AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 9

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Does God Exist?

DO NOT be misled . . . there *is* a GREAT POWER behind the upheaval in all creation today!

In these latter days education has put a premium on materialism. Spirituality and morality have been treated lightly. Mankind has become increasingly more SKEPTICAL about the existence of God, until today most have *forgotten* God.

Is God a myth?—an invention of an ignorant, superstitious past? This question hovers in the minds of many. We *must* know the *truth!!*

Doubters Need Doubt No Longer!

What does God say of these doubters? "The *fool* hath said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psa. 14:1). In this upset, chaotic world many have come to realize they have been *fooled* long enough —they want PROOF—they want REASONS for their beliefs. Is God unreasonable? Does He expect you to accept unproved and unreasonable things? No!

God says, "Come now, let us *reason* together" (Isa. 1:18). He *wants* you to have basic *proofs*. He says: "*Prove* all things" (I Thes. 5:21). He knows you will not be really satisfied any other way.

The fact that God *commands* you to prove these things implies that He has made ample provision to satisfy the sound and unprejudiced mind. God has made available to you the means to KNOW THAT HE DOES EXIST! This fact should *stand supreme* above all other knowledge in everyone's mind.

In the following pages of this Ambassador College Correspondence Course, *God* is going to reveal Himself to you in a tangible way you may have never thought possible before.

WHY God Must Reveal Himself

GOD MUST *REVEAL* HIMSELF to man, for He is SPIRIT. *God never created man in such a way that man could be aware of spirit beings through his five senses.* This has led many to believe such spirit beings do not exist. What folly! God has been here always—as we are soon going to see. Actually spirit beings are more REAL than we, for they have existed longer, have far superior minds, and are incomparably more powerful!

Indeed man in his present form is as nothing. God says so. "All nations are before Him as nothing; and are counted to Him as less than nothing, and vanity" (Isa. 40:17). And they would remain so were it not that He has plans for them!

We are now at the virtual end of an age—the 6000-year period in which God has let man be his own master and the moulder of his own destiny. It is TIME WE WAKE UP to the realities that confront us! The Almighty God is already beginning to root up the little world which we have created —already evidences of His prophesied "signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars" (Luke 21: 25) are beginning to appear. He is starting to intervene *personally!!*

Time and again God visited His wrath on nations in Old Testament times and always it was so that they should "*KNOW* THAT I AM THE LORD." This is such an important matter that GOD HAS REPEATED IT IN HIS BIBLE OVER FIFTY TIMES for emphasis. Check with your concordance! Now we are at the very threshold of the "Day of the Lord"—the Day of God's wrath upon the whole world. It is to be a time such as never was nor shall be again. Here now is YOUR OPPORTUNITY to know the Eternal God *before* His Day of wrath comes! It is He and His created spirit beings who are going to intervene in world affairs by great *physical* signs and wonders that men can see with their eyes.

Yes, God is going to play a very definite *physical* part in your life from here on. When men SEE the

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power of God they will finally be convinced that God DOES EXIST.

Who Is God?

Just who is God the Father? Where did He originate? Has He existed forever? Where is He? What does He look like? What are His surroundings like? Does He think as we do? What powers does He possess? What other attributes does He possess?

What is His relationship to the Holy Spirit about which we hear so much? And what is the relationship of Christ to Him? Did God create the heavens and earth and all we see therein? Did He formulate laws by which all His created things must be governed? And is He sustainer and ruler of all? Is the Bible actually God's Word and can what it says be depended upon? These QUESTIONS and many others crowd into your mind when the words "Heavenly Father" are mentioned. You are going to find the answers to all these questions in the pages of this Bible course.

You may be surprised to find that God, the Almighty Father, looks like a man except that He has a glorified powerful body. You are going to find it SATISFYING to know that the Father, the Supreme Creator of all things, knows at all times the most intricate details of His creation—even to the number of hairs on your head. You will learn He has a time table for all things He has created—the sun, moon, the stars—*and for you!*

You are going to experience the thrill of learning that this Almighty God who looks like a man is responsible for your being here and for the possibility of your becoming like Him and existing forever.

You will find that He stands ready and waiting always to listen to you through the way He has ordained—through prayers.

You are going to learn much about the spirit beings in the government of God through whom He works His purpose here on earth.

But what about the proof of all these things? God is NOW GOING TO REVEAL HIMSELF to you. And then, having revealed Himself, He is going to give you irrefutable proof that all He says is true!

