



Sunday June 13, 2021
Spiritual Realities
Part-2 : God's Perspective

God is an eternal, self-existent Spirit being who lives in the unseen spiritual realm. This spiritual realm is a realm outside time. In the unseen spiritual realm 'time' and 'distance' do not exist. However, we stated that there is energy and materiality in the unseen spiritual realm.

God lives in eternity, outside time.

Our 'now' is one second. God's 'now' is eternity. That is why He is the great 'I AM'. God dwells in the eternal now.

God is infinite, we are finite.

As humans our understanding is finite. And with our finite understanding we are attempting to grapple at the infinite. We must use thought and language which is finite, in some way to describe some of the things we understand about our infinite God.

Very often we look from the natural into the spiritual. However, let's try to look at things in the natural realm – things on earth, from God's perspective. How does heaven view earth and the things happening here in the natural realm? For the sake of example, it is as though we travel light years into space and then look back on the earth.

Here are some things we understand as we attempt to see things from God's perspective – viewing earth from heaven.

#1, God is not surprised at happenings

God saw things ahead of time

He knows the end from the beginning.

Isaiah 46:10

Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

Since He dwells in eternity, He is at the end and at the beginning.

Revelation 1:8 (see also Revelation 21:6; Revelation 22:13)



"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The Fall of man did not surprise Him. He already had everything decided and completed, as we shall see shortly.

Hebrews 4:3

...the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Predestination

God already planned to have a people called His chosen ones, who would believe in Him, and whom He would justify and make righteous (Ephesians 1:3-5), conform them to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29-30) and make them heirs and joint-heirs.

Book of life

He saw through time and saw the decision each one would make He knew them all by name and wrote their names in the Lamb's book of life, even before the foundation of the world.

#2, God is secure in His sovereignty

Sovereign means to be King.

His name is Adonai Jehovah, which means Sovereign Lord and describes His sovereignty.

Psalm 47:8

God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

Psalm 103:19

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.

We often say 'God is in control'.

Yes, God is Sovereign and as Sovereign He is absolute King, Ruler and has full, complete, and final authority over everything.



Yet, we must understand that God is so secure in His sovereignty that He has chosen to give up control. Therefore, there are areas, where God is NOT in control. Here are three areas:

Three areas God is not in control, but can influence or override when He chooses:

A) God is not in control of human choices

As people we have a free will. God gave this to us. We have the freedom to choose.

God instructs us on what to choose, but the final choice is ours.

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Joshua 24:15

And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Suppose I do something wrong and must face the repercussions of my wrongdoing – I cannot just say ‘God is in control’ as though God is responsible for what has happened. I must personally take responsibility for my wrongdoing and face the consequences. Now, in that situation, if I repent, turn toward God, ask Him for His mercy and intervention, the Sovereign God will step in. He is Sovereign. He is master over situations, circumstances, people and even the devil who would seek to take advantage of the situation. God can and will move sovereignly in that situation on my behalf according to His mercy to rescue and deliver me.

God works where He is welcomed.

God always works in cooperation with our will and as a Co-worker together with us. It is our responsibility to discern His will, to yield to it and then to work at doing His will together with Him, here on earth.

B) God is not in control of satan’s activities



God is not controlling, dictating, or directing satan and his demons here on earth. They have free course to the extent people give them access.

That is why we as believers are told to put on the full armor of God, resist the devil and pray to be kept out of temptation. God has sent His angels as ministering spirits to minister to us who are heirs of salvation and part of what they do is counter the schemes of satan and his demons.

However, as Sovereign Lord, God will end satan's time on earth and cast satan and his demons forever into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

C) God is not in control of earth's matters

All of creation in a process of decay (Romans 8:20-23)

When nations go to war, when there are catastrophic weather events (cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, etc.; when there are epidemics or pandemics; when there are babies born with deformities, when sickness, disease, poverty, famine, social evil, corruption, mafias, gangs, abuse, etc. ravage communities and nations – God is not responsible for these.

When The Sovereign God Steps In

God does at times override people, satan and earth's matters, as and when He sees fit, in order to fulfill His overall plan and purpose for the human race. In such matters God will move sovereignly as He pleases (e.g. Galatians 4:4, God sent Jesus in the fulness of time, etc.).

God also moves sovereignly in response to our invitation in faith and overrides man's actions, satan's activities or earth's matters (e.g. Job's prayer and God turned his losses Job 42:10, etc.)

God also moves sovereignly in our lives as He orchestrates things to direct our steps and unfold His purposes as we co-work and cooperate with Him pursuing His purposes (Romans 8:28, Psalms 37:23-24). As we walk with God, following His purposes, He sovereignly turns what people do to harm us for our good (Genesis 50:20).

