

People of All Ages, Lifestyles, Arenas of Life ask the same questions, *"Does God know me?" "Does God love me?" "Can God ever forgive me?"* Underneath these questions lies an even more basic issue. What is God really like... **Who is He?**

Do you know what your name means literally? Does it convey something about you? In biblical times the Hebrew name of a person often conveyed a significant message. A name may represent something specific, such as a physical characteristic or an incident at birth or anticipated future accomplishments. In the Bible, much is revealed about God through His various names. However, unless you are reading from Hebrew text, some of God's attributes as revealed in His names are buried in the translation.

"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you." -Psa 9:10

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." -Proverbs 18:10

Who Is God?

Some say, "God is a cosmic killjoy!" Is this true... or do His laws and principles serve as a protective hedge around us rather than as a prison that confines us? Is He some distant, unknowable king demanding servitude or is He a God who is involved in the day-to-day existence of His created beings?

Some see Him as a Santa bringing gifts to excited children. Others see Him as a celestial vending machine: put in the correct coin and get out whatever you desire.... So, who is God? The Bible tells us, God is the one Supreme Being, the Creator and Controller of the universe, who personally intervenes in human life.

"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do." -Isaiah 46:9-11

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." -Hebrews 4:16

- In Greek, the word for God is *Theos*
 - Theology is the Study of God. Our theology constitutes the way we think about God and our relationship to Him. There are only two kinds of theology: that which lines up with the Word of God and that which does not.
 - A Theocracy is Government by God's Direct Rule over a Nation or People, or His rule through His Chosen Representatives who were God's Spokesmen, and by Judges, who were God's Chosen Deliverers.
- In Hebrew, the basic word for God is *El*.
 - The word *El* is found in many words throughout the Old Testament. *El* raises God High, reflecting His power.
 - *El* emphasizes God's Might and Power... not a violent power, but profound power.
 - *El*, when combined with other words, further identifies the Nature or Function of God. This is a Compound Name.
 - *Elohim* "God" as Creator
 - "In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth." -Genesis 1:1*