

Journey Church Hawaii
"What is God Like?" Part Three
Genesis 17:1-8
Pastor John Honold
July 29, 2018

The Key: 2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

I. The Almighty [Genesis 17:1-8,15-19; 18:9-15; 21:1-7]

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God [El Shaddai]; walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan [modern day Israel], as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

15 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

A. El Shaddai: all powerful [omnipotent], for whom nothing is impossible

B. Jesus [Matthew 28:18]

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

II. The Most High [Genesis 14:18-20]

Then Melchizedek* king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High [El Elyon]. 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

- A. El Elyon: above all, over all, knows all things [omniscient]
- B. Jesus [Colossians 1:16-17]

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

The Question

“If God really is all-powerful and all-loving, why does evil survive and succeed? He must either not be all-powerful, so He cannot stop it, or He is not all-loving, and does not care.”

The Answer [from Grounds For Living by Jack Hayford]

- God, who is Creator, entrusted “the rule” of this planet and its affairs to humankind
- “God’s Rule”, by HIS sovereign choice, only functions as man functions in obedience to God
- The Fall of Man [Genesis 3] has produced a “broken rule”, as the devil usurped the role man had in administering the affairs of earth
- The perpetuation of evil’s right and power to rule was broken by Jesus, re-establishing the possibility of the Sovereign God’s rule being enforced, wherever followers of Jesus learn to live, serve, minister and pray, “Thy Kingdom Come.”
- Thus, each follower of Jesus has been entrusted with “the Keys of the Kingdom [Matt 16:18], and are charged to drive back the darkness of evil as they minister – giving place for the renewal of His reign in human hearts, life and experience.

III. King of the Angels [Psalm 24:10]

- A. Jehovah Sabaoth: the Lord of Hosts; rules over all beings
- B. Jesus [Hebrews 1:1-4]

IV. He is Lord! [Genesis 15:1-2]

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abraham. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward”...
...and Abraham believed* God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

- A. Adonai Jehovah: the Lord God; owner and master
- B. Jesus [Philippians 2:8-10,5-11]

*belief wrapped in humility, trust and a heart of submission & obedience, available to all followers of Jesus Christ [Phil 2:5-11]