

7. God Has Described His Nature

Many views exist about the nature of God. One extreme holds that God is dead; another holds that God is so good that he could not punish mankind with eternal destruction. Questions about God's nature spawn many views concerning after life, many of which represent God and heavenly creatures in human form. Latter day claims depart from the Bible to describe a God of material form. Any views that contradict what God has said are false.

God Is an All-powerful Creator and Destroyer

The Bible, often recording the words of God himself, portrays God as a creator and destroyer whose power is unlimited. He is an all-powerful God by his very nature. To deny this is to deny the Bible and the power of God.

God, an All-Powerful Creator

Moses begins God's revelation with the assertion of God creative power. Gen 1:1 reads

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

To reject this principle is to reject the power of God as the creator and to reject the Bible as his revelation to man. John 1:1-5 explains how all things we created by God through his son:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was with God in the beginning.
3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

In Acts 17:24-26, Paul describes God's creative power to the making of the world and everything in it, including the very life and breath of **all men**:

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

God's power to create extends from the beginning to the end. At the beginning of the *Revelation*, God asserts his creative power over all things in Rev 1:8:

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, **the Almighty**."

In God's statement in Rev 21:6, he reiterates this eternal principle:

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

From the beginning to the end God is the creator of all things.

Destroyer

Just as God is an all-powerful creator, he is an all-powerful destroyer. He will exact punishment from those that refuse his words. Those who deny the principle of God delivering punishment upon the ungodly, deny the very word of God.

Peter tells of this connecting it to the question: "what kind of people ought you to be?" Heaven is the home of the righteous only. 2 Peter 3:10-13 reads:

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

To deny the principle of judgment against the ungodly is to deny Peter's word.

Paul included in this punishment those who know not God and those who obey not the gospel in 2 Thess 1:7b-10:

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

Now to deny Paul is to deny a major section of the Bible, for he cannot be a true prophet if what he said is false.

God Is Right and Just

Without rewarding the righteous and punishing the wicked, God could not be right and just; for there would be no discrimination between those good and those evil. God has declared that he is right and just in 2 Thess 1:5-7a:

5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is **right**, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. 6 God is **just**: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well.

God Is Right

Jesus proclaimed that he was God, so are those to whom the scriptures come. Those scriptures are forever right in an unqualified sense (They cannot be broken.) according to John 10:34-36:

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said **you are gods**'? 35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came — and the **Scripture cannot be broken**— 36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world?"

This quotation is from Ps 82:6:

6 "I said, 'You are "gods";

you are all sons of the Most High.'

In 2 Peter 1:3-4, Peter affirmed this divine nature as the source of godliness, precious and great promises, made possible by his own glory and goodness. We ourselves participate in this divine nature:

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Claiming an unqualified divine nature in Ex 3:14, God told Moses who he was:

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

The English verb forms here consist of "I am (being)" and "Who I am (state of being)! God is both right and righteous. In him Christian also achieve this state according to 1 John 3:7-8

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does **what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.**

God Is Just

God's justice is embedded in his nature, making his justice right. Moses was eager to see the God's glory in Ex 33:17-20:

17 So the Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

The passage shows that God's goodness is perceived from his justice where he is gracious and compassionate. It is through God's graciousness and compassion administered according to the pleasure of his just will that his goodness passes before us.

By implication, God accused Job of discrediting God's justice in Job 40:6-8:

6 Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm:

7 "Brace yourself like a man;

I will question you,

and you shall answer me.

8 "Would you discredit my justice?

Whatever the trials, whatever the tribulations, God and the Lord Jesus stand faithful and true and judge and make war with justice in Rev 19:11:

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

In the Revelation the angles declared that he is just. Rev 16:5-7 records:

5 Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:
"You are just in these judgments,
you who are and who were, the Holy One,
because you have so judged;
6 for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."
7 And I heard the altar respond:
"Yes, Lord God Almighty,
true and just are your judgments."

The Revelation Closes with God Declaring His Immutable Nature

Be certain that the words of God are faithful and true! In Rev 21:5, God speaks from His throne:

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

His certain judgment will punish the wicked and reward the righteous. God speaks his judgment—just and true—in Rev 21:6-8:

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

The angel who delivered **the revelation** to John in Rev 22:6 reasserted that eternal principle—God's words are trustworthy and true:

6 The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."