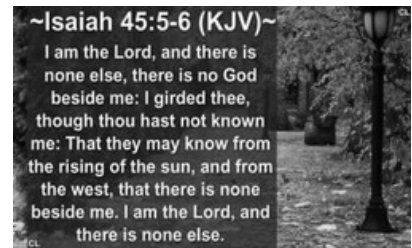


THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE – PART ONE: ONE GOD

From the dawn of time, mankind has searched for something—or someone—greater than himself to worship. In that search, humanity has created thousands of gods, yet only one God has revealed Himself as the true and living Creator. The message of Scripture is not one among many competing truths, but the only truth that endures: *there can be only one*. This lesson begins our study of the five great “ones” that define divine reality—one God, one revelation, one religion, one way of salvation, and one church. All that we believe and all that we are must begin here: acknowledging that there is but one God, and beside Him there is none else (*Isaiah 45:5*).



Introduction:

1. This lesson begins a new series entitled *There Can Be Only One*, which will explore five great spiritual absolutes: one God, one revelation, one religion, one way of salvation, and one church. Each of these truths stands in stark contrast to the pluralism and confusion of our modern world.
2. Humanity has always struggled with the idea of exclusiveness in matters of faith. Yet God’s Word consistently affirms that truth is singular and cannot be divided. The Lord Himself said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (*John 14:6*).
3. In this opening lesson, we consider the foundational truth upon which all others depend—there is only one God. If there is one God, then there can be only one revelation from Him, one true faith, one plan of salvation, and one body of believers.
4. The aim of this lesson is to remind us of who God is, expose the folly of false gods, and stir our hearts to deeper devotion to the only true and living God.

1. The Many Gods Of Men (*Acts 17:22–23*):

The world is filled with countless gods, each claiming devotion from different peoples and cultures. From the pantheon of Hindu deities numbering in the millions, to Allah of Islam, to the many idols of tribal religions, mankind has long invented false gods to satisfy the longing of the human heart for something greater than itself.

- a. The worship of many gods reflects man’s confusion and blindness to truth, as Paul explained when men “changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man” (*Romans 1:21–23*).
- b. When men turn from the Creator to the creation, they fashion gods that resemble their own desires and weaknesses, just as Israel made the golden calf and called it their deliverer (*Exodus 32:4*).
- c. These false gods promise power or peace but provide only spiritual emptiness and separation from the true God, for “every man is brutish by his knowledge... the molten image is falsehood” (*Jeremiah 10:14–15*).

2. The One True God (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6*):

Scripture declares with absolute certainty that there is only one true God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Moses affirmed this truth to Israel when he said, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord” (*Deuteronomy 6:4*). Isaiah likewise proclaimed that before Jehovah there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Him (*Isaiah 43:10*). Paul confirms the same truth in the New Testament, writing, “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things” (*1 Corinthians 8:6*).

- a. The unity of God is not merely numerical but moral and spiritual—He alone is perfect, holy, and self-existent, declaring of Himself, “I AM THAT I AM” (*Exodus 3:14*).
- b. Both the Old and New Testaments agree in their witness, showing that God’s nature has never changed, for “I am the Lord, I change not” (*Malachi 3:6*), and “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (*Hebrews 13:8*).
- c. The knowledge of one true God separates the believer from the confusion of the world and anchors faith in unchanging truth, as Jeremiah wrote, “Let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me” (*Jeremiah 9:23–24*).

3. The Accountability Of All Men (Acts 17:30; Romans 14:10–12):

Because there is only one God, all men are accountable to Him alone. There is no alternative authority, no other divine standard, and no other source of life or truth. Paul told the Athenians that God “now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30). The existence of one true God means that humanity has one Creator to answer to and one Judge before whom all must stand (Romans 14:10–12).

- a. The reality of one God removes every excuse for ignorance or disobedience, for “the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen” (Romans 1:20).
- b. Every person will one day give an account of his life to the same God who made him, for “God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing” (Ecclesiastes 12:14).
- c. Therefore, the call to repentance is universal because divine authority is absolute, as Peter declared: “The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

4. The Contrast Between False Gods And The True God (Isaiah 44:9–17; Acts 17:24; John 3:16):

The gods invented by man bear no resemblance to the true and living God revealed in Scripture. Man-made gods are limited in power, bound to places and images, and often reflect the flaws of their makers. In contrast, the true God is eternal, omnipotent, and omnipresent. He cannot be contained or represented by any image, for He “dwelleth not in temples made with hands” (Acts 17:24). The gods of this world demand offerings to appease them, but the living God offers Himself to redeem mankind through love and mercy (John 3:16). False gods enslave their worshippers through fear; the true God liberates those who serve Him in truth (John 8:32).

- a. False gods depend on human imagination; the true God reveals Himself through His Word and His works, for “the heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalms 19:1), and “all scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16).
- b. False gods exploit; the true God blesses, forgives, and sustains, as David wrote, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Psalms 103:2–5).
- c. False gods perish with the nations that create them, but the true God reigns forever: “The Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king” (Jeremiah 10:10–11).

