

Men's Bible Journey: God Js

"God is" is the most powerful truth of all. But how God exists is the battle for the human mind. God for mankind is inconceivable - so we create our religions around out theories. God is concealed. He is unseen (John 1:18; Isa 64:4; I Cor 2:9). Yet men create gods of their own conceptions - idolatry. God can only be found, and only be known as he determines - God wills! (*The priests never asked, "Where is Yahweh?" Those skilled in the Law did not know me, the shepherds too rebelled against me and the prophets prophesied by Baal and followed the Useless Ones. Jeremiah 2:8*)

God, to be known, must reveal himself - revelation. God acts to disclose himself - Godself. That revelation is not Israel - his chosen people for rescuing earth - or scripture - the inspired record of his dealings - but Immanuel - Jesus. Salvation is the act of God to make his Godself known and to be the healer of the cosmos. II Cor 5:14-21.

We can only truly know God as he acts. His acts are him and he is known: "By my works". John 10:25 *Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me."* God - in his free decision - determines - wills - to be God for us - creates the universe - calls a people (out of Abraham) to his Godself - creates in his own self a covenant - to be God with us - Immanuel - God for us. He reveals himself in all he does - we all called to him.

1. Revelation progresses over the history of Israel.
2. God allows (like a King) what he does not wish - this confuses many.
3. True revelation is God himself - always particular - always personal.
 - a. God who is inconceivable - is concealed to be seen - veiled.
 - b. God is simple - we are complex.

The Holy Spirit is God. Jesus is God The one Jesus called Father is God. Revelation is always centered in and pointed to: "The Word was made flesh." The entire Bible is about him. I Tim 3:16; John 5:39-40; Titus 2:11-14; 2Pet 1:1; John 20:28.

We believe that God is triune through his works - his acts - revealing that Jesus is God while the Father is God and yet he is in us as God - the Holy Spirit. God has decided before time to be this God. He chose to be God for us (Father) / God with us (Jesus) / God in us as his Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes real and personal:

1. Faith
2. Understanding
3. Reconciliation

God acts in salvation - this is his will - God creates in love - his predetermined will - the mind of God - in this John writes: "1 John 5:14 *And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.*

1. Prayer is the deepest from of worship.
2. Prayer is union with the source of all.
3. Prayer "in the Spirit" in prayer "in His Name" - his Will - the beginning of all.