

GOD'S CHARACTER AND CHARACTERISTICS

God is a good God

Our limited thoughts hinders us from fully understanding God's greatness and goodness. If we ask "what is God like?" and by that mean, "what is God like in himself", no answer is given. But if the question is, "what is it God reveals about himself that we with humility can understand?", then I believe there is an answer, quite satisfying. At the same time as God's name is holy and his nature is incomprehensible, he has in his love revealed certain truths about himself. He reveals himself in his creation, through his son Jesus Christ, and through the written word in the Bible. We will take a look at some of them. It's about truths concerning God, but far from all to be said about him.

Ezekiel 1:26-2:2:

26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

Revelation 1:10-18:

*10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

God reveals in his Word, certain truths, properties and characteristics about himself. Many of these are difficult to understand with our way of thinking. Therefore God uses parables and pictures which we can recognize. For example: verse 26 *And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it.*

These are truths about God, but not everything about Him.

God is wonderful and there is none like him. The more we see how good God is, and when we get a right picture of him, **it will impress our faith, our confidence and praise to Him.**

Basically what God wants to see in Iran is: living Christians with a right understand of who God is.

When you and I really see how good God is and how powerful he is, our faith will grow and He can begin his work through us for a transformed/changed Iran.

Mark 11:22 "Have faith in God"

Jesus is talking about the person who has faith in God.

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:23-24

Our faith in God grows more and more when we start to know Him, and see Him who He really is. This faith in God will transform you and your future and your nation's entire future.

Jeremiah 49:38.39:

38 And I will set my throne in Elam, and will destroy from thence the king and the princes, saith the LORD.

39 But it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD.

1. Above all is love

1 John 4:8:

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

He is love.

He does not try to be full of love. He is love.

His entire nature, His entire presence, His entire character and all His characteristics is love.

John 3:16:

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.

In the Greek language, in which the New Testament was originally written, there are different words for love. When talking about God's love, the word "agape" is the original word. The word means: Loving a person even though the person does not deserve it; a one-way love, a love which comes from the Father, before we have answered to it. When we get saved and receives this love, it turns to a mutual love relationship; a love from us to Him.

There are no dark sides or obscure motives, which reveal something other than love. He is like a genuine diamond, genuine from inside and out.

More scriptures from the Bible about God's love:

Proverbs 8:17 , Jeremiah 31:3 , Zephaniah 3:17 , John 3:1 , John 13:34 , John 15:9-12 , John 16:27 , John 17:22-26 , Romans 5:5,8-9 , 2 Corinthians 3:11 , 2 Corinthians 5:14 , Ephesians 1:5-6 , Ephesians 3:19 , Ephesians 5:2 , Ephesians 6:23 , 2 Thessalonians 3:5 , 1 John 2:5-6 , 1 John 3:1 , 1 John 4:7-13 , 1 John 4:16-21 , Revelation 1:5 , Revelation 3:19-20.

We will now take a deeper look at seven further characteristics and traits about God, which give us a picture what God is like.

2. The existence of God

God has no origin.

Only created things have origin.

God exists in Himself, whereas everything else must have originated from something else.

It is completely impossible for us to think that God does not have origin.

Exodus 3:14

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

3. God is self-existent, self-sufficient

John 5:26

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself

God does not need anything or anyone. If so, He would be imperfect and we would not be able to worship Him. God does not need us. But He searches for us even though He does not need us.

“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.” John 3:16

We, on the other hand, need Him because it is in Him we live and move. He includes everything, everything is given by Him. But He Himself cannot receive anything which He has not given. For example; thanksgiving, songs of praise and love. The picture of God as a nervous God, ingratiating Himself with humans is false. God does not need anyone to defend Him. Imagine that God who is not in need of anything or anybody, has permitted Himself to work sovereignly through His children who believe and obey Him. This is blessed and contradictory.

Philippians 2:13

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

God does not need any refill or any new power. He does not get tired. He can give infinitely. He will never run out of energy.

4. God is eternal

Isaiah 40:28

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Psalms 90:1-4

1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

3 Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Revelation 1:8

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

When was God born?

He has always existed.

He has never started to exist.

He will live for ever.

He is from eternity to eternity.

God created time in the beginning of creation. Everything He created he placed into time. Thus, everything is influenced by time, is bound to it. God is beyond time. He works in time but is not affected by it. Therefore, 1000 years is as one day, and one day is as 1000 years for God.

