

# James Tregenza: What is God? (28/12/19)

**Psalms 8:4** - Man is entirely insignificant when compared to God. Yet, in spite of our insignificance, there is something about us - according to this verse - that gets God's attention.

*What* is God, the *He* is mindful of us?

"What" is a different question than "who." When asking 'who' are parents, there is a category of people that will raise their hands. But when asking 'what' are parents, a totally different criteria must be considered before answering.

The titles, 'Mum' and 'Dad,' aren't the criteria for being a parent. Nor does being able to have children make you into a parent. Being married doesn't make you a parent either. To be a parent, you must have acted upon the attributes available to you.

The titles, 'Mum' and 'Dad,' represent *what* they are. They represent the fact that you owe your existence to these people. Without them, you could not exist!

When asking the question, *what* is God, we have to dig a little deeper. We have to ask what are the attributes that the title "God" represent.

The popular definition of a god, in culture today, is a being that has a position of power. A being who possesses superior abilities and lord it over all others.

While the only true God does possess superior qualities, and makes us aware of them in the Bible, there is something else about God that is a higher priority for Him to reveal.

Just as with parents, possessing all the necessary requirements for being a God, doesn't make Him into a God. He must first act upon those attributes. It was by using His attributes to create a relationship that God has recommended Himself to us as worthy of our worship.

## **The E20 Factor: Creation**

Ezekiel 20:20 - 20/20 vision is perfect vision. In this verse God gives a perfect sign to show the relationship between Himself and us. He is the God who sanctifies us!

Exodus 20:8-11 - In the other of the E20 verses, it tells us that the reason for this sign is that God created us.

## **The D5 Factor: Redemption**

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 - The Sabbath is not only a sign that God is our originator (creator), but also the one who fixes our mistakes (redeemer).

The Sabbath reminds us that we owe *everything* to God - twice over! Once for creation, and then a second time for redemption.

## **The R14 Factor: Restoration**

Revelation 14:7 - This is the message that goes out to prepare people for the final restoration that is coming. The language used in the verse reminds us of the Sabbath command - to worship God because He is our creator.

The final restoration that is coming is coming from a God who is creator.

What is God?

- Creator
- Redeemer
- Restorer

Just as we sometimes lose the significance of what the titles Mum and Dad mean, we often lose the significance of *what* God is.

What is God to us?

- Is He simply a ruler?
- Is He merely a despot who dishes out consequences if we don't measure up?
- Is He our creator?

What is it about God that makes Him "mindful" of us?

We are His creation! He has invested a lot in us!

He is the God of beginnings (creation) and of new beginnings (restoration).

The coming of the New Year is often a time for reflection and resolution.

The good news is that God is the God of new beginnings. He is happy to clean your slate so that you can start the New Year with a fresh experience.

What does your slate look like today? What do you want it to look like in 2020?

*What* is God to you?

He is soon to restore all things at the end. Let us watch, trust and be ready.