

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR
LECTURE 4 - THE GODHEAD

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1. Who is God?

God is the Supreme Being who is wise enough, able enough and strong enough to create and maintain ALL THINGS (*Gen 1*).

*Neh 9:6 (NAS) "Thou alone art the Lord. **Thou hast made the heavens**, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. **Thou dost give life to all of them.**"*

Col 1:15-17 (NAS) "And He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

*16 For **by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - **all things have been created by Him** and for Him.*

*17 And **He is before all things**, and in Him all things hold together."*

Psa 33:6,9 (NAS) "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

*9 For **He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.**"*

*1 Tim 1:17 "Now to the **King, eternal, immortal, invisible**, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen."*

*1 Tim 6:15-16 (NAS) "...which He will bring about at the proper time - He who is the blessed and only **Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords;***

*16 who alone **possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.**"*

2. What does the word "God" mean?

The word "God" is a title that men use to describe this supreme, infinite being. The Bible recognizes only ONE God as actually existing, but the heathen often recognize other things by this title.

1 Cor 8:4-6 (NAS) "Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

*5 For even if there are **so-called gods** whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords,*

6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through him."

3. Has God always existed?

Yes - before time began, God already existed. This is another way of saying that God is ETERNAL; that is having no beginning or ending.

Psa 90:1-2 (NAS) "Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

*2 Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, **Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.**"*

*Isa 44:6 (NAS) "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and His Redeemer, the Lord of Hosts: '**I am the first and I am the last**, and there is no god besides Me.' "*

*Rev 1:8 (NAS) "I am the **Alpha and the Omega**," says the Lord God, '**who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**' "*

*Rev 22:13 (NAS) "I am the **Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**"*

God is LIFE Himself. He is SELF EXISTENT.

Psa 36:9 (NAS) "For with Thee is the **fountain** (or source) **of life**; in Thy light we see light." (When the light of God shines into our heart, our eyes are opened and we see the light.)

John 1:4 (NAS) "**In Him** (Jesus) **was life and the life was the light of men.**"

NOTE: Light stands for DEVELOPMENT. All life grows and develops in the light and perishes in the dark.

John 14:6 (NAS) "Jesus said to him, '**I am the way, and the truth, and the life**; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'"

1 John 5:12 (NAS) "He who **has the Son has the life**; He who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."

John 11:25 (NAS) "Jesus said to her, '**I am the resurrection and the life**; he who believes in Me **SHALL LIVE EVEN IF HE DIES.**' "

4. What do we mean when we say that God is "infinite?"

God is INFINITE because He is UNLIMITED. Nothing happens that He does not allow; nothing happens that He does not know about. Nothing can put a boundary of limitation around God, such as time, space etc.

1 Kings 8:27 (NAS) "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold **Heaven and the highest Heaven cannot contain Thee**, how much less this house which I have built."

Psa 147:4-5 (NAS) "He **counts the number of stars, He gives names to all of them.**

5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite."

Psa 145:3 (NAS) "Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised: and **His greatness is unsearchable.**"

Isa 40:28 (NAS) "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The **everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not become weary or tired, His understanding is inscrutable.**"

Inscrutable - Websters: Incapable of being investigated, analyzed, or scrutinized. Not easily understood; mysterious; unfathomable.

Jer 23:24 (NAS) " 'Can a man hide Himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?' declares the Lord. 'Do I not fill the Heavens and the earth declares the Lord.' "

5. What is God made of?

"God is Spirit", which means that He is a living personal being without a visible form. Think of all the living creatures you know about - fish, animals and men. God lives just as they do; WITH ONE GREAT EXCEPTION. Since all MATTER is subject to change and death, God chose to be without visible form. God is a personal being, but without flesh and blood which can be affected by death.

John 4:24 (KJV) "**God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.**"

Rom 1:20 (NAS) "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.**"

2 Cor 3:17 (NAS) "Now the **Lord is the Spirit** and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Heb 11:27 (NAS) "By faith He (Moses) left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the King; (Beck) - he persisted as one who was constantly seeing **Him who can't be seen.**"

John 1:18a (NAS) "No man has seen God at any time..."

6. How big is God?

God's bigness is UNLIMITED. He is bigger than the entire Universe, larger than anyone can realize. There is no device known to man by which God's bigness can be measured. His hands are large enough to measure the waters. He can weigh the mountains in His scales.

Isa 40:12,15,22 (NAS) "(God) *Who has **measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance, and the hills in a pair of scales?***

15 *Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust.*

22 *It is He who sits above the vault (or circle) of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, **Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.***"

He fills everything with Himself.

Eph 4:10 (NAS) "*He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the Heavens, (Weymouth) **in order to fill the universe.***"

7. Where is God?

God's throne and home is in Heaven, yet it can be said that God inhabits the whole earth and is everywhere.

