

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

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A little boy was busy drawing pictures. His dad encouraged him, "These are really good. What are you going to draw next?" The boy replied, "God. I'm going to draw God." "That could be pretty difficult," his father replied, "because we don't know what God looks like." The boy answered: "When I finish my picture, then we will."

Since God is a spirit, he really doesn't "look" like anything. But he has provided us with some depictions of himself so that we can know what he is like. The most basic picture of God is in the creation itself, the amazing world we live in. It screams to us the message that it has been made by an incredibly vast, powerful and brilliant Creator.

God has given us a picture of himself in the Scripture. Have you noticed that the Bible, both Old Testament and New, consists largely of stories? God has chosen to reveal himself and his nature to us, not in lists of attributes or complex theological or philosophical discourses, but in narratives of his interaction with people. In the stories of Adam and Eve, of David, and of Daniel, we learn not just about these persons, but about God.

God has also revealed himself to us through our own human nature. If we are creatures of God, made in some way in his image, then we must be very imperfect and inadequate examples of God's likeness. But still, if we can focus on the very best of human nature, we can see something of what God must be like. Human qualities such as love, compassion, generosity, mercy, and creativity not only indicate to us what God must be like, but that there must be a source for such qualities other than the random matter of the universe.

But God's best picture of himself, he saved for last. It was with this picture that God must have said, like the little artist in the story above, "Now they will know what God is like." *"In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."* (Hebrews 1:2) It is in Jesus that we can finally see God as fully as mere mortals like us can see him. And what an awesome, irresistible God he shows himself to be!