

# GOD AS HIMSELF

## GOD IS LOVE

February 15, 2009

FBC Port A

**Deut 6:4-5 NLT** *"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

As believers in Jesus Christ, the God of Israel is now our God. Who is He? What do you know about your God? If someone were to ask you to describe God in personal, and intimate detail how would you respond?

**1Ch 28:9 NLT** *"And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve Him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek Him, you will find Him. But if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.*

**1Cor 15:34b NLT** *For to your shame I say that some of you don't know God at all.*

**Col 1:10 NLT** *Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.*

For the next 8 weeks, we will look at what the Bible says about the names and Characteristics of God. This obviously cannot be an exhaustive study, but it will, hopefully, inspire each of us to dig deeper into God's word to learn more about who He is.

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God's love is completely different from what many people celebrated on Valentine's Day. The Greek word for God's love is "agape". God loves us on a completely different level, but it is a level in which we can attain.

**John 3:16 NLT** *"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."*

Love is God's defining attribute. It is the foundation and framework from which everything else about God exists.

1. God is the **ancestor** to love.

**1Jn 4:7-8 NLT** *Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

2. God is the **author** of love.

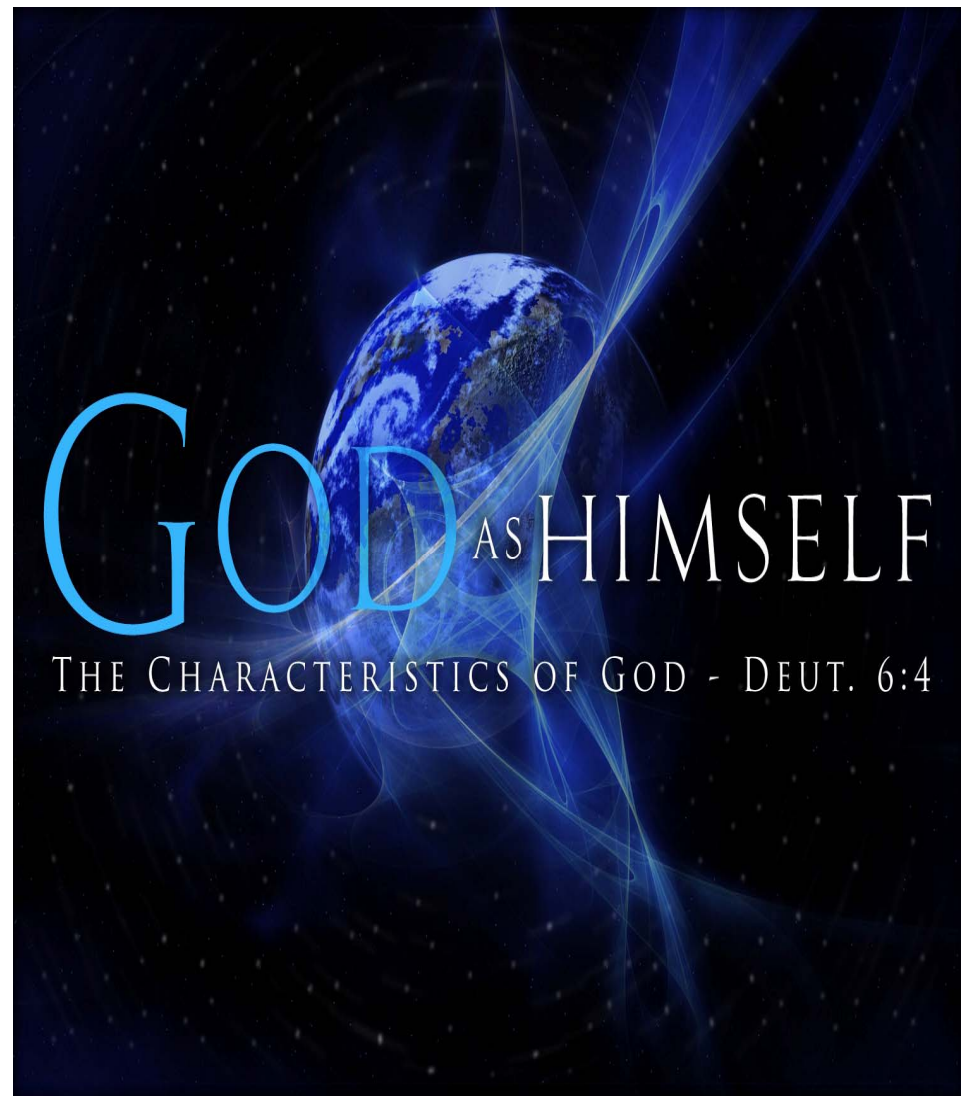
**1Jn 4:9-10 NLT** *God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

3. God wants us to **assume** agape love qualities.

**1Jn 4:11-15 NLT** *Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.*

4. God-like love is the **affirmation** of life in God.

**1Jn 4:16-21 NLT** *We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love. We love each other because He loved us first. If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.*



