

# Getting to Know God Better, Week 1

## Introduction to Anthropomorphism

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### Types of Literature in the Bible

Old Testament		New Testament
<b>Law</b> Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	<b>Major Prophets</b> Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	<b>Gospels</b> Matthew Mark Luke John
		<b>Acts of the Apostles</b>
<b>History</b> Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	<b>Minor Prophets</b> Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	<b>Pauline Epistles</b> Romans 1-2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1-2 Thessalonians 1-2 Timothy Titus Philemon
		<b>General Epistles</b> Hebrews James 1-2 Peter 1-3 John Jude
<b>Wisdom/Poetry</b> Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon		<b>Revelation of Jesus Christ</b>

### Old Testament

Law, History, Wisdom/Poetry, Prophets

### New Testament

Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Pauline Epistles, General Epistles, Revelation of Jesus Christ

All of these varying types of literature beg the question—how are we to \_\_\_\_\_ it all?

## Literal vs. Figurative

Stuart Heights Baptist Church, "Interprets the Bible \_\_\_\_\_."

### Figuring out the Figurative, from *Living by the Book* by Howard Hendricks

1. Use the literal sense unless there is some \_\_\_\_\_ reason not to (Song of Solomon)
2. Use the figurative sense when the passage \_\_\_\_\_ you to do so (Genesis 37 & Joseph's dreams)
3. Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning is impossible or absurd (Revelation 1:16)
4. Use the figurative if a literal meaning would involve something immoral (John 6:53-55)
5. Use the figurative sense if the expression is an \_\_\_\_\_ figure of speech (Proverbs 11:22)
6. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the scope of the passage (Revelation 5:1-5)
7. Use the figurative if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the general character and style of the book (Psalm 63:7)
8. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the plan and purpose of the author (Psalm 1:1, 1:3)
9. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation involves a \_\_\_\_\_ of other Scripture (Mark 10:25)
10. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation would involve a contradiction of doctrine (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

## Anthropomorphism Defined

Anthropomorphism is attributing human characteristics to the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. The word comes from two Greek words, *anthropos* (man) and *morphe* (shape or form).

## Anthropomorphism outside of Scripture

1. Perhaps the easiest place to find anthropomorphisms is in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Anthropomorphism frequently occurs in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Anthropomorphism in Scripture

God relates to us through anthropomorphism. We can't relate to the infinite, so God comes down and describes Himself and His interactions with us in terms that we can understand. The Scriptures take God and use language that allows us to know Him, to understand Him, to love Him and to seek out ways to please Him.

# Getting to Know God Better, Week 2

## Sentiment: Exploring the Emotions

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### Review

Anthropomorphism is attributing human characteristics to the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. The word comes from two Greek words, *anthropos* (man) and *morphe* (shape or form). Anthropomorphism is literature that describes something non-human using the shape or forms typically found only in mankind.

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 20:4-5

Ezekiel 39:25

Exodus 34:14

Joel 2:18

Deuteronomy 4:24

1 Corinthians 10:15-22

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 11:1, 10, 33

Joshua 7:1-26

Numbers 12:9

Judges 3:8

Numbers 32:10-13

2 Samuel 6:1-7

Deuteronomy 9:13-20

Romans 1:18

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 7:7, 8, 13

Jeremiah 31:3

2 Samuel 12:24

Romans 5:8

Psalm 42:8

2 Corinthians 9:7

Psalm 63:3

Hebrews 12:6

Psalm 103:13

1 John 3:1

Psalm 146:8

1 John 4:8-9

Next week, God's eyes

# Getting to Know God Better, Week 3

## Sight: Examining the Eyes

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### Review

Anthropomorphism is attributing human characteristics to the \_\_\_\_\_. The word comes from two Greek words, *anthropos* (man) and *morphe* (shape or form). Anthropomorphism is literature that describes something non-human using the shape or forms typically found only in mankind.

### The Eye in the Bible

The Hebrew word for eye can be used in a variety of ways that are not related to vision (the, “**face**” of the earth in **Exodus 10:5**, **Exodus 10:15**; **Numbers 22:5**, **Numbers 22:11**, the, “**color**” of things in **Proverbs 23:31** and **Numbers 11:17**). In Hebrew, the word for eye and the word for \_\_\_\_\_ are the same word. “**The apple of my eye**,” is slightly different and refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.