Now for the ninth lesson.

Have you your Bible in front of you? Also several sheets of paper for notes, and a pencil or pen?

Here is the method of making EFFECTIVE NOTES: WRITE down neatly on your paper the SUBJECT OF THE LESSON and underscore it. Next write down the LESSON NUMBER. Then as you come to each QUESTION SECTION, write down its TITLE and underneath, NUMBER EACH QUESTION as you come to it. For each QUESTION WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER, together with any pertinent ideas that come to your mind. Be sure to WRITE OUT THE SCRIPTURE.

Now READ THE LARGE TYPE WORDS in this Final Instruction section right down to the end of this section—*pay no attention to the small type.* AND SUDDENLY—YOU HAVE A FLASH REVIEW OF ALL THE IMPORTANT POINTS! These serve as an INDEX, too. Simple and effective. You will notice that *all the material in the Lessons is written this way. USE* THE LARGE WORDS FOR THIS PURPOSE!

This lesson, like all others, is extremely important to you. HAVE YOU PRAYED to God that He will give you an understanding of this lesson? If not, don't read any further. Go to a private place, kneel down, and ask Him for the understanding and wisdom so that you may properly grasp and apply the material in this lesson you are about to study!

And NOW FOR THE LESSON itself!

LESSON 9

Where Is God the Father?

1. To whom did Christ tell us to address our prayers? Matt. 6:9. Where is the One whom we address? Same verse. Did Christ make a direct statement that the Father is IN HEAVEN? Matt. 7:21.

2. Is there more than one heaven? Gen. 2:1. The question now arises as to which heaven the Father is in. Where does Christ reveal He went after His resurrection? Rev. 3:21. Is He still there? Same verse. And isn't the Father still there? Same verse.

3. The Father is *not* in one of the heavens in close proximity to this earth. How do we know? John 3:13.

COMMENT: There are three "heavens." The first consists of the atmosphere immediately surrounding this earth at the upper portion of which our clouds are found. The second consists of the vast starry area beyond the earthly atmosphere. Today's aircraft go high into the air—high above the clouds, even toward the second heaven. The Father is located far away beyond the limits of the second

heaven—IN THE THIRD HEAVEN, for no man has ascended to where He is.

Notice Hebrews 4:14. In the King James Version, the expression is "into the heavens." The original inspired Greek should properly be translated: "Having therefore a great high priest, who passed *through* the heavens. . . ." So Christ passed *through* the visible second heaven to reach the heaven of God's throne—the *third* heaven.

4. Does God abide ON A MOUNT there—and IN A CITY—THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM, on this mount? Heb. 12:22. Does Gal. 4:26 also verify the fact that this city is the heavenly Jerusalem?

5. Does the Lord dwell IN A BUILDING there? Psa. 11:4. And upon what does He sit? Same verse. Doesn't He therefore OCCUPY A DEFINITE SPACE even as you and I? HAS God always had A THRONE? Psa. 45:6. Will He always have one? Same verse.

COMMENT: The third heaven contains the HEAVENLY JERUSALEM! This city and God the Father are finally going to come down to the saved of this earth. Revelation, chapters 21 and 22 describe this wonderful event. A discussion of this marvelous event will be taken up in later lessons.

COMMENT: GOD'S PLAN DUPLICATES ITSELF. It is DUAL. There is a *HEAVENLY Jerusalem.* There is also an *EARTHLY Jerusalem* existing today in Palestine. There is a heavenly Mount Zion, the mount on which the temple of the heavenly city—the Jerusalem above—is located. And there has been, and is to be, an earthly Mount Zion, the temple mount of the earthly city, Jerusalem, in Palestine. The heavenly City and Mount, cannot pass away. They are God's REMINDER TO US OF THESE ETERNAL HEAVENLY things so necessary that we remember.

6. But won't we be able to SEE spiritual objects WHEN we ourselves are TRANSFORMED at the resurrection into Spiritual beings? I Cor. 2:14; I John 3:2.

7. Do you know that LUCIFER, who has now become Satan because of his REBELLION against God, long ago tried to ascend and seize the Father's throne in the third heaven? Read Isa. 14:13-15.

COMMENT: The Washington Observatory has discovered a vast expanse in the northern heavens which hardly contains a single star. It is God's custom to destroy areas in which sin—rebellion against Him—has occurred.

What Does the Father Look Like?