Isa 66:1 (NAS) "*Thus says the Lord **'Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool, where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?'***"

2 Chron 16:9a (NAS) "*For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro **throughout the earth** that He my **STRONGLY SUPPORT** those whose heart is completely His.*"

Pro 15:3 (NAS) "*The eyes of the Lord are in **every place**, Watching the evil and the good.*"

Psa 139:7-12 (NAS) "*Where can I go from **Thy Spirit?** Or where can I flee from Thy presence?*

8 *If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol (hell), behold, Thou art there.*

9 *If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,*

10 *Even there Thy hand will lead me, And Thy right hand will lay hold of me.*

11 *If I say, 'Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,'*

12 *Even the darkness is not dark to Thee, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to Thee.*"

He is big enough to fill the universe yet small enough to live within my heart and know my every need.

1 Cor 3:16 (NAS) "*Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the **Spirit of God dwells in you.***"

2 Cor 6:16 (NAS) "*...just as God said, **'I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'***"

Matt 10:30 (NAS) "*But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*"

Matt 6:8b (NAS) "*...**your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.***"

8. What 'thirteen' descriptions of God will help us understand that God is infinite?

God being truly infinite knows no restrictions of **space, ability or power**. He is everywhere.

i) ETERNAL - Unlimited by time.

Gen 21:33 (NAS) "*...the everlasting God.*"

ii) UNCHANGING - Unaffected by circumstances, **Immutable**.

Immutable - Oxford: unchangeable, not subject to variation in different cases.

Mal 3:6 (NAS) "*I am the Lord, **I change not.***"

- iii) OMNIPOTENT - All powerful.
Gen 17:1 (NAS) "I am God Almighty."
- iv) OMNISCIENT - All knowing.
1 John 3:20 (NAS) "God...knows all things."
- v) OMNIPRESENT - Unlimited by space; He is everywhere.
Jer 23:24 (NAS) "Do I not fill the Heavens and the earth? declares the Lord."
- vi) HOLY - Absolutely pure, sinless and hating sin.
*Lev 19:2 (NAS) "I the Lord your God am **holy**."*
- vii) JUST - Fair and impartial; **truth** is the basis of His righteousness.
Deut 32:4 (NAS) "A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."
- viii) FAITHFUL - Absolutely trustworthy: He **keeps His word**.
2 Tim 2:13 (NAS) "He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself."
- ix) BENEVOLENT - Good, kind, desiring our welfare.
Psa 145:9 (NAS) "The Lord is good to all."
- x) MERCIFUL - Full of pity.
Exod 34:6,7 (NAS) "The Lord...merciful...keeping mercy."
- xi) GRACIOUS - Showing "undeserved" kindness, forgiving.
Exod 22:27 (NAS) "I will hear; for I am gracious"
- xii) LOVE - His love is unchanging and unconditional.
1 John 4:8 (NAS) "God is love."
- xiii) FAITH - His Faith has creative, sustaining abilities that knows no limits.
Mark 11:22 (NAS) "Have the faith of God."

9. What mystery concerning God does the Bible reveal?

The Bible reveals to us the mystery that in the make up of the ONE true God there is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and that **these THREE are ONE**.

*Mat 3:16,17 (NAS) "And after being baptized, **Jesus** went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God descending as a dove**, and coming upon Him,*

17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.' "

*Mat 28:19 (NAS) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the **name** of the **Father** and the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit**."*

*Acts 7:55 (NAS) "But (Stephen) being **full of the Holy Spirit**, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the **glory of God**, and **Jesus standing at the right hand of God**..."*

*Acts 10:38 (NAS) "You know of **Jesus** of Nazareth, how **God** anointed Him with the **Holy Spirit** and with power and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."*

*Isa 48:16 (NAS) "Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the **Lord God** (the Father) has sent **Me** (Jesus), and **His Spirit**."*

*Psa 110:1 (NAS) "The **Lord** (the Father) says to **my Lord** (Jesus): 'Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.' "*

*Deut 6:4 (NAS) "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, **the Lord is one**."*

*1 Cor 8:4c (NAS) "...there is no God but **one**."*

10. How can three distinct persons be One?

Just like a husband and wife are two separate people, but became ONE in the marriage union - in the same

way Paul likens this union to Christ and the church.

Eph 5:31-32 (NAS) *"For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and **the two shall become one flesh.**"*

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

Even though Christ and the church make up different members, yet the Bible says we are ONE Spirit with Him.

