

Who are you Lord? (The unknown God)

Message 11: [You are my anchor series](#).

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Introduction

Throughout these series of “*You are my Anchor*” I have introduced you to several names of God. I for example in previous messages introduced you to some of His names such as:

- *Elohim Yeshuati – God my Salvation*
- *Jehovah Nissi – the Lord my banner*
- *Jehovah Jireh – The Lord who provides*
- *El Shaddai – God Almighty*
- *Kurios – the Lord, my Master*

In all these cases that I introduced you to God through a name or attribute, have you ever considered God as “The Unknown God”?

In other words, Is it possible that we can know him, based on his names, but then also find that it is IMPOSSIBLE to know him, because he is God – the Unsearchable, the one is DEEP and who has no end. In fact, the scriptures speak of this when they say:

the Spirit searches all things [diligently], even [sounding and measuring] the [profound] depths of God [the divine counsels and things far beyond human understanding]. 1 Cor 2: 10 (AMP).

Straight away, we can tell that **the only way to know God, the Unknown God is through the Spirit of God.**

Which means that without his Spirit, it is impossible to know him and he will remain Unknown to you and that is why most people can never “find God” because who can find a God who is unsearchable except he himself reveal himself to us?

It is therefore BAD NEWS if God never reveals himself to you, for it means you could die and never experience the truth, but IF YOU ARE here, I suspect you can scream with joy. Why? it is GOOD NEWS that God has appeared to you or given you a revelation of himself.

You surely are lucky, you surely are blessed that the Great God Jehovah has shown you mercy to appear to you, just like he appeared to me, because he could just as well have not appeared to you, and left you in ignorance, simply knowing him as the “Unknown God” or “The Far-off God.”

This message is thus to help you to understand how you can come closer and get to know the Unknown God.

Anchor verse

To help you understand why it is GOOD NEWS to be hearing God’s message, let me open to you the scripture the Lord gave me for this message. It shows people who were just like you and I – people “each doing their own thing” before God appeared. It is taken from when the Apostle Paul was in the City of Athens, which is in Modern

day Greece – the home of modern democracy and philosophers. In this passage, Paul is speaking to the city elders or wise men in a place called the Areopagus. You can visit this place if you did a tour of Greece, but let us go to the story of Paul at this famous place. The Spirit inspired him to speak thus:

“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.””

Acts 17:22-31 NIV

From this story or this passage, there are a few timeless messages which the unknown God, that is the Lord Jesus wants me to show you:

1. **Many of us worship our “gods” even when we do not know them** - This is the typical style of most of the world today and in history and that is why in this story, they had the altar to the unknown God.

You should not therefore be surprised to find that MOST people will say: *“Oh I’m Catholic” “I’m Hindu” “I’m Buddhist”* and when you ask them to tell you more about their beliefs, they don’t really understand what they believe. This not new and human beings 2,000 years ago did this, yes even in Athens the home of “democracy” and philosophers like the stoics and epicureans who many value today. And so just like then that people worshiped what they did not know, today many still do BUT God is saying – *“enough of the past, don’t worship blindly, I want you to know me and to love me”* and that is why he sends his servants, the preachers of righteousness like me, to open the eyes of all - even the so called “wise” of this world.

2. **It is good news for a preacher to come to you.** Every time a preacher or a man of God comes to you and speaks about God, that is GOOD NEWS. Do you know why? Unless God himself comes to you or opens his eyes to “see him” you will remain ignorant. Just like a man called Jacob was shocked AFTER he had a dream of a ladder that rested on the earth with its top reaching up to heaven, and God’s angels were going up and down the ladder, The Bible says this:

“Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was unaware of it.” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!” Genesis 28: 16 - 17 (BSB).

In this story, we see that Jacob was surrounded by Angels. He was literally sleeping at the gate of heaven or *Bethel* which means house of God, but unless the Lord had opened his eyes in the vision of the night, he WOULD HAVE never known it!

So likewise, us humans today, many times we don’t know that God is with us, and all around us and yet we are unable to perceive him and so it’s him who has to make the first move and come to us and that’s why when God was about to send his son Jesus – who is God in the flesh, the message by John who was sent ahead of God introduced people to the idea that God was finally coming “near to us” and so he preached this: *“Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come NEAR.” Matthew 3: 2 (NIV).*

The right response when God appears to you, through his preachers is therefore to indeed follow what they say, repent, because if God wanted to leave you alone, he would BUT he demonstrates his love for you – by appearing to you, and telling you what to do and this is a PRIVILEGE because the God who comes near you is great!

