

Message for February 9, 2025

Scriptures for the day; Psalm 147:1-12/Isaiah 40:21-31/ Mark 1:29-39-1/ Corinthians 9:16-23

Message

“The One and Only”

Have you ever been asked the question, or have you asked it yourself, “If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions?” Another question that is often asked; “If there is no God, why are there so many religions?” Perhaps this one makes you wonder; “If there are many multiple Gods that actually exist, why are there so many mono-theistic, or one-God religions?” These questions and many, many more just like them have been asked throughout time and will be asked until the end of time I guess. The answers to these questions come down to the matter of faith; “What is it that I, we, those of us who believe in our God find to be the truth?” We can get all philosophical and go around in an intellectual circle but it is a simple matter of faith.

When it comes to God and belief, there are 3 basic opinions;

1. There is only one God
2. There are multiple Gods.
3. There is no God.

Thinking logically, one and only one of these 3 opinions can be true. If there is only 1 God, it is not possible for the other 2 opinions to be true. The thing is, which opinion can be substantiated by evidence? We have been told that it is not possible to prove a negative. This is not really true but it is difficult. Saying that there is no God just means that you don't accept any evidence of there being a God. If you believe that there is one God, you do have several groups of evidence to prove your claim. The first bit of evidence is in the fact that we exist. Who created all that there is? If you say that it simply happened the complexity of it all gives lie to that statement. Mathematical odds are used to substantiate many things that are taken as truth. The odds of everything existing in such complex order is beyond natural or random occurrence. Something or someone had to have had a hand in what we accept as our existence.

Now let's look at the difference between one or multiple “gods.” Cultures all through history have been polytheistic or believers in gods for almost everything that is. We know of the Greek gods that range from Zeus, the King of the gods to Ares, the god of war, and Poseidon, the god of the sea. The Romans had most of the same gods with some different names. The problem with these multiple gods is that as gods, none of the was the “Almighty God” that we look to as the Father of us all. The Greek and Roman gods, as well as most other multiple god cultures, attributed human qualities to their gods which, to my mind, automatically lessens their powers and does not make any of them able to match up to the God of Creation that we know. The idea of more than 1 god, each of which is all powerful, is not possible. In order for there to be multiple gods with equal power means that they would all have to be identical in every aspect, therefore they would be one. Confused yet?

We believe in the one Almighty God of heaven and earth because we have seen and accepted the evidence. He has made Himself known to us through the scriptures and has shown Himself

in the mighty works of creation. We have the words of the prophets that He alone is the true and living God. These are the words of Moses;

Deuteronomy 4:35; To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.

Deuteronomy 4:39; know therefore this day, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Then we have the words of the prophet Isaiah;

Isaiah 45:21; Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

Isaiah 46:9; remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

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

These are only a few of the scriptural statements that proclaim one and only one God for all people of the world. When we, as Christians, talk about a Supreme Being, we are talking about God. God is eternal, all powerful, ever present, and wholly good. Now, we all know of other spirits that are in this world. They are in the scriptures and we call them angels or demons depending on how they work. They are very powerful but they are not gods. The angels work for God and we all know who the demons work for.

Our God, the god we know, is ultimate and eternal and is, as the Christian thinker Anselm of Canterbury put it; "That than which no greater can be conceived." Virtually all of the logical arguments regarding God's existence point unanimously to a single God. In order for humanity to have accepted the one God reality, we needed to be able to have a name for Him. We are told in the Old Testament that we worship the "God with no name" but this is not true. Moses asked God to make Himself known and to reveal His name, God replied, "I AM THAT I AM," (Exodus 3:14) Later Greek translations read, "I am the one who is," or "I am the being one." God in the Bible makes it very clear that He is the one, self-existent, eternal, living God. The very first words of the Bible declare "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."(Genesis 1:1)

I will admit that the arguments of whether or not there is one God or many or whether or not God exists have been going on for as long as humans have been around and will be going on until God finally decides to take it all back and show us the "New Kingdom." As for myself, I think it is best to take God at His Word, accept the evidence as it is and put my faith and trust in Him. There are times, more than I like to admit, that I do put other gods before Him. There are those things that take my attention away from Him but I'll try to do better.

Take a good long look at the evidence that you see. Can you dispute that there is only one true and all-powerful God? I do hope not. Praise Be to God. Amen.