

Believe

Week 1

Who is God?

Buddhism

- 360 million followers









Taoism

- Does not have a god
- 394 million of the Chinese religion in general are followers
- Based on teachings of Lao-Tzu, 550 BC, China.
- Pantheism - the Tao pervades all.
Yin-yang - opposites make up a unity

Hinduism

- 900 million followers

Hinduism

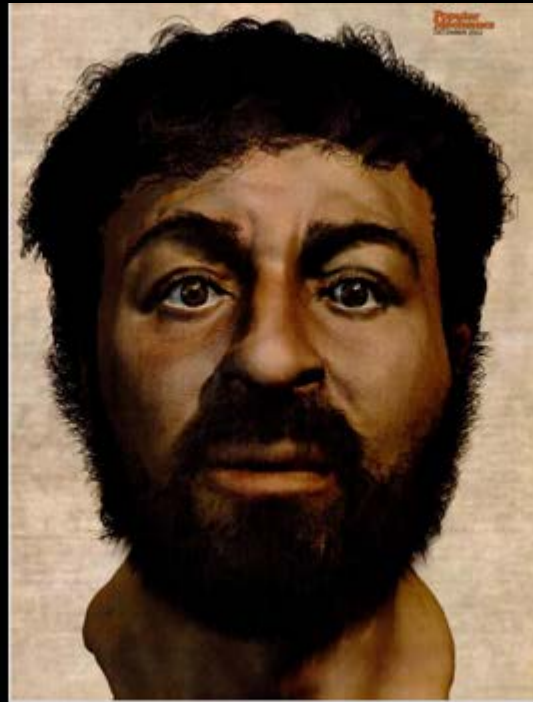
 A four-headed Hindu deity with four arms, seated on a pink lotus. He has a reddish complexion and is wearing a yellow dhoti and a purple shawl. He is holding a pink lotus in one hand and a conch shell in another.	<p>Brahma</p> <p>The Creator</p> <p>Vehicle: Swan</p> <p>has 4 heads, 4 arms, and a reddish complexion; not commonly worshipped; not to be confused with Brahman (the ground of all being) or the Brahmin (priestly caste)</p>	<p>Saraswati</p> <p>Goddess of Knowledge, Music, and the Arts</p> <p>Vehicle: Swan</p> <p>wife of Brahma; sits on a white lotus playing a veena</p>	 A Hindu deity with four arms, seated on a white lotus. She has a white complexion and is wearing a white sari. She is playing a veena (musical instrument) with her upper right hand and holding a book in her upper left hand. She is also holding a conch shell in her lower right hand and a lotus in her lower left hand.
 A Hindu deity with four arms, seated on a blue lotus. He has a blue complexion and is wearing a yellow dhoti and a green shawl. He is holding a conch shell in one hand and a mace in another. He is also holding a lotus in his upper right hand and a lotus in his upper left hand.	<p>Vishnu</p> <p>The Preserver</p> <p>Vehicle: Garuda (bird)</p> <p>has 4 arms, a blueish complexion, and rests on a snake; was incarnated (born as an animal or human) nine times with one more still to come; is the main god of Vaishnavism</p>	<p>Lakshmi</p> <p>Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity</p> <p>Vehicle: Owl</p> <p>wife of Vishnu usually shown bestowing coins and flanked by elephants</p>	 A Hindu deity with four arms, seated on a pink lotus. She has a yellow complexion and is wearing a yellow sari. She is holding a lotus in one hand and a lotus in another. She is also holding a lotus in her upper right hand and a lotus in her upper left hand.
 A Hindu deity with four arms, seated on a blue lotus. He has a blue complexion and is wearing a yellow dhoti and a green shawl. He is holding a trident in one hand and a mace in another. He is also holding a lotus in his upper right hand and a lotus in his upper left hand.	<p>Shiva</p> <p>The Destroyer / Transformer</p> <p>Vehicle: Bull</p> <p>has matted hair, a third eye, a blue throat and a trident in his hand; often worshipped in the featureless lingam form; is the main god of Saivism</p>	<p>Parvati</p> <p>The Divine Mother</p> <p>Vehicle: Lion</p> <p>the reincarnation of Shiva's first wife; has many forms, such as the popular Durga and Kali (see below); often shown together with Saraswati and Lakshmi as the tridevi ('triple goddess')</p>	 A Hindu deity with four arms, seated on a pink lotus. She has a yellow complexion and is wearing a yellow sari. She is holding a lotus in one hand and a lotus in another. She is also holding a lotus in her upper right hand and a lotus in her upper left hand.

