

# In The Beginning God . . .

*An In-Depth Study of the  
First Three Chapters of Genesis*

All Truth Begins Here



## The Character of God: Part One

**INTRO:** As we move into Genesis chapter one the first thing we notice is that this chapter is all about God. The word “God” occurs 59 times in the 80 verses of the first three chapters and 32 of these occurrences are in the 31 verses of this first chapter. In the most simple language of the creation record God reveals the most profound characteristics of Himself.

Theologians call these characteristics of God His *attributes* and they divide them into *incommunicable* attributes and *communicable* attributes in order to talk about them more accurately. Communicable attributes are those characteristics which He has invested in us in a limited way and shares with us to some extent. Incommunicable attributes are those which He alone possesses and shares with no creature.

At the outset we should note that God is both personal and knowable. He is not a force or higher power or energy field, He is a Person and He has a name. Furthermore, He has made Himself known to us and desires to be known by us. It is not that we can simply know about Him, but we can know Him in a genuinely personal way because He makes Himself accessible.

### I. He Is the God Who is Out There

- A. He is above everything that He has made in both time and space and in both His immensity and His depth.
- B. He is infinite in His nature and is not confined in any way by a body.
- C. He is eternal. He was before the beginning and He will be after the end. Creation is finite, God is unbounded.

### II. He is the God Who is All of Everything

- A. He is all powerful—Omnipotent.
- B. He is all knowing—Omniscient.
- C. He is present everywhere at once—Omnipresent.

### III. He is the God Who is Down Here

- A. He is creative, an attribute of personality. He designs, He invents, He calls into existence, and then He evaluates the result.
- B. He is active. He is at work in the process of creation. He did not simply start something and then sit back while it ran its course. He is directing and shaping.
- C. He is involved in His creation. His Spirit is brooding over the face of the deep waters like an eagle over her young or a mother hen over her chicks: attentive, invested, providing, protecting, vigilant, active.

**CONC:** Although God in His total Being is beyond our comprehension, we may rest assured that He is here with us, that He is interested in us, and that He is actively involved in our lives and in our history. Nothing escapes His notice and He is actively at work to cause all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

# NOTES

*Job 41:11<sup>1</sup> "Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.*

*Psalm 50:10-12<sup>10</sup> "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup> "I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. <sup>12</sup> "If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains.*

*Revelation 4:11<sup>11</sup> "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."*

*Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

*Psalm 102:25-27<sup>25</sup> "Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. <sup>26</sup> "Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. <sup>27</sup> "But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.*

*James 1:17<sup>7</sup> Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

*Isaiah 46:9-11 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, <sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'*

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## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. If God is incomprehensible, how can we know Him?
2. Is time self-existent and constant or part of creation? Explain your answer.
3. What is meant by the term *transcendent*?
4. What is mean by the term *condescendent*?
5. How can God be both transcendent and condescendent at the same time? What does this mean to you in your everyday life?
6. Explain the terms omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient.
7. Explain why God can or cannot learn anything.
8. In what ways do His creativity, activity, and involvement in the world demonstrate His personality?