

└ Introduction

└ Texas is my state

Texas is my state



09:30

1. I, like most Texans, am proud where I come from.
2. Texans are taught that their state is simply better than any other state (or country).
3. God wants us to think that way about Him – that He is simply better.
4. He is the only one that deserves our loyalty.
5. He wants His team to be the only team we play for.

└ Introduction

└ God wants a relationship with people

God wants a relationship with people
Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day I took them out of the land of Egypt, in my name I broke the covenant that they made with me in the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I went their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

09:32

1. In our class we're trying to establish, from the Bible, the idea that God wants a relationship with people.
2. We're using Jeremiah 31:31-34 as a means of focusing that study.
3. Jeremiah 31:31-34 is one of the most important passages in the Bible, because it provides a connection between the old covenant and the new covenant, and talks about the close, special relationship that God's chosen people have with Him. Under the old covenant, those people were the Israelites. Under the New Covenant, those special people are all Christians.
4. *Read it*
5. Today we'll be talking about how God wants to be the only God in our lives.

└ Introduction

└ Goals

Goals

- Consider who God is, and consider how He is similar and different from man.
- Explore the different ways God has revealed himself to man.
- Think about ways to improve my perspective on who God is.

09:33

1. Examine why God is worthy of our loyalty.
2. Examine how we learn about God's greatness.
3. Considering how we can increase our devotion to God.

└ I will be your God

 └ I will be your God

I will be your God
Gen 17:1-8



"And I will give you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." – Genesis 17:8

09:35

1. God recounts his 3-fold promise to Abraham: land, nation, seed (if you count “kings shall come from you”)
2. Part or all of these promises are repeated at various times in Abraham’s life (Gen 12, 13, 15, 17, 22)
3. The first occurrence of the phrase ‘I will be their God’ is in God’s promise to Abraham.
4. Fresco pictured here is one of the earliest depictions of a Bible narrative. It depicts Abraham and God’s promises to Him. It is from the Dura-Europos synagogue 244 AD 70% of the city has been destroyed during the Syrian civil war.
5. When does God mean when he says ‘I will be their God’?
Abraham had many ‘gods’ to choose from, but God wanted Abraham to love only Him.
6. vs.1-2 Because God is mighty, he had to put a condition on His covenant with Abraham – be blameless.

└ I will be your God

└ ‘I will be their God’ through the Bible

‘I will be their God’ through the Bible

‘I will be their God’
 Gen. 17:8, Jer. 24:7, Jer. 31:33
 Ex. 6:7, Ex. 20:2, Ex. 23:14
 Ez. 37:15, Ez. 37:22, Ez. 37:27
 Zech. 8:8, 2 Cor. 6:16, Heb. 8:10

‘I will be your God’
 Ex. 6:7, Jer. 7:23, Jer. 11:4
 Jer. 35:2; Ez. 36:28

‘the Lord your God’
 Old Testament (386) Psalm (2)
 Genesis (1) Isaiah (9)
 Exodus (14) Jeremiah (13)
 Leviticus (24) Lamentations (4)
 Numbers (31) Hosea (3)
 Deuteronomy (241) Joel (7)
 Joshua (27) Amos (1)
 Judges (2) Micah (1)
 1 Samuel (1) Zephaniah (1)
 2 Samuel (5) Zechariah (1)
 1 Kings (7) Matthew (5)
 2 Kings (3) Mark (1)
 1 Chronicles (7)
 2 Chronicles (7) Luke (5)

09:38

1. Last week, ‘your God’, given to the Israelites as part of the Law of Moses (Ex. 6:1-9, Lev. 22:31-33).
2. Clearly God thinks it’s important that we view Him as the only God.
3. It’s not just that His people accept Him as the ‘true’ God. But as ‘their’ God

└ Who is God?

 └ God is majestic

God is majestic
Psalm 8



The Whirlpool galaxy as seen from the Hubble Space Telescope

09:40

1. The Whirlpool galaxy is 60,000 LY across. You can see it clearly with your own telescope. Right below the handle of the big dipper.
2. I'm small compared to God.

└ Who is God?

└ Man is not the source of God's greatness

Man is not the source of God's greatness

Psalm 8

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou perfected praise, because of thine enemies; that thou mightest put down the enemy and avenger.
—Psalm 8:2 (LXX)

15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, 16 and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

"Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise?"

