

The God of The Bible (versus other gods)

For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 8: 5-6

Estimates are, there are 24 Million – 12 Billion gods worshipped by man since his existence. There are gods that the Taoists worship, the gods of the Greek mythology, gods of the Norse mythology, the pantheons of Hindu religion, and some people also worship their ancestors. Out of all these gods, how do we know that the God of the Bible whom we worship, is the real one? How do we compare Him with these other gods? Since I have been raised in a country that considers itself a Christian nation, I did not think about it before, but what if you were born and raised in a country with different religion, how would the God of the Bible appeal to you? Would you find Him superior over other gods? Would you find Him *great, and greatly to be praised: and is to be feared above all gods.(Psalms 96:4)?*

In the Judeo-Christian perspective, we know that there is no other God, *For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Psalms 96:5.* Idols meaning vain or of no value, /eliyl/ in Hebrew, for these false gods are devils and evil spirits who deceived and claimed the worship of men:

They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. Deuteronomy 2:17

And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood Psalms 106:36-38

But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 1 Corinthians 10:20

These devils deceived the nations and posed themselves as gods, but for the sake of comparison, and to prove that the God of the Bible, who was called Jehovah, or Yahweh in the Old Testament, and revealed Himself in the flesh as Jesus Christ in the New Testament, is a greater God, is the True God, let us try to compare Him with other gods other people serve and worship.

Our God is Omnipotent

Why the God of the Bible is the true God? One good reason is because He is omnipotent. It means He is all powerful, He has got all the power. If somebody is to offer his worship to a certain being, or acknowledge that being as his god, he better make sure that god he serves is powerful enough.

Most pagan idols are not all powerful. See for example the gods of the Greek mythology. Their primary god Zeus is the god of lightning. According to their belief, Zeus controls the lightning with his spear. Although considered the king of gods in Olympia, and probably the most powerful among them all in

their mythology, Zeus is not all-powerful. He doesn't have control over the sea, for example, for his brother, Poseidon, is the god that has power over the seas. Aeolus is the king of the winds. Ares is their warrior god. Athena is their goddess of wisdom. Demeter the goddess of crops. Apollo the god of the sun. The list could go on and on, but we see the point. They have many gods sharing powers, and not one God who has all the powers.

That makes our God greater! Why would you choose to worship a god who has limits with his power? The same is true with the gods of other mythologies, and even the pantheons of gods the Canaanites worship, like Baal and Ashteroth. Not like the gods of the Greeks and many pagan nations, our God, the God of the Bible, Jehovah of Old, and Jesus Christ of the New Testament, He has all the power!

*Which in his times he shall shew who is the blessed and **only Potentate, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords; 1 Timothy 6:15***

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

*Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by **thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: Jeremiah 32:17***

*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. **Isaiah 40:28***

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Matthew 28:18***

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, **the Almighty. Revelation 1:8***

He just doesn't control the sky, the weather, the seas, the wind, and the nature as a whole, He controls and owns everything. Also unlike the Hindus, where they have Brahma as the creator, Vishnu as the preserver, and Shiva as the destroyer; Our God did not need any help in the creation, as *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth **Genesis 1:1*** . He is also the one preserving it as he *upholdeth all things by the word of his power (**Hebrews 1:3**)*. And in His second coming, He will also be the one to melt the elements in prevent heat (**2 Peter 3:10-12**), to make way for the new heavens and new earth. He is God alone! He is all powerful!

That's why in whatever needs we may have, we just call on one God, no need to call different gods for healing, another one for blessing, another one for safety on the seas, a different god for asking wisdom. No, He is the Great I Am, He is the Provider, the Healer, the God our Peace, He is our victory, our Salvation, our All in All. Praise God!

What would happen to us if the god who is in charge of us and the entire cosmos is a limited god just like Zeus? He won't be capable enough to manage everything, that's why we praise the Lord, for the One who is in charge is the True God, the Omnipotent God: *And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Revelation 19:6*

Oh what a mighty God we serve!

Our God is Omniscient (All-Knowing)

The pagan gods according to their own myths and stories are often deceived by men. In Greek mythology, Zeus and other gods were often challenged and tricked. In the story of Prometheus, he tricked Zeus, and later on, he even stole fire from Zeus for the benefit of mankind. This means this "god" clearly is not omniscient, as he can be fooled by man! Also, Demeter has to ask Apollo before knowing Persephone was abducted by Hades.

