

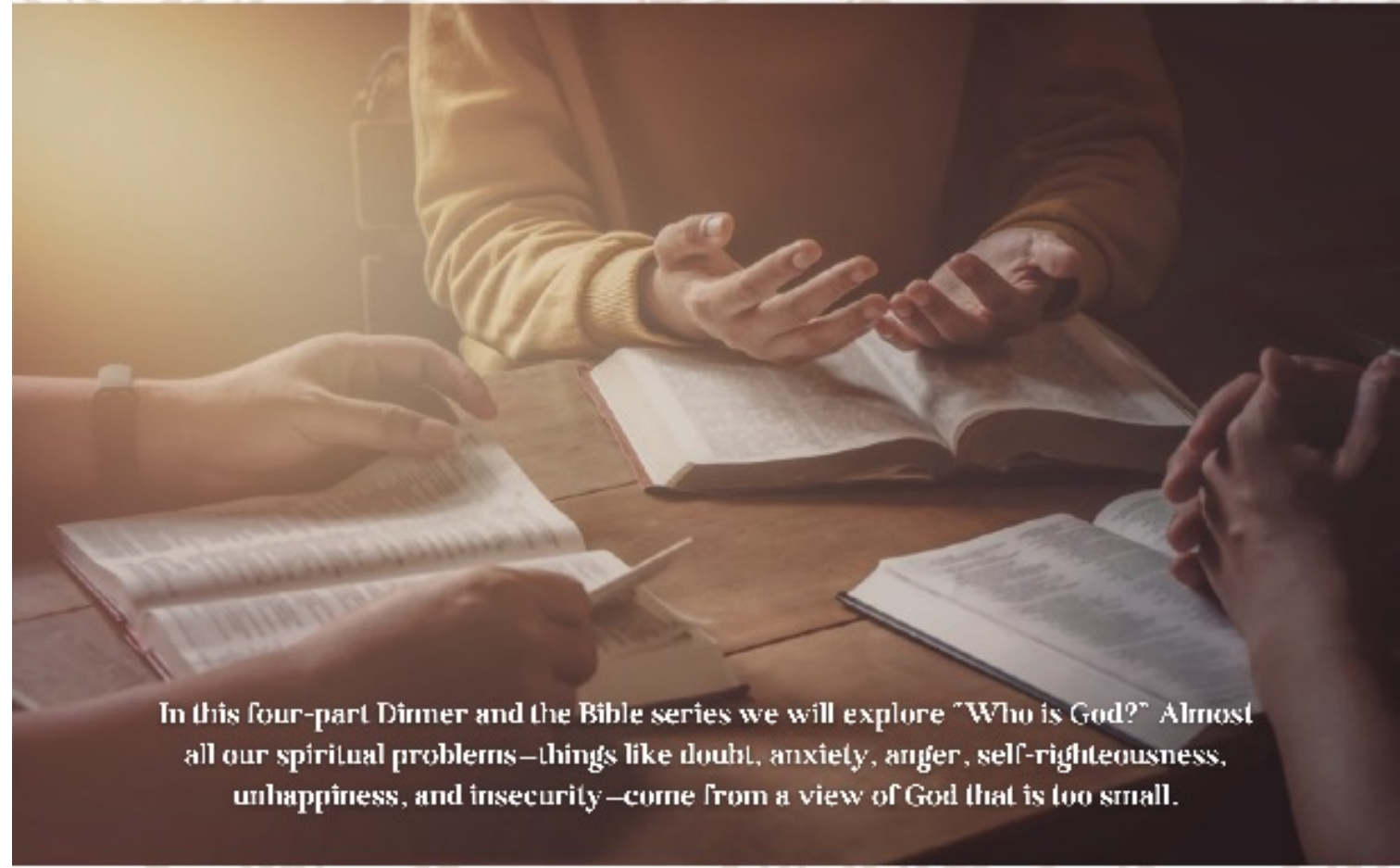
Who is God?

Part 1 Foundations

- Emmanuel Episcopal Church - Wakefield

Dinner and The Bible

Join us as we renew our minds in Jesus and find rest for our weary and burdened souls.



In this four-part Dinner and the Bible series we will explore "Who is God?" Almost all our spiritual problems—things like doubt, anxiety, anger, self-righteousness, unhappiness, and insecurity—come from a view of God that is too small.

