

A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore. The sand is golden-brown and covered with several footprints. In the background, there is a large island or headland under a blue sky with some clouds.

What is God Like?

2 of 11

GOD DRAWS NEAR.

Knowing the Unknowable God.

John 17:3;

**“This is eternal life, that they may know You,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”**



1 Cor 13:12

**“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face;
now I know in part, but then I will know fully
just as I also have been fully known.”**

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

Attributes of God - Part 2

ABSOLUTE INFINITY

Infinite in each attribute

ABSOLUTE ETERNITY

God inhabits eternity

Isaiah 57:15

IMMUTABILITY

Unchangeableness of God

James 1:17

Malachi 3:6

TRANSCENDENCE & IMMANENCE

Makes everything outside of Himself

LIGHT

1 John 1:5

JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER AND RIGHTEOUS

Romans 3:25-26

GOOD

Mark 10:17-18

MERCIFUL

Deuteronomy 4:31

Psalms 136

LONGSUFFERING

Romans 2:4

Exodus 34:6

LOVE

1 John 4:8

HOLY & JEALOUS

Joshua 24:19

TRUE

Exodus 34:6

Romans 3:4



God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us

**“Immanent” = near; present;
God is active in His creation.**

Isa 57:15;

**“For thus says the high and exalted One
Who lives forever, whose name is Holy,**



**‘I dwell on a high and holy place,
And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit.
In order to revive the spirit of the lowly.
And to revive the heart of the contrite.’**

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

**“Immanent” = near; present:
God is active in his creation.**

Acts 17:27-28;

**“that they would seek God, if perhaps
they might grope for Him and find Him,
though He is not far from each one of us;
for in Him we live and move and exist,
as even some of your own poets have said,
‘For we also are His children.’”**

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

How does the transcendent. (separate?)
God become immanent. (near?)

1. God's self-revelation: In Creation:-

Psalms 19:1-6;

“The heavens are **telling** of the glory of God;
their expanse is **declaring** the work of His hands.

2 Day to day pours forth **speech**,
And night to night reveals **knowledge**.

3 There is **no speech**, **nor** are there **words**;
Their **voice is not heard.**”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

“4 Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their **utterances** to the end of the world.

In them He has placed a tent for the sun,
5 Like as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

1. God's self-revelation: In Creation:-

Rom 1:20;

“For **since the creation** of the world His invisible attributes, **His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen,** being understood through what has been made, **so that they are without excuse.**”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

1. God's self-revelation: In Creation / In Scripture:-

1 Cor 2:6-13;

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?

Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

1. God's self-revelation: In Creation / In Scripture:-

**“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know
the things freely given to us by God,
which things we also speak,**

**not in words taught by human wisdom,
but in those taught by the Spirit,
combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”**

Job 12.22;

**“He reveals mysteries from the darkness;
And brings the deep darkness into light.”**

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

1. God's self-revelation: In Creation / In Scripture:-

Amos 3:7;

**“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing
Unless He reveals His secret counsel
To His servants the prophets.”**

2 Cor 4.7;

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

1. God's self-revelation:

In Creation / In Scripture / In Jesus:-

John 1:18;

“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

John 14:7-9; “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?

He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

In Creation / In Scripture / In Jesus:-

Col 1:15; “He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.”

Heb 1:1-3; “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers
in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
in these last days has spoken to us in His Son,
whom He appointed heir of all things,
through whom also He made the world.

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact
representation of His nature, and upholds all things
by the word of His power. When He had made
purification of sins, He sat down
at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

- 1. God's self-revelation 2. God's coming near to us:
He comes to dwell with us / He lives in us:-**

2 Cor 6:16;

**“I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK
AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD,
AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.”**

1 Cor 6:19;

**“Or do you not know that your body is a temple
of the Holy Spirit who is in you,
whom you have from God,
and that you are not your own?”**

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

“What It Means To Know God?”

Relationship / Through prayer:-

Intimacy. Gen 4:1,17,25;

Like the deepest of human relationships.

1 Cor 6:17;

**“But the one who joins himself
to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”**

Eph 5:31-32;

**“FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER
AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE,
AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.**

**This mystery is great; but I am speaking
with reference to Christ and the church.”**

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

“What It Means To Know God.”

