

The same Bible that presents to us the most reasonable picture of the being of God also gives us the answers to life's most important questions.

God's Word, the Bible, tells us:

A. God created us to live in a fulfilling love relationship with Him.

B. We rebelled against the loving rulership of God and decided to try to live without Him.

C. Our choice to rebel against God separated us from Him, disrupted relationships with other people, and caused the destruction of the earth itself.

D. Though God must judge us and punish us for our selfishness and rebellion, He still loves us and longs to re-establish relationship with us.

E. God became a man, in Jesus Christ, and through His death provided a way to justly forgive us and accept us back into relationship with Him.

F. If you meet the conditions, you can be forgiven, enter into relationship with God, and have eternal life.

Those conditions include:

1. Acknowledging that you have rebelled against God. ("All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23)

2. Turning away from your lifestyle of selfishness. ("Repent for the forgiveness of your sins." Acts 2:38).

3. Committing yourself to living the way God commands you to live—loving God, and loving others as yourself. ("Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:30, 31)

4. Asking God's forgiveness for your sins. ("If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." I John 1:9)

5. Taking your hands off your own life and allowing Jesus to be your master. ("If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom. 10:9, 10)

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WHAT COULD  
God  
BE LIKE?

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# WHAT COULD GOD BE LIKE?

Have you ever asked yourself this question...

## IF A GOD EXISTS, WHAT COULD THIS GOD BE LIKE?

Well, if you've asked this question before, you are not alone.

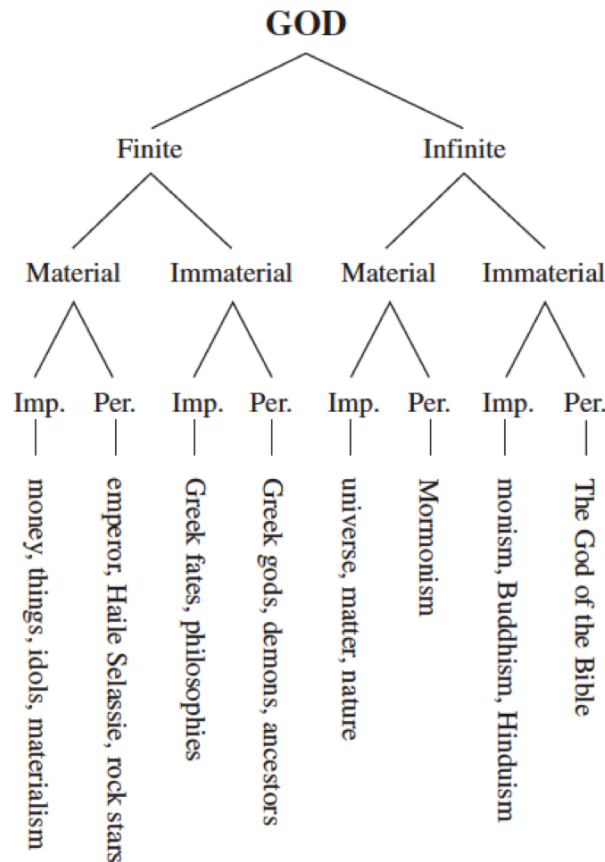
Many people have different ideas about what God could be like. When we think about God, and what kinds of gods there might be, it can be very confusing.

For the sake of space and time, we will assume for now that a god of some kind exists. Most people accept the idea of the existence of a god, but they still wonder exactly what the nature of that god might be.

Using a little logic, and some observations of the world around us, we can narrow the basic categories that could apply to the being of God. These categories include:

- God could be:
  - finite** (having limitations), or
  - infinite** (having no limitations).
- God could be
  - material** (matter and energy), or
  - immaterial** (spirit).
- God could be:
  - impersonal** (not having intellect, emotions, and will), or
  - personal** (having intellect, emotions, and will).

If you lay this out as a chart, you find that there are eight possible combinations. Here is a graphic representation of the possible categories with some examples of the different kinds of gods that people worship:



You can see from this chart that every possible kind of god has been worshipped by someone, somewhere, at some time.

Although there are eight possible kinds of gods this does not mean that every kind of god will answer man's basic questions about life. Man needs to know where he came from, how he is supposed to live, and how he can know

things for sure. There are big problems with some kinds of gods. Here are just a few:

1. If a god is **finite** (limited), it cannot explain the existence of all other finite things. For example, some people may think that idols, emperors, demons, or Haile Selassie are god, but these finite entities will not explain the existence of all other things. In fact, they cannot even explain their own existence. Thus, all finite gods are insufficient.

2. If a god is **material** in nature, it could not have existed forever. If it is material, entropy (the second law of thermodynamics) operates in its being. That means it is always "running downhill" in its energy, or to put it another way, its being always moves towards greater and greater disorder. Now, if something has always existed, it should no longer have any order in its being, no matter how big it is, even infinite. Consequently, an infinite material god could not have always existed, is finite by definition, and requires the existence of some other god to explain its existence. Thus, any material god is an insufficient god.

3. If a god is **impersonal** (not having intellect, emotions, and will) it cannot explain the presence of personality in the universe. If human beings came from an impersonal god (even an infinite god), then this god made (or brought forth) something greater than itself. Making something greater than itself would be physically impossible and philosophically illogical. Thus, an impersonal god is an insufficient god.

If you take a look at the chart again, and exclude the **finite** gods, the **material** gods, and the **impersonal** gods, you will see that there is only one possible god left—the **infinite, spiritual, personal** god. This is exactly the kind of God who is presented in the Bible.