Opening Prayer – Brett

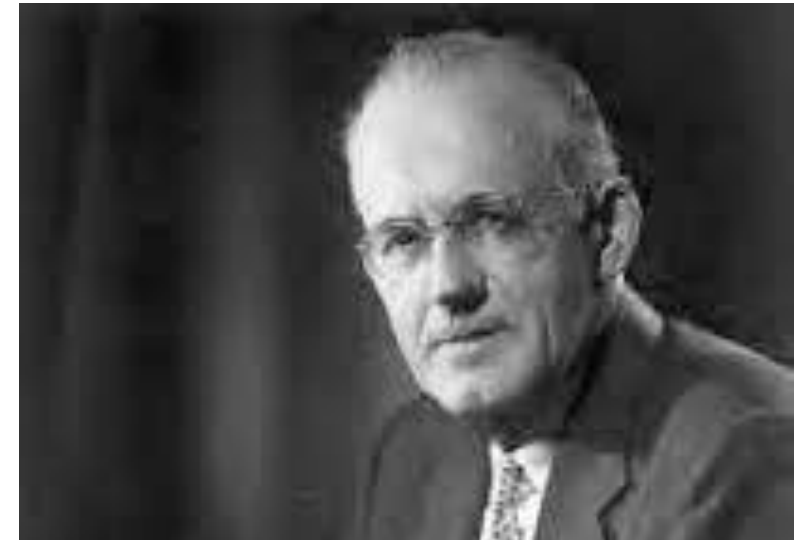


Passage from Jeremiah 9:23-24

“Thus says the LORD: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom; do not let the mighty boast in their might; do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, ***that they understand and know me, that I am the LORD***; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the LORD”

A.W. Tozer from "The Knowledge of the Holy"

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. ... Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. **This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church.** Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech. ...”



**A.W. Tozer
1897-1963**

Restoring our sense of God's majesty

- Nearly all spiritual problems—doubt, pride, anxiety, anger, self-righteousness, unhappiness, and insecurity—come from a view of God that is too small.

To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One. [Isaiah 40:25](#).

- In this series, we aim to
 1. Renew our minds
 2. Transform our thoughts about God
 3. Stir us to think of God's incomprehensible majesty
 4. Grow our faith in the one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

What comes to mind when you think of God?

- List here

- List Here

WHO IS GOD?

PART 1 FOUNDATIONS

1. Can we know God?
2. God in Our Culture Today
3. God's Existence in Natural Revelation
4. God's Special Revelation in the Bible and Jesus
5. Meditate on God's Revelation
6. Closing Prayer (All)
7. Conversation for those who want to stay



Can we know God?

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them [in what has been created]” Romans 1:19

God lives and moves and has his being on an infinite plane of existence and cannot be contained nor fully comprehended



We each live and move and have our being on a finite plane of existence and we cannot understand God unless we are in some way like him



Being created in God's image enables God to reveal himself in words so that we can understand God's revelation



God is both hidden and revealed

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Dt 29:29

“...no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Mt 11:27.

God in Our Culture Today



The number of people in the US who believe in the God of the Bible is declining. 69% (1995, CRC), 56% (2018, Pew), 50% (2023, CRC). The meaning of the term “God of the Bible” was left up to participants



64% of people in the US self-identified as Christian per a 2020 Pew Research Center survey. The term Christian was not defined in the survey



Only about 6% of US adults have a biblical worldview – belief in several key tenants such as biblical God, sin nature of man, salvation in Christ, God’s moral standard, ... per a 2023 CRC survey

God in our Culture Today (2)

Is this the God of the Bible?



Ref: “Who is God?” survey from the Huffington Post, 2015

God in Our Culture Today (3)

“God is the supreme or ultimate reality: the Being perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness who is worshipped as creator and ruler of the universe” – Meriam Webster Dictionary

“God is persuasive love, containing but somehow still beyond all that we can grasp, and within whom “we live and move and have our being.” “– Howard Pepper

“God is the incorporeal divine Principle ruling over all as eternal Spirit: infinite Mind” – Christian Science

“I don’t know how to think about this thing you talk about, God. I literally don’t know how to picture him ... is God aware that we are talking, does he know our names?” – Adam Davidson

“To me God is a kind of fictional being that people tell themselves exists because that’s consoling to them or a psychological prop that helps them face the world.” – Peter Singer

God in Our Culture Today (4)

“For me, God is not a defined personality. God is the underlying creative force of the universe. God is the universe” – Reza Aslan