Most people have always believed it impossible to know what God the Father looks like. They have thought of it as taboo information which would never be revealed to them in this life. But God *has* made it possible! You may have to revise your mental picture of Him! This we know—He will from NOW ON SEEM MORE PERSONAL AND REAL to you! Now let us understand!

1. Has any human being ever seen the Father's SHAPE? John 5:37.

2. Was He who was to become Christ, with the Father before He appeared on this earth as Christ? John 1:1-2; 8:38; 6:46. Then wouldn't Christ be in a position to describe to us what the Father is like?

3. Did Christ make the statement that He has revealed the Father to us? John 1:18. Whom did Christ say the Father looks like? John 14:9. Wasn't Christ in the human flesh at the time He made this statement? Doesn't He therefore look in form like any other man we might see today? Then didn't Christ thereby indicate the Father has the FORM AND SIZE OF A MAN?

4. What other statement was made by God at the very beginning of creation which further verifies the fact that He has the form of a man? Gen. 1:26. Did He declare that the INVISIBLE THINGS—including God—can be clearly UNDERSTOOD BY THE VISIBLE things—man—that are made? Rom. 1:20.

5. But there is more to the body than just the outward form which we see. What did Christ ask the Father to do just after He, Christ, finished His work here on earth? John 17:5. Was Christ asking the Father to restore Him to the same *GLORIFIED* CONDITION which *both* He and the Father had before He, as Christ, became a mortal being?

6. What did Christ say He had been doing in the matter of glorifying the Father? John 17:4. What is an example of *how* Christ glorified the Father in His ministry here on earth? Matt. 14:17-21.

COMMENT: By raising people from the dead, healing, and performing miracles, Christ glorified the Father by showing to man some of the Father's great power! Christ could do nothing of Himself. He was only a man as you or I. But God had given Him of His own Holy Spirit which glorifies, by good works, the *human* body in a relatively *small* degree (Matt. 1:20; Acts 1:8). Soon Christ was going to be back with the Father again and He looked forward to having the great power He once had restored to Him by having His *Spirit* body glorified. TO BE GLORIFIED MEANS TO HAVE POWER AND GLORY! *The POWER the Father has is so great that it makes His man-shaped SPIRIT BODY SHINE BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN* and makes His raiment as white as light and in other ways changes His human resemblance.

7. How do Christ and the Father now look in their powerful, glorified bodies? Rev. 1:13-16. Remember the "Son of man" mentioned here is Christ. Dan. 7:13. Are we, when made immortal, to have glorified bodies? I Pet. 5:10.

Origin of God

What is known about the Father—the Father who looks so much like ourselves, except for *His radiance?* What makes Him so much greater than we? Let's see.

1. What does the Father call Himself? Dan. 7:13. COMMENT: This is one of the titles of the Father.

2. Who sent Christ to this earth? John 8:16. Isn't the one who sends another greater than the one whom he sends? Didn't Christ admit that the Father is greater than He? John 14:28. Consider these two facts and the fact that He who was to become CHRIST—THE WORD, OR LOGOS—made all things *for* the Father (John 1:1). Isn't it clear that the FATHER has been SUPREME in the KINGDOM of GOD from the very beginning of all things?

3. In Lesson 7 it was shown that *it was the Word or Logos,* He who later became Christ, that served in the office of the Father's high priest. Jesus Christ was the One who was known as God by the Old Testament nations. Did He in the beginning have a mother or father? Heb. 7:3.

4. Has the origin of the Logos ever been revealed to man? Job 15:7-8; Deut. 29:29. Has the origin of the Father ever been revealed? Same verses. Then the *ORIGIN* OF GOD HAS NEVER BEEN REVEALED.

Who is the Father and Who is the Word?

It is amazing to know that there is much uncertainty in the world today as to the part that CHRIST—the *Word*—has played in this world since its creation. The question arises, if Christ were the God of the Old Testament world, how can He be DISTINGUISHED FROM the divinity who later became "the FATHER" by Christ's begettal (Luke 1:35)?

Also, often only the word "God" is used in the Bible. To Whom does this refer? Let us study here the clear answers.

