



IS YOUR GOD TOO SMALL?

According to a book by J.B. Phillips, "*Your God Is Too Small*," it is. He lists the following *UNREAL*

GODS:

1) Resident Policeman, 2) Parental Hangover, 3) Grand Old Man, 4) Meek-and-mild, 5) Absolute Perfection, 6) Heavenly Bosom, 7) God-in-a-box, 8) Managing Director, 9) Second-hand God, 10) Perennial Grievance, 11) Pale Galilean, 12) Projected Image

The meaning of some of these is self-evident. I will not take the space to explain the others. The fact is, we all have "too small a God." With finite minds we cannot fully comprehend an infinite God.

Of the categories listed above, the "Grand Old Man" concept probably comes the closest to how most of us comprehend God. We tend to think of Him as a gray haired old man sitting on a throne up in heaven somewhere. I believe the Bible itself tends to give us this impression.

There are many anthropomorphic¹ references to God in the Scripture. Just a few, all from the Psalms are: Eyes and Eyelids - Psalm 11:4; Ears - Psalm 17:6, Mouth - Psalm 33:6, Arms - Psalm 98:1; and Hands - Psalm 17:4. I could not find any references to legs or feet! I believe that to think of God in these terms gives us the "Grand Old Man" image of God.

We read in John 4:24 *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.* God is omnipresent² as indicated by II Chronicles 6:18:

"But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

And Jeremiah 23:24 *Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.*

Our finite minds cannot comprehend this. Isaiah 55:8-9 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

Not only is our God "too small," we fail to see His great power. Job 42:2 *"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. And Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

It is important that we realize the omnipotence³ of God when we pray. God can do anything - including working of miracles! I think that, sometimes, we limit our prayers because we feel that God either can not or will not do more. We should ask to the limit (assuming we pray correctly and not selfishly)!

Finally, we fail to realize the intellect of God - that God is omniscient⁴. For example, we read Scriptures like *But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: . . .*

Luke 11:17, Matthew 9:4

It was not necessary for the people to express their thoughts to Jesus, He already knew them!

Paul wrote . . . *my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19

He did not write, "God will supply all the needs you pray for." Because God is omniscient, He knows what we need and can, and often does, supply our needs before we even pray for them. This is not to say that we should not pray - the Lord has commanded us to do so. We can trust that the Lord, in his omniscience, will supply all of our needs whether we pray for them or not!

So, let us see if we can expand our concept of this mighty God whom we serve.

Wayne

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¹Ascribing human characteristics to something

²Present everywhere

³All powerful.

⁴All knowing

