

# God Is Spirit

Intro: God is not flesh and blood like unto man. The Scriptures emphasize that God is Spirit (which is closely tied to His eternity). Let us consider this aspect of God's nature.

**I. JOHN 4:23-24** "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."

**A. God, Jehovah, is Spirit**

**B. The reason God is eternal is because He is Spirit.**

**C. Context:**

1. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for water; John 4:7 "There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink."
2. After telling her about the living water that He could give, she perceived He was a prophet; John 4:19 "The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet."
3. She then asked concerning the place of worship; John 4:20 "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."
4. Jesus response is that any place is a place of worship because God is Spirit; John 4:21, 23-24 "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father....<sup>23</sup>But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."
  - a. God is not a tribal deity, nor is He a creation of man's hands.
    - (1) He is not a God just for the Samaritans or the Jews.
    - (2) He is not just a God for Whites, Redman, Blacks, etc.
    - (3) He is not just a God for Americans, Russians, etc.
  - b. God cannot be confined to a specific locale.
    - (1) Whether that place be Mt. Gerizim or Jerusalem.
    - (2) Neither can God be confined to a temple, tabernacle, or church building today.
  - c. God is a God for all people and for all places.
  - d. This is also true of Christ; 2 Cor. 5:16 "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more."

## II. WHAT IS A SPIRIT?

**A. Luke 24:39** "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."

1. Deu. 4:15-19 "Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day *that* the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: <sup>16</sup>Lest ye corrupt *yourselves*, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, <sup>17</sup>The likeness of any beast that *is* on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, <sup>18</sup>The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that *is* in the waters beneath the earth: <sup>19</sup>And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, *even* all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven."
2. Concerning Jesus; Col. 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:"

**B. Yet, God Who is Spirit can manifest Himself in visible form.**

1. Exo. 24:9-10 "Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: <sup>10</sup>And they saw the God of Israel: and *there was* under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in *his* clearness."

2. Exo. 33:18-23 “And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. <sup>19</sup>And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. <sup>20</sup>And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD said, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: <sup>22</sup>And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: <sup>23</sup>And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”
3. John 1:32 “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.”

### C. We have a seeming contradiction.

1. People seeing God
  - a. Exo. 33:18-23 “And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. <sup>19</sup>And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. <sup>20</sup>And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD said, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: <sup>22</sup>And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: <sup>23</sup>And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”
  - b. Isa. 6:1 “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.”
2. God cannot be seen
  - a. John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.”
  - b. 1 John 4:12 “No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.”
3. How we resolve this.
  - a. In both cases (John 1:18 and 1 John 4:12) *God* is without the definite article which signifies God’s nature.
  - b. Norman Geisler points out that “what these people saw was not the *essence* of God, but rather a visual *representation* of the glory of God” (*When Critics Ask: A Popular Handbook on Bible Difficulties* 83).

Conclusion: God has created within man a spirit that will live eternally in either heaven with God or in eternal torment. Prepare your spirit for that eternity.