1. What are the first four words in your Bible? Gen. 1:1. What is the last of these four words?—*God?*

COMMENT: The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. And the New Testament was written in Greek. From these two languages all other translations of the Bible have been made. IN THE ORIGINAL HEBREW, when the One who later became the Father and the One who later became the Son (the Logos) were referred to, EACH WAS GIVEN VARIOUS HEBREW NAMES *which were descriptive of various of their outstanding characteristics.* But when the Bible was translated into English the TRANSLATORS OFTEN JUST USED THE WORD "GOD" or "LORD" *in the place of these various names.* This has been a CAUSE OF CONFUSION, *for these descriptive Hebrew titles—which are not used in your King James Version—would often have made clear whether it was the Logos, or He who later became the Father, who was referred to.*

The inspired Hebrew word for the fourth word in your Bible—God—is *ELOHIM.* It is known as a *uniplural* word. That is, it stands for A *SINGLE* CLASS *which is composed of two or more similar individuals.* Our English word "family"—which includes two or more individuals—is used for a like meaning. *Elohim,* then, means the "God Kingdom" or "God *Family.*" Now let us see who this Hebrew word *Elohim* represents here.

2. Did the Word—He who later was to become Christ—exist in the beginning? John 1:1. Was He *with* God then?

And was the "Word" called "*God*"? Same verse. Don't these verses therefore show that these *two* Supreme Beings existed together in the beginning, and that THE TWO *TOGETHER* CONSTITUTE *ONE* CLASS—"GOD?" *God, the Father and God the Son.*

3. As there is nothing like these two Supreme Persons in heaven or earth, wouldn't *these two constitute ONE* KINGDOM?—*the Kingdom of God?* Do Col. 3:17 and Rev. 1:6 verify this?

COMMENT: Remember that the inspired Hebrew word *Elohim,* used in the Old Testament and usually translated "God" into English, literally means the "God *Kingdom.*" It usually does *not* refer to each *individual* Deity in the God Family or Kingdom. Often the singular Hebrew form *El,* meaning a "mighty one"—God—is used to refer to each *individual* member of the God Family or Kingdom.

Remember: A "kingdom" is one of the most extensive divisions into which things are classified—we have for instance, the animal, the plant and the mineral kingdoms.

4. Didn't these *two* Supreme Beings, *planning* in *perfect accord,* form the earth? Gen. 1:1. And who did the *actual work?* Eph. 3:9 and Col. 1:12, 16. Isn't it proper then that the *uniplural word Elohim* be used for "God" in Gen. 1:1? Isn't this why the word "*Us*"—meaning more than one—is used in Gen. 1:26?

5. THE ONE WHO LATER BECAME THE FATHER WAS TAKING NO *DIRECT* PART in the affairs of this world in Old Testament times. What does the New Testament say of THE "WORD" WHO WAS TAKING AN ACTIVE PART then? I Cor. 10:4. Is "*the ROCK*" one of His titles? Same verse.

6. Was this Rock called the "LORD" in Old Testament times? II Sam. 22:2-3.

COMMENT: The word the Israelites used for

"LORD" here is "YHVH." It means "The Eternal" or "The Self-Existent." In writing in Hebrew, the vowels are omitted. They are supplied only in speaking. Today the full word is commonly assumed to be *Yahveh* or YAHWEH. *This* HEBREW WORD *is the key that* UNLOCKS *who the Lord God of the Old Testament usually was*—the Christ of *our* day!

7. Did David speak of this *same* Rock or *Lord* as his God? Psa. 18:1-2.

8. The LORD—*YAHVEH*—was the *ACTIVE* PARTNER *of the one we now know as the Father, in guiding Old Testament Israel.* He was the God—the divine Spokesman or WORD—of the Old Testament.

Where you see the word "LORD" in the scriptures, its Hebrew word is "Yahveh." This word will APPLY DIRECTLY TO CHRIST almost everywhere in the Old Testament. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible shows this to be true.

"God" or *Elohim* is actually the "family" name for the God Kingdom. The words "Lord" or *Yhvh* might properly be called a "given name" or "first name." As both Father and Son are eternal, they both have the same first name—Yhvh or "Lord," meaning "Eternal"—but the "Lord" who *spoke* and was *seen* of men was Jesus Christ. The Father "no one has ever seen" (John 1:18).

9. Who did Christ tell Israel He was? Isa. 48:17. Isn't the term "LORD thy God" used here? Then this is the *Word*—not the Father—who spoke. What did He tell Israel He had done, and what He would be in the future to them? Isa. 43:15. *Wasn't it He who gave the* TEN COMMANDMENTS? Ex. 20:2. Read also verses 3 through 17.