Relationship. / Through prayer. / Intimacy.

A two-way relationship:-

Gal 4:9;

“But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?”

John 10:14;

“I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me.”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

“What It Means To Know God”

Relationship. / Through prayer. / Intimacy.

A two-way relationship: Familiarity:-

Gal 4:6-7;

“Because **you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘**Abba! Father!**’ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”**

Heb 4:16;

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

God's Immanence: His Self-disclosure To Us.

“What It Means To Know God”

Relationship / Through prayer / Intimacy.

A two-way relationship: Familiarity.

We are to become like Him:-

Jer 22:16; He made sure that justice and help were given to the poor and needy, and everything went well for him. **Isn't that what it means to know me?"** asks the Lord.

Jer 9:24; “but let him who boasts boast of this, **that he understands and knows Me**, that I am the LORD who exercises loving kindness, justice and righteousness on earth; **for I delight in these things,**” declares the LORD.”

Knowing The Unknowable God.

1 Chron 28:9; “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts.

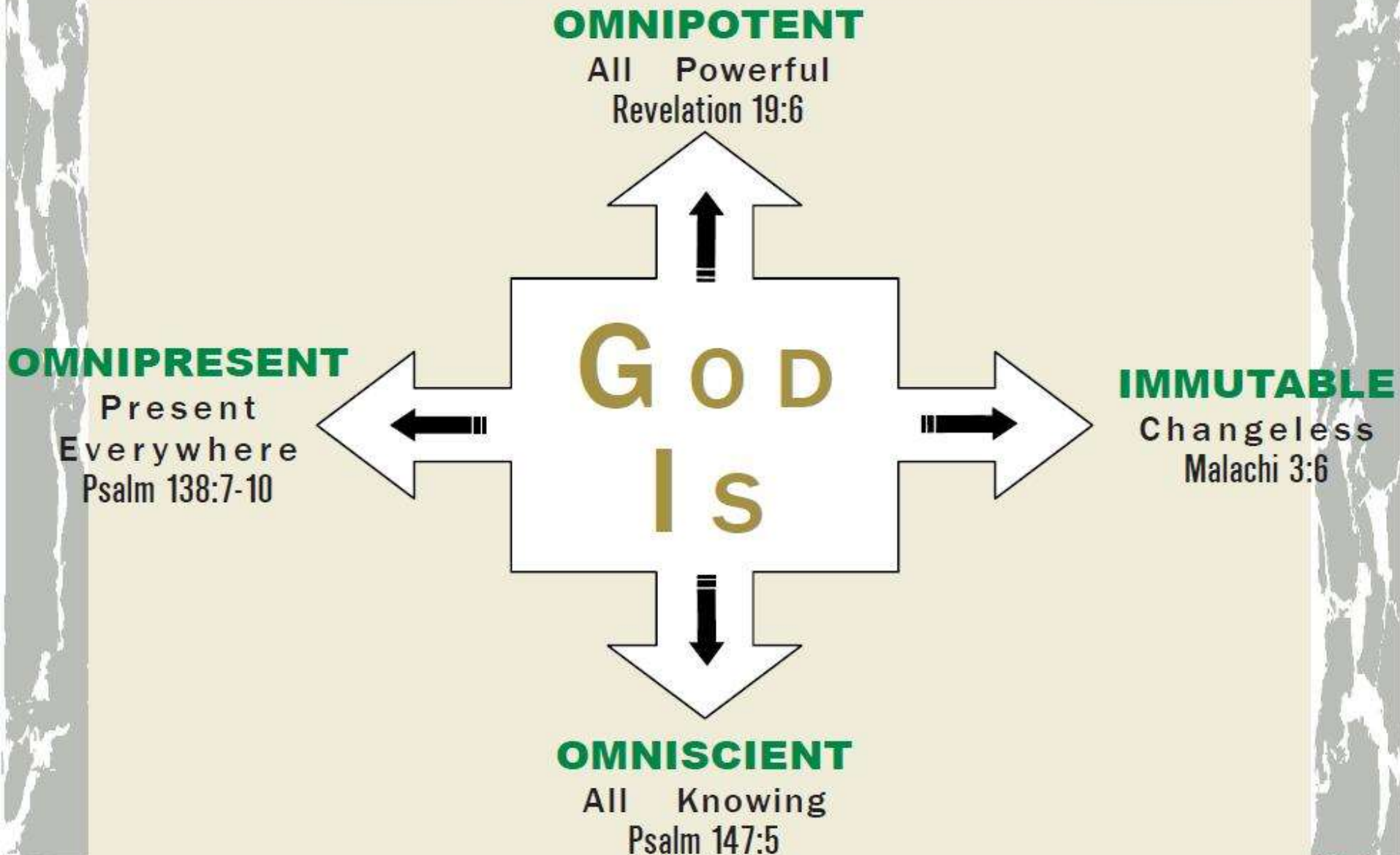
If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”