Islam

- 1.3 billion followers
- Worship a single god but do not know his name or what he looks like.

Christianity

- There is only one God that is a Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.



Any others?

Sources of Knowledge of God

The source of all knowledge about God comes from God himself and this can be divided into two areas: natural revelation (creation) and special revelation by the Holy Spirit (primarily for us God's words recorded in the Bible and in the incarnation of Jesus Christ).

Natural Revelation

Psalm 19: 1-4

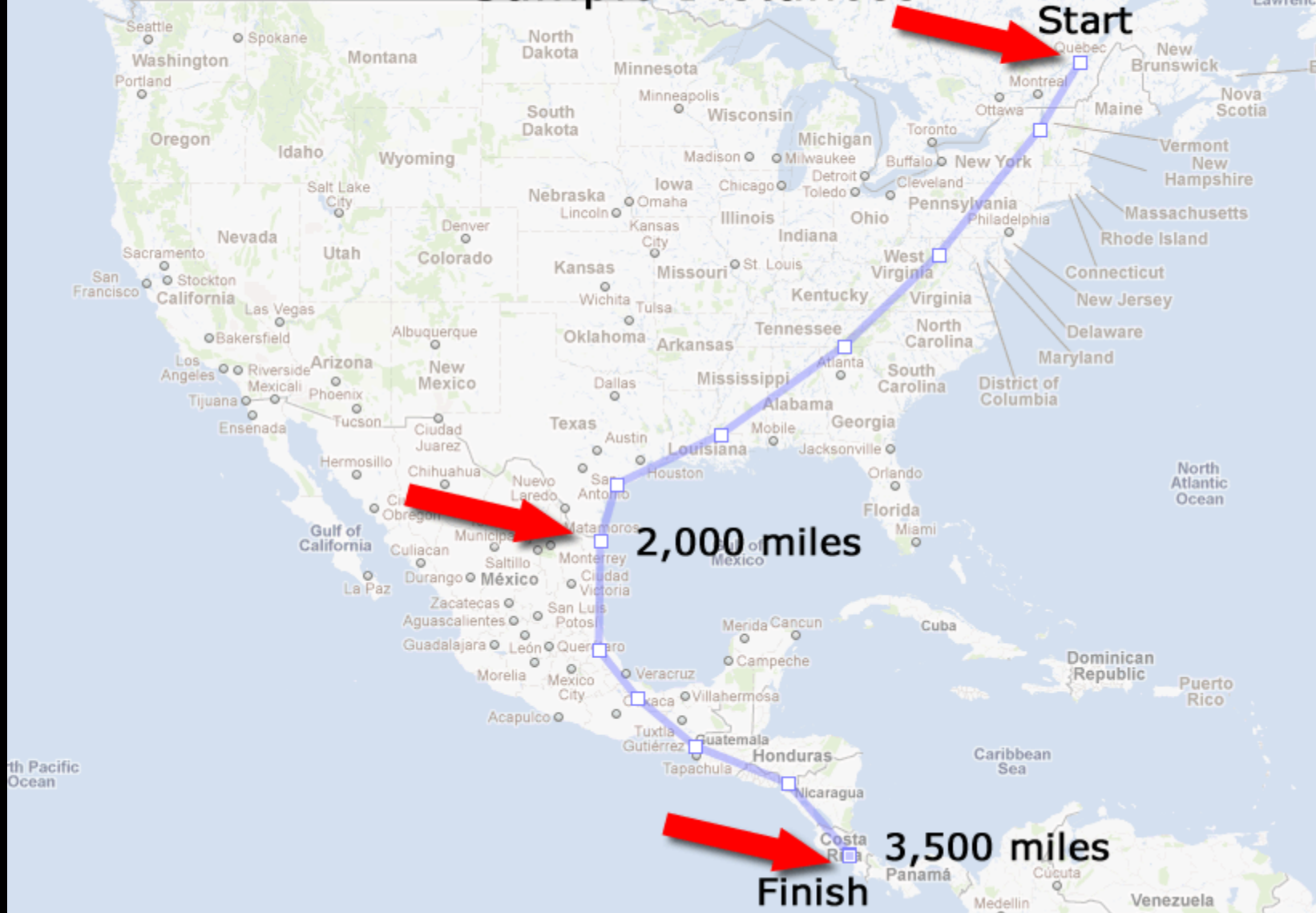
The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Question

What are some examples where you see God in his creation?



