

Treating God as the Great Person that He Is

God is a Person – He reveals and describes Himself to us as a person by speaking of his functions that characterize a person, and also by use of His names. A study of these areas, enable us to know more clearly Who and What He is. The Prophet Jeremiah gave us four of His important names.

***But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God,
the eternal King... Jer 10:10***

When God gives Himself these names – He is telling us that **He is a person – a Great Person – that there is no one greater than He is.**

As a person God exists – He thinks – He makes choices – He has emotions – He has a certain character – He has plans – He has abilities – He has desires.

As a person God has certain rights and privileges. He has the right to be recognized, to be worshipped, to be honored, to be included in everything, to speak, to be heard, and to be loved. He has the right to be # 1 in all our priorities, to be obeyed, to have plans – to be accepted in the way He has described Himself – and in that way – to be believed.

As a person God has character. He is the absolute fullness of holiness, love, truth, and faithfulness. God has class. He is in every way the kind of person any thinking person would want to have as a friend, or would want to marry – or have a child marry. He has integrity and is fully responsible for all He says and does. God is what we call “honest” – He speaks only the truth – and He means what He says. Whatever He says is a manifestation of His character. God does not act out of character – He is holy – righteous in all He does.

As a person God is “light.” By this description we are told that there is “**No darkness in Him.**” God is without alloy or defilement or limitation or possibility of change in His character. He can be trusted, because, as He told Moses, He is Who and What He says He is. We are to “**Walk (live) in the light – as He is in the light.**”

As a person God has plans. God chose to create angels and men and women. He has told us that His desire and plan is to reveal Himself to every angel and to every man and every woman. He desires and has plans to pour out of Himself – and His love – and His goodness into every angel, every man, and every woman. We are also told that behind these plans there is a master plan – that Jesus Christ would be exalted and would be recognized as **The LORD** that He is – and that every tongue would confess His Lordship and every knee would bow in recognition of Who He is.

God created us, along with the angels in such a way that we are somewhat like Him – He made us in His image. We were created with the ability to hear His voice, to receive His love, to enjoy Him, to make choices, to cooperate with Him – and particularly with the capacity to love Him.

He is the LORD

When Moses asked for His name God said His name was “***I AM WHO I AM.***” What more could God say than – “ I am who I say I am?” That is Who He is – the existing One – as God! That truth is the one fundamental and basic fact of all reality and existence – **God exists!**

If we are to understand reality and our place in that reality, we must accept the foundation of it all – **God is – He exists as He describes Himself.**

God exists as **THE LORD** (Jer 10:10). The subsequent revelation to Moses gathers up what the LORD had said before and what He wanted Moses to know – that He was and is the Covenant Maker and Covenant Keeper God – the Redeemer of mankind.

In His revelation of Himself to Moses, and in telling Him what He wanted him to do (go back to Egypt and lead the Israelites out and into the Land of Canaan), He told Moses that all of this would come to pass because He – as the ***I AM*** – the existing One – would be with him. Moses was to be the spokesman for the ***I AM*** and He would back up the words of Moses and surely do whatever He told Moses to say.

In the following revelation that we have we know that the One Who revealed Himself to Moses as the ***I AM*** was and is the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must treat God as the Great Person – the existing One – that He is. We are to “***Acknowledge Him in all our ways.***” This admonition indicates that what we believe about the Great Existing One will make a difference in all the ways we think and act. It implies that He will be there – with us – as He was with Moses, even though none of us have been given that same job to do.

What would it mean to ***Acknowledge Him?*** Because of Who He is – it certainly would mean believing Him – taking Him at His Word – and as well as engaging in worship, praise, thanksgiving and a cooperative relationship with Him.

To cooperate with Him would mean finding out what He want to do for us, and in us, and through us – and then working with Him to accomplish that.

It would seem that first of all He wants us to **believe Him to be Who and What He says He is. To believe that He is THE LORD – the supreme Ruler and the One Who is in absolute and in complete control of everything. That’s what He asked Moses to do.**

The most obvious truth to be believed – beyond that He exists as He says He does – would be to accept, believe, and practice that truth – and that He wants to be involved in every part of our life. We must get beyond merely thinking good thoughts about God and put them into practice in the choices of love, faith and hope.

It would mean learning how to **receive His love and love Him in return.**

It would mean **reading His Word in cooperation with other believers – to find out what He want to do.**

It would mean **asking Him to change our thinking so we can think correctly about Him, to believe Him, and when we find what He wants us to do – to cooperate in the way we should.**

He is the LORD the true God.