Phil 3:8;

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ.

The Mystery of God

Attributes of God - Part 1



Knowing The Unknowable God. The Mystery of God.

1 Tim 3:16;

**“By common confession,
great is the mystery of godliness:
He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.”**

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:

Rom 16:25-26;

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.”

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:

Eph 1:9;

“God's secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centred on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure.”

Eph 3:3-5;

“As I briefly mentioned earlier in this letter, God Himself revealed his secret plan to me. As you read what I have written, you will understand what I know about this plan regarding Christ. God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now he has revealed it by the Holy Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets.”

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:

Eph 3:9;

“I was chosen to explain to everyone this plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.”

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:

“25. God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his message in all its fullness to you Gentiles.

26. This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to his own holy people.

27. For it has pleased God to tell his people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. For this is the secret:-

Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in His glory.”

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:

**“28. So everywhere we go,
we tell everyone about Christ.**

**We warn them and teach them with all
the wisdom God has given us,
for we want to present them to God,
perfect in their relationship to Christ.**

**29. I work very hard at this,
as I depend on Christ's
mighty power that works within me.”**

Col 1:25-29;

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

**“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:
Knowledge accessible only by divine revelation.**

1 Cor 2:6-13;

“No, the wisdom we speak of is the secret wisdom of God, which was hidden in former times, though he made it for our benefit before the world began.

8. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would never have crucified our glorious Lord.”

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

**“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:
Knowledge accessible only by divine revelation.**

**“But we know these things
because God has revealed them to us by his
Spirit, and his Spirit searches out everything
and shows us even God's deep secrets.**

**No one can know what anyone else is really
thinking except that person alone, and no one can
know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.
And God has actually given us his Spirit (not the
world's spirit) so we can know the wonderful
things God has freely given us.”**

Knowing God :- The Mystery of God.

**“mystery” = what was hidden, but is now revealed:
But not all mystery is removed.**

Deut 29:29; “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

1 Cor 2:11;

“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”

The Mystery of God.

Things Unrevealed Remain a Mystery.

**For example the reason for particular suffering
Job. – WHY?**

Sometimes there are patterns and principles:

For example.

**God punishes nations for their sin,
but He relents when they repent. – Jer 18:7-8;
We Reap what we sow. – Gal 6:7;**

**The Mystery of God.
Sometimes There is Some Mystery
Even In What Is Revealed.**

Truth is knowable.

**But, elevating our own reasoning ability
too highly, results in three mistakes:**

- 1. Failure to rely on what the Holy Spirit
has revealed.**
- 2. We Exaggerate intolerance and
divisiveness.**
- 3. We think we know best and
remove God from the process.**

Some Mysteries of God.

God's Many Paradoxes:

**“A paradox is an apparent,
but not real, contradiction.”**

Yet some paradoxes defy our human reasoning:-

Divine foreknowledge and human free will?

God's Mysterious Spirit?

John 3:8;

**“Just as you can hear the wind
but can't tell where it comes from
or where it is going, so you can't explain
how people are born of the Spirit.”**

God's Many Paradoxes:

Exodus 33; -we see the patriarch Moses, one of the great men of Israel, receiving the law from God and, if you like, he has great experiences with God and many of them are recorded for us within the revelation of this book.

33:8; it says: "And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.

