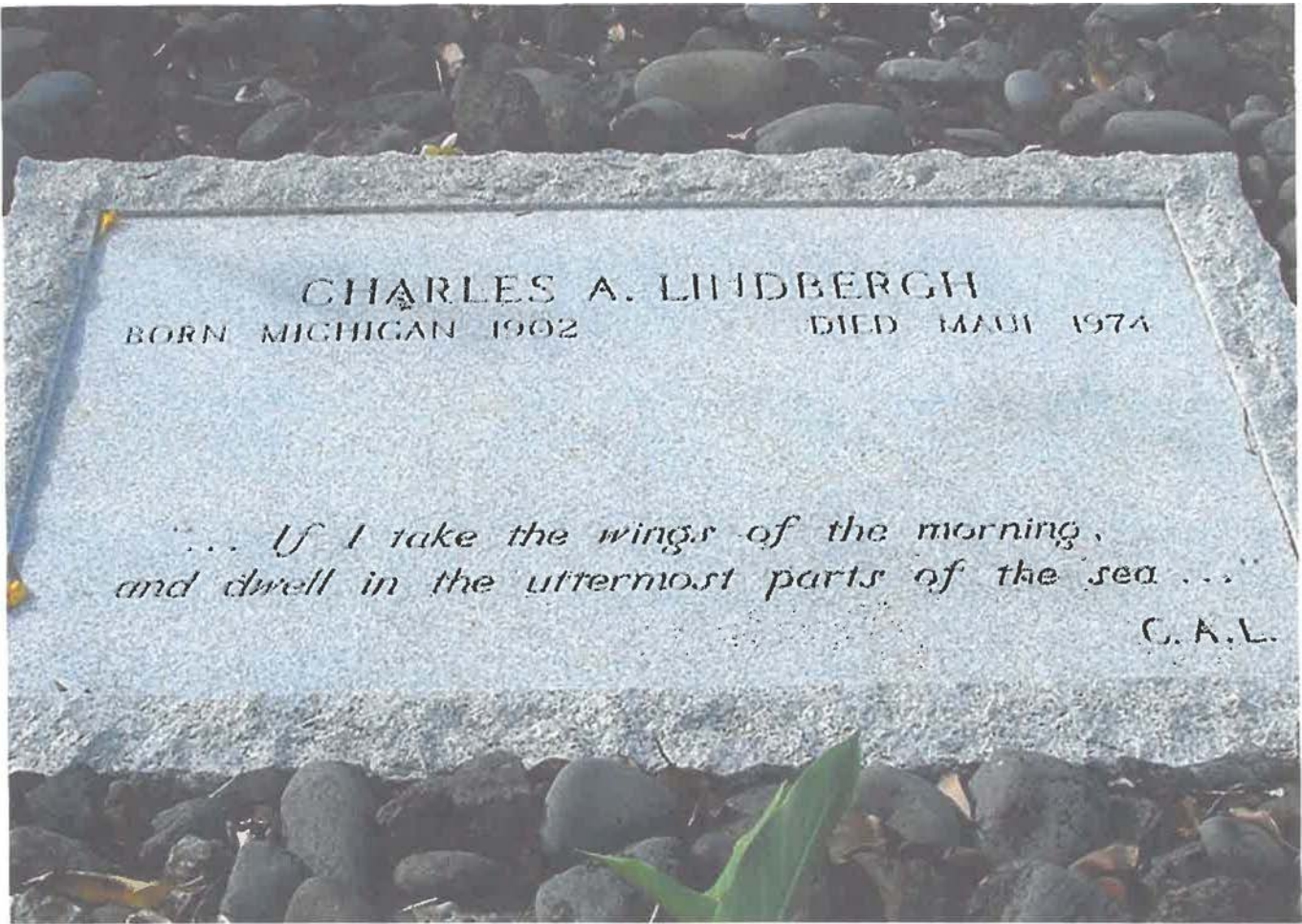
17 This section of our study tonight - God’s attributes - is a theme that be an entire series, not  
18 just part of one section of one study. Here we start - just begin - to get some idea of the  
19 immensity of our God.  
20