COMMENT: The word for LORD here is Yahveh—so it was the Logos—He who later became *CHRIST* —WHO ACTUALLY GAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. But note something more—did He say He was also "thy God"? Remember, the Father was *not* revealed to the people until the Logos became Jesus Christ (John 1:18). The Hebrew word for "God" which was used in Exodus 20:2 is "Elohim"—the very same word used to represent *both* God *and* the Logos as ONE class in Genesis 1:1 where it says *God* created heaven and earth! Here again it was the Logos who was doing the *actual work* of giving the Ten Commandments, for the Father had *turned this work over to Him.*

10. Did this same "Lord GOD" prophesy that in the future—in the millennium—He would *actively* gather Israel out of the nations where they had been scattered? Ezek. 11:17. And when He, as the Son, has subdued all things, what will He do? I Cor. 15:28.

COMMENT: How plain it is that the One who became the Christ was the *active* LORD in the Old Testament times representing the One who became the Father.

The Family of God

1. These two Beings, the Father and Christ, have been shown to constitute the *Kingdom* of God. How could THESE TWO DIVINITIES BE SAID ALSO TO CONSTITUTE THE *FAMILY* OF GOD? Let us examine. We have shown that Christ existed as the Logos or God of the Old Testament. Did He agree to take on the same mortal flesh as man has? Heb. 2:14. Why? Same verse.

COMMENT: The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23. *All* mankind has sinned. Christ's life was more valuable than the lives of all human beings. He had to become mortal so he could *die* and pay their penalty.

2. How did He become mortal? Matt. 1:20, 21. Wasn't Mary *mortal?* Didn't Jesus inherit his *mortal* human nature from His mother?

3. Was HE *BEGOTTEN* OF THE FATHER by His Holy Spirit? Same verse. Then didn't Jesus (the Logos) become the begotten *Son* of God, the Father?

And did the FATHER *ASSUME THE TITLE OF HEAVENLY FATHER for this act?* Matt. 18:19.

4. Was Christ afterward restored to His place as God? Rev. 3:21. **Then isn't the Kingdom of God a** *Family* of God, composed at present of Father and Son? *When* did the Kingdom of God also become a *Family* of God?—was it not at the *birth* of Jesus?

The Wisdom, Knowledge, Power of the God Family

1. Did Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, give himself over to seeking WISDOM? Ecc. 1:13.

2. Does any man *live long enough* to acquire much wisdom and knowledge? Psa. 39:5. What is the name of the Father? Dan. 7:9. Was the Logos, or Word (He who later became Christ), with the One who became the Father, from the beginning? John 1:1-2. Then isn't the GOD KINGDOM THE WISEST of all?

3. Is God's knowledge perfect? Job 37:16.

COMMENT: As both deities together constitute the *one* Kingdom of God, the CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE OF THEM APPLY TO THE OTHER ALSO. Christ said, "I and My Father ARE ONE." John 10:30. Both are *one* in attitude of mind. As the two are considered as one, the word "*God*" or singular pronoun "He" is used to refer to *both* of them *as one.*

4. Does God have—and does God know—the secret of ETERNAL LIFE? Dan. 7:9 and John 1:1-2.

5. Does God know the secret of INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE—existence without dependence

upon anything?—needing no food, shelter, or other things necessary to man? What is He called? I Sam. 2:10.

COMMENT: The Hebrew word translated "LORD" here *means* "The Self Existent."

6. Does God know the secret of eternal existence without ever becoming tired?—is He TIRELESS? Isa. 40:28. Is there any way by which we mortals may, of ourselves, find out the SECRET things He knows? Same verse. Also read Rom. 11:33 and Psa. 145:3. Does God reveal secret things to man at times? Dan. 2:22.

7. Is there any limit to His understanding? Psa. 147:5.

8. Does God have UNLIMITED POWER?—did He create our earth? Gen. 1:1. Did He create all the heavenly bodies—the sun, moon, the stars which we see above us? Psa. 8:3; 104:2. Can feeble mortal man even *count* the number of them? Jer. 33:22.

COMMENT: Our earth is small compared to vast numbers of these heavenly bodies. Consider the sun —*it would take* 1,300,000 *worlds the size of our earth to make one the size of the sun!* And as for the *number* of heavenly bodies, there are hundreds of millions of them. In the field of the Constellation of Orien alone, Palomar's giant telescope has actually counted 600,000 of them!

