



The Identity of God (Part 2)

Lesson 4

In part one of this study we learned that both Jesus and Paul understood that there is one God, and that this one God consists of one Person, God, the Father, and nobody else.

1. How did Jesus refer to His Father in His closing prayer at the last supper?

John 17:3 _____

2. What was the Father called by a possessed man?

Mark 5:7 _____

3. Who is the Highest?

Luke 1:35 _____

4. Who did Paul say Jesus would come to show us?

1 Timothy 6:15 _____

The word "Potentate" means "supreme ruler."

5. The only Potentate is also called what?

1 Timothy 6:15 _____

6. Is Jesus Christ called King of kings?

Revelation 17:14 _____

7. What is King Nebuchadnezzar called?

Daniel 2:37 _____

We can see that the title, “King of kings,” is shared by more than one individual. How then can we know who is the only Potentate in 1 Timothy 6:15? There is a difference in how the term “King of kings” is used here. The only Potentate is *“the King of kings”* while both Jesus and Nebuchadnezzar are called simply “King of kings.” All of these persons are or were kings that ruled over other kings, but the ultimate King of kings is the King who has no king above Him. This, of course, is God, the Father, as we shall see.

8. How does Paul describe the only Potentate?

1 Timothy 6:16 _____

9. Who has no man seen?

John 1:18 _____

Paul is evidently referring to God, the Father as the only Potentate, for He is the one whom no man hath seen at any time. “Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father” (John 6:46).

10. Is this one God subject to anyone else?

Ephesians 4:6 _____

The Bible is very clear that the “one God” of the Bible is “God, the Father” (1 Corinthians 8:6).

11. Is Jesus called “God”?

Hebrews 1:8 _____

12. Does Jesus have a God?

Hebrews 1:9 _____

13. Who is the God of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Ephesians 1:17 _____

14. What did God say He would make Moses?

Exodus 7:1 _____

How can there be “one God, the Father” and “none other but He” yet men and Christ are also called God/god? The word “God” must have a broader application than solely for “the only true God.” In a very limited sense, men are called gods. Both the Greek word *theos* and the Hebrew word *elohim*, which are most often translated “god” are used in reference to men. (See Exodus 7:1; Psalm 82:6; John 10:34) When the word “god” is used in that sense, then there are many gods (1 Corinthians 8:5), even though there is still only one “true God” (John 17:3).

15. What adjective did Paul use to identify the heavenly tabernacle (or sanctuary)?

Hebrews 8:2 _____

The Greek word that was translated “true” in Hebrews 8:2 and John 17:3 literally means “original” (*Gesenius’ Hebrew Dictionary*). The original tabernacle is in heaven, and Moses was directed to build a copy of the original on earth (Hebrews 8:5). The Father is the only true, or original God.

16. What is Jesus called in relation to the invisible God.

Colossians 1:15 _____

17. How does Paul explain how fully Jesus resembles His Father?

Hebrews 1:3 _____

An image is a likeness of the original, and cannot be the original itself. Jesus is called the image of His Father, and His Father is called the “only true God,” or “only original God.” It would be inappropriate and unbiblical to call the Father the image of His Son, and it would be just as inappropriate and

unbiblical to call Jesus the true, or original, God. Jesus is God, as we have seen earlier, but not the only true God.

18. What form did Jesus have originally, before coming to earth?

Philippians 2:6

In reference to Christ, the word “god” is used to denote His *nature* as being on the same level as His Father—something that cannot be said about any other being in the universe. Yet, even when the word “god” is used of Christ, it is used in a limited sense, because Christ has a God who is “the head of Christ,” “above all,” and “greater than” He. (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:6; and John 14:28) When the word “god” is used in its absolute and unlimited sense, to denote “the most high God,” “the Sovereign of the universe,” or “the only true God,” there is only one person to whom it can apply, and that is God, the Father, alone. Jesus said that His Father is “the only true God.” (John 17:3) Paul said, “there is none other God but one... God, the Father.” (1 Corinthians 8:4, 6) Of the 1,354 times the word “god” is used in the New Testament, more than 99% of the time it refers exclusively to God, the Father, while it only applies to His Son four times. (John 1:1; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:16)

So, to clarify, there are many gods when the word “god” is used in a limited sense, to include men and angels. When the word “god” is used as an adjective to describe the nature of God, as in the last part of John 1:1, then there are only two divine beings, God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. The Son of God is completely divine by nature because His Father is divine, just as I am completely human, because my parents are human.

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