GOD'S ATTRIBUTES · STUDY NOTES

Study 3: God is King over all

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

PART 1

The great King and Creator

What authority does God have?

We have already seen that God is far higher than we are. He is Spirit, eternal, infinite and all-powerful. His will is always done and never frustrated. So we are right to think of Him as a great sovereign and ruler.

We usually think of a sovereign ruling over a particular territory, normally with the consent of his or her people. God's territory has no limits. He needs no one's consent or permission. He is not answerable to any higher court or authority, and He does not have to justify His actions to anyone.

1 **Look up Psalm 115:3**

What does our God in heaven do?

2 **Look up Psalm 47:2**

Over how much of the earth is the LORD King?

So when we speak of God, we are speaking of the ruler over everything. There is no country, no society, no group of people over which He is not sovereign. He rules every man, woman, child and young person, of every nationality. Even the uninhabited parts of the world are ruled by Him. Everything and everyone on earth belongs to Him.

3 **Read Psalm 50:7–11**

What does verse 10 say belongs to God?

God the Creator

There are many different views about how the world began, and there is not space to discuss them here. But the Bible clearly teaches that the world was created, and that the Creator was God. The world came into existence by an act of God's will. As sovereign, He decided exactly how it should be, its dimensions, how it should relate to the rest of the universe, and how it should work.

4 **Read Genesis 1:1–3**

What does verse 3 say?

5 **Look up Hebrews 11:3**

How was the universe formed?

By reading the whole of Genesis 1, we learn the order in which God made everything, including ourselves. Because God's power is unrivalled and limitless, He could do something we cannot even imagine. He did not need an existing design or existing materials to create the world; He simply called it into being according to His own plan. Being sovereign, He made it exactly as He pleased.

The Bible also tells us that He made all the peoples of the earth. Each person was known to God from all eternity.

6 **Read Acts 17:26–28**

What does verse 26 say?

We may live thousands of years after God created the first two people, Adam and Eve, but in every respect this world is God's creation, and He still rules over it. This is so even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God's law and brought sin into the world. We call their disobedience "the Fall".

PART 2

The Sustainer

God the Sustainer

Having willed the world into existence, God did not stop there. He now maintains it and keeps it going. He governs every moment of the day and night by willing the processes and laws we depend on, which give our world its shape and form. The "law of gravity" is fundamental to our existence, but we can only call it a "law" because God decides, moment by moment, that it should happen. The countless processes of nature that let us eat and survive are not decided by "laws of nature" but by His will.

7 **Read Psalm 104:10–21**

What do verses 13 and 14 say God does?

Not only that: God gives us life and makes us the people we are. Nothing happens without His knowledge, and all we experience, even the number of days we live, is ordained by Him.

8 **Look up Job 1:21**

What did Job say the LORD had done, and how did he respond?

9 **Read Psalm 139:13–16**

What does verse 14 say?

Clearly, many things that happen in this world are not good. There is much evil. Sickness and disease affect many people. Children often suffer. Famine and drought may strike thousands. All this is evidence that the world has been corrupted by sin, and that men and women, though made in the image of God, are affected by sin. God is not the author of evil, but in His wisdom He is able to use evil to accomplish His purposes.

PART 3

The Judge

God the Judge

Because God is "King over all", He can set the standards He wants His subjects to live by. And because God is good and holy (as we will see in a later study), He is perfectly fitted to be the Judge of the earth: He will only do what is right, and He will be absolutely fair. He sets out how people should and should not live, and the limits for living together on earth.

Because people have disobeyed His rules and laws, we are all slaves to sin. Sin is the principle of evil we have inherited through Adam and Eve's disobedience, which makes us ignorant of God and unable to know Him without His help. It also makes us unable to live the life He commands. Physical death is one result of sin, and a daily reminder that God is judging mankind. But after we die, we must face Him ourselves.

10 **Look up 2 Corinthians 5:10**

Before whom must we all appear?

11 **Look up Hebrews 9:27**

What comes after death?

No one will be able to escape this judgement, or make excuses and stay away.

12 **Look up Acts 17:31**

What has God set, and by whom will He judge the world?

God knows all things and sees all things, so He will judge us all perfectly. Everything about us will be known to Him.

13 **Look up Hebrews 4:13**

Is anything hidden from God's sight?

The way to face the Judge

It is an awesome prospect. And at the centre of it is God's Son, Jesus Christ, whom God has appointed to be our Judge (John 5:22–23). In fact, the only way the sovereign Judge will allow us to spend eternity in His presence after death is if we have trusted in His Son to save us from our sins. When His Son came to this earth two thousand years ago, He died so that He might

be punished for sin instead of sinners – judged in their place. By faith in Him, we can face the judgement of God.

