BIBLE TOPICS · KNOWING GOD

The Attributes of God

Who God Is, from His Own Word

Eternal
From everlasting to everlasting

Unchanging
"I change not"

Holy
Holy, holy, holy

Love
"God is love"

INCOMMUNICABLE

Attributes Only God Has

These qualities belong to God alone. No angel or person shares them, and they show how far above us He is.

1 SELF-EXISTENT

He Simply Is

God was never made and needs nothing to live.

"I AM THAT I AM"

EXODUS 3:14

2 ONE GOD

The Only True God

There is one God, eternally Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD"

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

3 SPIRIT

God Is a Spirit

God has no body and is not limited by place or form.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

JOHN 4:24

4 ETERNAL

No Beginning or End

God has always been and always will be.

"even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."

PSALM 90:2

5 IMMUTABLE

Unchanging

His nature, purposes and promises never change.

"For I am the LORD, I change not"

MALACHI 3:6

6 OMNIPRESENT

Everywhere Present

There is nowhere we can go where God is not.

"Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

JEREMIAH 23:24

7 OMNISCIENT

All-Knowing

God knows all things, even our thoughts.

"Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite."

PSALM 147:5

8 OMNIPOTENT

All-Powerful

Nothing is too hard for the Lord.

"and there is nothing too hard for Thee"

JEREMIAH 32:17

9 SOVEREIGN

Ruler Over All

God reigns over heaven and earth and does all His will.

"But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased."

PSALM 115:3

KEY VERSE

"The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin"

Exodus 34:6–7 (KJV)

The Attributes of God Chart

BIBLE TOPICS · KNOWING GOD

The Attributes of God

Who God is, from His own Word

Nine attributes only God has · Nine He shares with us in part

INCOMMUNICABLE
Only God
Belong to God alone

1	**Self-Existent** — He simply is; He needs nothing	EXODUS 3:14	ASEITY
2	**One God** — Father, Son and Holy Ghost	DEUTERONOMY 6:4	UNITY
3	**Spirit** — Not limited by a body	JOHN 4:24	SPIRITUALITY
4	**Eternal** — No beginning and no end	PSALM 90:2	ETERNITY
5	**Unchanging** — His nature never changes	MALACHI 3:6	IMMUTABILITY
6	**Everywhere Present** — Nowhere is He absent	JEREMIAH 23:24	OMNIPRESENCE
7	**All-Knowing** — His understanding is infinite	PSALM 147:5	OMNISCIENCE
8	**All-Powerful** — Nothing is too hard for Him	JEREMIAH 32:17	OMNIPOTENCE
9	**Sovereign** — He rules over all things	PSALM 115:3	SOVEREIGNTY

COMMUNICABLE
Shared with Us
Reflected in people made in His image

1	**Holy** — Set apart and perfectly pure	ISAIAH 6:3
2	**Righteous and Just** — He always does what is right	DEUTERONOMY 32:4
3	**Loving** — Love is His very nature	1 JOHN 4:8
4	**Good** — Good to all He has made	PSALM 145:9
5	**Merciful and Gracious** — Kind to the undeserving	PSALM 103:8
6	**Patient** — Longsuffering toward sinners	2 PETER 3:9
7	**Faithful** — He keeps every promise	LAMENTATIONS 3:23
8	**Truthful** — God cannot lie	NUMBERS 23:19
9	**All-Wise** — Always the best way	ROMANS 11:33

KEY VERSE

"The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth"

EXODUS 34:6 (KJV)

BibleStudyForAll.com · Scripture quotations from the King James Version

Attributes God Shares with Us

COMMUNICABLE

Attributes God Shares with Us

God shares these qualities, in a small measure, with people made in His image. In Him they are perfect; in His children they grow as the Holy Spirit works in us.

HOLY

Holy

Set apart and perfectly pure.

"Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts"

ISAIAH 6:3

RIGHTEOUS

Righteous and Just

He always does what is right and judges fairly.

"just and right is He."

DEUTERONOMY 32:4

LOVE

Loving

He loves because love is His nature.

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

1 JOHN 4:8

GOOD

Good

All He is and all He does is good.

"The LORD is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works."

PSALM 145:9

MERCIFUL

Merciful and Gracious

He holds back the punishment we deserve and gives the favour we do not.

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."

PSALM 103:8

LONGSUFFERING

Patient

He waits patiently for sinners to turn to Him.

"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 PETER 3:9

FAITHFUL

Faithful

He keeps every promise He has made.

"They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."

LAMENTATIONS 3:23

TRUE

Truthful

God cannot lie; His word is always true.

"God is not a man, that He should lie"

NUMBERS 23:19

WISE

All-Wise

He always chooses the best ends and the best way to reach them.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

ROMANS 11:33

His Names

HIS NAMES

Names That Reveal His Character

In the Old Testament God made Himself known through His names. Each one tells us something true about who He is. The Hebrew names are shown with the meaning of each.

