

### Introduction:

God is, and has always been. Since the fall into sin by man after his creation, mankind has taken every conceivable way except the way to God, his Creator. By the time the anti-kingdom of God was established by Nimrod in Genesis 10, man's practice of living without God, and even contrary to God, was culturally established. Nevertheless, it was evident that man cannot live without something greater, or at least something outside of him, to worship. Thus, the greatest among men bowed to idols of wood and stone, images of things God made, and every imaginable substitute for God himself. This rebellious independence became part of the human mentality and lifestyle. False gods were many then, as they are today.

It was a great thing then, when the Source of the universe, of creation and of life itself broke through pagan darkness and blindness and wonderfully appeared to Abraham and Moses in the manner He did (Genesis 12:1; Acts 7:2; Exodus 3:1; Acts 7:30). Out from them came not only believing men, but believing families and a believing culture, a culture called the kingdom of God that recognized there was only one God, one living God, and that he was to be known.

Prior to this, there were individuals who had encountered God, including Adam and Eve, Enos, Enoch, Noah and others, but these realizations of God seemed to be primarily personal and in some case extended to the family and others around them. With Abram, however, God initiated a new race of mankind, a kingdom people who broke through pagan, false god substitutes, who stood against the Babylonian anti-God kingdom, and declared that in this universe there is only one God, and Jehovah is his name, known not primarily through reason but through the way of faith, that is, "he that cometh to God must believe that He is..." (Heb. 11:6)

This revelation about the uniqueness of God turned the history of mankind from the darkness of demonism to the light of divine life. This revelation was crucial and it was exclusive. Any other god was a false god. Any other representation of a god was fraudulent, whether it be physical, psychological or spiritual. Like a boat on a troubled sea, this revelation cut through the sea of reason and sin, through pagan and all kinds of human culture to chart a way through the muddy waters to the other side.

It is crucial we have the boldness to declare that God is one, that there is only one God, that He is forever the great I Am, the unchanging God from the ends of the universe, from eternity to eternity, and to the hearts and minds of men. God is, there is only one God, and to Him we bow and worship. Praise his name!

### The purpose of study guide #1: The oneness of the Godhead

(Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9)

In this study, we hope to be deeply impressed that there is only one genuine God. There are many religions, many false gods and many good things, but only one God is living and true. To know God is to know the Author of life and to be become compatible with Him, with His thought for the world; for His purpose, and for your personal life. There is no more basic thought the human mind may entertain than that *God is* and that man is made by Him and for Him and that, in the end, nothing else really matters. If this is so, we do well to let it matter to us today more than anything else. This thought is not just for the end of life, this thought is the beginning of one's realization what life is all about today...and every day... for you, and for me.

**Scriptures relating to the purpose of this study:**

This study, as in the ones to follow, is vast both in concept and in content, but our time to study them here is limited. Please understand the Bible references below are only a few of so many that relate to the point at hand, that there is only one God and that God dwells in His unique oneness. This is the main point considered here. There are many things we won't study directly at this time, such as His omniscience, omnipotence, holiness, wisdom, love, sovereignty, immutability, self-existence, mercy, etc. The one thought we examine here is the uniqueness of God, that He is one, that there is only one God, and that in His Godhead He dwells in oneness.

Please read each verse and write in the word or phrase showing something about the uniqueness of God; e.g., that God is, that there is only one God, or that God dwells in His unique oneness.

Genesis 1:1a

Exodus 3:14

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Psalm 86:10

Isaiah 44:6, 8

Isaiah 45:5, 6, 21, 22

Mark 12:29-30

I Corinthians 8:4

Hebrews 11:6

**Write out a verse to memorize this week:**

**Questions to consider:**

1. Do only Christians believe in the one true God? Jews? Muslims? Explain, discuss, distinguish what this means according to the scriptures.
2. Is the one God the same in the Old Testament and in the New Testament?
3. Are religion and God the same? What does it mean to believe in the one true God?
4. What are the implications of oneness in all of the Bible, in family and church today?
5. Write out one of your own questions:

**Summary:**

History is the story of a universal people who have taken any way and every way except that of walking in the truth and in the light that there is one God and one God alone to whom every human being is accountable. Nothing says so much about a people as what is their idea of God. The God or god you worship will determine what kind of person and people you become. If a people get this wrong, nothing with eternal perspective will ever be right as long as they live.

The Bible makes no effort to prove God's existence, only to describe the evidence of it and the relationship with Him, by faith, of those who believe. Faith is not like an adding machine where all the numbers must add up just right in order to exist. Faith is more like a food buffet where those who enter have a marvelous food supply. They see, they eat, they enjoy; and for them it is impossible to not enjoy God who is the creator, the cook and the spiritual food itself. Although the mind is so important, faith ultimately finds its source in man's deeper part. There in man's inner chamber, faith bows to worship, knowing God is, and that is enough.

**Your application and further thoughts:**

Write out your response to this study and these verses, whether it be a prayer, a commitment to study specifically on this subject, a declaration of faith in God, a conviction to yield everything to Him, an enlightenment that will lead you into other decisions of seeking God and sharing what you see with others, etc.

