

Penn State!

# The Human God

– God is not a Theory, He’s a Person

## I. Theories of the Divine

**A. Everyone has a theory of ultimate reality.** Whether it’s articulated or not.

The atheist, the agnostic, the Buddhist, the Hindu, the new ager.

## B. Mixtures abound – mix and match concepts

[2 Kgs 17.33](#) So they feared the LORD but also served their own gods, ...

**C. The Challenge of the “Otherness” of God.** It’s hard to know something you can’t see, or touch or hear with normal senses.

## II. Human **Thirst** for More

### Longings for Beauty & Connection

It’s the stuff of **dreams**. It fuels **romances**, **businesses**, and even **wars**.

Something calls to us [\[clip 1\]](#) – “If you build it, he will come” motive.

- Not everyone “hears”

### Haunting Fears – Something deep inside me is wrong

- In fact, for some, their **greatest fear** is confirmed [\[clip 2\]](#)  
Luke is horrified to find his father.

The **distorted image** of who we are.

## III. The God **Thirst** for Us (desire to be known and loved) Speaks in order to be known and loved

– *Through the Prophets*

– *His Kindness is limited by Our Free Will*

[Isa 30:15](#) For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,  
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;

in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling,

16 and you said,

“No! We will flee upon horses”;

therefore you shall flee away;

and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

### ***His Gracious Determination***

Isa 30:18 Therefore the LORD ***waits to be gracious*** to you,  
and therefore he ***exalts himself to show mercy*** to you.

For the LORD is a God of justice;

***blessed are all those who wait for him.***

19 For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall ***weep no more...***

### ***– The final complete communication***

Heb 1.1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers ***by***<sup>1</sup> the prophets, ***2*** but in these last days ***he has spoken to us by his Son***, ... the heir of all things, ***through whom*** also he ***created*** the world. ***3*** He is ***the radiance of the glory of God*** and the ***exact imprint of his nature***, and he ***upholds the universe*** by the word of his power...

John 1.14 NKJ And ***the Word became flesh*** and dwelt among us, and ***we beheld his glory***, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, ***full*** of grace and truth.

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has ***declared Him***.

***In Christ is God is COMMUNICATED in the language of our humanity. He’s LIKE you. You are meant to be LIKE Him.***

***All God’s promises, All God’s humility and***

***All God’s longing to be known and loved!***

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<sup>1</sup> Greek - “en,” literally “in”

## IV. Message – God Longs to Be **With Us**

**Luke 1.26** In the sixth month *the angel Gabriel was sent from God* to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27 to a virgin** betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was **Mary**.

**34** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

**35** And the angel answered her, "The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore **the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.**<sup>2</sup> **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37 For nothing will be impossible with God.**"

**38** And Mary said, "**Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.

### **Her Great Honor – Give Permission to God to Save US!!**

**Luke 1:38 NKJ** Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me **according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.

In that Moment, Logos became Rhema (**Gal 4.4 – fullness of time**)

The **Great** became **Small**

The **Strong** became **Weak**

From being **His Own** he made Himself **Ours**

**The Solution is conceived inside the Problem (humanity)**

**Timelessness** enters Time

The **Uncreated** becomes part of Creation

Orchestrating History

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<sup>2</sup> **Gen 5.1b NKJ** In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

Luke 2.1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ...3 And all went to be registered...

4 And **Joseph** also went up ... **Bethlehem**, ... 5 to be registered **with Mary**, his **betrothed**, who was **with child**. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 **And she gave birth to her firstborn son** and **wrapped him in swaddling cloths** and **laid him in a manger**, because there was **no place for them** in the inn.

### ***And God Became Human!***

**Helpless...** he is wrapped in cloths and cannot move. He trembles with the cold, lying in the feed trough he cannot feed himself, He must be held and warmed. Nursed with the mother's milk that will become his body and his blood.

**Humble...** born into a homeless, unwelcome family, his first breath includes the smell of manure.

He was born in a cave, that we might be born from above.

**Poor...** his parents cannot afford a lamb, and buy two doves.

**Adopted...** Must be adopted and protected by Joseph, the dreamer.

**Fugitive...** He who holds all things together, with his parents, had to run for their lives. So that you might run into His arms.

**YET!**

Col 2.9 ... **in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily**, 10 and **you have been filled in him**, ....

***This is what He thirsts for, longs for, dreams for...***

***This physical, human body is His invitation back into LOVE, back into the Lost Eden***

Rev 21.1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, ... 2 And I saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, ... **as a bride adorned for her husband**.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is **with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,** ... 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,...”

6 And he said to me, “...**To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.**”

Rev 22.4 They will **see his face,** and **his name will be on their foreheads.** 5 And **night will be no more.** ...

17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “**Come.**” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And **let the one who is thirsty come;** let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

#### **IV. Communion – The Food of Dreams; The Waters of Life**

The Bread, The Cup – He gives us this Mystery – His Body & Bloody

O **come,** all ye faithful, **joyful** and **triumphant,**  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and **behold** him, Born the King of angels!  
O come, let us **adore** him,... Christ the Lord!

LOVE is before me, behind me, above me, below me, on my right and on my left, with me and in me. In the heart of everyone who speaks with me.