### This Week’s Key Verse

**Job 10:4: Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees?**

### God’s eyes watching things

**Land:** Deuteronomy 11:12

**Nations:** Psalm 66:7

\_\_\_\_\_ : 1 Kings 8:29; 1 Kings 9:3

**Truth:** Jeremiah 5:3a

**Man:** Psalm 139:16; Proverbs 5:21; Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 16:17; Jeremiah 32:19

\_\_\_\_\_ : Hebrews 4:13

### People who did right in God’s eyes

**David:** 1 Kings 15:5

**Asa:** 1 Kings 15:11

**Jehoshaphat:** 1 Kings 22:43a

### Those who did not do right in God’s eyes

1 Kings 11:33

2 Chronicles 29:6

1 Kings 16:25

Isaiah 1:15-16

### Jesus’ Eyes

Luke 6:20

John 11:41

John 6:5

John 17:1

## God's eye(s) not sparing/having pity

Ezekiel 5:11 (This language occurs many times in Ezekiel)

Zechariah 12:4

## Apple of God's eye

**Deuteronomy 32:10:** "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.

**Psalm 17:8:** Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

**Proverbs 7:2:** Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. [This is the only thing God tells us to keep as the apple of our eye—timely advice.]

**Zechariah 2:8:** For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. [Think about trying to destroy God's pupil—no way that could happen and the same thing is true of the nation of Israel]

## People requesting God to \_\_\_\_\_ His eyes

**1 Kings 8:52:** that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You.

**Nehemiah 1:6:** please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

**Daniel 9:18:** O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.

## Key Verses

**Genesis 6:8:** But Noah found grace [favor, elegance—the same word we talked about in \_\_\_\_\_] in the eyes of the LORD.

**2 Chronicles 16:9a:** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro [the stem of this word implies that God's eyes go quickly and eagerly, not that they just go] throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal [at peace] to Him.

**Psalm 32:8:** I will instruct [give you attention] you and teach [point, direct] you in the way [journey, manner, road] you should go; I will guide [advise, counsel] you with My eye.

# Getting to Know God Better, Week 4

## Strength: Analyzing the Arms

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Anthropomorphism is attributing human characteristics to the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. Arm

#### The \_\_\_\_\_ Arm

**Exodus 6:6:** Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I *am* the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

**Deuteronomy 5:15:** And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

#### Rhetorical Questions about God's Arm

**Numbers 11:23:** And the LORD said to Moses, "Has the LORD's arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not."

**Job 40:9:** [God speaking to Job] Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exodus 31:18:** And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

**John 8:2-11**

### 3. God's \_\_\_\_\_

#### The Negative

**1 Samuel 5:6:** But the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and He ravaged them and struck them with tumors, *both* Ashdod and its territory.

**1 Samuel 7:13:** So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

#### The Positive

**Exodus 7:5:** And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

**2 Chronicles 30:12:** Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD.

**Ezra 7:6:** this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he *was* a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

**Nehemiah 2:18:** And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this good work*.

**Psalms 16:11:** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

**Psalms 37:23-24:** The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

**Luke 1:66:** And all those who heard *them* kept *them* in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

### Jesus at the Father's Right Hand

**Luke 23:46:** And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, *'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'*" Having said this, He breathed His last.

**Romans 8:34:** Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

## 4. Jesus' Hand(s)

A. \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 8:3:** Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

**Mark 6:5**

**Mark 8:23-25**

B. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 9:36-7**

**Mark 10:13-16**

**Luke 24:50-51:** And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

# Getting to Know God Better, Week 5

## Smell: Noticing the Nose

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International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices . . . are called a "sweet aroma."

