

Genesis

Part 2 – God Is

Genesis 1:1 (Isaiah 45:22)

In the beginning, God...

The first words of the Bible are strategic. They establish two fundamental truths required in order to rightly understand all of life: 1) There is one God and 2) I am not Him. As to the first point, Genesis proceeds on the foundation that God is. Secondly, God is referred to as someone other than you, me, or any other human creature.



The existence of God does not need to be proven beyond that proof which God has already given. Scripture tells us (and experience confirms) that God has surrounded us with ample proof of his existence. In Romans one Paul writes:

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse” (vv. 19-20).

The existence of God, therefore, is not an assertion requiring proof but an obvious reality upon which we need only to shine light. This is not to suggest that a proper belief in God needs only sound logic or open eyes. Proper belief in God is far more than acknowledging his obvious existence for that would rule out the role of faith. We must not merely grant what we already know: that God exists. We must also respond to him with faithful believing. We cannot please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6). Mere ascent to the undeniable reality of God’s existence is not enough. We must place our faith in God as he has revealed himself in Scripture.

1. The Fact of God’s Existence

“For I am God...” (Isaiah 45:22b)

“In the beginning God...” (Genesis 1:1)

- At the heart of this passage is the assertion of the existence of God. God’s existence is a fact. His existence never depends upon our assent to belief or awareness. The Bible never once allows for the legitimacy of doubt. The Bible never allows for the existence of God to be a matter for philosophical speculation as though it is possible for him not to be. The Bible assumes the existence of God as a necessary and moral fact.
- “...For I am God **and there is no other.**” (Isa. 45:22c)
- God’s words through the prophet set forth the uniqueness of his existence. There is only one God, the Maker of heaven and earth. He is the God who reveals himself in Scripture. The Bible does not grant that idolaters have a legitimate reason to make and worship idols. God has made certain things known about himself which do not allow for the proliferation of idols. The Bible assumes that all men know their idolatry to be false.
- **Acts 17:25** – “In Him we live and move and have our being.” God is not the projection of man’s imagination or wish fulfillment. Our existence does not support God. God is not “man writ large.” God’s existence grants and upholds our existence.
- The Scripture never entertains questions concerning the existence or non-existence of God. The supposed objectivity of doubt which honored among men, God calls sin and lies. The Bible

never grants atheism or agnosticism a sympathetic hearing. The Bible does not begin with agnosticism and then seeks to reason its way to theism. The Bible asserts that men already know that God exists. A biblical apologetic, therefore, must never grant the presuppositions of unbelief or doubt.

2. The Denial of God's Existence

Psalm 14:1-4 (Romans 1:18ff)

- Today, atheism is comparatively rare, though it is growing in the west. Nevertheless, the vast majority of people in the world hold to some sort of theism. Unbelief in any sort of supernatural being or beings would have been unheard of when the Scriptures were written. So when the Bible condemns unbelief it must be understood as unbelief in the God who reveals himself in the Scriptures. God's Word does not grant "brownie points" for belief in any sort of god as though belief in false gods constitutes belief in God. So, biblically speaking, belief in false gods is morally indistinguishable from outright atheism.

a) The folly of unbelief

- Psalm 14:1-4 – "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

b) The moral fruit of unbelief

- Psalm 14:3 – "They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one."

c) The hostility of unbelief

- Psalm 14:4 - "Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?"

3. The Need for More

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."
(Isaiah 45:22a)

- General revelation can only get us so far. It's not enough to simply accept the obvious. What is needed is the special revelation of God's Word; the revelation which points us to God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ.
- The existence of God, therefore, is not an assertion requiring proof but an obvious reality upon which we need only to shine light. This is not to suggest that a proper belief in God needs only sound logic or open eyes. Proper belief in God is far more than acknowledging his obvious existence for that would rule out the role of faith. We must not merely grant what we already know: that God exists. We must also respond to him with faithful believing. We cannot please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6). Mere ascent to the undeniable reality of God's existence is not enough. We must place our faith in God as he has revealed himself in Scripture.
- Since unbelief is not the understandable response to a lack of evidence, the gospel is the needful answer to the unbeliever. Unbelievers will not be argued into heaven. The answer to the myriad doubts and objections of atheists is not a point-by-point refutation of their errors. Certainly, the Scriptures, along with 2,000 years of Christian scholarship, have provided the church with many compelling answers to the objections of unbelievers. But sound arguments for theism can only go so far. What is needed is the gospel. What the unbeliever needs more than anything is to hear the news that Jesus Christ died for sinners and was raised for their life. And what has always been true, remains true today, that the gospel "is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believe" (Romans 1:16).