

Episode: Other Letters Series No. 01

Narrator: Lydia

Primary Scriptures: Acts 16:11-40

Story Summary: God is different from all other gods

Location: Philippi

Time: circa 50 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Acts 16:14

It's challenging to know the Bible without knowing about God, and it's challenging to know about God without knowing the Bible. The specifics of what we know about God originate from the Bible.

God is a living spirit who existed before the beginning of the world.¹ God chose to create everything that exists out of nothing.² These fundamental understandings of God are alluded to in the very first sentence of the Bible, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

God is different from all made-up gods by the fact he actually exists.³ His existence is not proven by science but is known by way of faith.⁴

God is all-powerful and all-knowing. God is good⁵ and is good to all creation. God is love⁶ and acts in love toward his creation. His goodness and love set the foundations for who God is.

Since he is a spiritual being, God is a who, not a what. He wants to have close relationships with every person on earth. The Bible tells how people can come into relationship with God.

The Bible says you can know some things about God from observing nature.⁷ Through the Bible, God reveals the specifics of his characteristics and nature. For that reason, it is useful to think of God as the God of the Bible. If people choose to add to or take away from the attributes of God of the Bible, they are moving toward no longer describing the true God, but something they have made up...a false god. The Bible warns against doing this. You can trust God, but you cannot trust a false god.

A primary reason to learn the Bible is so you can know the God of the Bible. In Jeremiah 29:13, God told the Hebrews that "you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart." You cannot change the past and how little or much you know about God, but you can know more about him in the future through studying the Bible.

Knowing about God and the Bible is not supposed to be an intellectual exercise. Once you do know, you will be able to make a choice whether to become a follower of God. Like Lydia in this episode's video, making the choice to follow God is the most important decision you can make.

¹ Genesis 1:1

² Hebrews 11:3

³ Hebrews 11:6

⁴ Hebrews 11:1, 6

⁵ Psalm 145:8-10

⁶ 1 John 4:16

⁷ Romans 1:19-20