

HOW REAL IS GOD TO YOU?

Note to the speaker:

Select and emphasize those scriptures that will help the audience see that Jehovah is a real person, not a blind force in the universe. Make clear that our aim as Jehovah's servants should be to please him by taking him into account in all that we do

VIEWS PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT GOD (3 min.)

Atheists deny the existence of God (*w94 12/1 5-6*)

Agnostics doubt God's existence (*g84 3/8 8-9*)

Deists believe that God exists, but they deny his interest in man (*w94 12/1 4*)

Millions believe that there is a God and that he can influence their lives

For many, their concept of God is vague; they may not know who or what he is (*g79 4/8 3-4*)

Some even believe in a multiplicity of gods (*g88 12/22 21*)

Others rightly believe that God is a real person who exists in spirit form (*Joh 4:24; Heb 9:24*)

WHY WE KNOW THAT GOD IS A REAL PERSON (15 min.)

His visible works testify about him (*Ps 19:1, 2; Ro 1:20*)

They tell us that he is a Master Designer, that he is powerful, wise, and loving (*w97 1/15 19-20; w93 6/15 9-12*)

American scientist and Nobel Prize winner Arthur Holly Compton said: "An orderly unfolding universe testifies to the truth of the most majestic statement ever uttered—'In the beginning God'" (*w59 328*)

He was quoting the opening words of the Bible

God has supplied us with a written record about himself

He has made it available worldwide, in whole or in part, in more than 2,100 languages (*w98 4/1 11*)

In the Bible, he reveals his personal name (*Ex 3:15; Ps 83:18*)

Because God is a person, he has likes, dislikes, and feelings

Through his Word we learn much about God

His *love* of humankind (*Joh 3:16; 1Jo 4:9, 10*)

That he *rejoices* in his works (*Ge 1:31; Ps 104:31*)

His *hatred* of idolatry (*De 7:25; 16:22*)

That he *feels hurt* over wickedness (*Ge 6:6; Ps 78:40*)

The Bible discloses Jehovah God's purpose for mankind and for the earth (*Isa 45:18; Re 21:3, 4*)

Fulfillment of prophecy adds to the proof of God's existence

No man is able to foretell the future accurately, but God has done so (*Isa 45:1-4; Da 8:20-22; Zep 2:13, 14; g96 2/8 8-9; w92 5/15 6-8*)

Observing the fulfillment of prophecies helps us appreciate that he has the ability and the determination to carry out his purposes

Both creation and the Bible testify that God exists and that he is a real person who will accomplish all that he sets out to do

FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF OLD KNEW THAT JEHOVAH IS REAL (8 min.)

They followed Jehovah's instructions in all aspects of life (*Ex 39:32; 40:16*)

This included decisions as to where to live, what activities to pursue, and whom to marry

Noah, at Jehovah's direction, constructed the ark and gathered in the animal kinds (*Ge 6:14-22*)

He was spoken of as being "faultless among his contemporaries," called "a preacher of righteousness," and preserved by God through the Flood (*Ge 6:9; 2Pe 2:5*)

Abraham obeyed God and left the comforts of Ur to reside in a foreign land, making material sacrifices to do so (*Ge 12:1, 4; 21:34; it-2 1141-2*)

He trusted in Jehovah's direction in finding a wife for his son Isaac (*Ge 24:1-7, 12-14; it-1 1217*)

Moses was well educated, "powerful in his words and deeds" (*Ac 7:20-22*)

Yet, he rejected worldly prominence and treasures, seeking God's approval rather than that of men (*Heb 11:23-26*)

God was so real to Moses that he could virtually see Him (*Heb 11:27*)

LET YOUR WAY OF LIFE SHOW THAT GOD IS REAL TO YOU (15 min.)

If God is real to you, you will love him and obey him (*1Jo 5:3*)

Wanting to please God will affect your decisions and choices in life—be it in education, secular work, marriage, recreation, or any personal goal

Your purpose will be to make his heart glad, even as Jesus did (*Pr 27:11; Joh 8:29*)

Ways to show that God is real to us

Attach importance to putting God's will first in our lives (Ps 143:10; Mt 22:37, 38)

Obey Jesus' words about keeping a simple eye in connection with secular work and our life-style (Mt 6:22, 23; w97 3/15 18-19; w89 7/15 10-15)

Apply Scriptural counsel in connection with recreation and entertainment (Mt 6:33; 1Co 10:31; 15:33; g97 5/22 8-10; g92 11/8 8-10; w86 3/15 23)

Maintain the right purpose in pursuing education (w96 2/1 10-14)

Show zeal in the ministry, doing all that we can according to our circumstances (2Ti 4:2; Heb 13:15)

Attend all meetings regularly (Heb 10:23-25)

KNOW JEHOVAH AS A PERSON, AND BE HIS FRIEND (4 min.)

If you are a new Bible student, do not be satisfied with just believing in God

Get to know him as a person, and become his friend (Joh 17:3; Jas 2:23)

Keep on growing spiritually by attending congregation meetings and by sharing your hope with others (Ro 10:10)

If you are a dedicated, baptized Witness, continue to study God's Word, and show by your life pattern that he is real to you, that he is your friend (Ps 16:8)

Do all you can in the ministry to help others learn about Jehovah so that they too come to know him as a real person

A happy future awaits those who enter into and maintain an intimate relationship with the one living and true God, Jehovah (Ps 37:37, 39, 40)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)