14 **Look up John 5:24**

What does the one who believes have, and what will he not come under?

15 **Look up John 6:47**

What does the one who believes have?

It is sobering enough to remember that we will all die. It is even more sobering to realise that we will have to stand before the King over all, and give an account of our lives. It is an appointment we must all keep. We will find that God has a record of every word we have spoken and every deed we have done. That day will come when the Lord Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead, returns to this earth from heaven. That will be the end of this world as we know it, and the beginning of a new world where sin and suffering are gone.

See also: something to read and consider: Genesis 1; Matthew 24:29–44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Have you ever seriously thought about how the world began? What does it mean for your life if God created and sustains the world?

2. Are you ready to face God as your Judge at the end of your life?

3. Do you know that you have trusted Jesus Christ to forgive your sin?

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 3

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES · STUDY 3 · MEMORY VERSE

“Our God is in heaven; He does as He pleases.”

Psalm 115:3

Berean Standard Bible · biblehelp.net

“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **Psalm 115:3** *Our God is in heaven; He does as He pleases.*

2 **Psalm 47:2** *How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!*

3 **Psalm 50:7–11** *7"Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God. 8I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices, and your burnt offerings are ever before Me. 9I have no need for a bull from your stall or goats from your pens, 10for every beast of the forest is Mine—the cattle on a thousand hills. 11I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are Mine.*

4 **Genesis 1:1–3** *1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2Now the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

5 **Hebrews 11:3** *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

6 **Acts 17:26–28** *26From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. 27God intended that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. 28'For in Him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.'*

7 **Psalm 104:10–21** *10He sends forth springs in the valleys; they flow between the mountains. 11They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12The birds of the air nest beside the springs; they sing among the branches. 13He waters the mountains from His chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of His works. 14He makes the grass grow for the livestock and provides crops for man to cultivate, bringing forth food from the earth: 15wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil that makes his face to shine, and bread that sustains his heart. 16The trees of the LORD have their fill, the cedars of Lebanon that He planted, 17where the birds build their nests; the stork makes her home in the cypresses. 18The high mountains are for the wild goats, the cliffs a refuge for the rock badgers. 19He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set. 20You bring darkness, and it becomes night, when all the beasts of the forest prowl. 21The young lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.*

8 **Job 1:21** *saying: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."*

9 **Psalm 139:13–16** *13For You formed my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. 14I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well. 15My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16Your eyes saw my unformed body; all my days were written in Your book and ordained for me before one of them came to be.*

10 **2 Corinthians 5:10** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.*

11 **Hebrews 9:27** *Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

12 **Acts 17:31** *For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."*

13 **Hebrews 4:13** *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

14 **John 5:24** *Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed over from death to life.*

15 **John 6:47** *Truly, truly, I tell you, he who believes has eternal life.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says 'man', 'he' or 'brothers' where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 3: God is King over all

> **Memory verse:** “Our God is in heaven; He does as He pleases.” (Psalm 115:3). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- See God as sovereign King: Creator, Sustainer and Judge of all.
- Face the reality of judgement, and the only way to be ready: faith in Jesus Christ.

Suggested timing (about 75 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer.
- **20 min** Part 1 video (3 min); Psalm 115:3, 47:2, 50:7–11, Genesis 1:1–3, Hebrews 11:3, Acts 17:26–28.
- **20 min** Part 2 video (2 min); Psalm 104:10–21, Job 1:21, Psalm 139:13–16, and the question of evil.
- **25 min** Part 3 video (4 min); 2 Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 9:27, Acts 17:31, Hebrews 4:13, John 5:24, 6:47.
- **5 min** Summary and closing prayer.

Tips

- Don't get drawn into long debates about origins; the study's point is that God is Creator and therefore King.
- Handle the question of evil gently: God is not its author, yet He rules over it for good.
- End with the personal questions: am I ready to face God? Have I trusted Christ?

Answers to watch for

- **Psalm 115:3:** He does as He pleases.
- **Psalm 47:2:** the great King over all the earth.
- **Psalm 50:10:** every beast of the forest is His.
- **Genesis 1:3:** "Let there be light," and there was light.
- **Hebrews 11:3:** the universe was formed at God's command.
- **Acts 17:26:** from one man He made every nation of men.
- **Psalm 104:13–14:** He waters the mountains, makes grass grow, brings food from the earth.
- **Job 1:21:** "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away..."
- **Psalm 139:14:** fearfully and wonderfully made.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27:** we must all appear before Christ's judgement seat.
- **Acts 17:31; Hebrews 4:13:** God will judge with justice; nothing is hidden.
- **John 5:24; 6:47:** whoever believes has eternal life.