And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle,
and the Lord talked with Moses."

God's Many Paradoxes:

**isn't that a lovely expression?
"...the Lord talked with Moses.**

**“And the Lord spoke unto Moses face to face,
as a man speaks to his friend.**

**And he turned again into the camp: but his servant
Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not
out of the tabernacle". in v18, you find the prayer
of Moses as he stands before God:"**

18. "Then Moses had one more request.

"Please let me see your glorious presence,"

he said. 19. The Lord replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, 'the Lord,' to you. I will show kindness to anyone I choose, and I will show mercy to anyone I choose.

But you may not look directly at my face, **for no one may see me and live."** 21. The Lord continued, "Stand here on this rock beside me.

22. As my glorious presence passes by, I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed.

23. Then I will remove my hand, and you will see me from behind. **But my face will not be seen."**

God's Many Paradoxes:

Ex 34:5; “Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and called out his own name, “the Lord,” as Moses stood there in his presence.

6. He passed in front of Moses and said, “I am the Lord, I am the Lord, the merciful and gracious God. I am slow to anger and rich in unfailing love and faithfulness.

7. I show this unfailing love to many thousands by forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. and punishing the parent's fault on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generation!” 8. Moses immediately fell to the ground and worshipped.”

God's Many Paradoxes:

Exodus 40, not only was there that answer to Moses' prayer: '**Lord, show me Thy glory**', but here we find another instance where Moses beholds – **and indeed the whole company sees - the glory of God.**

34. "Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glorious presence of the Lord filled it.

35. Moses was no longer able to enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the Tabernacle was filled with the awesome glory of the Lord."

As we read about Moses, it ought to thrill our souls,
HOW IT SAYS THAT GOD TALKED WITH MOSES -
not Moses talked with God, **God talked with Moses!**
Can you imagine that?

God's Many Paradoxes:

**Walking into a tent and talking with God
as a man would talk with his friend.**

**That wasn't enough for Moses - it might be enough
for you and me, - it wasn't enough for him,
It teaches us a lesson that we should never, ever get
to a situation where we have enough of God.**

**Moses cries: 'Show me your glory! 'Show me your
glory! I want more of you O God!'.
So God says: 'Look, you can't behold Me
in all My glory, you couldn't take it!' -**

**The hymn writer says? 'In light inaccessible', we
cannot approach God without being exterminated
by His great holiness, by His great light!**

God's Many Paradoxes:

But God says: "I'll do this for you: **I'll put you in the cleft of the rock, and I'll cover your face** and I'll make all My glory to pass by you - you can't look upon it.

But what I'll do is: when I get past you, I'll take My hand from off My eyes and you will see My after-glow - the great **Shekinah glory** that I leave, it's not even Me, but I leave it wherever I go". :-
and that is why, **when Moses came down to the people, his face shone.**" Ex 33:23;

We read in Isaiah 6:-

God's Many Paradoxes:

1. "In the year King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord.**
He was sitting on a lofty throne,
and the train of his robe filled the Temple.

2. Hovering around him were mighty seraphim, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, & with the remaining two they flew. 3. In a great chorus they sang,
**"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty!
The whole earth is filled with His glory!"**

In Ezek 1:1; We read at the beginning
of another great prophecy:

'Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and **I saw visions of God'."**

**The greatest effect that we will ever have on others
will be through our walk with God.**

**The greatest effect that we will have on other people
will be if we can see God clearly.**

**We need to come and behold, to look upon our God.
To contemplate what it means: that word and that
Person, that great tri unity in one - God Almighty.**

**I think it's self-evident as you look
at these passages of Scripture,
and you look at these men
and their experiences with God Almighty,
that it wasn't simply a quick look
and then they forgot Him. -**

It was a look that when they beheld their God,
it was life changing.

They were never the same man or woman again!

If you continue to read Isaiah, you find in chapter 5 a great many woes that describe the situation of the nation at that time, and then all of a sudden the man that was withholding the blessing died. - King Uzziah

**God removed that man and then
Isaiah could see God.**

We **need to remove** whatever is **blocking** our sight
and our vision of God and for us to stand,
like Isaiah, and **see the Lord high and lifted up,**
and that His train would fill this temple!

