

# BEHOLD YOUR GOD!

Encountering the Most Beautiful Person in the Universe

**Thesis:** The single most vital issue we ever grapple with as human beings is the picture we hold in our hearts of the character of God. The single goal to which Satan has bent the ingenious powers of his mastermind is to distort our perception of who God is. The single purpose for which Jesus came into our world was to rescue the image of God from Satan's defamation campaign. In Christ the truth about God is clearly made known, and we are set free by knowing and believing that truth.

**Isaiah 40:5, 9**—5The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together. . . . 9O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift *it* up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**—3If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. . . . 6For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**John 17:25-26**—25O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

**Romans 1:16-17**—16For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. . . . 17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**— 1Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

**1 Corinthian 1:18, 23-24**—18For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . . 23but we preach Christ crucified. . . . 24Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**1 Corinthian 2:2**—For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

**NOTE:** “Good tidings” is the Old Testament equivalent of the New Testament word gospel. Isaiah's prophetic declaration defines the gospel as the revelation of God's glory in Christ and the proclamation of the gospel as “Behold your God!”

**NOTE:** Satan's primary purpose in his warfare against God is to blind people's minds to the true character of God. God's response is the gospel, which Paul defines as the “the image of God” revealed in Christ.

**NOTE:** The gospel reveals God's righteous character in order to arouse faith in us toward Him. Righteousness by Faith=Love by Trust.

**NOTE:** The gospel is here defined as the self-sacrificing death of Christ and His triumphant resurrection.

**John 5:39**— You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

**Luke 24:25-27**— 25Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**— 18We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**1 John 3:1-2**— 1Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

**Psalms 27:4**— One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

**John 5:19**— Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

**John 8:26-32**— 26“I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.” 27They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. 28Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him... 32And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

**John 8:38-, 41, 44**— 38“I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father... 41You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him... “we have one Father—God.” 42Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God... 44You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.”

### **“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9**