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***Living in HisStory: Revealing the True Wonder of How God is  
God is the One True God***  
Duane Bakken, October 22, 2017  
Exodus 3:1-17, 13:17, 15

Selamat Pagi Bapa bapa, ibu ibu. Good morning everyone. Wah wah wah wah wah. My name is Duane Bakken, I'm a new face to many of you, but I've been a part of the church family here at the baptist church since I was a kid. After I graduated from the Christian school next door I went off to Bible College and then got married and have been serving in various ministries with my wife Dawn and our four kids ever since. Most recently we've just returned from our first 3-year period serving as missionaries in Asia Pacific - I'll be sharing more about that shortly.

You've been learning who God is as He has been revealing His identity and His character through the Bible to this point. You've seen God demonstrate His power in Egypt using Moses as His spokesman, especially with the death of the firstborn and God's provision of the passover.

Today we are looking at God's identity. Through history and still today there are many other persons, real and fictional who claim to be God. The true identity and character of God can also be crowded out by our own ideas or traditions about God that are not correct.

Let's pick up in the book of Exodus, the second book in the Bible, in Exodus chapter 3.

[2]

**Exodus 3:1–17 (NLT)**

***1 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. 3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."***

[3]

***4 When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied. 5 "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. 6 I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.***

[4]

***7 Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.***

[5]

***9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt." 11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"***

[6]

***12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain." 13 But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"***

[7]

***14 God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." 15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.***

[8]

***16 "Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, 'Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, "I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you.***

[9]

***17 I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live." '***

[10]

There isn't time to read through all of Exodus chapters 3-12 right now, but if you've never read through these chapters, or maybe it's been a long time, I encourage you to read through and see how God delivers His chosen people. One by one "I AM" is showing that He alone is the one true God - not the gods and spirits that the Egyptians called out to for power and represented in their art.

The Egyptians had respect for and worshipped many gods and spirits. The 10 plagues each attacked one or more of them. (Ex 12:12) Here is a summary of the true God's annihilation of the 'gods' of Egypt.

[11]

### **Exodus 12:12 (NLT)**

***12 On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord!***

The first 9 plagues were:

First, turning the Nile River to blood

Second, filling the land with frogs - even in the kitchen cupboards

Third, Lice

Fourth, Flies

Fifth, all the livestock of Egypt died

Sixth, open sores on everyone's bodies

Seventh, hail mixed with fire which destroyed the crops

Eighth, locusts that ate what was left of the plants and filled their houses

Ninth, heavy thick, complete darkness for 3 days.

And there was one more plague - the climax - the tenth - the death of the firstborn -

Beginning with 'Hapi' the 'spirit of the Nile' God demonstrated that He alone held the life of Egypt in His hands - He alone is the one true God. Each of these plagues personally destroyed different deities or spirits that the Egyptians believed in, til there were none left.<sup>1</sup>

You know, the Bible tells us that God is a jealous God and that He will not share His glory - that's not a bad thing, because as the true God He *deserves* all glory. In the Bible, and still today, God often brings destruction to things that we have set up in His place. Those may be other deities or spirits, or idols, or maybe people, money, career, or pleasure. If those things are in His place, don't be surprised if He removes them.

If you want to read of another spectacular showdown of the true God with a false god: 1 Kings 18:20-39 - Elijah at Mt. Carmel.

**[12]**

He is the only true God. But when we say that God is the one true God - that's still not enough - we need to also know who God really is. We need to be sure we don't have God confused with someone or something else.

When God met Moses at the burning bush He was not known by that generation. At the burning bush Moses asked God for ID.

**[13]**

**Exodus 3:13 (NLT)**

***13 But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"***

What is the name of the one true God?

Cultural reference points help us describe who God is and who He is not. But we need to use them carefully

Hebrew reference point - the God of their fathers

Tribal reference point - the created world / spirit world - (Moi tribe - the 'Joe spirit' - Like the valuable 'joe' shell - 'He is above all the others - there is none like Him')

Indonesia ref. point - vocabulary of the majority religion, Allah ('god') (Christian pronunciation is different from Islam pronunciation so the two are never confused).