EZEKIEL WAS DOWNCAST, WASN'T HE?
HE WAS DISHEARTENED! :-

He was in the exile and there he was sitting at
the river of Chebar with all those children of Israel
that were brought out at the exile –
and he was depressed and dejected!

All of a sudden Almighty God opened the windows
of heaven **and he saw visions of God!**

That's why, I believe, the writer to the Hebrews
in chapter 12 and verse 1 says these great words:

**“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge
crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off
every weight that slows us down, especially the sin
that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run
with endurance the race that God has set before us.”**

Such a **great cloud of witnesses**! Great men of God,
great prophets and priests and kings who show us
their experiences of God - and because of all them,
Should we not also to behold our God?

In Exod 24, v13, : **So Moses and his assistant Joshua
climbed up the mountain of God.**

What a responsibility it was for Moses to show
Joshua God, **We have a great responsibility
to influence others
by helping them to see our God.**

**When we start to contemplate who God is and
what God can do, it will affect our life - and
when God affects our life, our life in turn
ought to overflow and affect others.**

The same happening in the book of Kings with **Elijah & Elisha** - it was the mantle of Elijah that Elisha took.

Elisha followed Elijah and never took his eye off him? He asked for a double portion of his spirit - why? **Because he saw the experiences and the blessings** that this man **Elijah** had with God, he wanted them!

There is a **great responsibility** that not only we be blessed by God for ourselves, but we be blessed by **beholding God for the benefit of others.**

It was the same with Paul and Barnabas,
I'm sure that **Paul taught Barnabas**
a great deal about seeing his God.

God's Many Paradoxes:

**IT'S THE CASE WITH US, ISN'T IT,
OFTEN IT IS THE LIVES OF OTHERS,
IT IS THE BLESSINGS OF OTHERS,
AND THE WALK OF OTHERS
THAT IMPRESSES UPON US TO GO AFTER GOD.**

**The greatest effect that WE will have
on other people
will be if WE can catch a glimpse of God.**

Some Mysteries of God.

Some paradoxes defy our human reasoning:-

God's Mysterious Spirit!

We cannot detect him, but He was given as a pledge (promise) of our inheritance.

God's Amazing Grace!

Rom 5:20

“The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more”

Some Mysteries of God.

God's Amazing Love!

1 John 3:1;

“See **how great a love** the Father has for He allows us to be called His children, and we really are!

But the people who belong to this world don't know God, so they don't understand that we are “His children.”

How great a love is this?

Some Mysteries of God.

God's Amazing Love / Surpasses knowledge!

“And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvellous love.

**And may you have the power to understand,
as all God's people should,
how wide, how long, how high,
& how deep His love really is.”**

Some Mysteries of God.

God's Amazing Love / Surpasses knowledge:-

“May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Eph 3:18-19;

The Mysteries of God

In Luke 10:39; where Jesus comes into the home of Lazarus' sisters, and there He is in a place where He loves and is loved we read this:-

39. "Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. 40. But Martha was worrying over the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "**Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work?** Tell her to come and help me."

41. But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are so upset over all these details!

42. There is really only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it- and I won't take it away from her."

**It is hard to see God in a busy world –
in fact there are times that I think it's nearly
impossible to live as the world lives and to see
God in the way that He longs to be seen.**

**There is one thing that is important, there is
one thing that is primary and foundational –
WHICH MEANS THAT IT MUST COME FIRST,
and if it doesn't, it doesn't matter how much we
serve the Lord, if we don't see the God of the
scriptures clearly we can't be anything for God!**

**We all face the prospect, as one writer said,
of meeting an unknown God after death.
Therefore it is our need - now - to behold God,
to be at the Saviour's feet listening to His words,
Nobody can take that away from us.**

The Mysteries of God.

In Genesis 24 we find an instance where Abraham sends out his servant to get a wife for Isaac.

And here within this story is an amazing verse - it says:- “Isaac went out to MEDITATE in the field at the evening, and the next time he lifted up his eyes he saw his future bride!”