“Personally, I have a very strong concept of God. To me, God is a secret, a mystery, a hope that I will never fully understand. – Ruth Calderon

“When I am asked if I believe in God, I always say yes, but I also say, just don’t ask me what God is. But I know that there is a God.” - Stephen Tobolowsky

“God is diversity on steroids. As human beings, we share that diversity. So, we have as many different ways of understanding God as we have groups, tribes and people.” – Irwin Kula

“For me, the divine is Shakti, the primordial transcendent Presence that manifests worlds, and lives within every atom and quark and molecule, including our own bodies.” – Sally Kempton

“The laws of physics are the closest thing in the world today that I would align with a theological perspective.” – Brian Greene

God's Existence in Natural Revelation

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.” (Romans 1:20)

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1)

God's Existence in Natural Revelation (2)

Philosophy and God



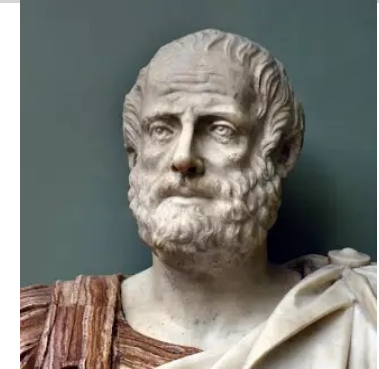
St. Thomas Aquinas
(1225-1274, Italy)



St. Anselm of Canterbury
(1033-1109, Burgundy & UK)



William Paley
(1743-1805, UK)



Aristotle
(384-322 BC, Greece)



Rene Descartes
(1596-1650)



Imam Muhammad-Al Ghazali
(1058-1111, Tous, Iran)



Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
(1646-1716, Germany)



St. Augustine (Aurelius Augustinus)
(354-430, Algeria)

God's Existence in Natural Revelation (3)

The existence of God best explains

1. Why anything at all exists rather than nothing
 2. The beginning of the universe
 3. Objective morality as seen across nations and cultures
 4. The fine tuning of the universe to support life
- } Cosmological Argument
- Moral Argument
- Teleological Argument

If anything exists, something has always existed that has Being it itself

“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.” John 5:26

God's Existence in Natural Revelation (4)

Video courtesy of

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE76nwimuT0>



God's Special Revelation in the Bible and Jesus

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”
(Hebrews 1:1-3)

God's Special Revelation in the Bible and Jesus (2)

Names of God

YHWH or Yahweh

(>6800x in Bible, LORD English, Kyrios Greek)

- *I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3:14)*
- God's proper name meaning eternal being, self-existent, self-sufficient, independent
- Brings into existence whatever exists

Elohim

(>2500x in Bible, God English, Ho Theos Greek)

- General name for God
- First name used in Bible (Genesis 1:1)
- Plural of El foreshadowing Trinity
- "Supreme One" or "Mighty One"

Adonai

(>400x in Bible, Lord English, Kyrios Greek)

- Plural of Adon, always used when speaking of God
- A title meaning sovereign, master, ruler, or lord.
- Jews used instead of YHWH in reverence to God

El Elyon

(28x in Bible, Ho Theos Ho Hupsistos Greek)

- "*God Most High*"
- Expresses the sovereignty and majesty of God and His highest preeminence

God's Special Revelation in the Bible and Jesus (3)