9. Is God in possession of the secret of unlimited power so that He may *SUSTAIN WITH EASE* this vast array He has created—the things here on earth and the gigantic and numberless heavenly bodies? Isa. 40:28.

10. How does God do this? Jer. 33:25. Does the sun obey Him? Psa. 104:19. How is our earth suspended? Job 26:7. Could we human beings instruct lifeless things to consistently follow a regular course through the heavens as He does, and expect to have them obey?

COMMENT: God SUSTAINS all He has created, whether on earth or in the heavens, whether living or lifeless, by prescribing ordinances—*physical laws* which they *must* follow. They *do* follow them implicitly. The dictionary defines the word "sustain" as "to hold suspended, to support, to keep alive, to keep from ruin." If it were not for God giving definite laws for each of his created things to follow, and seeing to it that they *did* follow them, nothing He created would be "kept from ruin"—everything would fall apart.

11. Can God FORETELL events? Dan. 2:28. Why? Verses 20, 21. Then can't God foretell because He has the *power* to make what He says come true? Matt. 19:26.

12. Does God have the secret of a PERFECT MEMORY? What kind of a *memory* does He have? Psa. 147:4; Psa. 102:12; Amos 8:7. Read also Hos. 7:2. But does God have perfect control over His memory?—can He forget if He wills to do so? Jer. 31:34.

13. Has God learned—does God have—the secret of perfect COMMUNICATION? Does God know all that is going on everywhere?—can anyone hide from Him? Amos 9:1-4. Does He even know what a person is thinking? Psa. 139:2.

14. Does God "*see*" from His throne millions of miles away what anyone is doing? Pro. 5:21. Does He give thought to their individual cases? Same verse. Now turn also to II Chron. 16:9.

15. Does God *know* the general *attitude* of everyone? I Kings 8:39.

16. Does God even know the number of steps anyone takes? Job 14:16.

17. Does He *hear* the groanings of His people? Psa. 38:9.

18. Does God even know the NUMBERS OF HAIRS on your head? Matt. 10:30. Does He even take note of the fall of a bird? Matt. 10:29. You say these things are impossible?—what does God say? Matt. 19:26.

What did Job say of God? Job 42:2.

19. Does God know what is going on everywhere at all times?—what does God say He FILLS? Jer. 23:23-24. Then He has solved the problem of perfect communication, hasn't He?

20. Has God solved the problem of lightning-like rapid TRAVEL? Matt. 24:27. Will Christ thus, in His spirit body, circle the world with the speed of lightning at His second coming so all can see Him? How do we know? Luke 17:24.

COMMENT: At Christ's coming, He will circle the earth with the speed of lightning. The righteous will rise to meet Him in the air. I Thes. 4:16-17. As Christ circles the earth, where it is night, the righteous will be taken from their beds. On the opposite side of the world, in the daylight area, they will be taken from the fields where they are working.

21. Did Christ travel the millions of miles to the Father's throne and back in the *one day* of His resurrection? John 20:17. Did Christ explicitly forbid Mary to *touch* Him *till* He ascended to the Father? Same verse. But did Christ allow them later that *same day* to touch His feet? Matt. 28:9. Then He *did* travel to the Father and return in one day.

God Transfers His Abilities to Us

Has God means of *transferring* His very thoughts, energy and power, life—even eternal life, if He wants to—to the things He has created? And can He withhold these gifts at will? Let us understand.

1. Can a *man* actually cause the non-living sun to stop apparent movement? Josh. 10:12. Who furnished the power to do this?—Same verse. Can't the Lord stop the sun? Job 9:7. Then wasn't the POWER to do this TRANSFERRED from the Lord to Joshua?

2. Who was *living* before *anything* was created? Heb. 1:2. John 1:1-3. Did they—God, who became the Father, and God, the Logos—have *life?* Verse 4. Then, as only God had LIFE and life to *give*, wasn't it they who gave life to plants, to animals and to man?

COMMENT: It is a proven and accepted fact among scientists that all life on this earth, whatever it may be, *must come from something that has life.* Only God had life originally. He has existed always. He is eternal. Deut. 33:27. Only He had life to transmit to other things—things which were *lifeless* until He gave it to them. Scientists have never discovered the secret of life although they have diligently searched for it!

3. Does God even know of a way to give ETERNAL LIFE to certain of His creatures which He has made? Which of these creatures has He made eligible to this honor? Rom. 2:6-7. Isn't the process accomplished by a *transfer* of Himself *into us?* I Cor. 15:28. Note the words, "That God may be all *in all.*" If we are obedient, He will *beget* us as He did Christ.