**If we immerse ourselves in the word of God,
If we meditate upon what we have read,
Perhaps we too will behold
the King of Kings in all His Glory!**

Look again at **Exodus ch 33:3;**

3. "Their's is a land flowing with milk and honey.
**But I will not travel along with you, for you
are a stubborn, unruly people.** If I did, I would
be tempted to destroy you along the way."

God says, 'I will not go up in the midst of you;
for you are a stiff necked people'.

Yet still there was the promise of that
land of milk and honey, the promised land.

Later Moses is dead and Joshua became God's
conqueror, Joshua became the man that would
stand there at the Jordan and would take
the people of God into the promised land.

Remember Moses could not go because he struck the rock in anger, and God said: 'It's not for you, but Joshua's going to go into the land – he is My chosen future deliverer.'

Where did Joshua learn his example? v11. “And the Lord spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle”-

Isn't that beautiful?

He was young, he didn't have the responsibilities upon his shoulders of the millions of murmuring, stiff necked, rebellious Israelites that Moses had – he didn't have that burden.

**And in the time that Joshua didn't have
that burden upon his shoulders
he used his time well :-
he spent his time in God's presence.**

**If We want to be anything for God, we've got
to see Him, We have to spend time with Him
and when others leave Him,
We have to wait and meditate upon
what we have learned about Him.**

The Mysteries of God

**This is where Joshua became
God's conqueror This is where anyone will
become a conqueror for God:**

in His presence, where he was remembering
now his Creator in the days of his youth,
while the evil days came not, nor the years draw
near when he would say:- 'I have no pleasure
in them' - **he didn't wait till it was too late!**

**The great human need today is to know God
and worship Him as the great creator of all things,
We need to know God as our Saviour through
the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus.**

The Mysteries of God.

**We need to be saved because we are lost!
It is the only way - Christ, the way, the truth, and
the life - no other way to the Father, but by Him.**

**We need to know Him through His death and His
resurrection! But once we have known God in
that capacity, we must now know God through
contemplating Him, through beholding Him.**

**Why it is important to contemplate Him, to behold
Him? J. I. Packer in his book 'Knowing God' - says:
'Christian minds have been conformed
to the modern spirit', he says,
'It spawns great thoughts of man and leaves
room only for small thoughts of God.'**

We are in a battle today and it seems that we are downhearted at times because we feel that, as we look around at the world and the church, that we are losing the battle - although the gates of hell will never prevail against the church of Jesus Christ.

One of the pitfalls that we can fall into is to get **preoccupied with maintaining the religious practices in a pagan world, and lose sight of God!**

Knowing the Unknowable God

A W. Tozer says:-

'The church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men.

This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic.'

**He goes on in his book to lament that he believes this is the cause of a hundred lesser evils among us,
“We do not take time to wait and to behold God.”**

He believes that this is why there is a **loss of spiritual awe in worship, in the divine presence,** why we are not struck dumb as Moses was when the cloud filled with His glory the tabernacle.

**He believes it is one reason why
“we can no longer say that we are able to
'be still and know that You are God'.”**

**What comes to your mind when you think of God?
The reason why this important is because
no religion, or people, or person,
has ever risen above its view of God.**

An example from the Old Testament:-

We have Baal worship.

Baal worship was passed down, right to the New Testament – as we can see in Ephesians:-

We see this awful temple of Diana and the ritual prostitution that went on within it.

We may think it's debauched and depraved and terribly immoral, without realising the thought, the **religious theology that was behind it.**

Without going into too much detail, it was simply this:- “That their gods, many of them, were fertility gods – and **they believed that the way they worshipped their fertility gods was by having sex with temple ceremonial prostitutes.”**

Whether male or female, they would copulate with them, and **they believed when they copulated that their god would be pleased with that worship**, and he in turn would be fertile with regards to the ground and the fruit and the crops and the vegetables.

They believed that through this type of immoral worship that their god would be pleased, now when you have a god like that, you have people like that!