\*How do we identify God? He is unlike any created thing yet we rely on created things to build a description of Him. In this way descriptions are inadequate, and one person's description may give someone else the wrong impression about God:

- a) God of my fathers - what if your fathers worshipped something else?
- b) Father - what if your father was abusive or absent altogether?
- c) Allah - what if you only know that word as the name of a different god?

In Acts 17:22-34 Paul at Athens used a cultural reference point to begin introducing the one true God.

**[14]**

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<sup>1</sup> [Hapi was believed to be the "spirit of the Nile"  
(<https://www.knowingthebible.net/yahweh-versus-the-gods-of-egypt>)]

## Acts 17:22–34 (NLT)

***22 So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, 23 for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.***

**[15]**

***24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.***

**[16]**

***26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. 27 “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.***

**[17]**

***28 For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ 29 And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone. 30 “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.***

**[18]**

***31 For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.” 32 When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.”***

**[19]**

***33 That ended Paul’s discussion with them, 34 but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.***

**So how do we make sure that when we are thinking about God that we are thinking about the One True God?**

**[20]**

**First get to know ABOUT Him.** You can read everything you need to know about God in the Bible - it is the only book of God's very own words and thoughts. Read descriptions of Him in the Bible. Read about the things he has done, and why in the Bible. Read about His interactions with people in the Bible.

We need to be careful where we get our ideas about God because any image of God that we come up with on our own will be skewed or inadequate (so God said not to make an image for worship.) We each have a concept in our minds of who God is, based information and experiences of our lives. But information can be wrong (cough \*facebook\*) and experiences are interpreted through our subjective biases.

But there IS one accurate image of God - what is it?

**[21]**

## Colossians 1:13–15 (NLT)

***13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. 15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,***

The disciples said, show us the Father. Jesus replied if you've seen me, you've seen the father.

**[22]**

**John 14:7–11 (NLT)**

***7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?***

**[23]**

***10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.***

**[24]**

**If you want to know the One true God - you need to know Jesus  
JESUS is the One True God.**



***Living in HisStory: Revealing the True Wonder of Who God Is  
The One True God  
Exodus 3:1-15***

**Week of October 22, 2017**

**Objective of this study:** To get to know the character of God and the implications for our life with Jesus.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us]

**Worship (5 – 10 minutes)**

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for how he wants to speak to you.
3. After the five minutes have someone interrupt the silence and read **Psalm 29** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything “jump out at you”?**

**Welcome (5 minutes)**

Have you ever been fooled by someone in disguise?

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

**Word (30-45 minutes)**

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Exodus 3:1-15.
  1. From this passage what is God like? What does he want Moses to know about him? (Remember the three threads that are woven through Scripture and history.)
3. Read Acts 17:22-28.
  1. How does Paul describe who God is?
4. Read John 14:6-11
  1. How does Jesus describe who God is?

**Work (30-45)**

1. How do we make sure we are thinking correctly about God?
2. What are some ways we can get off track in our understanding of who God is, or get an inaccurate understanding of what he is like?
3. What are some experiences or relationships you've had that might colour your perception of God? (e.g. relationship with father or another authority figure). How might these things affect your relationship with God?
4. What are some things you can do to ensure you get to know the one true God better?
5. Over the next week, in your Bible reading, look for something that reveals God's character. This could be a description of him, or an interaction Jesus has with someone, etc. If you are comfortable, share it with the group next week.
6. Spend some time in prayer. Start by worshipping God for who he is.

**7. Here are some things you can pray about for the church:**

- a. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.
- b. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus
- b. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.
- c. **Our missionary of the month:** - Ngorika Children's Home in Kenya - check them out on our website and on the big chalkboard in the foyer. Pray about how you might be a part of supporting them.
- d. **Our missionary of the week:** Mark & Catherine Buhler with FEB International
- e. **Local CR church:** Ocean Crest Salvation Army – Captain Keith & Violet Hopkins

**Reminder:** This year as God leads us forward, we want to **Connect - Engage - Grow**. To get started, would you commit to **Connecting** with newcomers, by introducing yourselves to at least one person you don't know yet, each Sunday morning. Don't worry if you don't know who is a newcomer. Start by introducing yourself. Discuss in your group how you could do this.