

What Do Baptist Believe About God?

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

This is basically a study about God, or as most will call it “Theology”. A true understanding of God is a necessity for every believer because that understanding underlined the entire bible. Every attribute of God plays a roll in understanding what God truly means when we read and study His word, rightly dividing the word of truth. We must understand the Trinity and how the Trinity functions. We must look at the Hebrew and Greek language to understand what is the true meaning of the words, this if called a theological study of God. For example, the very first time the name God is written it speaks of the Trinity, *“In the beginning God created...”* The word God in the Hebrew here is “*‘ēlôhîm*” this Hebrew word is used in a plural form. Listen to what Jamieson – Fausset – Brown says about this Word God, *“It is expressive of omnipotent power; and by its use here in the plural form, is obscurely taught at the opening of the Bible, a doctrine clearly revealed in other parts of it, namely, that though God is one, there is a plurality of persons in the Godhead - Father, Son, and Spirit, who were engaged in the creative work.* Therefore, in the very first verse of the bible we, as Baptist believe two major doctrines, (1) God is a Trinity and (2) God is the single creator and power of everything that exist. This teaching explains why God said Jesus in **John 1:1 - 2** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God.”* John went on to say about Jesus, **John 1:10** *“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.”* Proving that Jesus is part of that Trinity spoken of in Gen. 1:1, He is the Son of God. Gen. 1:1 also shows us that God is the Sovereign Power over not only the world, but the entire universe because before God created, nothing else existed but Elohiym.

This verse also describes to us the Sovereignty of God, that God created everything in existence, and He has Sovereign power over all creation. Paul said of Jesus in **Colossians 1:15 - 17** *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: (16) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (17) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”* This word “consist” means – to stand, to stand with or fall together - the universe is upheld by the Lord – **Poole added**, likewise the Supporter or Upholder, of all things whatsoever are created. God is the sole creator – power –

and controller or Sovereign power of everything. The writer of the Hebrews said of Jesus, **Hebrews 1:3** “*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*”

Let understand our understanding about God, underlines all our doctrinal beliefs. For example, if one refuses to believe and understand God’s Sovereignty then they will miss so many truths of God’s power and workings, and that will cause so many misunderstanding’s.

A. God is not a man.

1. **John 4:24** “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*”
 - a. The word Spirit means breath of air or blast of air. God said of His Spirit in **John 3:8** “*The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*”
 - b. When we are saved, it is by the Holy Spirit of God or the third part of the Trinity, but of God. We cannot see Him, but we sense His presence once He quickens our dead spirits, we feel God’s presence and power working within our spirit.
 - c. It is difficult for us to conceive of an absolutely spiritual being, because we have bodies, we do not normally deal with beings we cannot see in some form.
 - d. God does not have a body of any sort, If God desired to embody Himself in some sort He could, the Son of God did in Jesus, angels have in time, but to think of God in a body form is not correct.
 - e. Now, God speaks of His hands, His eyes, sitting on His throne in the Holies of Holies, mostly to make us understand things, but God has no body of any sort.
 - f. To think of God having a body or any body part can cause one to believe things that are not true.
 - g. God must be worshipped not only as a Spirit but in a spiritual way. God that is a Spirit is the foundation of spiritual worship. God's Being is infinite and He must be seen, believed, and worshiped as such.

2. Paul described God as invisible. **1 Timothy 1:17** “*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*” – John wrote in **John 1:18** “*No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*”
 - a. We only see Him in Jesus Christ, He is the image of God and in every part of His being except bodily.
 - b. Moses saw a burning bush and heard His voice; on the mountain Moses saw fire and heard His voice.
3. We know that God is light. **John 1:5** “*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*” The word “light” here means "to give light" This is speaking of the shekinah glory of God that means - the glory of the divine presence.
 - a. For example, **Genesis 1:2 – 3** “*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (3) And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*” – God gave light by His own shekinah glory or through His divine presence.
 - b. God did not create the sun, moon, and stars till day 4. **Genesis 1:14 - 16** “*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: (15) And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. (16) And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.*” – but even then they are powered by God’s shekinah glory and power.
 - c. So, for us to walk in His light means we are to walk in His glory. **1 John 1:6 - 7** “*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*” – we are, through that Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ partakers of the divine nature, it is there that we should walk in life.