Other names of God displaying truths of God

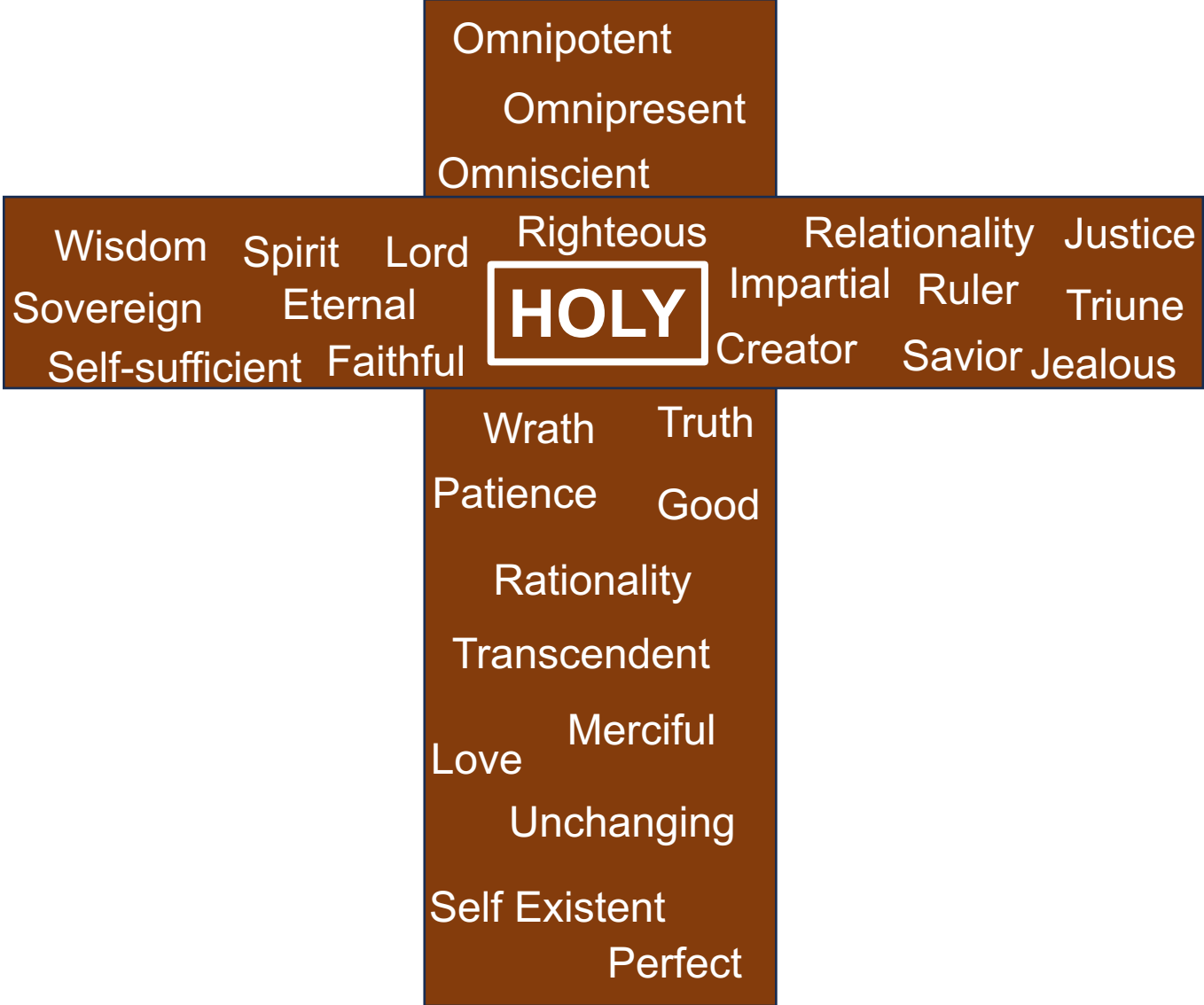
- El Roi (The God Who Sees Me)
- El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty or Almighty God)
- El Olam (The Everlasting God)
- YHWH Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)
- YHWH Rapha (The Lord Who Heals You)
- YHWH Nissi (The Lord Is My Banner)
- El Qanna (Jealous God)
- YHWH Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)
- YHWH Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)
- YHWH Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)
- YHWH Raah (The Lord Is My Shepherd)
- YHWH Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)

God's Special Revelation in the Bible and Jesus (4)

The Attributes of God

- Attributes are something true about God, revealed by God
- God is infinite and not composed of His attributes
- An attribute is not what God has; it is what God is (He is not developing; he is the standard for every attribute)
- There is no conflict or contradiction between God's attributes; they are unity
- All of God does all that God does

God's Revelation Part 2– God's Attributes



God's Attributes

Incommunicable

Triune

Omniscient

Omnipotent

Omnipresent

Sovereign

Eternal

Transcendent

Self-Existent

Self-Sufficient

Immutable-Unchanging

Savior

Communicable

Creator

Spirit

Righteous

Love

Justice

Wise

Wrath

Jealous

Impartial

Faithful

Grace

Good

Ruler

Lord


Mercy

Patience

Rationality

Relationality

NOTE: God is perfect in all communicable attributes, we are not



Transforming
our Minds with
God's Truths
About Himself





NO ADS



Closing Prayer (Adapted from Romans 11:33-36)

Let us pray...

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are your judgments and your path beyond tracing out!
For who has known your mind O' God, or who has been your counselor?"

Who has ever given to you that you might repay him?"

For from you and through you and to you are all things.

To you O' God be glory forever and ever. Amen.