21 1. GOD IS OMNIPRESENT. That means He’s everywhere. One of our astronauts  
22 (one of only 12 men in history to walk on the moon) told me that while walking on its  
23 surface he felt the most awesome presence of God. King David adds his “amen”:  
24 Psalm 139:7-12 **Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy**  
25 **presence? [8] If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell,**  
26 **behold, thou art there. [9] If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the**  
27 **uttermost parts of the sea; [10] Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right**  
28 **hand shall hold me. [11] If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night**  
29 **shall be light about me. [12] Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night**  
30 **shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.**  
31

32 On the Hawaiian island of Maui, (8 miles south of the coastal town of Hana), if you know  
33 where to look, you can find the grave of Colonel Charles Lindbergh. (Picture on  
34 following page) The famous aviator spent his last several years living in Hana. He  
35 designed both his grave and the headstone. How appropriate! “If I take the wings of  
36 the morning...” is certainly a reference to his famed solo flight over the Atlantic and  
37 “dwell in the uttermost part of the sea...” refers to the ocean splashing its waves just a few  
38 feet away. **EVEN THERE!** No matter where you might go on this planet...**EVEN**  
39 **THERE.** Or, as the astronaut observed while walking on the moon, **EVEN THERE!**  
40 Other man-made gods cannot make that observation. In fact, they can’t “observe” at all!



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2. GOD IS OMNISCIENT (all-knowing). As already shown on page 6, line 16, God’s knowledge is total and complete, not lacking at all in any degree. The Psalmist understood this and wrote: Psalm 147:5 **Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.** Isaiah 46:10 **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:** Hebrews 4:13 **Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**

In my old newscasting days, I often spent time with law enforcement officials who were tracking wanted criminals. I wrote follow-up stories on trials of these people in various courts. My friend, if a person cannot hide from people, how in the world do they expect to hide from God? Jesus observed in His Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 10:30 **But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.** Think about this! That verse does not merely imply God knows how many hairs you have, but each of them is inventoried! So, while brushing your hair this morning, and one was left in your brush, God knew that was hair #G-49916-B – or whatever inventory number it was. There is nothing God does not know! One final thought: God has knowledge of the POSSIBLE as well as the ACTUAL.

1 God Knows The Future

2  
3 This is yet another reason why we trust in the Lord! He knows not only what happened  
4 in the past, what’s happening now, but also what is going to happen in the future. Isaiah  
5 46:9-10 **Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else;**  
6 **I am God, and there is none like me, [10] Declaring the end from the beginning, and**  
7 **from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand,**  
8 **and I will do all my pleasure:**  
9

10  
The fact that God knew from creation on who would be saved and who would not, does NOT substantiate “pre-destination.” That is, that whoever is going to be saved will be saved, no matter what. That would rule out the entire missiology of the Book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament. Why would God command us to take the Gospel to every creature if their salvation is already a foregone fact? God knows who will be saved - He’s always known that - but He has never interfered with free will. He will never violate that strong premise. It will always be: Rev. 22:17 **And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

11  
12 3. GOD IS OMNIPOTENT (all-powerful) God can do anything at anytime, anyplace,  
13 with anyone - providing it is consistent with His divine nature. For example, God  
14 cannot lie or commit any sin. Habakkuk 1:13 **Thou art of purer eyes than to behold**  
15 **evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal**  
16 **treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is**  
17 **more righteous than he?**  
18

19 So....why doesn’t God just eradicate all sin from this world? Because immediately that  
20 would eliminate your ability to sin, or the dismissal of your free will, your choice. God  
21 will not violate what He has already eternally decreed. But let’s check out a few  
22 scriptures regarding God’s omnipotence:  
23

24 Genesis 17:1 **And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared**  
25 **to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God;**

26 Job 42:2 **I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be**  
27 **withholden from thee.**

28 Jeremiah 32:17 **Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by**  
29 **thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:**

30 Matthew 19:26 **But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is**  
31 **impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

1 4. GOD IS IMMUTABLE. He does not, cannot, change! If something “changes,” it  
2 is either to make it better or worse. God cannot change for the better because He is  
3 already perfect. He cannot change for the worse because the very concept is inconsistent  
4 and absurd. It is written that God can never be wiser, holier, more just or merciful, etc.,  
5 than He already is.

6  
7 Scripture makes a solid case for His immutability: James 1:17 **Every good gift and**  
8 **every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with**  
9 **whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**

10  
11 Malachi 3:6 **For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not**  
12 **consumed.**

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17 **NEXT WEEK WE CONTINUE WITH THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.**  
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