Ruby-throated Hummingbird Fall Migration Sample Distances



Most hummingbirds cross the Gulf, typically leaving at dusk for a nonstop flight of up to 500 miles, which takes 18-22 hours depending on the weather and they do not "hitchhike" on other birds.

Before departing, each bird will have nearly doubled its weight, from about 3.25 grams to over 6 grams; when it reaches the U.S. Gulf coast, it may weigh only 2.5 grams.



New Orleans, LA

500 miles

Yucatan

Ruby-throats Winter Here

There is no advantage to this migration. They have plenty food in South America, the weather is perfect.

Through evolution these birds should have evolved and no longer risk life to make this long migration for no advantage.

Because of this the following question baffles evolutionists.

The Question:

Why do hummingbirds migrate?

The Answer:

For us!!!

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Natural Revelation

Romans 1: 18-20

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

For since the creation of the world
God's invisible qualities—his eternal
power and divine nature—have
been clearly seen, being
understood from what has been
made, so that people are without
excuse.

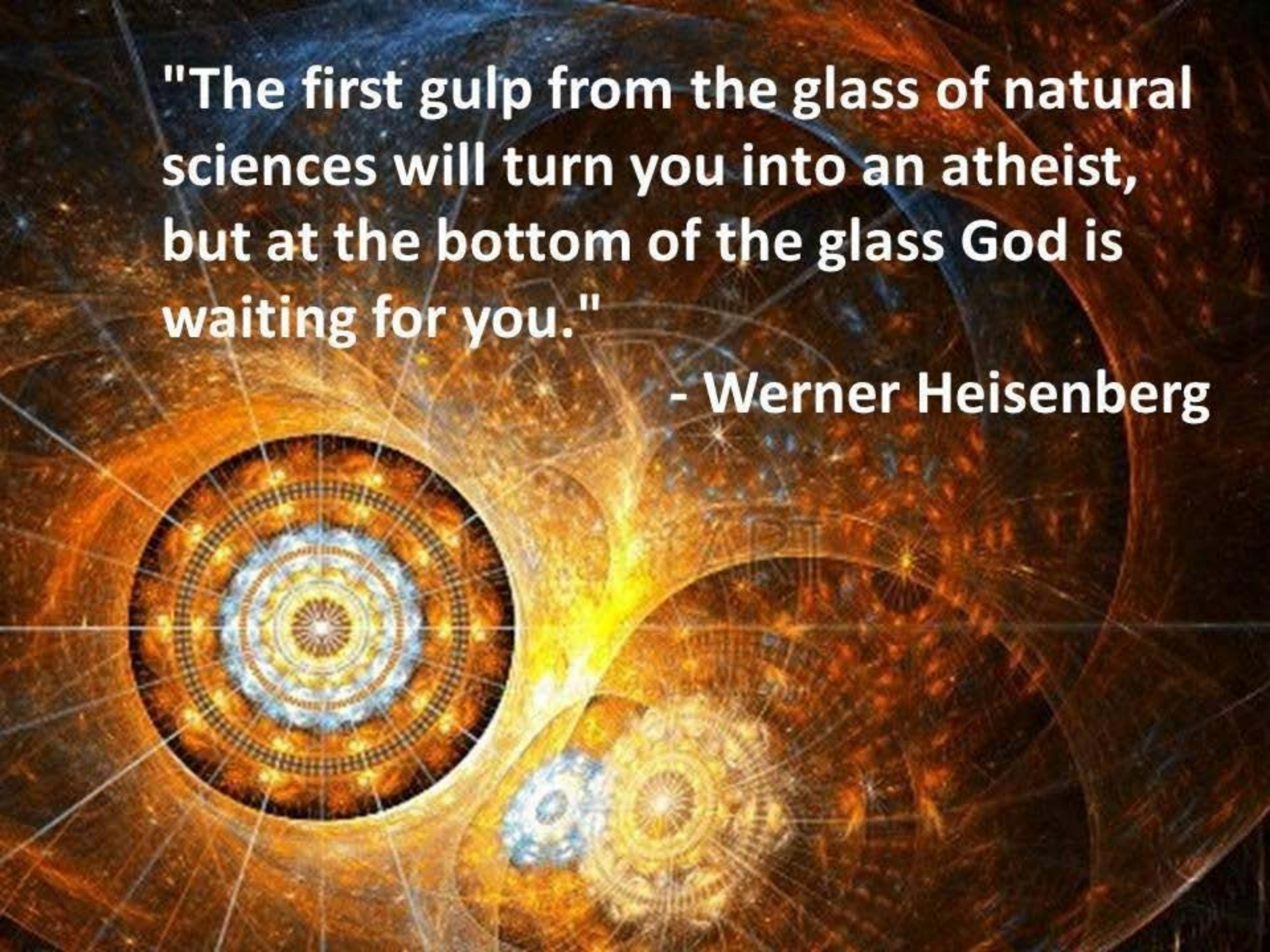
What can we learn from the universe about God?

