

## THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

### 5. THE INVISIBILITY OF GOD

1 TIMOTHY 6:13-16

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## GOD IS INVISIBLE

God's truest essence and being is invisible: No human has ever seen him, and no human could ever see him

1 Timothy 6:16 - God...alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, **whom no one has ever seen or can see**. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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## GOD IS INVISIBLE

John 6:45-47 - Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

1 Timothy 1:17 - To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 11:27 - By faith [Moses] left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as *[though he was]* seeing him who is invisible.

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### THE INVISIBLE GOD IS MOCKED



FLYING SPAGHETTI MONSTER

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### GOD CONCEALS HIMSELF

Isaiah 45:15-17 - Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior.

Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

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### SEEING EVIDENCE DOES NOT SOFTEN HEARTS

Luke 16:19-31 - [The rich man in torment] said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house-for I have five brothers-so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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### GOD CONCEALS HIMSELF TO BRING ABOUT SALVATION

Acts 17:27-31 -...[Every nation] should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for 'In him we live and move and have our being'...we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness...

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### THEOPHANIES

Exodus 3:2-6 -And the angel of the LORD appeared to [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!...I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." **And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.**

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### THEOPHANIES

Exodus 33:18-23 - Moses said, "Please show me your glory"... [H]e said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

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## THEOPHANIES

Genesis 32:30 - So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

Exodus 13:21-22 - And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

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## PROPHETIC VISIONS

Isaiah 6:1-3 - In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

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## JESUS WAS SEEN

1 Timothy 6:13-15 - ...keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until **the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**, which he will **display** at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords...

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### JESUS IS GOD WHO WAS SEEN

John 1:17-18 - ...No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 14:8-11 - ...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me...

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### JESUS WAS SEEN

Colossians 1:15-20 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities...For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

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### IMAGERY AND VISUAL METAPHOR

Revelation 4:2-6 - At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings...

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**WE "SEE" GOD BY KNOWING HIM**

Romans 1:19-20 - For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuses...

Psalms 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

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**BELIEVERS REFLECT GOD**

2 Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

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**WE WILL SEE GOD IN A TRUER WAY**

1 Corinthians 13:9-12 - For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we **see** in a mirror dimly, but then **face to face**. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 John 3:2 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because **we shall see him as he is**.

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### GOD'S FACE WILL BE OUR LIGHT

Revelation 22:1-5 - ...No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **They will see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for **the Lord God will be their light**, and they will reign forever and ever.

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### WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN THE GOD WHO IS INVISIBLE

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:6-10 - ...For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal... We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight...  
John 16:7-8 - Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit  
Romans 8:23-25 - We hope in what we cannot see

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### WE YEARN TO SEE CHRIST WHO WILL RETURN IN THE FLESH

Matthew 24:30-31 - Then will **appear** in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will **see** the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

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## WE MUST MAKE GOD "VISIBLE"

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Matthew 5:14-16 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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- Any more questions?
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Bible quotations are from the ESV

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