

Connexions Theological LEs

The Nature of God – His Knowability

Context: Individual

Focus: Christ/Competencies

The nature of God refers to who God is. It is not a definition of what He does or what roles He functions in. The nature of God does not change; even though, over time man's understanding of it has. It is a description of God's very being, His character, and His essence; the nature of God is inseparable from His being.

The first description of God's nature that we will look at is God's knowability. This simply means that God is known by His creation. On one hand, God is incomprehensible and can never be *fully* understood and known. Yet, we can know the incomprehensible God of the universe personally and have fellowship with Him.

Truth No. 1 – God is incomprehensible and can never be fully understood and known.

Read the following scriptures: Psalm 139:1-6; Ps. 145:3; Romans 11:33-34; 1 Timothy 6:13-16 (read w/ Exodus 33:18-23). As you read, consider the following questions:

- Taken alone and out of context these statements could be interpreted as being very negative. What was the context surrounding each of these statements?
- What was the purpose of the author in each statement?
- Ultimately, is truth number 1 a positive or negative thing?

Truth No. 2 – Through God's general and special revelation of Himself we can know God personally and have fellowship with Him.

Read the following: Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3; Hebrews 8:11; John 1:18; 1 John 5:20; John 14:6-10; Romans 1:18-25.

- What is our greatest privilege and goal in life to be?
- What is God's special revelation of Himself? What was its purpose?
- What is God's general revelation of Himself? What was its purpose?

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Exercises:

1. Read the scriptures above one more time.
 - As you do, ask God to give you a greater appreciation for the privilege that you have to know the incomprehensible and invisible Creator of the universe.
 - Spend 10-15 minutes alone thanking God that He has revealed Himself to you so that you can know Him!
2. Let's examine the lives of 3 people in the Old Testament who knew God in a special way.
 - Abram (a.k.a. Abraham)
 - 1) Read about the life of Abram beginning in Genesis 12 and continuing until Genesis 22:19.
 - 2) Read the following passages again and as you do answer the questions:

Gen. 12:1-9 – How did Abram's relationship with God begin?

Gen. 15 – How does Abram's interaction with God here compare and contrast with earlier? Do you see God's progressive revelation of Himself? How?

Gen 17:1-22 – What evidence is there that God manifested His presence in a close, personal way? From that day what evidence was there that God had spoken with Abram?

Gen. 18:1-15 – Abraham's quick recognition of God tells us what about his relationship with God and knowledge of Him?

Gen. 18:16-33 – How did God affirm His relationship with Abraham? How did Abraham apply his knowledge of God and God's righteousness in this situation? Compare the conversation between Abraham and God here with that found in chapter 12.
 - 3) Read James 2:23; 2 Chronicles 20:7; and Isaiah 41:8. Now read John 15:12-15.
 - Moses
 - 1) Read the following passages and answer the question with each one before going to the next one.

Exodus 2:23-25 – Who is the central character in this scene and what is he doing?

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Exodus 3:1 – Who is introduced in this scene?

Exodus 3:2-6 – Who is taking the initiative here? Describe the three-stage process by which God introduces Himself? What parallels are there to your life?

Exodus 3:7-12 – What is God's purpose? Which verse reminds you of Isaiah 53:3?

- 2) Scan through the rest of chapter 3 through 4:17. List at least six things we learn about God in this whole episode of God's first meeting with Moses.
- 3) Compare 3:6 with Exodus 33:9-11.
- Choose your own OT example
 - 1) Pick one person in the OT who you believe knew God in a special way.
 - 2) Over the next 2 hours read as much as you can about him/her in the Bible. Use a concordance to find scriptures that talk specifically about them.
 - 3) Answer the following questions about this person:
 - i. What evidence existed proving that they knew God?
 - ii. How did God choose to communicate with them throughout their life?
 - iii. What happened in their life after their encounters with God?
 - iv. What did others have to say about them and their relationship with God?
 - v. What can you learn from them and practice in your relationship with God?
 - 4) Type a one page summary identifying your OT example and answering the questions above. Turn this summary page to Brian on or by Jan. 29th.