

A FIRST IMPRESSION OF GOD

I. GOD IS PERSONAL (YHWH) LORD v1a

1. The COVENANT Name of God. He reveals himself a PERSON

2. (1) World religions:

/1/ god as impersonal, a force, Star Wars, "*the force be with you.*" Something spiritual but impersonal

/2/ Other religions: Polytheism: MULTIPLICITY of gods, Henotheism: a supreme god among many gods.

/3/ Islam presents a personal god, but is not loving or merciful.

2. The good news of the Gospel, the Bible, God is a person. He possesses all ATTRIBUTES of personhood.

(1) He is SELF-AWARE. GN 1, let us make man in our image, He reveals Himself as personal by using His covenantal name YHWHY.

(2) He is aware of OTHERS. Abram, v3 all the peoples of the earth

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I. **GOD IS PERSONAL** (YHWH) **LORD** v1a (cont)

3. He is able to communicate. In eternity there was communication within the Godhead.

(1) He communicates through direct **ADDRESS** as with Abram and others

/1/OT: Adam, Noah, Moses, Joshua, prophets,

/2/ NT: Life of Jesus; Resurrection appearances; **SAUL** on the Damascus Rd,

(2) He communicates to all people through creation Ps 19; Rom 1:20

(3) He communicates through human **CONSCIENCE** (ROM 2:15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this.)

(4) He speaks to people through His written word, the ***Bible***. The same Spirit that **INSPIRED** the writing of Scripture, indwells the believer.

4. The witness of Scripture is that God continues to engage us as **PERSONS**. In Jesus, we see that God, in the Trinity, came as a person, and dwelt among us. 1 JN 1:1; REV 3:20 He stands at the door and knocks

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II. GOD IS **PRECISE** v1b

1. He spoke with **PRECISION** to Abram. This was not a general or open call. God called to Abram as He had to those before this call to Abram and to others after him, Moses, Isaiah, and others.
 2. His directions to Abram are precise/specific, leave your **LAND**, your **RELATIVES**, your **FATHER'S HOUSE**
 3. God will show Abram the land he will inhabit. Abram did not know it where it was, but he know God, and God **KNEW** where it was!
 4. This remains the work of God.
- (1) Abram: "For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose **DESIGNER** and **BUILDER** is God. (HEB 11:10)
 - (2) Acts 9 Call to **SAUL** was also precise, Name and Address: Ananias, street called straight
 - (3) Acts 10 The Visions of **CORNELLIUS** and **PETER** : Joppa, house by sea, tanner named Simon, and another Simon, also named Peter!
 - (4) Jesus "I am going away to prepare a place for you." (JN 14:2)
- God is precise in his call to you, He knows your **NAME**, your **ADDRESS**, what you are experiencing, He knows what you need
- Your first need is **SALVATION** and **NEW LIFE** in Christ

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III. GOD IS PURPOSEFUL v2

1. A Complex Purpose for Abram

(1) A great NATION

(2) BLESSED

(3) Great Name

(4) Blessings and Curses

(5) ALL PEOPLES OF THE EARTH blessed through Abram

All of SALVATION History, God's eternal plan, is present in this purpose

2. God has a purpose for His church, THIS church, HIS people and YOU!

(1) MK 10:45, for even the Son of Man did not come to be SERVED, but to serve, and to give his LIFE as a ransom for many.”

(2) John 10:10b A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in ABUNDANCE.

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CONCLUSION: Do have a relationship with God, one that is personal, precise, and purposeful?

Are you fully engaged in that relationship today?

INVITATION: If you have not submitted your life to Christ, do so today, If you have, and not living it, come to Christ, ask him to renew your relationship with him