B. Baptist believes in God’s Attributes.

1. Only Baptist and a few reformists believe in God’s attributes, the rest of Christendom reject most if not all God’s attributes.

2. Every attribute of God is important to understand God, if one misses His attributes, they will never believe in the True God of the bible properly.
3. God is Immutable.
 - a. Since God is immutable, He cannot change, every, or in anything. He is an eternal Spirit, complete and perfect. Omni-everything He lacks nothing.
 - b. **Malachi 3:6** *“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”* Charles Spurgeon wrote, *“The stability which the anchor gives the ship when it has at last obtained a hold-fast, is like that which the Christian's hope affords him when it fixes itself upon this glorious truth. With God "is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." What ever His attributes were of old, they are now; His power, His wisdom, His justice, His truth, are alike unchanged. He has ever been the refuge of His people, their stronghold in the day of trouble, and He is their sure Helper still. He is unchanged in His love. He has loved His people with "an everlasting love"; He loves them now as much as ever He did, and when all earthly things shall have melted in the last conflagration, His love will still wear the dew of its youth. Precious is the assurance that He changes not!”*
 - c. **Numbers 23:19** *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”*
 - d. **1 Samuel 15:29** *“And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.”*
 - e. It is without question God’s non-repentance underlines His Sovereignty. He knows everything, He is everywhere, He is all Holy, He is all powerful. This is the believer’s ground of confidence and of perseverance upon the confirmation which divine faithfulness is sure to bestow upon us.
 - f. To even think that God could ever change is to compare God to His own creation. It would destroy any and all confidence believers could have in God and cause a sense of distrust toward God. Our anchor is in God’s eternal promises, mostly of salvation, that He will never leave nor forsake His people. Even Israel, who God

was speaking who rejected His Messiah, condemned His Son, and spit, cursed, mocked, hurt, and crucified, God has not forsaken.

4. God is Omni-holy and because of this we ought to be holy.
 - a. **1 Peter 1:15 – 16** “*But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (16) Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**”
The word holy means - *pure*, or morally *blameless* – Without error and without blame.*
 - b. People blame God for things, but **what God does He does in pure righteousness and holiness.** People are to blame because of sin, but since Adam blames his wife for the fall, we blame other and even God for our sin.
 - c. **Leviticus 11:44 - 45** “*For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (45) For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*”
 - d. It is because God is Holy that He hates sin. And it is because of our holiness in Christ Jesus that we ought to hate sin, all sin.
 - e. We must worship Him in Holiness, and one day this world will worship His holiness. **Revelation 15:3 - 4** “*And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. (4) Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*”
 - f. We cannot serve God, unless we Reverence His Holy name, in holiness. **Joshua 24:14 – 15** “*Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. (15) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD...(19) And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he*

is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.” – Let us not forget John said in **John 4:23 - 24** “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*” People cannot worship God if they do not know Him and as He truly is. If God is not worshiped in Truth, He is not worshiped.

5. God is Eternal and worshiped as The Eternal God.
 - a. **Deut. 33:27** “*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*” – The word “eternal” means - Without beginning or end of existence; always existing. Gen 1:1 “In the beginning God created...” In the beginning of everything there was God.
 - b. Paul wrote about Jesus Christ in, **Colossians 1:17** “*And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*”
 - c. God speaks of Himself as eternal, ever, forever, everlasting, "old" or "ancient", and I Am. All of these names reference His eternal being.
 - d. God said of Himself, **Isaiah 44:6 - 8** 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.** (7) And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. (8) Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. **Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."**

C. His Attributes Continue His title “Almighty”.

1. **Gen. 17:1** “*And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*” – Almighty means, The ruler of all – God is “Our Rock of Ages” holding us through thick and thin, through good and bad, there is no greater power than God.
2. **He is Almighty because He is Omnipresent.** – Meaning God is everywhere at once; He is not a being that ever moves.

