



THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

There are various distorted opinions concerning the existence of God due to man's rebellion and deliberate ignorance of Him. The fact that there are those who reject His existence does not make God non-existent. Since the beginning of creation, God has clearly revealed Himself to mankind, *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes¹ are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead:* (Romans 1:20); therefore, God has given man the free will to pursue to know Him. This paramount decision will affect each person's eternity.

The Word of God boldly declares, *In the beginning God²* . . . (Genesis 1:1). The Bible begins with God, not with any human philosophy or argument for His existence. While everything that God created originated somewhere at some time, God has always been. God Himself has no origin. He is the Originator and Creator of all things . . . *all things were created by Him, and for Him* (Colossians 1:16). Only God can reveal the divine mystery of His existence to the heart of man through creation and His Word illuminated to man by the Holy Spirit.

The divine name LORD³ was already well known to God's people when He revealed Himself to Moses as the . . . *I AM WHO I AM*⁴ (Exodus 3:14). *I AM* is more than a simple statement of identity. It is a declaration of God's eternal existence and supremacy over all things. He is Infinite God.

THEME SCRIPTURE

Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM' (John 8:58).

¹ *attributes:* God's attributes are His perfections constituting His character, inseparable from His nature. God's nature is that He is Spirit, He is Triune; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; whatever God has in any way revealed about Himself; what God declares to be true about Himself; what we can know about God.

² *God* – Hebrew *Elohiym* gods: the plural for the singular name for God which is *El*. Therefore, the plurality of God is shown in Genesis 1:1 through the use of the word *Elohiym* i. e. the Spirit of God in Genesis 1:2 and the Son of God in John 1:1-4, 14.

³ *LORD* – Hebrew *Yehovah* the Self-Existent or Eternal name of God: JEHOVAH means the Existing One; Jewish national name of God.

⁴ *I AM* – Hebrew *Hayah* to exist: I will be who I will be; God was, He is, and will always be; one of the seven sovereign names of God.

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *existence*. _____

Dictionary Definition

Existence is a state or fact of being, having independent reality or actuality; human consciousness, continuance in being or life; an entity or being; to have real being whether material or spiritual.

Biblical Definitions

A man's existence is more than him being just a physical living creature; it speaks of him being created and finite⁵; it includes man possessing physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual life.

In reference to God, He is self-existent, He is infinite. God is the original, uncreated essence.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that declare the existence of God. UNDERLINE a word, phrase, or sentence that speaks of God's existence.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created⁶ the heavens and the earth.*

Deuteronomy 32:40 *For I [God] lift My hand to heaven, and say, 'As I live forever.'*

Job 36:26 *Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered.*

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

Isaiah 45:22 *Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word,⁷ and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

⁵ finite: having definable limits; restricted, not infinite; having a limited nature or existence.

⁶ *created* – Hebrew *bara* to bring into existence from nothing.

⁷ *Word* – Hebrew *Logos* the Divine expression, Christ.

John 5:26	<i>For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.</i>
John 8:58	<i>Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'</i>
Romans 1:20	<i>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.</i>
Colossians 1:16, 17	<i>For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.</i>
Revelation 1:17b, 18	<i>. . . But He laid His right hand on me [John], saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.'</i>

3. What did you learn about God's existence from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – I AM WHO I AM

From his humble birth God's hand was on the life of Moses: born of a Hebrew slave, he became a prince, raised and instructed in the palace of Pharaoh of Egypt. His love for his people, the children of Israel, and desire to free them from slavery caused him to be banished from Egypt and driven to the wilderness (Exodus 1, 2).

READ Exodus Chapter 3.

GOD – The Burning Bush

READ verses 1 – 6.

1. What was Moses doing in the land of Midian⁸ (v. 1)? _____

Where did he lead his flock? _____ ⁹

2. Who appeared to Moses on the mountain of God? How did He appear to him (v. 2)? _____

What was extraordinary about the bush? _____

3. What happened when Moses turned aside to see why the bush did not burn (vv. 3, 4)? _____

How did Moses respond? _____

4. Why did God command Moses to remove his sandals (v. 5)? _____

⁸ Midian – Hebrew *Midyan* strife: son of Abraham by Keturah progenitor of the tribe of Midianites or Arabians; located in the desert north of the Arabian Peninsula.

⁹ Horeb: desert; another name for Mt. Sinai where God gave the Law to Moses and the Israelites.

5. Who did God declare Himself to be (v. 6)? _____

GOD – The Deliverer

READ verses 7 – 12.