4. Can God TRANSFER HIS POWERS TO A HUMAN BEING? Matt. 28:18. What can a human being do with such power? Matt. 8:26, 27. Could this person, without effort, bring into being such things as the flesh of fishes—flesh that had not existed before? Matt. 15:34-38.

5. Did God give Christ's disciples some of this power? Luke 24:49. Note the word *promise.*

6. *What* did God PROMISE? Eph. 1:13. Does it give PEOPLE POWER? Rom. 15:19. Is it possible for you and me to have this power transferred to us? Acts 2:38.

7. Can God even *transfer* His very own THOUGHTS into the minds of people? John 16:13. Isn't this the *same* Spirit that Christ sent to the apostles? Verse 7.

8. Does God know the secret of being able to suddenly TRANSFORM a being having a spirit body, which can pass through walls, into one having flesh and bone as we do? After Christ was resurrected and in His spirit body, did He suddenly appear with the form of *human flesh* to His disciples who were behind locked doors? John 20:19. How did they feel? Luke 24:36, 37. Did HE MANIFEST HIMSELF as a physical body that could be felt? Verse 39.

9. How does God use all these mighty powers that He has?—does He WORK? John 5:17.

10. Does God, who is rightly able to evaluate, consider that HE IS INCOMPREHENSIBLY FARTHER ADVANCED in all His works compared to the works man has accomplished? Isa. 40:18. Should we be thankful that God even considers us at all? Psa. 8:4.

Just how does man, in his present form, really stand in comparison to Almighty God? Dan. 4:35.

God Is Spirit

God is incomparably more wise and powerful than we. There must be a reason. Can we know why this is so? Let's let God tell us why!

1. What does God say He is composed of? John 4:24.

God has already revealed to us that He has a body. Revelation 1:14-16. As He says He *is* Spirit in John 4:24, then doesn't He thus show us that He is *COMPOSED* OF SPIRIT?

COMMENT: Now we see one of the great differences between God and man. God is composed of Spirit. Man is flesh—composed of the earth. But now let's note another great difference between God and man as he is first born.

2. What is God's characteristic *attitude?* Psa. 99:9.

COMMENT: The word "HOLY" means *PURE OF HEART* or free from sin. As the GOD Family is composed of *spirit* and as He has this attitude, it is correct to call Him A HOLY SPIRIT.

3. Is there anyone who is as Holy besides God? I Sam. 2:2. Then isn't He the very personification of *the* Holy Spirit?

COMMENT: As *both* Christ and the Father constitute God—the Family of God—both *individually*—have THE HOLY SPIRIT. Both have this *same perfect* mental attitude, for this scripture says *God* is Holy. The *Holy Spirit* is the *one* harmonious perfect *HOLY ATTITUDE* OF *MIND* which is shared by both Father and Son. This spirit or attitude of mind is called *The* Holy Spirit! There is but ONE *perfect* Spirit!

4. Is this Spirit also the SPIRIT OF POWER? Gen. 1:2.

COMMENT: It was the Spirit *of* God moving over the face of the earth which fashioned our earth as shown by Genesis, chapter 1.

COMMENT: The command of God for the dawn to appear regularly is backed by the same energy source which Christ used to supply more fish—the spirit energy of God's own body which God willed to use for this purpose. Note that the ASSIGNMENT OF GOD'S ENERGY TO THE TASK OF MAINTAINING THE SUNRISE is a *long term* assignment in contrast to most of the short term assignments used in Christ's miracles.

Remember, it is these *LONG TERM* ENERGY ASSIGNMENTS of God which keep the whole solar system from falling apart. Heb. 1:3. The influence of the Holy Spirit of God is everywhere in the sense that the Holy mind of God directs His spirit *energy* constantly in the attaining of His purpose. It is actually, then, God's HOLY SPIRIT which flows out from Him and MAKES ITSELF FELT EVERYWHERE in good works. Psa. 139:7-

11. It flows outward from Him and back again much LIKE CURRENT IN A LIGHT WIRE.

The Holy Spirit expresses the unified creative will of the God Family. It transformed God's spirit energy into the material world we see about us. The Holy Spirit *of* God may be compared to A TOOL or machine. A tool serves man in making things. The Holy Spirit serves this same purpose for God. Spirit is capable of infinite work—never running down because of dissipation or friction. God's divine Spirit fills the universe. How clear it is that the Holy Spirit is *not* a third *person* in the Godhead as taught by the pagan trinity idea.