**Therefore a people, or a person,
CANNOT RISE ABOVE HIS OWN
CONTEMPLATION OF GOD.**

**If you believe in a god, like those in Islam,
who is a wicked god,
who is an angry god all the time –
a god of wrath:-**

**You will dress up women in black, you'll not let them
out of the house, you'll have rules & regulations
& all sorts of awful things done to your children,
because that is the type of god you believe in.**

**If you believe in Molech of the Old Testament,
you will take your baby boy and feed him to the
flames, because that is the kind of god you have!
And that's the kind of person you become.**

The Mysteries of God

You see our thoughts of God determine our spiritual state and also our spiritual future. It is, without doubt, the mightiest thought that the human mind can have to contemplate God.

**Have you ever thought about that?
We think of so many things,
but do we strive to behold our God?**

Would people know when they come to worship
that **we have been contemplating our God?**

**Or when we have the opportunity
to stare into the face of God,
we're staring into our pillow,
or into the television set.**

**When we have time to remember God's Son,
we are remembering - lying in bed –
what we did on Saturday evening.**

**In Psalm 48:9-10; says “O God, we meditate on your
unfailing love as we worship in your Temple.
As your name deserves, O God,
you will be praised to the ends of the earth.
Your strong right hand is filled with victory.”**

In Malachi 3:16-18; "Then those who feared the Lord spoke with each other, and the Lord listened to what they said.

In His presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who revered Him and loved to think about him.

17. "They will be my people," says the Lord Almighty. "On the day when I act, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient and dutiful child.

18. Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

WHY CONTEMPLATE GOD?

Daniel tells us, in 11:32: 'the people that do know their God shall be strong, and shall do great things'.

Do we want to do great things for God?

Do we want to be strong for God?

**Do we want to be put in God's book,
because we are a precious jewel for Him?**

**Then we've got to learn to behold our God –
like Joshua, we've got to learn to stay
when others leave, and when others aren't there,
and when others are surrounded
with many other things.**

**WE'VE GOT TO LEARN TO TARRY IN THE TABERNACLE
WITH THE SHEKINAH CLOUD OF GOD'S PRESENCE!**

Why we should study God? We should study Him
because it exceedingly improves our minds.

Do we want our mind improved?

We need to study God,

Do we want to humble the mind?

**It will be through a sight of God
that we will cry like Isaiah:-**

'Woe is me for I am undone!'

We will cry like Peter:-

**'Lord, depart from me for I am a sinful man!'.
Do we want to**

enlarge our mind,

expand our soul,

challenge our intellect,

magnify the whole of our being?

The Mysteries of God.

Have we a great wound in our soul that we want a comfort for? Do we want a comfort for your grief, a balsam for every wound and sorrow and loss?

Do we want to drown our care?

Do we want rest? Do we want to be refreshed?

WELL THEN BEHOLD OUR GOD!

How will we know how to behold God,

THE BIBLE is a portrait of His character

and all His ways of His doings, His planning,

His infinite holiness and His unlimited graciousness.

**Our learning of God OUGHT
to give birth to a LIFE of godliness.**

WE MUST LEARN AND CONTEMPLATE UPON GOD

Someone has called the Bible
a photograph of the Almighty.

That is what the word '**revelation**' means –
'reveal', to reveal God, His person.

That is how we know God,
THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD,
the written word of the living God.

It is to **take the word of God**
and do something
that very few do today, almost a lost art:
it is the practice of meditation.

The Mysteries of God.

To take time, to take the word
To understand what it means,
to ask **what it requires of my soul**
and **my life**, and **my practices**
and **my possessions**, and **my family?**

To take it and to make it ours
to make it part of us,
to chew the cud of the word of God
until we **inwardly digest it**
and **it becomes part of our whole being.**

The Mysteries of God.

**Let us take the time to see our God
more clearly in the days that lie ahead.**

**Let us contemplate and meditate upon:-
Knowing The Unknowable God.**

**God's Many Paradoxes.
God's Mysterious Spirit.
God's Amazing Grace.
God's Amazing Love.**

THE GOD WE SERVE

Acts 17:30-31; (NKJV)

**“Truly, these times of ignorance
God overlooked, but now
commands all men everywhere to repent,
because He has appointed a day on which
He will judge the world in righteousness
by the Man whom He has ordained
He has given assurance of this to all
by raising Him from the dead.”**

To have that hope of eternal life:

We need to BELIEVE In Jesus.