— Matt. 21:15-16 (ESV)

09:41

1. In context, Psalm 8:2 may refer to Israel, who followed the true God, being small and the surrounding nations being 'great'.
2. Jesus quotes Psalm 8:2 to remind the chief priests and scribes that they are not the source of His approval.
3. It's important to remember that God is great, whether or not man accepts it.

└ Who is God?

 └ God loves man and has blessed him.

God loves man and has blessed him.

Psalm 8



"The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank."

09:45

1. Man is not powerful like God is.
2. Yet, He has made us special compared to all other creation
3. Man is special and loved even when he rejects God.
4. Quote is possibly attributed to Dante Gabriel Rossetti, a painter poet from the mid-19th century

└ How we come to know about God

└ Eternity is set in the heart of man

Eternity is set in the heart of man
Ecclesiastes 3:11



09:48

1. God has always made Himself known to man
2. What does the passage mean? *Man innately understands the possibility that something could exist beyond his own world.*
3. However God may have chosen to speak to us, He was always going to leverage that part of our being that understands there's something more to life.
4. Romans 1 – Creation speaks to an ‘un-caused cause’, which should lead us to consider God.

└ How we come to know about God

└ In the past, God spoke to the Fathers by the prophets

In the past, God spoke to the Fathers by the prophets
Hebrews 1:1-2



09:50

1. The Israelites would have viewed Moses as the greatest prophet, the giver of God's Law.
2. Prophets would also include all those people we normally think of as prophets, whose main purpose was to plead for Israel to repent from wickedness.
3. The author leaves out the patriarchs. But, remember, he's just trying to make a point.
4. What's tough about learning from prophets? *People don't have access to prophets all the time. And, prophets just 'tell' you what perfect faithfulness looks like. They can't 'show' you what perfect faithfulness looks like.*
5. Painting:Rembrandt

- └ How we come to know about God

- └ Today, God speaks to us in His Son, Jesus

Today, God speaks to us in His Son, Jesus
Hebrews 1:1-2



09:53

1. Speak means much more than simply teaching.
2. Jesus' life itself was God showing us how to live righteous.
3. God was under no obligation to do this. He loved us.
4. But, even with Jesus, you only had direct access to his life if you lived in 1st century Palestine.
5. The fresco pictured is also from Dura-Europos (225AD), but a church instead of a synagogue. It pictures Jesus healing the paralytic. It's the earliest known depiction of Jesus. In general, early Christians did not make images of Jesus.

└ How we come to know about God

 └ ...And by extension His Word



09:57

1. God has always shown Himself to man, but never more easily and more clearly than today
2. The Bible doesn't change through time.
3. The Bible is easily available for most people.
4. God makes himself 'our God' when we read His word, understand it, and believe it

└ What does that mean for me?

 └ God gives you moral anchor

God gives you moral anchor
Luke 4:1-13



- ▶ Jesus used God as His basis for refuting Satan
- ▶ There is no objective morality without a God-provided standard

10:00

1. When God is 'our' God, He sets the rules.
2. Jesus did not just quote any old verses from the Old Testament.
3. Every rebuttal was predicated on a respect for the greatness and authority of God.
4. Atheists, and indeed people in general, don't want an objective morality, until they become dissatisfied with their life
5. But, when we humble ourselves before God, we find refuge in the objective morality He provides.

└ What does that mean for me?

└ Love toward God is the foundation of eternal life

Love toward God is the foundation of eternal life
Luke 10:25-27



- The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. – Steven Covey
- Sometimes we don't remember what giving all of ourselves looks like.

10:05

1. Loving God with all of ourselves is a 'must have' for salvation.
2. We are not perfect.
3. In spite of that, though, we have to keep pushing.
4. Remember that we haven't given everything, yet. We can always push to love God more.

└ Review

└ I will be their God

I will be their God
God wants to be your God



- ▶ God is great and mighty
- ▶ God loves and blesses us.
- ▶ God shows Himself to man
- ▶ God's portrait is perfected in Jesus
- ▶ We meet Jesus in the Bible.
- ▶ Respect for God can guide our lives
- ▶ Loving God is where salvation starts

10:10

1. Are you proud of being on God's team?