Spiritual qualities and entities seem so unreal to most people. And no wonder. Spiritual things are invisible, not discerned by the senses until REVEALED IN WRITING in the *Bible!* When we speak of the Holy Spirit, many cannot picture in their minds what it is. Yet the Bible makes clear the nature of the Holy Spirit. Man is matter. God is Spirit. Spirit, unlike living matter, is eternal. I Cor. 15:53.

5. What *METHOD* did God use to fashion His various creations? Psa. 148:5. Note the word "commanded." Read also verses 1-4.

6. Is this *method* still being used in New Testament times?—*how* did Christ "make" enough fish out of "a few little fishes" to feed four thousand people? Matt. 15:34. Did He *SPEAK WORDS* to God? Same verse. Was there any need for Him to take a more difficult method to form our earth since such a simple method was available? What is one of His titles? John 1:1. Is it associated with creation? Verse 3. What does God say to those who do not think things can be created this way? Isa. 55:8.

COMMENT: When God formed the first earth and heavens nothing else existed. He willed that the SPIRIT *ENERGY* FROM HIS OWN BODY be TRANSFORMED into physical energy and matter. When Christ spoke, God could have produced the fish in two ways—either by transforming His *energy*—this time into supplying more fish, or by transforming into fish material substance which was already available. Through the very energy supplied by God, Christ was also able to still the waves. Matt. 8:24.

God *wills* and *speaks* His will, and *His spirit energy acts* on any or all things He has created. All nature obeys His will. We do not understand, and He does not reveal, the exact mechanism. But He does reveal clearly the *general process*. And we do have HISTORICAL PROOF that all nature is obedient to Him. Christ's miracles also prove this.

God Is CREATOR and SUSTAINER

1. Was there anything that existed before God? John 1:1. Read also Rev. 22:13. Then isn't it clear that God had to create all MATTER FROM HIS INVISIBLE ENERGY which cannot be seen? Read Heb. 11:3 also. Had you realized this before?

2. Is it God's prerogative to make each of His creations out of the kind of matter He wishes? I Cor. 15:38-39.

3. Having lived through countless ages, what precepts does God find best to live by?—is He *truthful?* Titus 1:2. *Loving?* I John 4:8. *Just?* Deut. 32:4. *Merciful?* Psa. 136:4. Does He *wish* above all things *that we prosper?*—what does John, God's *representative*, say? III John 2.

4. *WHY* has GOD CREATED THIS EARTH?—is it the PLACE where, in His goodness, HE IS FASHIONING US? Isa. 64:8. Do Christ and the Father work? John 5:17. Unto what is God fashioning *us?* Eph. 2:10. What is God's work?—has He made the worlds? Heb. 1:2. Does He uphold and sustain them? Same verse. Do we have any conception of the MARVELOUS THINGS AHEAD FOR US—of the work we will do for eternity? I Cor. 2:9.

5. As a result of the Holy Spirit-ual attitude of goodness in God's mind, DOES GOD TAKE ANY INTEREST IN THIS WORLD of material matter in which He is fashioning man? Has He, for example, set a definite time for the dawn to repeatedly appear? Job 38:12. *How* did He do this? Isn't this the same method by which the Word or Spokesman of God commanded the spirit of God and caused it to fashion our earth's surface? John 1:1. Read also II Cor. 4:6. Yes, the Creator is a *working* God!

Summary

We have now seen *why* God has to reveal Himself. He has now told us where He is, what He looks like, and how long He has existed. He has told us what part He, as the Supreme Ruler, has had to do with our world, and what part the Logos has taken. He has told us of His wonderful powers. And He has even revealed the great reason for all His activities! You have seen God as He really is! You need guess no longer!

God has now revealed Himself to us, but we have not yet taken up the study of the irrefutable *proofs* of His existence. In the LESSONS which will immediately FOLLOW, God is going to GIVE you these PROOFS. He wants you to be convinced of His existence by SUPERNATURAL MATERIAL EVIDENCES that are irrefutable. He *will leave no room for doubt* in the sane, fair and logical mind.

He will reveal to you that He is daily bringing *prophecies* to pass that He uttered many hundreds of years ago. It will also be conclusively proved that *our world could not "just have happened into existence."* These and *many other wonderful proofs* that there *is* a God are in store for you!