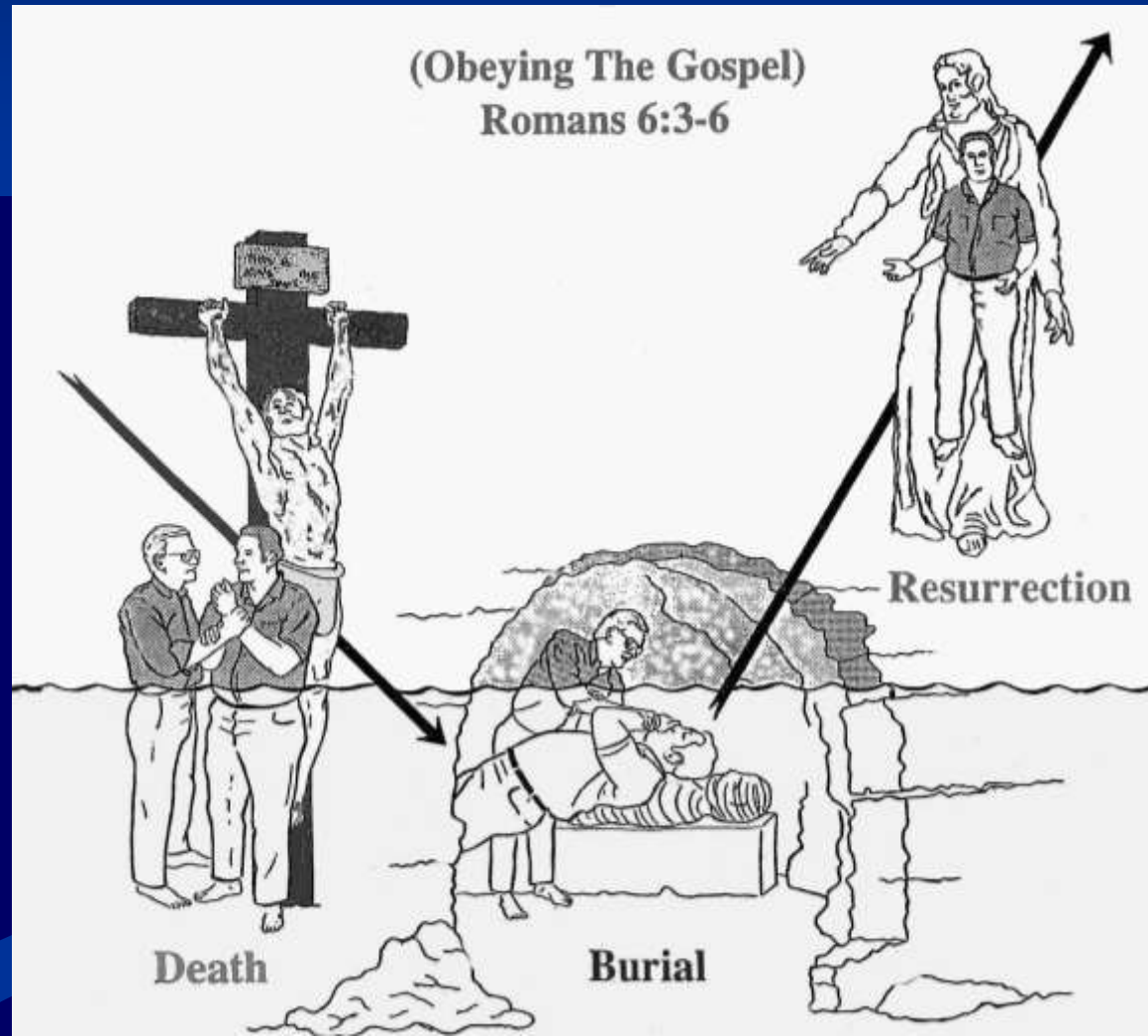
We need to DIE with Jesus.

Be BURIED with Him in Baptism.

If WE are UNITED with Him.

We will be RAISED like Him.

Rom 6:3-4;



What is God Like?

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GOD DRAWS NEAR.

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Next in the series:- God Has Spoken.