ELOHIM

God, the Creator

The mighty God who made all things.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

GENESIS 1:1

JEHOVAH (THE LORD)

I AM

His personal, covenant name: the ever-living God.

"I AM hath sent me unto you."

EXODUS 3:14

EL SHADDAI

The Almighty God

All-sufficient and all-powerful.

"I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect."

GENESIS 17:1

EL ELYON

The Most High God

Above every power, the possessor of all.

"the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth"

GENESIS 14:19

EL ROI

The God Who Sees

Hagar learned that God saw her in the wilderness.

"Thou God seest me"

GENESIS 16:13

JEHOVAH-JIREH

The LORD Will Provide

God provided a ram in Isaac's place.

"In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."

GENESIS 22:14

JEHOVAH-RAPHA

The LORD That Heals

God promised to be Israel's healer.

"for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

EXODUS 15:26

JEHOVAH-NISSI

The LORD My Banner

Moses named an altar after victory over Amalek.

"And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi"

EXODUS 17:15

JEHOVAH-SHALOM

The LORD Is Peace

Gideon's altar to the God who gives peace.

"Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom"

JUDGES 6:24

JEHOVAH-RAAH

The LORD My Shepherd

He leads, feeds and protects His people.

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

PSALM 23:1

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU

The LORD Our Righteousness

Promised of the coming King, the Branch of David.

"THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

JEREMIAH 23:6

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH

The LORD Is There

God's presence with His people for ever.

"The LORD is there."

EZEKIEL 48:35

Holiness, Jesus and Daily Life

ABOVE ALL

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holiness is the only attribute of God that Scripture repeats three times over. It means God is set apart from all He has made and perfectly pure. His holiness is why sin is so serious, and why the way He opened for us through Christ is so wonderful.

> *"Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory."*
>
> Isaiah 6:3 (KJV)

1

Seen by Isaiah

Before the holy God, Isaiah saw his own sin, and God cleansed him.

"Woe is me! for I am undone"

ISAIAH 6:5

2

Sung in Heaven

The living creatures worship God without rest.

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

REVELATION 4:8

3

Opened to Us in Christ

Through Jesus' blood, sinners may come near to the holy God.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus"

HEBREWS 10:19

GOD THE SON

God's Attributes Seen in Jesus

Jesus is not only a teacher about God; He is God the Son, who "was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Every attribute of God is seen in Him.

Eternal

Jesus existed before Abraham was born.

"Before Abraham was, I am."

JOHN 8:58

Unchanging

The Saviour we read about is the same Saviour today.

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

HEBREWS 13:8

All-Powerful

The risen Lord holds all authority.

"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."

MATTHEW 28:18

All-Knowing

Jesus knew the hearts of everyone He met.

"for He knew what was in man."

JOHN 2:25

Holy

Jesus lived without sin.

"holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners"

HEBREWS 7:26

Love

Jesus showed God's love by laying down His life.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

JOHN 15:13

> *"For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."*
>
> Colossians 2:9 (KJV)

FOR TODAY

Living in Light of Who God Is

Knowing God is not only for the mind. Each of His attributes calls for a response from the heart.

1

Worship Him

A great God deserves our whole-hearted praise.

"For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised"

PSALM 96:4

2

Trust Him

He is wise, good and in control, even when we do not understand.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

PROVERBS 3:5

3

Bring Him Your Cares

The all-knowing, all-powerful God cares for you.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."

1 PETER 5:7

4

Pursue Holiness

His children are called to be like their Father.

"Be ye holy; for I am holy."

1 PETER 1:16

5

Show Mercy

Those who have received mercy show it to others.

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."

LUKE 6:36

6

Love One Another

God's love for us is the reason and pattern for our love.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

1 JOHN 4:11

Six Truths About God's Attributes

KEY THEMES

Six Truths About God's Attributes

These six truths run through everything the Bible says about who God is.

1

God Has Made Himself Known

We know God because He has shown Himself in creation, in His Word and in His Son.

"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen"

ROMANS 1:20

2

There Is None Like Him

No person, idol or power can be compared with the living God.

"To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One."

ISAIAH 40:25

3

Every Attribute Is Perfect

God is not partly good or nearly wise; each quality is complete in Him.

"He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment"

DEUTERONOMY 32:4

4

He Never Changes

God is the same today as when He spoke to Moses, and He will be the same for ever.

"with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

JAMES 1:17

5

Seen in Jesus Christ

Jesus shows us exactly what God is like, because He is God the Son.

"he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father"

JOHN 14:9

6

Knowing Him Changes Us

As we look to the Lord, He makes us more like Himself.

"are changed into the same image from glory to glory"

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18