By speaking of Himself as the **true God**, He is telling us that all other “gods” are not “true,” – that is – they do not exist with the status of “**God.**” They may exist as the figment of imagination -- as “Santa Claus” does, or they may exist as a demonic counterfeit which is true for all the false religions of the world. For example, we are warned (1 Cor 10:18-21) that behind and probably to be blamed for, every idol is a demonic presence!

In the text of Jeremiah 10:10 the emphasis upon God as “true” is that – only He is the Creator and Controller of all existence. He is comparing Himself to the idol representations that were popular during the days of Jeremiah – and continue to be – except that we give our idols different forms. In the prophet’s day they were wood and metal structures in the image of men, women, animals, the sun, moon, stars, trees, and any existing or imaginary object.

Today our idols are whatever structure our lives in a meaningful way and are high on our list of priorities. The “structure” has largely gone from the outside to the inside. Valued objects, relationships, and activities of pleasure are usually high on that list. Money, possessions, relationships, beauty, abilities, wisdom, education and even that which does not exist – as ethnic superiority – may be a formidable idol.

When God says that **He is the True God** -- He is telling us that He alone is worthy of having the number one place in our lives. He is worthy of that position. And to give Him that position in our life – makes it possible to receive all the good He has for us and to be able to enter into a life of cooperation with Him.

There are two other names our Lord gives to Himself that are crucial in this area. He speaks of Himself as a *Jealous God* and a *Consuming Fire*. It is interesting that both of these names are united in Deut 4:24, *The LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God*. In all the places where these two names are found – the warning is regarding being involved in idolatrous practices.

The making of an idol is so very wrong – in that no matter how serious the desire of the idol-maker may be to represent the *True and Living God* – what he makes can only symbolize what is less than Who and What God really is.

Treating God as less than He is – is a vulnerability rarely recognized by us. When we are treated that way, we are hurt and know intuitively it should not have been done. Why do we not give God the same rights and privileges that we desire.

The names *Consuming Fire* and *Jealous God* warn us that we must treat God in the way He has revealed Himself to us – not less. We cannot escape judgment if we neglect God – fail to recognize His presence – and live out of harmony with His character and Word. God is worthy of worship, praise, thanksgiving, love, obedience, and to be treated as the great Person He really is. We are told to respond to Him *“Acceptably with reverence and godly fear”* (KJV).

He is the “living God.”

In this description God gives of Himself we are told that He is **“active in history”** – our history – being fully present with us and seeking to be involved in all the areas of our thinking, daily life, plans, goals, and desires. He is not only what “life” is all about – but He is living life fully Himself and wants to do so in our life. He earnestly seeks to be believed, to be loved, to be recognized, included, accepted, trusted, and depended upon for guidance and protection.

There are many times in which God revealed Himself as **the Living God** to His people. As a result He presented Himself as the basis for encouragement, faith, strength, wisdom, security, protection, and the source of every good thing.

In His desire to be with us as **the living God** – He can transcend and overcome every obstacle – except the ones we create by our failure to believe Him, to love Him, to recognize Him, to include Him, to accept Him, to trust Him and to depend on Him for guidance and protection. Because He has created us with free will – He must submit to our unbelief and sin and withdraw from all the areas in which we deny Him access.

There is nothing more tragic that we can do – nor more self-destructive – than to say “No” to God – and to exclude Him from our thinking and life.

He is the eternal King.

As the **King** – God is the Lord of all existence. Nothing is outside His control. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Every facet of His creation is subject to Him. As **the Eternal King** he reminds us that it has always been that way and always will be.

In affirming His absolute Kingship – it does not mean that freedom of choice – the free will He gave – to at least the angels and humanity – is an unreality. It is important to maintain, as He explains in His Word, that His control is not that of immediate manipulation of every thought and action. His sovereign control is exercised in these areas as the One Who superintends and maintains that freedom of choice among us.

It is important to recognize it is in this area of life that a great deal of pain and suffering is endured by God Himself. When, for example, He witnessed wickedness in those He had created – **He was grieved and His heart was filled with pain.**

As **the Eternal King** God has a Kingdom in which all who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – are included. In this Kingdom He reveals and initiates His plans and provides for those who trust Him.

It seems to be safe to say that everyone desires to be treated in harmony with who they really are. We wish to be given respect, to be recognized as a person, to be heard when we speak, to be loved, to be cared for, to be trusted, to be included, to be accepted, and for our abilities to be valued.

The real test that would show us how real we want to be – is our daily practice. Do we **acknowledge Him in all our thinking and actions?** Probably no one does that full time. The desire to do so accompanied by earnest effort to do so – would indicate progress in this most important area of life.

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