Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven"(Matthew

6:9). This is the God the world needs to know about and know, a God who is

a Father, and who is approachable in prayer. The God who "gives to all life, and

breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25) and in whom "we live, and move, and have

our very being" (Acts 17:28). The God who "is not willing that any should perish"

(2 Peter 3:9), and has demonstrated that fact in the strongest way possible. The

apostle Paul wrote of this in Romans 5:8... "But God commendeth his love

toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

A God who loves? YES! A God who is a Father to us? YES! A God who we

can approach in prayer and know that he is able and willing to listen to us?

YES! This is the God who we declare the world needs to know, indeed must

know.

**THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

What is the God of heaven like? Can we really know Him? Certainly we can!

The Bible tells us that God is LOVE (1 John 4:8,16); that He is LIGHT (1 John

1:5); that He is HOLY (Psalms 145:17); that He is JUST (Deuteronomy 32:4);

that He is MERCIFUL (Psalms 130:7); that He is KIND (Luke 6:35); that He is

HONEST (Titus 1:2); that He is CARING (1 Peter 5:7); and more. Such traits

are too wonderful to ignore. This is not at all the concept of god that the world

creates from its own mind. It is, however, the truth and it should excite us to

desire to know more about him. There is more to know. This "God of heaven"

SPEAKS. The book of Hebrews informs us that "God, who at various times and

in different ways spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in

these last days spoken unto us by His Son"(Hebrews 1:1-2). This is important

because "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). W e

need guidance lest we be deceived and perish (Proverbs 16:25). It is also

important that God has spoken because in order to do His will, we must know

His will. His will is revealed to us in the New Testament scriptures. If God did

not speak, we would be without hope. How thankful we should be that the "God

of heaven" blessed the human family with a revelation of his will through the

inspired apostles. W e should approach that revelation with humility seeing it as

the only way in which the mind of God can be known (1 Corinthians 2:11-13).

We should also strongly insist that those who seek to teach us should teach us

only what the Bible teaches (1 Peter 4:11; Acts 17:11), nothing more, nothing

less, and nothing else.

This "God of heaven" LISTENS. This, too, is important. Note these

passages from the Bible:

"The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous"

(Proverbs 15:29).

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him

in truth" (Psalms 145:18).

Because God is a God who listens, the children of God are encouraged to

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). You mean the "God of heaven"

cares enough to listen even when men will not do so? YES, He will! In fact, this

care he has for us is cited as incentive to cast our care upon him (1 Peter 5:7).

A word of caution: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"

(Psalms 66:18).

This "God of heaven," also ACTS. He is not sitting back and ignoring us. He

is involved in the affairs of men. This involvement is called "providence". It is

God providing for the needs of man. Jesus said; "My Father worketh hitherto,

and I work" (John 5:17). It would do little good to learn of the "God of heaven"

who has all of these wonderful traits if he had no involvement in the affairs of

men, but he is involved. Why? Because he cares!

**SUPERNATURAL ATTRIBUTES**

Certainly it is understood that the "God of heaven" is supernatural. This

being the case, we would expect him to have supernatural traits and he does!

For instance, he is OMNISCIENT. This means "God knows everything". He

knows the facts and he knows the reasons for them. He knows the problems

and he knows the solutions to them. He knows who we are, where we are, what

we're doing, and what we're thinking at all times. This is too marvelous for us

to comprehend, but not too marvelous for us to believe and appreciate. Note

the following passage and its message of omniscience: "...I am God, and there

is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the

beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My

counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" (Isaiah 46:9-10).

Being able to see the end of a thing from its beginning explains how we have

prophecies in scripture that are never in error. They are minutely fulfilled, just

as given. They are not educated guesses, but information given by Him who

knows all things.

The omniscience of God (his ability to know all things) is comforting in that

we know he is aware of us, our needs, our strengths, our concerns, nothing

escapes his knowledge. It is also sobering, bearing a warning that "If we have

forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange God;

Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart" (Psalms

44:20-21).

God is also OMNIPOTENT. This word means that God is "all powerful".

There is nothing that he is not able to do that is within his nature to do.

Jeremiah 32:17 says: "Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and

the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too

hard for thee".

The opening statement in the Bible reads: "In the beginning God created theomnipotence of God. He literally spoke the world into existence. The Psalmist

wrote: "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of

them by the breath of his mouth...For he spake, and it was done; he

commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalms 33:6,9). This truth about the nature of

God in omnipotence is important to us. It lets us know that we were created

intentionally, that we did not evolve from lower forms of life. It also informs us

that nothing can beset us that God cannot handle if we will cooperate with him;

nor can God make a promise that he is too weak to keep.

The statement by Jesus that "with God all things are possible"(Matthew

19:26) is intended for comfort and it is comforting to know that God is able to

accomplish what he promises. Paul wrote: "Now unto him that is able to do

exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power

that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout

all ages, world without end"(Ephesians 3:20-21).

We are thankful to be informed of God's omnipotence. What a wonderful

truth it is. Someone remarked: "I can count the number of seeds in an apple,

but I cannot count the number of apples in a seed." We cannot, but the God

who created the apple tree can.

God is also OMNIPRESENT. This simply means that God is everywhere. He

is not subject to the limitations of time and space. He is available to everyone,

everywhere, at all times. David, one time king of Israel, wrote: "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" (Psalms

139:7-10).

This truth comforts us in knowing that, no matter where we are, and no

matter what the time, God is available. The statement "...though he be not very

far from every one of us" (Acts 17:27) affirms the availability of God for each of

us.

God is also ETERNAL. He had no beginning, and he will have no ending.

The Psalmist wrote: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou

hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou

art God" (Psalms 90:2). Before he died, Moses reminded the children of Israel

that "the eternal God is thy refuge". I have seen the gods made with men's

hands. I've seen the material used before a god comes forth, and I've seen the

gods after they have been damaged by storms or vandals. The gods of men are

not eternal. The "God of heaven" is! The omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent,

and eternal nature of God gives us security, warning, and motivation.. Knowing

these things about God causes us to understand why men and women for

centuries have faced tremendous trials, even death, rather than offend him.

May we have the strength to do likewise.

**IDOLS OF MEN'S HANDS**

During the course of human history, men and women have insisted on

ignoring the God of heaven to serve gods of their own making. They have

foolishly "changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to

corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things"

(Romans 1:23). In so doing, they "changed the truth of God into a lie, and

worshiped and served the creature more than the creator, who is blessed for

ever" (Romans 1:25).

David described the idols of his day which is also true of idols since then,

and still true today. Read his description: "But our God is in the heavens: he

hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work

of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but

they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they

smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk

not: neither speak they through their throat" (Psalms 115:3-7).

To those still involved in serving such as described above, we say, in the

words of the apostle Paul, "... why do ye these things? We also are men of like

passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities

unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things

that are therein" (Acts 14:15). The gods of men that must be carried about by

men, or on carts, cannot bless those who serve them. Men lock their gods

behind iron gates in temples to protect them because they cannot protect

themselves. Such gods that need to be protected cannot provide protection for

their devotees. This is just common sense. They have ears, but they cannot

hear prayers or cries of suffering. They have eyes, but they cannot see a need,

a tear, or a good deed. They have hands, but they cannot offer help or smooth

a brow. They have mouths, but they cannot speak truth or comfort.

It matters not whether it is representations of imagined gods, ancestors,

saints, or venerated relics, the results are still the same... idolatry. And the "God

of heaven" will have His judgment against all who engage in it. "For though

there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods

many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are

all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things,

and we by him" (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).