Psalm 115:3

But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.



Job 42:2

I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

#3, God is not intimidated by man or the devil

God is not intimidated by our reasoning

Over the centuries there have been philosophers, theorists and scientists who have proposed all kinds of evolving ideas about the non-existence of God, the origin of the universe, etc. Whether it is ancient notions, philosophies or more recent theories of evolution, theories of relativity and quantum mechanics, etc., none of these intimidate God.

God is not intimidated by the books scientists put out: The God Delusion, Outgrowing God, A Brief History of Time, The Theory of Everything, The God Equation, Parallel Worlds, Hyperspace, A Universe from Nothing, On the origin of species, The descent of Man..., etc.

God is not intimidated by our achievements in outer space explorations. God is not intimidated by our achievements in medicine and genetics, neither is He intimidated by our discoveries in archeology or paleontology (study of fossils) and the deductions we make from them.

God is not intimidated by our questioning, our mocking or denying.

Isaiah 40:13-14

13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him?

14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

Romans 1:20-22,25a,

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie,...



1 Corinthians 1:21,25a

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God,...

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,...

1 Corinthians 3:19a

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

We are not against science, engineering or technology. Science is our exploration of creation and the world entrusted to us, so that we can harness what is available and use it for our benefit and for doing good.

God is not intimidated by the devil's deceiving

Satan deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Satan continues to deceive people.

God is truth and He knows that no amount of satan's deception can put out truth that comes from God.

We don't need to defend God

God is our Defender, not the other way around.

#4, God decided and completed the work

Hebrews 4:3

...the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

From before the foundation of the world:

Christ was foreordained to die to redeem us (1 Peter 1:20)

Chosen in Christ (Ephesians 1:4)

A kingdom prepared (Matthew 25:34)

Book of life (Revelation 13:8, Revelation 17:8)

The Cross of Jesus Christ

Sin, sickness

Satan has been defeated

The Father and His Family

We live out of what God decided and what God has already completed on the Cross.



#5, God is not in a hurry

God is not in a hurry because time matters not
Time is immaterial to God

2 Peter 3:8

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The world to come
A new heavens and a new earth

#6, God will have the last laugh

Psalm 2:1-4

**1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."
4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.**

Psalm 37:13 (at the wicked)

The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.

Psalm 59:8 (at workers of iniquity)

But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision.

The Great White Throne

Revelation 20:11-15

**11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.
12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**



Every Knee Will Bow

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Review

#1, God is not surprised at happenings

#2, God is secure in His sovereignty

#3, God is not intimidated by man or the devil

#4, God decided and completed the work

#5, God is not in a hurry

#6, God will have the last laugh

Why is it Important to Understand Spiritual Realities?

#1, Personal spiritual development

We develop our mind and body so that we can be effective in the natural realm.

Understand that you need to develop spiritually, just as we develop in the natural.

#2, Relationship with God

Understand how we must relate to God and receive from Him, co-labor with Him.

#3, Discern and act

Be able to discern what is happening to you and around you.

Start With The Spiritual To See Change In The Natural

In some situations, to see a change in the natural realm, we must first begin in the spiritual realm.



The Laboratory of Life

We work out truth in the laboratory of life to demonstrate results.

We work in the laboratory of life where we prove out the truth we preach and teach in our own lives and in the lives of people in real life situations. We also have data, and are evidence based, with reproducible results, that transcends time, culture, and race.

PRAYER

SALVATION CALL

The GOSPEL (Good News) in brief.

Here is how we RECEIVE the Good News for our personal lives.

We make it a simple A,B,C,D. We must:

ACKNOWLEDGE: our sin, the consequences of our sin, and our need for a Savior

BELIEVE: in Jesus Christ, in who He is and what He has done on the Cross, personally

CONFESS: Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives

DECIDE: to follow Jesus Christ as His disciple for the rest of our lives



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday June 13, 2021
Spiritual Realities
Part-2 : God's Perspective

The following is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Isaiah 40:13-14; Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 103:19; Deuteronomy 30:19*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Review the 6 statements that were made to help us look at things from God's perspective – heaven's view of earth. Share your thoughts on each. How do these affect how you decide to live life here on earth?

- #1, God is not surprised at happenings*
- #2, God is secure in His sovereignty*
- #3, God is not intimidated by man or the devil*
- #4, God decided and completed the work*



#5, God is not in a hurry

#6, God will have the last laugh

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey.

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another.

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened.

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>