

God and His Ways

“Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the king, I tell you.”¹

Wherever the Scriptures are not taught nor sincerely believed, dangerous incorrect thoughts about God abound.

God is Holy

In its most basic sense, God’s holiness refers to the fact that He is separate from His creation.

“To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal?” saith the Holy One. Isaiah 40:25 KJV	“To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?” says the Holy One. Isaiah 40:25 NASB
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When we say that God is holy, we not only mean that he is *unique*; we also mean that He is absolutely *pure*.

Truth or Error (pg. 14) – The quotation in the text is a typical expression of Mormonism’s fundamental error. Salvation does not make us infinite or divine, though it does make us pure, true, righteous, and loving.

God Is True

When we say that God is true, we mean that He is completely *reliable*. God is reliable: 1) in His person; 2) in the way that He represents reality; and 3) in the way that He interacts with His creatures.

God always tells the truth. He expects His creatures to be truthful as well.

Truth or Error (pg. 16) – The quotation contains two chief errors: 1) when the Bible refers to itself as inspired, it means that it is from God; 2) the Bible *is* the Word of God. It accurately represents reality in all its statements, even those regarding science and history.

God is Righteous

When we say that God is righteous, we mean that His character (expressed in His law) defines what is right and that His acts are always in agreement with His character.

Because God is perfect, His law is also perfect. Therefore God is righteous in a sense that no man – not even a perfect man – could ever hope to be.

The fundamental moral obligation for everyone in the universe is to love God completely.

God is Just

Righteousness refers to the fact that God perfectly conforms to His own standard. *Justice* means that He holds all other beings accountable to live by that same standard.

Truth or Error (pg. 19) – The quotation is a true statement. If God ignored justice, anarchy would reign, and He would not be righteous, for it is right to punish evil and reward good.

God is Loving

- God’s kindness is His *benevolence*. This word describes God’s concern to accomplish the good of those He loves.
- God shows His kindness through His mercy. The word *mercy* refers to God’s stooping to help those who are in a pitiful condition.

One major test of the genuineness of one’s profession of Christianity is whether he characteristically walks in light (righteousness and obedience to God’s Word) rather than darkness (sin and disobedience). One of the other major tests of genuine Christianity is *love* for other believers.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends. John 15:13-14
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- God demonstrates His kindness through His *grace*. In the Bible, the grace of God refers to His showing favor to those who deserve punishment.

By delivering people from sin through His grace alone, He declares Himself to be the incomparably great and good God. (Ephesians 2:7-9)

Because God loves, God is *patient*. God has a definite purpose in withholding His just anger.

We are all debtors to God’s longsuffering love. We should rejoice in God’s patience rather than despising it.

Footnotes

¹*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C. S. Lewis

Reference

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Chapter One Lesson Aim

List and give biblical explanations of God's attributes of: 1) greatness; 2) goodness. Demonstrate that the Bible does teach that God is triune.

Chapter One Outline

- I. God is Great
 - A. God is Spirit
 - B. God is Infinite
 - 1. Omnipresence
 - 2. Omniscience
 - 3. Omnipotence
 - C. God is Eternal
 - D. God is Unchanging
- II. God is Good
 - A. God is Holy
 - 1. Uniqueness
 - 2. Purity
 - B. God is True
 - C. God is Righteous
 - D. God is Just
 - E. God is Loving
 - 1. Kindness
 - 2. Patience
- III. God is Triune
 - A. There is One God
 - B. Three Persons Are Identified as God
 - 1. The Father Is God
 - 2. The Son Is God
 - 3. The Holy Spirit is God
 - C. These Three Persons Are Distinct

Fill in the Blanks