

Where is God?

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**Which answer is correct? They both are!**

God is **omnipresent**, which just means everywhere at once.

God is **Transcendent**: defined as existence or experience beyond the normal or physical level. God is beyond the earth and all we know physically. **Or God is in heaven!**

- Psalm 115:3 - Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Another way of thinking about the fact that God is transcendent is that He is different from us.

- Exodus 34:6 - God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.
- Micah means “Who is like the Lord?” The answer is no one!

Scriptures about God’s transcendence:

1. **Psalm 113:4-6** - The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?”
  - a. In the mind of an Old Testament Israelite, heaven was physically located above earth.
  - b. Heaven (streets of gold) is different from “the heavens”
  - c. Benefit: God is seated high above and looking down on us
  - d. **Think about what God can see and do from up there!**
2. **Psalm 97:9** - For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.”
  - a. In this verse King David moves from the theme of God physically being above the earth, and poetically comparing it to God’s power and stature over other gods.
  - b. Benefit: God is in control!
  - c. While all people, even mighty rulers, have limitations, God has none.
3. **Hebrews 1:3** - 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. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
  - a. God’s power and his providence are because he is on high.
  - b. Benefit: God and Jesus are ruling over this world! And we will have a resurrection like Jesus

4. **Ecclesiastes 5:2** - Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.
  - a. Teaching: humility is a good quality when interacting with other people, but it is an essential quality when interacting with God.
5. **Psalms 24:1-2** - The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.”
  - a. Benefit: Because God is not here on earth, He can do things that no one on earth can do!
6. **Numbers 23:19** - God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?
  - a. Benefit: God will never lie to us, we can trust everything he has said in his Word.
7. **Isaiah 55:8-9** - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares 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.
  - a. Benefit: God thinks and acts differently than we do, and not just differently, but better!
8. More examples of how God is different from us:
  - a. Hosea 11:9, Revelation 22:13, 1 John 4:8,16
  - b. These are important because the modern day church is blurring the lines seeing God as one of us, so we are in a way denying God’s transcendence.

What have we learned today?

1. God is in heaven where he rules over and provides for his creation.
2. God is not like us, and that is a great thing!

Challenges:

1. When you think about God this week, when you pray to him, and when you read his word, I want you to **picture God seated on his throne in heaven**. (Picture)
2. **Do things this week to worship the God that is different from us**.
  - a. That could be thinking differently about God, stopping projecting our flaws or other people’s flaws onto God.

This week you don’t need to tell others that God is transcendent, but you can communicate that God is in control, and he is very different from everyone on earth.

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

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