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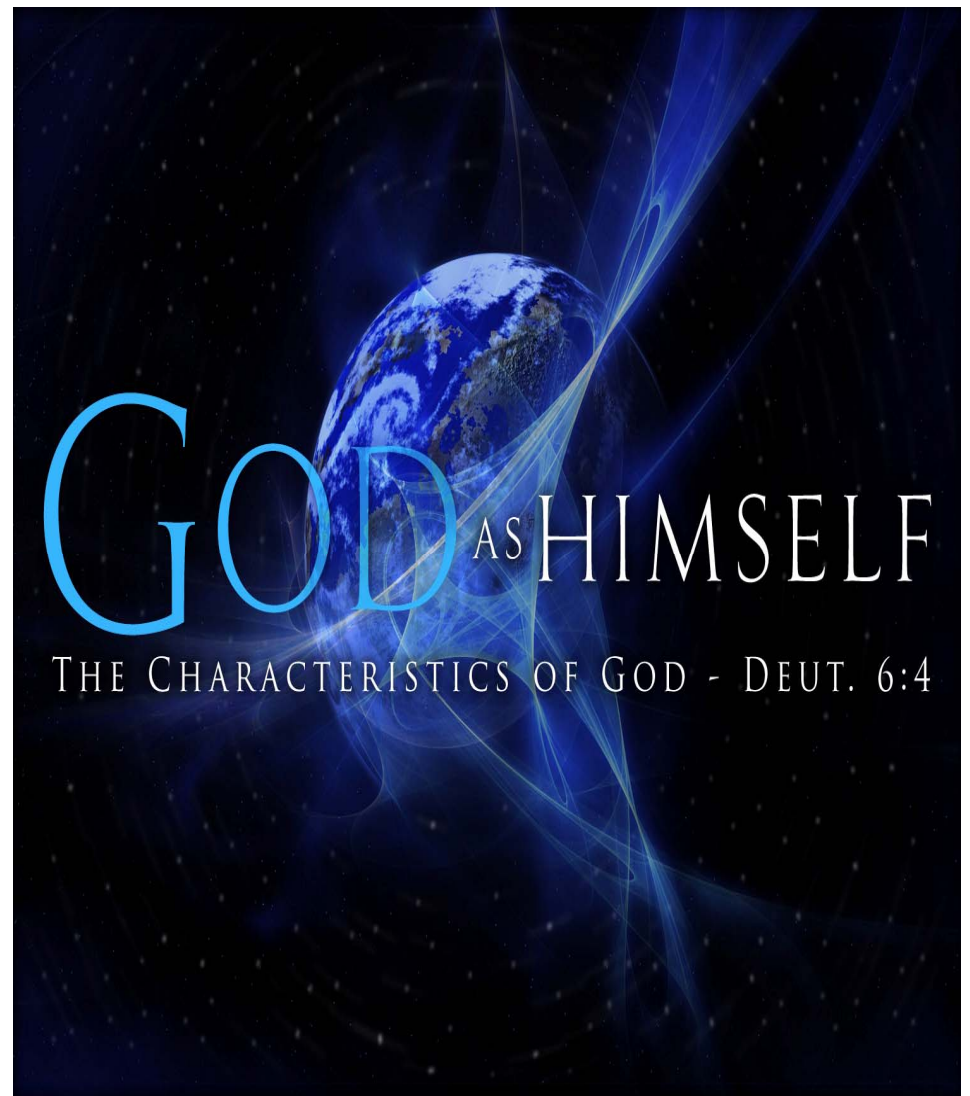
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Newsboys - Belly Of The Whale lyrics  
Up to my ears  
In bitter tears.  
Can't believe I've sunk this low  
As I walk the plankton  
Inner sanctum.  
Got outta Dodge,  
Sailed on a bon-less  
Bon voyage.  
You said North,  
I headed South.  
Tossed overboard.  
Good Lord, that's a really large mouth...

I'm sleeping with fishes here,  
In the belly of the whale.  
I'm highly nutritious here,  
In the belly of the whale.  
Bad food, lousy atmosphere.  
I don't wanna bellyache.  
How long is this gonna take?

Woke up this morning kinda blue,  
Thinking through that age-old question:  
How to exit a whale's digestion?  
It might behoove me to be heaved.  
Head out like a human comet.  
Hmm... I wonder what rhymes with comet?

I'm sleeping with fishes here,  
In the belly of the whale.  
I'm highly nutritious here,  
In the belly of the whale.  
I'm ready to reappear.  
I don't wanna bellyache.  
Lord, how long's this gonna take?

End times, they come rolling around.  
Enzymes, they come breaking us down to the core.  
The good Lord grants we all get a second chance.

I'm one of the dishes here,  
In the belly of the whale.  
They say I'm delicious here,  
In the belly of the whale.  
Lord, please make him chuck it all.  
It's a gut call  
In the belly of the whale.

I'm in the belly of the whale.

In the belly of the whale.  
I'm in the belly.  
In the belly of the whale.  
I'm in the belly of the whale.  
In the belly of the whale.  
I'm in the belly...

In the belly of the whale  
In an underwater jail  
It's a tight squeeze.  
It's a-gettin' to me,  
But it's roomier  
Than the tail.  
Hey, sailor,  
Got my flow free  
Like a salmon to the sea  
From the L.A. Symphony.  
I'm a paddleboat  
Paddlin' in their wake,  
A fake free-styler,  
But my unemployment pays.  
I'm avoiding cliches  
Like "whale of a tale" stale  
Or "you can't keep  
A good man down,"  
'Cause you can  
And I've been there, man.  
But I've been expectorated.  
I'm elated!  
I'm free like Willie!  
Happy Day!  
Oops,  
That's a bit of a cliché.

In the belly...  
Lyrics provided by LyricsMode.com