

Subject: A Biblical Picture of God – Part 1

Scripture: Psalm 145:1-21

How would you describe God? In a recent message I mentioned the time we were in Brooklyn, NY, on a mission trip and a father and his son graciously invited a few of us to see their high rise apartment. The boy who was about 10-12 years old pointed to a small statue on a bookshelf and told us that was their god. He was so proud to show us their god.

If someone were to ask you, “How would you describe God?” What would you say? You couldn’t point to a statue or a picture because God is not physical or visible. So how would you describe God? You could tell someone what the Bible says about God. That’s the only picture we have, and that’s the only one we need. It’s a clear, perfect picture of who God is.

1. God reveals himself in all Scripture

The Bible is the self-revelation of God. It is God’s autobiography. The Bible begins with the existence of God. The Bible doesn’t attempt to prove that God exists; it just begins with the simple statement:

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

We accept that God exists by faith. If we don’t accept that, the Bible says we are fools.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Psalms 14:1 *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*

God wants us to know who he is and what he is like. Although we can’t know him perfectly or completely, we can know him clearly and accurately. We can know what He has told us in his Word.

- A. God’s unity – There is only one true God. All other so-called gods are false, man-made gods. From the beginning God made men and women in his image, and from the beginning mankind has tried to return the favor, making gods to suit themselves. Some false gods are fashioned by man’s hands and others are made by man’s mind.

Isaiah 44:6 *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.*

Isaiah 45:22 *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

Even the devil and his demons believe in God and tremble.

James 2:19 *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

- B. God's tri-unity – The one God exists in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This is the Trinity. All three persons are eternally God and all three are equally God. All three are divine, but all three are distinct and all three have different roles to fill.

The Bible reveals a lot more about God. It's like a gold mine of truth in which we keep digging and finding more and more truth, and as we keep digging we know God better and better. And as we know him better, we will trust him more, and we will worship and praise him more, and we will be able to tell others about him better.

This is the journey of a lifetime, learning and growing in our knowledge of God. What a privilege! Charles Spurgeon was only 20 years old when he started his pastoral ministry in London on January 7, 1855. His sermon was entitled, "The Immutability of God." Immutability means God does not and cannot change. This is how he began that sermon:

"It has been said by someone that 'the proper study of mankind is man.' I will not oppose the idea, but I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God's elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father. There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity" (*New Park Street Pulpit*, 1:1).

2. God reveals himself clearly in this psalm

In this psalm we find several attributes of God. When we speak of God's attributes we mean his character qualities. These are also called his perfections because each one of them is perfect and God is completely perfect in every way. He reveals these attributes (perfections) through his actions (creating, preserving, redeeming, and judging). He also reveals his attributes by his names and titles (Yahweh "I AM"; the Most High God; God Almighty; Lord of Hosts). He reveals his attributes by word pictures and descriptions of himself such as the Alpha and Omega, the Rock, the Shepherd, the Shield, and the High Tower). We learn about him in all these ways. Sometimes God reveals himself by simple words and descriptions. This is what we find in Psalm 145. Let's see what God has revealed in this psalm.

Vs. 1, 2 – He is worthy of praise, personal, and sovereign

Vs. 3 – He is great, far beyond our ability to understand

Vs. 4 – He does mighty acts, so He is mighty (powerful)

Vs. 5 – He is majestic and does wonderful things

Vs. 6 – He does terrible (awesome) acts that reveal his greatness

Vs. 7 – He is to be remembered for his great goodness and his righteousness

Vs. 8 – He is gracious, full of compassion, slow to anger, and great in mercy

Vs. 9 – He is good to all and merciful toward all his creatures

Vs. 10 – He receives praise from all things He created and blessing from all his people

Vs. 11-13 – He is a glorious and eternal king with a majestic, eternal kingdom

Vs. 14 – He uphold all that fall and are bowed down, so He has great compassion

Vs. 15-16 – He is faithful to provide for all the needs of his creatures

Vs. 17 – He is righteous and holy

Vs. 18 – He is near to all people who call upon him in truth (sincerity)

Vs, 19 – He fulfills the desires of people that fear him and He hears their cries
Vs. 20 – He preserves all people who love him, but He destroys all wicked people
Vs. 21 – He is worthy of praise and worship from every person on earth

A God like this should be honored. A God like this should be praised and worshiped. A God like this should be loved. A God like this should be obeyed. In the next few weeks we are going to take a closer look at some of God's attributes, so we can know him better, honor him more, praise and worship him better, love him more, trust and obey him more.

APPLYING THIS MESSAGE

- 1) Read Psalm 145 twice a day (morning and evening) this week
- 2) Write down all the attributes and works of God found in this psalm
- 3) Write down all the responses of the writer and readers of this psalm
- 4) Focus on one or two of God's attributes in your daily prayer time
- 5) Meditate on one or two attributes every day and praise God for them
- 6) Talk to your family about one or two of God's attributes every day

Every now and then I hear someone say something like this, "I would read the more often, but I just don't get much out of it." It doesn't have to be that way. Follow the steps we have just laid out and ask God to help you understand what you are reading. He will help you because he wants you to know him and know him well.