- 1) God is Majestic and Beautiful
- 2) God is Immense
- 3) God is Powerful
- 4) God is Creative
- 5) God Loves His Creation and Provides for them

- ✓ Matthew 5:43-45
- ✓ Acts 14:17
- ✓ Luke 12: 22-34

"The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will turn you into an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you."

- Werner Heisenberg



Natural Revelation

Genesis 5:1

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.

What can we learn from the creation of mankind about God?

- 1) God is relational
- 2) God is love
- 3) God is moral
- 4) God is methodical
- 5) God made us male or female, no other sexes



Male



Female



Female



Male



Bigender
(example of
female + male)



Androgyne



Bigender:
female and
male



Bigender:
androgyne
and neu-
trois



Bigender: third
gender and demi-
boy



Demigender:
with demigirl



Neutrois



Agender /
Genderless



Intergender



Demiboy



Genderfluid:
female and
male



Genderfluid:
intergender
and neutrois



Genderfluid: third
gender and demi-
girl



Genderfluid:
androgyne
and female



Demigirl



Third Gender



Genderqueer/
Non-binary



Pangender/
Poligender



Agender:
version 1



Agender:
version 2



Agender:
version
gendervoid



Demigender
(with third
gender)



Epicene



Genderfluid
(example of
female and male)



Transgender



Transgender
(alternative version)



Femme



Butch



Travesti n-b



Aliagender

Special Revelation

God spoke to man verbally, through signs, dreams, visions and manifestations of God in the Old Testament

Hebrews 1:1

Verse 1-In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways

Special Revelation

God speaks to us through Jesus
Christ

Hebrews 1: 2

Verse 2-but in these last days he
has spoken to us by his Son, whom
he appointed heir of all things, and
through whom also he made the
universe.

Special Revelation

God speaks to us through His
Word and the Holy Spirit

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

God the Father revealed by the
Logos (= Word) who is the Son
Jesus Christ

John 1: 1-2

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He
was with God in the beginning.

John 1: 14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

How do we explain the following scriptures?

John 1: 18

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

No one has ever seen God, but the
one and only Son, who is himself
God

Then God said, "Let us make
mankind in our image, in our
likeness

Are these verses confusing?
Since Us and Our are plural, is
there more than one God?

The Bible teaches the Father,
Son and Holy Spirit all are God
and they all have the
characteristics that are unique
to God.

God the Father

Romans 1:7

To all in Rome who are loved by
God and called to be his holy
people:

Grace and peace to you from God
our Father

God the Son

Hebrews 1:8

But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for
ever and ever;

God the Holy Spirit

Acts 5: 3-4

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit ...What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”

There is no perfect illustration for the Trinity but it is reported that Saint Patrick used the three leaf clover as a object lesson in teaching about the Trinity's concept of one God in three persons, The Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Discussion Questions

How much can a person learn about God just from looking at creation?

How does the doctrine of the Trinity affect how we define other religions or cults?

2 John 1: 7

Closing Thoughts

If we embrace the One True God of the Bible then we must recognize that:

- We are not God
- God is in charge and in control
- We must follow His laws and His will for our lives