Conclusion:

1. There can be only one God because there can be only one Creator, one Lawgiver, and one Judge. Every other so-called god is powerless and false (Isaiah 45:5). All things exist by His command, are sustained by His will, and will return to Him in judgment. He spoke the universe into being, established the moral order of right and wrong, and alone has the authority to determine our eternal destiny. False gods, no matter how impressive their temples or how devoted their worshippers, can neither create life nor give salvation. Only the living God holds the power to give breath, sustain it, and call it to account.
2. The knowledge of one true God should lead to exclusive worship, unwavering faith, and heartfelt gratitude (Matthew 22:37–38). Half-hearted service insults His majesty. He does not share His glory with another, nor accept divided allegiance. To love Him with all the heart, soul, and mind is the highest duty and greatest privilege of every creature. Our worship must not be routine or casual but filled with awe, thankfulness, and obedience that flows from genuine devotion. When we give Him our all, we find that life gains purpose, direction, and peace.
3. The truth of one God calls believers to declare His glory among the nations and to expose the vanity of idolatry, just as Paul did at Athens (Acts 17:16–17). The world is filled with substitutes for God—money, power, pleasure, fame—but all are empty idols. As ambassadors for the true King, we must courageously proclaim His sovereignty and plead with others to turn from vain worship to the living Creator. The message of one God is both a comfort and a confrontation: comfort to those who trust Him, confrontation to those who resist His truth.
4. Since there is one God, our hope, peace, and purpose are found only in Him (Psalms 86:10–11). He alone can guide our steps through the uncertainties of life. When we trust in His wisdom and submit to His will, fear gives way to confidence and confusion gives way to clarity. Every decision we make—whether personal, moral, or spiritual—must reflect our acknowledgment that He reigns supreme. To live under His sovereignty is not bondage but blessing, for in surrendering to the one true God, we discover the freedom that false gods can never offer.

Applications:

1. Because there is only one God, He alone deserves our undivided love, worship, and service. Divided loyalty is spiritual adultery. Jesus taught that “no man can serve two masters,” and this truth reaches into every part of life (**Matthew 6:24**). Our time, resources, and affections must be governed by devotion to Him alone. To serve anything else—possessions, pleasure, popularity, or self—is to set up an idol in the heart (**Ezekiel 14:3**).
2. The knowledge of one true God compels us to speak His name with confidence in a world lost in confusion and superstition. Since there is “none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (**Acts 4:12**), silence is not an option. We must shine the light of truth wherever ignorance reigns, gently correcting error and guiding others to the God who made them. Every believer becomes a missionary of truth, declaring to others that there is one Lord who alone can redeem.
3. Knowing that there is one God should transform our character, producing humility, obedience, and reverence. When we realize that “in him we live, and move, and have our being” (**Acts 17:28**), pride has no place. Reverence for the one true God should shape our prayers, our worship, and our conduct, reminding us that every word and deed is done before His eyes (**Psalms 33:13–15**).
4. The truth of one God should also give us stability and peace in a world of uncertainty. While others cling to powerless gods or shifting philosophies, the believer stands on the unchanging rock of divine reality (**Psalms 18:2**). When storms arise—whether in society or in personal trials—we rest secure in knowing that the same God who created all things still rules over all things (**Psalms 46:10**).
5. Finally, the knowledge of one God calls us to holiness. If there is only one God, there can be only one standard of righteousness. Peter reminds us, “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (**1 Peter 1:16**). To serve the one true God is to reflect His character, showing purity, mercy, and justice in a world that has forgotten what holiness looks like.

Questions:

1. What evidence does Paul give that people have always been religious but often misdirected in their worship (**Acts 17:22–23**)?
2. How does Moses affirm the uniqueness of God (**Deuteronomy 6:4**)?
3. Why does the reality of one God make all men accountable (**Romans 14:10–12**)?
4. In what ways do false gods differ from the true God (**Isaiah 44:9–17**)?
5. How should the knowledge that there is one God affect our daily lives (**Matthew 22:37–38**)?

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Questions & Answers:

1. What evidence does Paul give that people have always been religious but often misdirected in their worship (**Acts 17:22–23**)?

Answer: Paul observed that the Athenians were “too superstitious” and had built an altar “to the unknown God,” showing that their worship was sincere but misguided (**Acts 17:22–23**).

2. How does Moses affirm the uniqueness of God (**Deuteronomy 6:4**)?

Answer: Moses declared that “The Lord our God is one Lord,” confirming that there is no division or rival in His nature and authority (**Deuteronomy 6:4**).

3. Why does the reality of one God make all men accountable (**Romans 14:10–12**)?

Answer: Because there is only one Creator and Judge, every person must answer to Him for their life and actions (**Romans 14:10–12**).

4. In what ways do false gods differ from the true God (**Isaiah 44:9–17**)?

Answer: False gods are man-made, powerless, and lifeless, while the true God is eternal, living, and sovereign over all creation (**Isaiah 44:9–17**).

5. How should the knowledge that there is one God affect our daily lives (**Matthew 22:37–38**)?

Answer: It should lead us to exclusive worship, wholehearted obedience, and faithful service to Him in all we do (**Matthew 22:37–38**).