

DEITY

WHAT IS A GOD?



SUMMARY: “God” or “god” in religious terms means an entity which can act supernaturally, or in violation of natural scientific laws on more than a temporary delegated basis. “God” (capitalized) is the supreme, eternal being. The term “god” has a variety of applications from a supernatural entity lesser than “God” to a small stick of wood someone worships. This section includes discussions on the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, and related topics.

God is a simple concept which the smallest of children can fully understand but can be puzzling to the oldest of us. The same can be said of eternity. What exactly is “God”.

Deity is chosen for the title of this section simply as it seems a little more general and carries less “baggage” than “god”.

The following 4 verses appear confusing at the least and conflicting at the worst:

Isaiah 43:10 — Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am He: **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.**

Exodus 32:4 He (Aaron) took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and **made it into a molten calf**; and they said, "**This is your god**, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.“

Psalms 135:5 “For I know that the Lord is great and that our Lord is **above all gods.**”

1 Corinthians 8:5 “For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as **indeed there are many gods** and many lords,”

FOR PURPOSE OF THIS DISCUSSION, WE WILL PRESUME:

“**God**” (capitalized) is the entity(ies) who has the power to perform supernatural events and has existed for all eternity in the past, the creator of the universe.

“subordinate god” is an entity created by “God” who has the ongoing power to perform supernatural events. (e.g. Angels, Satan)

“**temporary god**” is an entity which is briefly given the power to perform supernatural events (e.g. Apostles)

“**false god**” is an entity claimed to be a “god” but having no supernatural power.

“**god**” (lower case) is an ambiguous term which includes everything from the creator of the Universe (“God”) to a stick of wood which someone chooses to worship (everything above)

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Natural events are those which are in compliance with scientific laws.

Supernatural events are those which violate scientific laws.

Scientific laws are the way in which the scientific world operates.

Scientific truths are what are currently perceived by a majority of educated people to be scientific laws, some of which will be according to scientific laws. (Some will be learned to be wrong, e.g. Grand Canyon cut by the Colorado River, constant speed of light in space, efficiency of 3 skinny bladed wind turbines)

If you have a better way to define these terms, let us know at info@occginstitute.org.

The preceding definitions are intended to give clarity to the situation. Merriam-Webster's definitions are:

Definition of god (Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

- 1 capitalized : the supreme or ultimate reality: such as
 - A. the Being perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness who is worshipped as creator and ruler of the universe
 - B. Christian Science: the incorporeal divine Principle ruling over all as eternal Spirit : infinite Mind
- 2: a being or object believed to have more than natural attributes and powers and to require human worship, specifically: one controlling a particular aspect or part of reality, Greek gods of love and war
- 3: a person or thing of supreme value, he had photos of baseball's gods pinned to his bedroom wall
- 4: a powerful ruler, Hollywood gods that control our movies' fates

Definition of deity (Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

- 1
 - A: the rank or essential nature of a god : DIVINITY
 - B capitalized : GOD sense 1, SUPREME BEING
- 2: a god (see GOD entry 1 sense 2) or goddess, the *deities* of ancient Greece
- 3: one exalted or revered as supremely good or powerful such established American *deities* as Daniel Boone, Kit Carson— J. D. Hart the *deities* of the banking world.

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THE ONE GOD

The theme of there being “one God” in numerous places in the Bible is solved by one of two methods:

1. **THE TRINITY:** the concept that Jehovah, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are sort of like the 3 faces of one being. A starting note is that the concept of the Trinity dates from first Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., not from the Bible. That does not make it right or wrong, only the scriptures can do that.
2. **ONE SUPREME, SPECIAL GOD:** It can be understood sort of like an army. There are officers and enlisted men/women in the army. There are multiple generals, but only one top general. In this case it could be that the “top general” has the special characteristic that He has existed for all time in the past and He begot the other gods.

The answer to this will be what the scriptures say.

ALL VERSES WITH THE WORD DEITY OR DIETIES

Colossians 2:9 NASV & NIV “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,”

Acts 17:18 NASV “And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.”

Note: There are none in the KJV.

STARTER VERSES WITH GODS:

“God” like a lot of other words can have different meanings depending on the context in which it is written. It is a particularly interesting issue in that the Bible teaches in several occasions that there is one “god” and then refers to a number of entities as “gods”. How can there be only one of something there are several of.