2 Peter 3:8-9

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

5. God is infinite and unlimited

He is without end and without limits. This is completely impossible for us to understand. We are limited in our thoughts and we cannot realize it. The proper meaning of the word infinite can only be applied to God. Everything else has limitations. We misuse it, saying that the sea is infinite, the sand is infinite etc. But only God is infinite. It means that God is not measurable. All measures have limits: kg, lb, meter, ft, small, big, none of these can be applied to God. Everything that God is, He is without growth, without increase, without decrease, without evolution, God is not more or less, He is infinite, He is **"I AM THAT I AM"**.

If we try to measure God's capacity, His love, His power and His might, then we are putting God "in a box". Maybe we measure His life and His capacity. But God is bigger than our "boxes", bigger than we can understand and grasp. Consider that He created universe by His word.

Isaiah 66:1-2

1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Since infinity is one of God's characteristics, everything that comes from him is infinite. But everything that He created is limited (you, me, nature etc.)

How can we obtain His infinite characteristics? The answer is through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

We obtain by Jesus all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places.

We receive infinite:

forgiveness	Matthew 18:21-34
grace	Ephesians 2:4-10
mercy	Ephesians 2:4, 1 Peter 1:3
faithfulness	Psalms 100
love	Romans 5:7

power	Isaiah 40:29-31
authority	Psalms 29:11
victory	1 John 5:4
blessings	Psalms 24:4-5

We obtain all this without limitations from Him that is unlimited.

He has no problems with our limitations. But you and me, often feel limited in different areas; which also many of the famous men and women in the Bible did, for example Abraham. God told him that he would be a father of many nations. But the problem was that Abraham and his wife Sarah were unable to get children. Besides, they were about 100 years old.

But Abraham refused to look at his limitations; he believed in God, that He was mighty to do a miracle. Although, the time went by after receiving the promise from God about getting a son, he still believed, even though it looked more and more impossible for each day.

Romans 4:17-21

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

In any area of your life where you feel weakness, shortcomings, or lack God is able with His unlimited capacity to be your helper, if you let **God be your source**.

6. God is unchanging

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Hebrews 13:8

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

God is what He is and what He always has been. He has never learnt anything new. He has never matured, never grown. Growth is change. We change and develop but God does not. He cannot become something He has been eternally. Therefore, who He was with Moses and Abraham, He is today and will be forever.

Everything what God is, is unchangeable. If God demonstrated His love to you yesterday, He is the same today and tomorrow. God does not change His temper. No, He is always the same.

Numbers 23:19

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?

7. God is omniscient

Isaiah 40:13-14,28

*13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?
14 With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?
28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

Romans 11:34-36

*34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?
35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?
36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

Psalms 139:1-6

*1 O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.
2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.
3 Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.
4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.
5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.*

God possesses all knowledge and wisdom. His intelligence is unlimited. Because God does not change, He does not learn anything new. He has always in eternity known everything that was and is, and is to come.

We cannot comprehend this with our mind. But in Jesus we can receive His wisdom and understanding. Therefore, God can pick whosoever He wants, and give of His wisdom and ability so that we will be able to perform great things for God.

Proverbs 2:1-6

*1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

7. God is omnipresent

Jeremiah 23:23-24

23 Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?

24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

God is close to you. It does not matter whether you are in Iran, Israel or Europe, in a church in a free country or in the mountains of Tehran. You may experience His presence in your loneliness even if you would be imprisoned in the Evin jail. He resides in your heart and when you pray you will feel His real presence.

John 14:16-23

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Lesson 2

God's name:

Psalm 113:2-4

2 Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore.

3 From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised.

4 The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

It was very important in Israel at the time of the Old Testament which name they gave their children. Abram means an exalted father. When God promised him a son at an old age, God gave him a new name: Abraham. This name means "a father of many nations".

They were careful with their names:

Proverbs 22:1

1 A GOOD name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.

David knew it:

Psalm 25:11

11 For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

Psalm 23:3

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

God has introduced Himself in His word with different names. All the names are characteristics and properties of who God is. He is very careful not to give Himself names that He later cannot live up to. God is truly the one He says that He is.

I AM THAT I AM (IHWH).

The first name God introduced Himself with is: "***I am that I am***".

Exodus 3:1-15

1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

You can say that “I AM” (IHWH, interpreted as Jehovah or Yahweh) is as our first name.

“I AM” also means that God is the God of the present. Today, He is what He is. Today, He wants to bless you. Today, He is your Saviour. Today, He is your future and your hope. In all that God is, He is always ready to meet people’s needs at once, because He is “I am”. To this first name God has attached seven different names.

You are what your name is. Below you will find seven different names that God has given Himself, and each one depicts various sides of God’s characteristics and properties.

1. THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jehovah Tsidkenu)

Jeremiah 23:5-6

5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2. THE LORD OUR PEACE (Jehovah Shalom)

Judges 6:24

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

The word “peace” means: rest, harmony, order, safety, entirety, whole, complete. All of this we have in Jesus who is our peace.

3. THE LORD IS THERE (Jehovah Shammah)

Ezekiel 48:35

35 It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.

John 14:16-20

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

4. THE LORD OUR HEALER (Jehovah Rapha)

Exodus 15:26

26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

1 Peter 2:24-25

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

5. THE LORD WILL PROVIDE (Jehovah Jiréh)

Genesis 22:14

14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Philippians 4:19

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

6. THE LORD OUR BANNER (Jehovah Nissi)

Exodus 17:15

15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi

Ephesians 1:19

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power...

7. THE LORD MY SHEPHERD (Jehovah Raah)

Psalm 23:1-3

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

He owns, feeds, cherishes, protects, cares for, leads, has visions that they shall give birth to new lamb.

In all His names, properties and characteristics, God is today: infinite, without limits, eternal and unchangeable.

Lesson 3

Jesus' life demonstrates how the Father is.

When Jesus walked on the earth, he revealed who God is with His actions. Jesus says: **"I and my Father are one" John 10:30.**

Just like Jesus acted and taught, so is our Father, the living God. One of Jesus' disciples, Philip, who had walked with Jesus day and night for three years, did not understand this. He said: "Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us." **John 14:8**

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

*11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. **John 14:9-11***

Let us take a deeper look at Jesus' life and ministry in the gospels. Then our picture of how God is, will get clearer.

Matthew 5:37

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

This is what God is like; He always means what He says.

God's and our attitudes towards others:

Matthew 7:1-5

1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

The golden rule:

Matthew 7:12

12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

God wants to heal the sick:

Matthew 8:1-3,11:1-6

1 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

God is full of compassion for the people of Iran and their situation; as sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:35-38

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 12:15-21

15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

16 And charged them that they should not make him known:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

God's care for all His sheep:

Matthew 18:12-14

12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

God's view on forgiveness:

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

God's love for man:

John 3:16-21

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.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
19 *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*
20 *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*
21 *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

God is the light:

John 8:12-19

12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
13 *The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.*
14 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.*
15 *Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.*
16 *And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.*
17 *It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.*
18 *I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*
19 *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

The commandment God considers to be the greatest:

Matthew 22:37-39

37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*
38 *This is the first and great commandment.*
39 *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Concerning God's ability:

Mark 10:27

27 *And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*

The good shepherd:

John 10:10-16,26-29

10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
11 *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*
12 *But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.*
13 *The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*

14 *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*
15 *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*
16 *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*
26 *But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.*
27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*
28 *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*
29 *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

Concerning true freedom:

John 8:31-36

31 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*
32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
33 *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*
34 *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*
35 *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*
36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

How to find the way to the truth and the life:

John 14:6

6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

God is full of grace and mercy

When Jesus was crucified on Golgotha, two thieves were also crucified. One of them mocked Jesus, but the other one declared Jesus innocent and understood who Jesus was.

Luke 23:35-43

35 *And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.*
36 *And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,*
37 *And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.*
38 *And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*
39 *And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.*
40 *But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?*
41 *And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.*
42 *And he said unto Jesus, **Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.***
43 *And Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.***

The thief who was hanging on the cross beside Jesus was a wicked man. He could do nothing to change his situation. He could not kneel down, not fold his hands, he could not go asking the people for forgiveness. He was stuck to the cross and soon he was going to die.

He said to Jesus:

“Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”

This was enough for Jesus to answer:

Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

This is GRACE, entirely without deserving it, he was saved and obtained eternal life. This is how God is in his nature.

Once I heard a good parable of what grace is about, which I want to share with you.

Let us assume that a man only has one child and this child was murdered. The man now has three options. He could kill the man who murdered his son; this would be revenge. He could let the court judge the man; this would be justice. Or, he could forgive him and adopt him as a substitute for his son.

This is grace.

This is what God has done for you and me.

Psalm 100:1-5

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Conclusion:

We could make this list endless. But we will now end the teaching of God's character and characteristics.

The Bible says that eternal life is to know Him.

John 17:3

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

You may answer to the questions below and submit the answers by e-mail via our contact page <http://www.nejat4u.com/english/contact.htm>

We will then mark the paper and then send an answer back to you whether you pass the test or not. When you have completed all the lessons in the Bible school, and passed the tests, you are able to get a certificate.

Sincerely yours,

Your pastor and friend.

