

LESSON 1: GOD

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

In your quest to find answers to life, we are glad you decided to investigate these studies. We cannot possibly answer all your questions; however, through these studies several of your basic questions may very well be addressed. You may have asked yourself, “Does God really exist? Does God really care about me? If there is a God, how could He allow the holocaust to happen and how can He continue to allow people to suffer?” People have been struggling with these questions for centuries. We believe you may find some of the answers in these studies.

Your quest to have your life changed starts with God. This lesson will focus on Who exactly is this God of Israel.

For most Jewish people, the “Shema” שמע ישראל; is the first prayer we learn as children. "Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). Early on in life, we come to understand that the Lord is our God. He is personal. In the very next verse we are asked to “*Love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength*” (Deuteronomy 6:5). The Shema addresses two important aspects of God: that He is personal and that He cares about us. God spoke to Moses and God even called Abraham His friend in II Chronicles 20:7.

Questions to consider:

1. Do you believe in God?
If so, what role does He play in your life?
2. Do you love God?
If you do love God, how do you show Him that you love Him?
3. Do you talk to God?

Thoughts for you to consider:

Can God Who created the universe also be relational and intimately involved in our personal lives? Within the Jewish Bible we see that God has always visited and revealed Himself to His people. Within the Jewish Bible we see the Creator of the universe manifesting Himself as He spoke to Moses from the burning bush and as He delivered the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt. God cared for the Jewish people by feeding them, clothing them, and leading them in the wilderness for 40 years.

Questions to consider:

1. Do you believe God cares about you?
2. Do you believe God wants to have a personal relationship with you?
3. Can you describe an experience when God helped you in a time of need?

Thoughts for you to consider:

Why does God care about you? Let us now consider two of the most difficult questions in life: “Why am I here?” “What is my purpose for living?”

In the Hebrew Scriptures we read about the Jewish people being chosen by God for a holy and special purpose. Deuteronomy 7:6 says, “*For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be His own treasure, out of all peoples that are upon the face of the earth.*” The Prophet Isaiah explains that we, being His treasure, were to be a light to the other nations. We were to tell the other nations of this wonderful Lord.

In the book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*, the idea of being chosen implies that there is a Chooser. How can we try to understand our chosenness without coming to terms with the Chooser?

But how do we come to terms with the Chooser? For that we need to delve into the Hebrew Scriptures and discover God’s purpose for us.

Questions to consider:

1. According to the Scripture verse quoted above, Deuteronomy 7:6, why are you here?
2. What is your purpose?
3. Do you believe that your life reflects that God chose you?

To understand more about the reason why God chose the Jewish people, our next lesson will tell us how God revealed Israel’s chosenness through the Hebrew Scriptures.

Final questions to consider:

1. Is there anything in this lesson that has helped you to look at your life differently?
2. Is there anything in this lesson that helped you answer the question that you had prior to beginning this study?

Final thoughts for you to consider:

We could not attempt to cover everything pertaining to God in this short lesson. Our goal is to get you to understand His character better. It is our goal to get you to see that God created you, He loves you, He chose you, and He has a purpose for you. We hope that you would come to put your faith in the God of Israel.

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