

GOD THE FATHER

The Bible's teaching about God's existence, attributes and triunity, and about His works in decreeing, creating, and ruling over all things

The Existence of God

- And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3
- No mention of human reasoning or rationalistic arguments.
- The Bible begins with the foundational presupposition for the existence of God and that he existed “in the beginning” (Gen. 1:1)
- Our Theology is rightly derived from God’s own inspired, inerrant Word, which is God’s testimony about himself.

God's Own Inspired Testimony

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- God's own word must be accepted as unique and perfectly reliable.
- All other evidences of God's existence must be evaluated and only accepted if they align with the Bible.

Scriptural Assertions

- And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Heb. 11:6)
- The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deut. 33:27)
- The God who made the world and everything in it. Being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. (Acts 17:24)

We Can Know God

- God has revealed the fact of his existence in Scripture, and he makes himself known through written human language in the Bible. Scripture teaches that man may know God truly, yet not exhaustively or comprehensively.
- So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:17-19)

Natural Proofs

- Belief in God's existence must be grounded in Scripture, for it is the sole infallible witness to God's mind. All other evidence of God's existence, while extensive, must nevertheless be subordinate to Scripture.
- Scripture affirms that God has revealed himself in his creation. (Rom. 1:20)
- Scripture affirms that God has revealed himself to the human conscience. (Rom. 2:14-15)
- God has also revealed himself throughout history, which he controls. (Acts 14:15-17)

- **The Ontological Argument** – from the Greek word *ontos*, “being” an argument for existence was put forth by Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) He argued that if you can think of a being that is absolutely perfect, that absolutely perfect thing is God.
- **The Cosmological Argument** – Cosmology speaks of the origin of things. What is the ultimate cause of all things. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) taught that there had to be a “unmoved mover”, a “first cause” and an original and absolute “necessary being” sufficient to produce all created things.

- 
- **The Teleological Argument** – the argument from design. This argument holds that the complex order, design, purpose, and intelligence in the universe is the result of an intelligent, purposeful designer, who is God.
 - **The Moral Argument** – The moral argument proposes that man's conscience and moral value imply a moral creator of man's conscience and the source of those moral values.

The Names of God

- God's names are important because they reveal aspects of who he is in himself, in his actions within himself, and in relation to his creation.
- God's names represent him so personally that how one treats God's name is equivalent to how one treats God.
- For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered in My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations." says the LORD of hosts.
(Mal. 1:11)

YAHWEH

- The most common name for God in Scripture and is used over 6,800 times. It is derived from the four Hebrew consonants transliterated into English as “YHWH”
- God identifies himself in the burning bush in Ex. 3:14 and said that this name, “LORD” (yahweh) is “my name forever”
- Derived from the Hebrew verb for being (hayak), the basic meaning of “Yahweh” is “he is” or “he will be.”

- Yahweh-sabaoth – God is the Lord of hosts or armies. He leads the armies of heaven. (Ps. 24:8-10)
- Yahweh-jireh – God is “The Lord who will provide. (Gen. 22: 9-14) God provided a ram
- Yahweh-nissi – God is “The Lord is my banner” Moses worshiped God as the One who gave his people victory over Amalek. (Ex. 17:15)
- Yahweh-shalom – God is “The Lord of peace” (Judg. 6: 11-14,24) God gave Gideon 40 years of peace after he was used of God to defeat the Midianites.

- Yahweh-roly – God is :The Lord is my shepherd” (Ps. 23:1) God leads and protects his people.
- Yahweh-tsidkenu – God is “The Lord our righteousness” (Jer. 23:5-6) God will execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- El, Eloah, and Elohim – God’s supreme power, strength, and might. When depicting the true God, El is used.
- El Shaddai – Almighty, Omnipotent, Provider- (Gen. 17:1) The Abrahamic Covenant

- 
- El Elyon- God Most High – The supreme sovereignty of God (Gen. 14:18-23)
 - El Elohey Olam- The Everlasting God (Gen. 21:33)
 - ADONAI- LORD – When used of the true God it indicates that he possesses supreme sovereignty and ultimate authority over all things external to himself