



Study Guide

Many times we struggle to get a solid biblical understanding of the different topics in the Bible. Are we really punished for Adam's sin? What is the purpose of angels? What do the end times look like?

This course will tackle these topics and many more and unpack them in a way that isn't just theoretical but actually relates to your Christian life.

Corresponding teaching videos can be found online at:

churchoftherock.ca/watch-online/series/crashcoursecreeds/

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THEOLOGY – Doctrine of God

A Crash Course in Creeds - Session 2



Theism – Belief in God

ATHEISM – Belief that there is no God

- *“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”* (Psalm 14:1)

AGNOSTICISM – Don’t know if there is a God; unsure

PANTHEISM – God is all and all is God

MATERIALISM – Nothing exists beyond the material universe

DEISM – Belief in a supreme being but not a personal God

POLYTHEISM – Belief in many gods

MONOTHEISM – Belief in one God

- e.g. Jews, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists

CHRISTIAN THEISM – The belief in the One True God

- *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!”* (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- *“I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.”* (Isaiah 44:6)

The Nature of God

It is impossible for finite man to fully comprehend the nature of an infinite God.

- *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,”* says the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8)

- We can only know about Him that which He has chosen to reveal through His Word and the Holy Spirit.
- *“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”* (Romans 11:33)

GOD IS A SPIRIT

“God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth.” (John 4:24)

“A Spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” (Luke 24:39)

1) IMMATERIAL, INCORPOREAL, AND INVISIBLE

- Reason why no graven images should be made.
- *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”* (John 1:18)

2) ANTHROPOMORPHISM

- References to God having physical characteristics (e.g. eyes, ears, hands, arms, etc.) in order that we might relate to God’s nature in human terms.

3) THEOPHANY

- When God appears in human form for a period of time
- e.g. Moses saw “Him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27)

GOD IS A PERSON

God has revealed Himself as a personal being having an _____,
_____, and _____.

The Bible ascribes the following personal **characteristics to God**, just to name a few:

- a) **Self-consciousness** ([Exodus 3:14](#), [Isaiah 45:5](#), [1 Corinthians 2:10](#))
- b) **Self-determination** ([Job 23:13](#), [Romans 9:11](#), [Ephesians 1:9](#), 11)
- c) **Intellect** ([Genesis 18:19](#), [Exodus 3:9](#), [Acts 15:18](#))
- d) **Sensibility** ([Psalm 103:8-14](#))
- e) **Volition** ([Genesis 3:15](#), [Psalm 115:3](#), [John 6:38](#))
- f) **Grief** ([Ephesians 4:30](#))
- g) **Regret** ([Genesis 6:6](#))
- h) **Anger** ([Deuteronomy 1:37](#))
- i) **Jealousy** ([Exodus 20:5](#))
- j) **Compassion** ([Psalm 111:4](#))
- k) **Love** ([Romans 5:8](#))

GOD IS THREE PERSONS

- Three persons; one God
- TRINITY or TRI-UNITY of God

[Genesis 1:26](#) (our, us) – *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”*

[Psalm 110:1](#) – *“The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”*

[Matthew 3:16–17](#) (simultaneous appearance) – *“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”*

[2 Corinthians 13:14](#) – *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”*

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

- He is everywhere all at once
- [Jeremiah 23:23–24](#), [1 Kings 8:27](#)

*“Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.”* (Psalm 139:7–8)

GOD IS OMNISCIENT

- All-knowing; knows all things

*“O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.
You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.”* (Psalm 139:1–4)

GOD IS OMNIPOTENT

- All-powerful

“Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.” (Jeremiah 32:17)

GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT

“And He is before all things and in Him all things consist.” (Colossians 1:17)

- Doesn't have a beginning and doesn't have an end
- Was and is and is to come ([Revelation 1:4](#))
- God is not dependent upon any outside source outside Himself.

GOD IS ETERNAL

“Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be Honor and Glory forever and ever, Amen.” (1 Timothy 1:17)

- God is without beginning and without end
- He has always existed and always will
- He is not bound by time

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

“The Lord has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.” (Psalm 103:19)

- One of the most poorly understood concepts
- [Daniel 4:25](#), [Ephesians 1:21](#)

GOD IS PERFECT

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

- No fault in Him, no blemish, does not make mistakes

GOD IS IMMUTABLE

“For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” (Malachi 3:6)

- The same yesterday, today, forever
- His nature never changes

GOD IS HOLY

“For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.” (Leviticus 11:44)

- He is the embodiment of holiness

GOD IS JUST

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” (Deuteronomy 32:4 ESV)

- He is always righteous, always just

GOD IS TRUTH

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

- This is why His Word is so important

GOD IS LOVE

“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” (1 John 4:16)

- Everything He does is filtered through His love for you



Discussion Questions

1. When we say “God is a person” what do we mean by that?

- 2. Explain why the concept of the Trinity is so important. Why can't we just see Him as one person with three different personalities?**

- 3. If God does not change, how do you explain the apparent dissonance of the “wrathful justice” God of the Old Testament and the “loving” Jesus of the New Testament?**

- 4. How does your experience shape your picture of God?**

- 5. In our journey on earth, how do we continue to grow in getting the clearest picture of God? (e.g. trust, study, etc.)**