In Norse mythology, their primary god Odin, traded one of his eyes, to drink from the well of wisdom to gain knowledge. The devas or gods of Hinduism, got instructions from Buddha to attain liberation from suffering. Canaanite priests and priestesses of Baal know their god's weakness.

These other gods are not wise and all knowing. On the other hand, Our God, is great and unsearchable in His wisdom! No man can possibly trick God for He knows all things.

*O Lord thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, **thou understandest my thought afar off. Psalms 139:1-2***

*I know it is of a truth: but how should man be just with God? If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand. **He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? Job 9:2-4***

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Isaiah 46:10

*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only wise God**, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17*

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. Jude 1:25

*O the **depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! **Romans 11:33***

*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? **there is no searching of his understanding. Isaiah 40:28***

*And **Jesus knowing their thoughts** said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? **Matthew 9:4***

How would one be able to trust his god, if the god whom he chose to serve does not know all things? How would you be able to put all confidence to someone whom you know could be mistaken or fooled? **But not with our God!** Our God is wise, He just doesn't know what is ahead, He even declares the end from the beginning! He is in control, and His wisdom is perfect and unsearchable, and it is just reasonable that we put all our trust and confidence to this God, because He could never be mistaken! He knows what He is doing, and trusting in Him makes our lives established like a tree. *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. **Jeremiah 17:7-8.*** It's better to *trust the Lord and lean not unto our own understanding **Proverbs 3:5,*** for his plans are perfect. He is the God Who knows what He is doing, so trust Him no matter what the circumstance is. *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. **Jeremiah 29:11*** We also cannot hide anything from Him, as he knows our hearts, even more than we do:

I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. **Jeremiah 17:10**

*For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and **knoweth all things. 1 John 3:20***

Our God is Omnipresent

Pagan idols are territorial gods, there is of the sky, another of the sea, god of the field, god of the underworld. Zeus is the sky god, Poseidon is the god of the seas, Hades is the god of the underworld. They have their meeting place in Mt. Olympus. Greeks also observe territorial patronization of their gods, as they choose which god they worship in their cities. Baal seemed to only occupy Canaan and Mesopotamia. Also they have territorial Baals, like Baal-Peor and Baal-Zephon; these Baals only occupy Peor and Zephon, accordingly.

These gods of the pagans seemed like political authorities with limited areas of jurisdictions (see Ephesians 6:12). Once out of the place of their jurisdiction, they lose their power. How would these gods be able to save his worshipper, if he has geographical limits? What if a person goes to other places of the globe, then how would his "god" help him?

Not with our God! While they have spaces they operate in, **the God of the Bible owns everything.**

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. **Psalms 24:1**

*Thus saith the LORD, **The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:** where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?**Isaiah 66:1***

*But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, **the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;** how much less this house that I have builded? **1 Kings 8:27***

*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend up into heaven, **thou art there**: If I make my bed in hell, behold, **thou art there**. Psalms 139:7-8*

There is an account in the Bible where the Syrians assumed that the God of Israel is just like their gods, which are territorial and limited. After defeat, they suggested to the king of Syria, Ben-hadad, to change the location of the next battle to ensure victory:

*And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, Their **gods are gods of the hills**; therefore they were stronger than we; but **let us fight against them in the plain**, and surely we shall be stronger than they. **1 Kings 20:23***

They thought Jehovah was only God in the mountainous lands of Israel, and that He is no longer powerful to help Israel if battle be fought in the plains! God proved them wrong in the next battle:

*And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, **Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys**, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and **ye shall know that I am the LORD**. **1 Kings 20:28***

So, they battled, this time in the plains, and not in the hills, and the result was the same! Israel still won because God helped them. God showed the Syrians that He is unlike their gods who have territories and limitations of jurisdiction – He is God everywhere! He is God of the hills, He is God of the plains, He is God *even in the valleys of the shadow of death* Psalms 23:4. He is God of the seas, He is God of the skies, He is Lord of the heavens, he is God who created and owns the earth and all that dwells therein! He is everywhere present, and there is no location and situation in life we may have, that is out of His reach. He can help us wherever and whatever situation we may have. There is no dead spot on earth where we cannot reach Him in prayer! He can help us, and He can also bless us everywhere, as long as we remain obedient to Him. *And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Deuteronomy 28:2-3.*

Our God is God of everything and everywhere, and not just of a limited space!