From Genesis 31:30 to Gal. 4:8 the plural term “gods” is mentioned 236 times in the New American Standard translation of the Bible. Before going into a discussion, we shall give a sample of these plus a couple extra which only say “God”. You can get a full listing using word search from many of the Bible study programs.

Genesis 6:4 NASB “4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.” (Was “sons of God” a special category or simply a statement that we are all sons of God?)

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Genesis 31:30 “Now you have indeed gone away because you longed greatly for your father’s house; but why did you steal my gods?”

Exodus 20:3: “You shall have no other gods before Me.” (A singular entity exists in some respect. Is this acknowledging that there are other gods?)

Exodus 20:23 “You shall not make other gods besides Me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves.” Why did he not say you shall have no other idols before me?

Exodus 23:24 “You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their sacred pillars in pieces.”

1 Samuel 4:8 “Woe to us! Who shall deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who smote the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness.” “Smote” implies some physical action of the gods rather than inanimate idols.

2 Kings 17:35 with whom the Lord made a covenant and commanded them, saying, “You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down yourselves to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them.”

Psalms 135:5 “For I know that the Lord is great and that our Lord is above all gods.”

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods?’” (Jesus said this.)

John 10:35 “If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came and the Scripture cannot be broken,”

1 Corinthians 8:5 “For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords,” (indeed there are many gods?)

Galatians 4:8 “However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.”

Numerous of these are clearly simply discussing man made idols.

MIRACLES OF SATAN

Genesis 3:4 NASB 4 “The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die!”

Genesis 3:13-14 NASB 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life” (The miracle in Genesis 3 is that the serpent spoke. The consensus is that the serpent was at least inhabited by Satan.)

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Exodus 7:10-13 NASB “10 So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. 12 For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. 13 Yet Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.”

Exodus 8:6-7 NASB 6 “So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. 7 The magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 7 and 8 specifically say that the magicians did a miracle with their supernatural arts. These are presumed to be the work of Satan, but not specifically stated.)

MIRACLES OF OTHERS

Numerous miracles were done by the Apostles after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and by some who the Apostles laid their hands on to pass the gift on.

In Acts 14 when the residents of Lystra referred to Paul and Barnabas “gods” after a miracle of making a man walk the first time. When Paul and Barnabas heard of it they tore their robes and declared they were just men just like the rest of them. Apparently, the temporary delegation of the power to do a miracle did not make you a “god”.

Matthew 7:21-23 NASB 21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.” This is Jesus talking in a future tense not questioning their statement that they had cast demons out and performed many miracles, but rather only criticized them for not doing the will of the Father.

VERSES TEACHING ONE GOD

There are not a few ambiguous Biblical passages that teach that there is only one God, but many explicit passages that clearly declare this cardinal truth. Each of the following 28 passages explicitly teach that there is one — and only one — true and living God. The following verses are from the King James Version.

Deuteronomy 4:35,39 — Unto thee it was shown, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him. (39) Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Deuteronomy 6:4 — Hear, O Israel: The LORD thy God is **one LORD**. [Note in Mark 12:28-34 how Jesus and a Jewish scribe he encountered understood this text.]

Deuteronomy 32:39 — See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

2 Samuel 7:22 — Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God; for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

1 Kings 8:60 — That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else.

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2 KINGS 5:15 — And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

2 Kings 19:15 — And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

1 Chronicles 17:20 — O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

Nehemiah 9:6 — Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou has made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Psalms 18:31 — For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?

Psalms 86:10 — For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: **thou art God alone.**

Isaiah 37:16,20 — O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou has made heaven and earth. (20) Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.

Isaiah 43:10,11 — Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.

Isaiah 44:6,8 — Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. Fear ye not, neither be afraid; have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Isaiah 45:21 — Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time: who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me.

Isaiah 46:9 — For I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.

Hosea 13:4 — Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me; for there is no savior beside me.

Joel 2:27 — And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

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Zechariah 14:9 — And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

Mark 12:29-34 — And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; **The Lord our God is one Lord**: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

John 17:3 — And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the **only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent**.

Romans 3:30 — Seeing it is **one God**, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

1 Corinthians 8:4-6 — As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. 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 all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Galatians 3:20 — Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but **God is one**.

Ephesians 4:6 — **One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

1 Timothy 1:17 — Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 2:5 — For there is **one God**, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

James 2:19 — Thou believest that there is **one God**; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.