1 Cor 6:17 (NAS) *"But the one who joins Himself to the Lord is **one spirit with Him.**"*

The unity or ONENESS of the Godhead has nothing to do with the fact that they are three distinct persons; but that they operate in perfect unity with ONE mind, ONE purpose, ONE plan, ONE vision etc, and they do this with ONE motive, ONE power, ONE love, ONE will etc; that is in **perfect unity**. No one person of the Godhead ever goes off on a tangent by Himself and operates independently of the other two. This would be a violation of their unity.

Psa 133:1-3 (NAS) *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in **unity!**"*

2 *It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes.*

3 *It is like the dew of Hermon, Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; **For there the Lord commanded the blessing - life forever.**"*

11. How are the three distinct from one another?

To the **Father** is credited the work of **creation**; to the **Son** the work of **redemption**; to the **Holy Spirit** the work of **sanctification**.

i) **Gen 1:1 (NAS)** *"In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth."*

ii) **Gal 4:4-5 (NAS)** *"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth **His Son**, born of a woman, born under the law,*

5 *in order that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."*

iii) **1 Pet 1:2 (NAS)** *"...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **by the sanctifying work** (making holy) **of the Spirit**, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure."*

12. Does the Bible prove the plurality of God?

Yes. In the restoration of creation.

Gen 1:26 (NAS) *"Let **us** make man in **our** image, according to **our** likeness..."*

The words US and OUR are plural and shows that there was more than one person in creation.

Psa 8:4-5 (NAS) *"Man...Thou hast made Him a little lower than **GOD.**"*

The **Hebrew** word for God (**Elohim**) is a **plural word** and could also be translated as **Gods**. This plural word appears 2370 times in the Bible. The very root Hebrew word for God proves that there is more than one person in the Godhead.

13. Does the Bible illustrate how the three persons of the Godhead harmonize together in what they do?

i) Yes. This is beautifully illustrated in the work of **creation**. The **Father directed** the work of creation. The **Son commanded** or spoke the Word. The **Holy Spirit** acts on the Word of the Son and **performs the work** of creation.

ii) Another clear illustration is in the **resurrection of Jesus**.

Acts 2:24 (NAS) "And **God** (the Father) raised Him (the Son) up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

John 10:17,18 (NAS) "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I (Jesus) **lay down My life that I may take it again**.

18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I **lay it down** on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

Rom 8:11 (NAS) "But if **the Spirit** of Him who **raised Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you."

So the persons of the Godhead don't work independently, but in perfect unity with each other.

The persons of the Godhead working together is the best **example of unity to the church**, showing how we must work with our spiritual authorities, not rebelling or working independently. It's unity in ministry that God anoints and gets the job done.

14. Some important thoughts on the fullness of the Godhead.

The Godhead is THREE in operation and manifestation, but definitely one in purpose, power and essence.

i) **God the Father:** The Creator, the Controller, the Planner, the Great Architect of the universe. Dwelling in glory and light which is physically unapproachable. The Father exists as the Absolute, the Self-existing, the Unapproachable One, the great Uncaused cause of all things. For 2000 years, from **Adam to Abraham**, the personality of the Father dominates the scene of redemptive operations.

ii) **God the Son:** The incarnated eternal LORD: the living flesh and bone manifestation of divinity to humanity. His personality is seen typically in the sacrificial BLOOD dispensation from **Abraham to the cross** over 2000 years. Revealed as a **Lamb** to take away sin and as a **Lion** to subdue all things.

iii) **God the Spirit:** The inspiration, the quickening power of the Church. The invisible presence of God that acts as a teacher, guide and comforter; God's anointing power and sanctifying influence. The revelator of the things of Christ. He is revealed in this present church Age over the last 2000 years.

15. Does all this seem difficult to comprehend?

How could it be otherwise, since we are attempting to describe the inner life of Almighty God. The understanding of the Godhead only comes by **revelation** of the scriptures and is not a doctrine that is conceived in the human mind. Finite man will never fully understand an infinite God, except that part of Himself that He has chosen to reveal to His followers who diligently search the scriptures in order to know Him more intimately.

1 Cor 2:16 (NAS) "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? **But we have the mind of Christ.**"

HOMWORK FOR LECTURE 4

1. Memorize **John 1:4** as found in point 3 of this lecture, but substitute the word **DEVELOPMENT** for light as you do so.
2. Understand that **Psa 119:130** says "The entrance of **Thy Words giveth Light**; it giveth understanding unto the simple." (KJV)

This means that the **entrance of His words is the "development" of mankind**. Therefore allow His Words to saturate your life daily.

3. Continue to find and write down a verse each day in your S.T. notebook and spend a few minutes meditating on it. Later on in the Seminar this is going to become invaluable to you.
4. By doing this you are allowing the LIFE of an infinite God to DEVELOP you.
5. Spend ten minutes a day meditating on your notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man and as preparation for a true or false test next week.