Our God is Self-Existent

Other ancient cultures saw their gods as needy beings who competed for their worship and devotions. They fight over the worship of man, as if they needed them for their power and survival. Other pagan deities have the need to recover and replenish their powers, when depleted. Their gods are dependent on other beings for the maintenance of their power and existence. In Hinduism, their gods needed the *Amrita*, an elixir that will provide them immortality and great power. The *ambrosia* in Greek mythology is what their gods drink, to heal and banish death.

God means the Self-existent One, and this does not properly describe the gods of the pagans. The God of the Bible, who was God, even before time immemorial, His power does not deplete, nor is dependent to any external factor, or thing. He is God by Himself.

*Neither is worshipped with men's hands, **as though he needed anything**, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. **Acts 17:24***

*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. **Colossians 1:16***

*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. **Isaiah 40:28-29***

We see, our God does not take anything for His own need or survival, actually, he is the One who gives us life and strength! His power doesn't deplete. We don't have to worry about our God having the need to recharge of His power to help us, for His power is unlimited and doesn't go empty.

Our God is Good

Pagan deities are cruel, lustful, deceitful, violent and competitive. We can cite many pagan gods who are immoral and selfish. Zeus many times, for example, cheated on his wife, Hera. Zeus' father, Cronus, ate most of his children, fearing a prophecy that one of them would overthrow him. Hades, or Pluto as he was called by the Romans, abducted Persephone to be his bride. Athena turned a woman named Arachne into a spider for losing a battle with her. The Chinese god Gong Gong is very cruel and irritable, always waging wars. Tezcatlipoca, an Aztec deity, would demand war prisoners to be sacrificed yearly, by having their hearts ripped out.

In contrast, our God is a good God, a gracious and merciful God. He is also ever true to His word and doesn't lie.

*And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? **there is none good but one, that is, God. Mark 10:18***

*The Lord is **merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Psalms 103:8***

His goodness and love even led Him to manifest in the flesh, and die on the cross for the salvation of His people:

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **John 3:16***

*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8***

Since He is a good God, His Word also teaches us to be good even to those who are not good to us:

*But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; Matthew 5:44***

*Dearly beloved, **avenge not yourselves**, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore **if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:19-21***

This is certainly not exhaustive, as there are many other attributes that our God has, that is greater, far greater compared to the gods the pagans worship; nevertheless, the point is established – Only our God, the God of the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ has all the perfect attributes befitting to the title God. He has all the power, all the wisdom and knowledge, He has no limitations as to His territory, He is God alone, from beginning to the end, the Everlasting God, the Almighty, the Prince of Peace. He is all we ever need, and serving and worshipping Him is the great purpose of our lives. God has proven Himself to the nations to be the Only One.

Have we heard a blind man prayed for in the name of Allah, and his eyes opened? Have you heard of anybody healed in the name of Buddha? Did any dead rise again to life in the name of Zoroaster? Did Mohammed raise from the dead, and is alive forevermore? Have you heard a man possessed by demons delivered in the mention of the name of Shiva? Have you heard of a God who made Himself into a man, only to die and save people who are sinners, people who are rebels and enemies of Him? To make them reconciled to Himself, and give them the gift of eternal life, by paying their sins, and shedding blood for their redemption?

No, for our God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ stands alone, He is God alone, and no one can be compared to Him. His love is too great. His mercy and grace is unheard of in other religions. His power and authority sits far above all powers of this world and of the one to come. His *name is above all names, and at the name of Jesus, every knee would bow, of things in heaven, and of things on earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue would confess, that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11)*. And yes, that include even the knees and tongues of Zeus, and his troops in Olympus.

*I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. **Isaiah 45:23***

*I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: **Isaiah 45:5***

*To whom then will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like? **Isaiah 46:5***

All quoted Scriptures are from the King James Version.