- a. **Psalm 139:7-10** “*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*” Wherever I am Lord, “***thou art there***”
 - b. **Acts 17:27 - 28** “*That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (28) For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*”
3. Wrong Views of The Nature of God that are false Theories of religionist.
- a. These views cause people to lose reverence of God, to lose faith in God, and to lose respect altogether.
 - b. That He is a limited Being, dwelling in temples, receiving gifts from man.
 - c. That God is an infinite Being, or that He is the Creator, but not the Controller of everything.
 - d. That He is the only Eternal Being, making Him like unto us in some fashion.
 - e. God is not Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is God. Jesus was God, not God was not born the Son of man was born. God did not die, the son of man died. **Mark 10:45** “*For even **the Son of man came** not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*”
 - f. Look very closely at the separation of God and the Son of man. **Philippians 2:5-11** “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, **being in the form of God**, thought it **not robbery to be equal with God**: But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant**, and was **made in the likeness of men**: And **being found in fashion as a man**, he **humbled himself**, and **became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross. Wherefore **God also hath highly exalted him**, and **given him a name which is above every name**: That at **the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.*”

- g. People that cannot in their thinking separate the Son of God and the Son of Mary will never properly understand God. Mary is not God's mother, and God did not die on that cross.
- h. **Rev. 21:22** *“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”* The word “almighty” means the *all ruling*, that is, *God* (as absolute and universal *sovereign*). In the Greek this word is always translated Almighty except in Rev. 19:6 where it is translated “omnipotent”. Now the Son of man carries these titles because the Father gave them to Him.

D. His Attributes Continue His title “Omniscience” or all knowledge.

- 1. **1 John 3:20** *“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”*
- 2. The sad thing is, He knows our sins; but he also knows our temptations, our struggles, our sorrow, and our love.

E. God is a trinity.

- 1. God's existence is in three equal distinct persons. But we must also see God as one single Spirit.
- 2. We see the Trinity in **Matthew 28:19** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*
- 3. It doesn't matter if the bible makes sense to us, what matters is we study carefully, believe what it says, the way it says it, and the more we learn the more it will make sense to us. This is called understanding the bible in context.
- 4. Let's look back to our original text scripture. Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*
 - a. Remember I told you the Hebrew word for God is - 'ĕlôhîym – which is the plural of the supreme God. This is speaking of the Trinity, Father – Son – and Spirit.
 - b. The Hebrew single usage of the name God is - 'eloah – which is speaking of God as a single being.
 - c. The Vines dictionary of Old Testament words said, - 'Eloah occurs 40 times in the Book of Job between Job 3:4 and Job 40:2, while in the remainder of the Old Testament it is used no more than 15 times. – So, of all the uses of the name God in the Old Testament, the word God is used singular 45 times.

- d. Just for example, let's look at the word church and churches in the New Testament. In the Greek the word church as used in a singular form is *ekklēsia* and the Greek word for the church used in a plural form is also *ekklēsia* which means there is not local and universal church, just a local church or churches.
 - e. People try to make biblical doctrine out of the scripture's usage of "church" and "churches" but there is no difference. Just as there is no real difference between God "eloah" and God "ēlôhîym". We cannot view God in two forms just as we cannot view the church in to forms.
5. Here is how the scriptures describe God.
- a. The Father is God. **1 Corinthians 8:6** *"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."* Remember, Jesus Christ is the seed of the woman, incarnate with the Son.
 - b. The Son is God, **John 1:1 - 3** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." Then this same Son of God V. 14a "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."* This human body, **made in the likeness** of sinful flesh allowed God to do what God cannot do.
 - c. And the Holy Spirit is God. **Genesis 1:2** *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*
 - d. Paul speaks of God as a Trinity to the church at Corinth. **2nd Cor. 13:14** *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."*
 - e. **1 John 5:7** *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."*
- F. The Trinity is our salvation, and it is accomplished by the whole Trinity.
- 1. *Psalms 68:20 "He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death."*

2. **Titus 1:1 - 3** *"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; (2) In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; (3) But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;"* – From the start in election, to the giving of this election to the Son, to his death, burial, and resurrection, to the work in calling, quickening, giving of faith, to His bringing us to Christ and causing us to believe, it is all of the Trinity at work.
3. Let's look at this.
 - a. **God the Father gave His Son, John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* - **2 Corinthians 5:19** *"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."* The Son of God was in "Christ" the seed of Mary, *"reconciling the world unto himself"*
 - b. **God the Son thru Jesus gave His life and blood to redeem us. John 17:3 - 5** *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (4) I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. (5) And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."*
 - c. **God the Spirit quickens, convicts, and delivers us to our salvation. John 3:5 - 7** *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and **of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."*