6. What did the LORD express about His people, who were slaves in Egypt (v. 7)? _____

7. The LORD had devised a plan to deliver His people out of the hand of the Egyptians. What did He promise them (vv. 8, 9)?

In God's knowledge, what had He heard and seen? _____

8. What divine call did Moses receive from God (v. 10)? _____

9. Feeling inadequate, how did Moses respond (v. 11)? _____

10. God's divine presence would go with Moses. What would be the sign to Moses that God had sent him to deliver His people (v. 12)?

PERSONAL

How have you heard God's divine call on your life? How did you respond? _____

GOD – I AM WHO I AM

READ verses 13 – 22.

11. Knowing there were many false gods in Egypt, what reasonable question did Moses pose to God (v. 13)?

12. What divine name did God tell Moses to use that declares His infinite existence and supreme authority (v. 14)?

Who was Moses to say sent him? _____

13. Having repeated to Moses that He was the God of his ancestors, how did God express His eternity (v. 15)?

14. What did I AM instruct Moses to do (vv. 16, 17)? _____

15. Moses and the elders of Israel were to present themselves to the king of Egypt. What did God instruct Moses to say (v. 18)?

16. In God's infinite foreknowledge, he warned Moses that the king of Egypt would not let His people go. What would God do (vv. 19, 20)?

10

17. How did God give favor to the children of Israel in the sight of the Egyptians (vv. 21, 22)? _____

PERSONAL

How was the existence of God revealed to you in this story? _____

¹⁰ hand – Hebrew *yad* strength, power.

How does this story encourage, comfort or exhort you? _____

SECTION III – Scriptural References to God’s Existence

The statements below are truths about the existence of God, His essence, and His creation. MATCH each Scripture reference to the true statement about God.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ Genesis 1:1 | a. Jesus’ existence; yesterday, today and forever |
| _____ Isaiah 57:15 | b. God existed before creation |
| _____ John 3:16 | c. the Father and the Son have self-existence, life in themselves |
| _____ John 5:26a | d. God’s existence is proven by things which are seen |
| _____ Romans 1:20 | e. the Lord is the beginning and the ending |
| _____ Hebrews 13:8 | f. God inhabits eternity and dwells in the high and holy place |
| _____ Revelation 1:8 | g. God gives His everlasting life to man through His Son |

SECTION IV – Unbelief in the Existence of God

The opposite of believing that God exists is denying His existence. Those who think this way are called *agnostics* or *atheists*. An agnostic is a person who believes nothing is known or can be known about the existence of God. An atheist is a person who believes there is no god and in turn ignores his duty to God. Nevertheless, man’s unbelief in God does not change the fact that He does exist nor does man’s attitude towards Him affect God in the least. He has declared and continues to declare . . . *I AM WHO I AM* (Exodus 3:14).

The Fool

1. READ Psalm 14:1. WRITE what the Scripture says about those that do not believe in God. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

It is true that God lies beyond us; outside of all our reasoning; therefore, God cannot be dismissed simply because we have not discovered Him yet. It is man's pride that has kept him from recognizing the obvious fact that God exists, *claiming to be wise, they became fools* (Romans 1:22).

2. READ Romans 1:18-20.

a. Who is God's wrath revealed against? Why (vv. 18, 19)? _____

b. How has God revealed His existence to all mankind so that man is without excuse (v. 20)? _____

3. READ Romans 1:21-23.

What are some of the unbeliever's responses to God's revelation of His existence (vv. 21-23)? _____

The Rebellious

All of God's creation, visible and invisible, operates according to His plan and order. Therefore, the universe works in perfect harmony because of its unquestionable obedience to God. Man, however, was created with the ability to choose to believe or not believe in God's existence and His plan for mankind. The chaos we see in the world today is the result of man's rebellion against God.

4. READ Romans 1:24-32.

a. What is God's response to the rebellious (vv. 24-31)? _____

b. In his debased state, what does man do? _____

c. What vile passions does man turn to when he denies the existence of God? _____

d. What is God's judgment on the unrighteous and those who approve of them (v. 32)? _____

SECTION V – The Alpha and the Omega

Even to the last book of the Bible God continues to proclaim His infinite existence.

READ Revelation 22:12, 13.

1. What promise does Jesus give to His Church (v. 12)? _____

2. How does Jesus declare Himself to be the Eternally Existing One (v. 13)? _____

WRITE THE THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (John 8:58).

*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place,
with him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'*

Isaiah 57:15

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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