### God Smells \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 8:21:** And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Exodus 29:18; 29:25; 29:41; Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17; 2:2, 9; 3:5; 4:31; 6:15, 21; 8:21, 28; 17:6; 23:13, 18; Numbers 15:3, 7, 10, 13, 14, 24; 18:17; 28:2, 6, 8, 13, 24, 27; 29:2, 6, 8, 13, 36: "sweet \_\_\_\_\_"

**Ephesians 5:2:** And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

### But Not All . . .

**Leviticus 26:31:** I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas.

**Amos 5:21:** I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.

### A \_\_\_\_\_ Nose for Anger (Al Hsu)

What helps me is an image from scripture of the nose of God. Of course, God doesn't literally have a physical nose. But in several places in the Old Testament, God is described with nostrils flaring at injustice. Psalm 18:8 says, "Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth."

A second image balances the first one: Exodus 34:6 says, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth." The Hebrew word for "longsuffering" is literally "long of nose." Anger shows in flared nostrils and snorting, like enraged people with reddened noses. But God is "long of nose," meaning that it takes much longer for his wrath to kindle. The same word for "long of nose" is in Psalm 103:8: "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."

So consider what it means to follow our long-nosed God. Yes, He bristles at injustice, and rightfully so. But He is long of nose, longsuffering, slow to anger. And He does not hold to resentment indefinitely; Psalm 103:9 continues, "He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever." If we would be more like God, we would be slow to anger; we would be cautious to express our anger and direct it only against those things truly unjust, not petty annoyances that rub us the wrong way. And we will



not harbor our anger forever; once a situation is resolved, we move on. May our noses be long like God's!

**Exodus 34:6:** And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

**Numbers 14:18:** 'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generation*.'

**Psalm 86:15:** But You, O Lord, *are* a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

**Psalm 103:8:** The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

**Psalm 145:8:** The LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.

**Joel 2:13:** So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

**Isaiah 48:9:** For My name's sake I will defer My anger, And *for* My praise I will restrain it from you, So that I do not cut you off.

## \_\_\_\_\_ in God's Nostrils

**2 Samuel 22:9:** Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. (see **Psalm 18:8**)

**Isaiah 65:5:** Who say, 'Keep to yourself, Do not come near me, For I am holier than you!' These *are* smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.

## \_\_\_\_\_ from God's Nostrils

**Exodus 15:8:** And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together; The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

**2 Samuel 22:16:** Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered, At the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils. (see **Psalm 18:15**)

## Conclusion

**2 Corinthians 2:15:** For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

**Philippians 4:18:** Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

# Getting to Know God Better, Week 6

## Smile: Seeking the Smile

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**Numbers 24:1:** Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery, but he set his face toward the wilderness.

The word for 'pleased' is the combination of the Hebrew words for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Samuel 12:22:** For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.

A different Hebrew word is used here—it's the word for, ' \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.'

**1 Kings 3:4-10:** **4** Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. **5** At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" **6** And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. **7** Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. **8** And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. **9** Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" **10** The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

Solomon could have asked for anything and he asked for an "understanding heart" (also translated as an, "inner man that hears and obeys"). Solomon's request is rooted in God changing \_\_\_\_\_, not Solomon changing the people.

**1 Chronicles 17:27:** Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O LORD, and *it shall be* blessed forever."

A different Hebrew word is used here—it's the word for, 'resolved or determined.' God was resolved and determined (and at the same time pleased) to bless the house of David.

**Psalm 51:19:** Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering, Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

This Hebrew word for pleased has two meanings—the first is, ‘to delight in, to take \_\_\_\_\_ in.’ The second is to, ‘\_\_\_\_\_ down.’

**Isaiah 53:10a:** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him.

God was pleased to bruise \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the Hebrew words do you think is used here? \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 3:17:** And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The first thing to notice about this word is its \_\_\_\_\_ (aorist). God is pleased with Jesus without regard to \_\_\_\_\_.

The second thing to notice about this word is the \_\_\_\_\_: “to be well pleased with, take pleasure in, to be favorably inclined towards one.”

**1 Corinthians 1:21:** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

**1 Corinthians 12:18:** But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. This is a new Greek word that means, ‘to will, have in mind, or \_\_\_\_\_.’

**Galatians 1:15-16:** 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.

**Colossians 1:19:** For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell.

Jesus is the epitome of the \_\_\_\_\_