

# "WHO IS THE LORD?"

**Gary McDade**

The world of the twenty-first century is a melting pot of theological views. The pantheists in the East and the atheists in the West know not the Lord. The division of denominationalism has done more to defame deity than to declare deity. The ancient question of Pharaoh to Moses seems to convey the sentiment of many people around the world today, "And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey has voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go" (Exod. 5:2). The question still begs for an answer. The Psalmist declared in a Psalm called "A Prayer of Moses the Man of God," "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psa. 90:1-2). The Bible brings to light the meaning of the fact that God is God.

God is infinite in all his attributes. In regard to his existence, he is eternal, without beginning or ending, "from everlasting to everlasting." He is omniscient or all knowing: "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it" (Psa. 139:1-6).

He is omnipresent or everywhere present: "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written,

which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them” (Psa. 139:7-16).

He is omnipotent or all-powerful, possessing unlimited authority, and omniscient or unlimited in creative power: “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isa. 40:28-31).

He is omni-benevolent or completely good and cannot excuse evil: “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation” (Exod. 34:6-7).

The attributes of God attest to his eternity, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnibenevolence. God has chosen to reveal his identity and nature through the pages of the Bible. Moses wrote, “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29).