3. **Fear God, because he is Great.** Because God made the earth, the heavens - including matter, even dark matter, water, laws of science, galaxies, stars and even the micro-organisms, surely it would be foolish for such a God to then be equated to an idol - as many religions do. He is too majestic to be a cow, a tree, a wooden sculpture etc. He IS GREAT, the GREAT AND AWESOME GOD Jehovah. Infact, when someone called Moses wanted to know his name, he responded to him that his name is "I AM." The name means the one who always was, always is, and always would be. Wouldn't you want to know such a God?
4. **Know God – on his terms, not yours.** Many of us as the passage showed often want to make God to be at our "level" meaning we can make him into any image as we choose or serve him as we want. No, the Scriptures say: *The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.*

This God is making a few things clear:

1. *Because he made us, he does not need us* to for example give him food – which many people offer to their idols. He likewise does not need us to act like we are doing him a favour to serve him – he is not served by human hands – it is he who gave humans their hands!
 2. He says it is He who made all humans. We didn't come by evolution, or some other process such as a big bang.
 3. It is He who gave us time and space as well as the places to inhabit. So, he is the one who gave us different races, different cultures, different colours. Again, this didn't come by some form of survival for the fittest evolution; no he did it! He is therefore for example the one who determined that the Great French Emperor Napoleon would live and die in the 1800s, while by comparison you would be born today.
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5. **God deliberately hides himself – akin to a lover or a father who wants to be found.** Many of us today get frustrated with God or religion when we make the mistake of thinking that just because God "hides himself" and we don't see him or perceive him, it's because he is mean or doesn't want to be found or worse, HE DOES NOT EXIST. It's actually the very opposite. God is so in love with us and so in him hiding, he is acting just not like an evil tyrant, but like a loving father would play hide and seek with a young child – "Ready or not, here I come!" He wants the child to find him and then they all squeal with joy! He can also be likened to a lover who hides himself, so the beloved can be dying of love and then go in search of their lover. In fact, the Bible gives us a picture of how we are to search for God in the wonderful book of Song of Solomon when it says:

*Where has your beloved gone,
O most beautiful among women?
Which way has he turned?
We will seek him with you.*

Song of Solomon 6: 1 (BSB).

And the scriptures confirm that when God "hides" he is not really far. The passage says:

"God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."

So the lesson for you is that every time you think God is far – just know he is near and he is drawing you to come closer to him! What you simply need to therefore say is *“Ready or not, here I come!”*

6. **The Most important question you can ask.** Every time you are stuck and want to find God, then ask yourself: *“Who are you, Lord?” Or “God, are you there?”*

When you ask such a question then that is the beginning of faith! This is so because in another part of the Bible, it says this:

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6 NIV

God has promised you that if you believe that he exists and then you search for him, earnestly – even if we really know he is near, you will receive a reward for your faithful and diligent search.

For this journey of faith to be successful – you have to stop seeing God with your physical eyes. Why? God is Spirit (John 4: 24) and he is not like us who are “flesh” and this means we can’t see him with our physical eyes and so instead, he invites us into the “spirit world” to get to know him and that starts with believing that he is, meaning he exists and that second, he is actually not as far as many think and not as unknown as many assume. Is that not wonderful news!

7. **You are better off than your ancestors.** It is a wonderful privilege to be born today, in our generation. Why? Our ancestors like the Athenians worshipped what they did not know and this included worshipping trees and the Sun and Moon and such things which God created and so when many people say they want to return to the religions of their ancestors, thinking this is the “true path to enlightenment” in reality, they are not progressing but regressing. This is important to know because the passage makes it clear that: *“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed”*

Because today you have more knowledge than your ancestors, you have been given the privilege of acting on better information than they did and so, God is calling you to start exercising your better knowledge – because if you don’t, you will suddenly find yourself in an “outer darkness” because remember, ignorance is not an excuse in a court of law, so likewise, when you committed sins in ignorance, God overlooked them but now the time has come for you to know that sins will no longer be overlooked and a day of judgment is coming when the sheep (the righteous) will be separated from the goats (the unrighteous). That is why God has sent us the final message through his son Jesus and this is the Jesus I preach. Do you want to believe in this Jesus, the son of God? If so, he has given me a message.

The Message from Jesus

The God of our ancestors appeared to righteous men like Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. He called them out from the religion of their forefathers and asked them to walk in a covenant with him. A covenant of faith. God promised this man Abraham, the father of faith and all who believe in God by faith that though his “seed” all the nations of the earth would be blessed. This seed was unknown in the time of Abraham but eventually when the fulness of time came, this seed was revealed to men through the appearance of Jesus on this earth, when he was born to a virgin named Mary.

Jesus walked on this earth – fully God and fully man. While on this earth, he spent the time opening our eyes to know who God, the Unknown God really was, a loving father and so the Bible for example records many of the stories Jesus told about “The Kingdom of Heaven.”

This same Jesus, the son of God was however killed by evil men, but because he was good, the grave could not hold him down and so by the power of the Holy Spirit, after 3 days in the grave, he was raised from the dead and he went back up to heaven, to sit at the right hand of God, where the Great God

Jehovah the IAM gave him a name above every other name and he also gave him an exalted position as King of Kings and Lord of Lords as well as the judge of the world – and this is the judgment that the Apostle Paul spoke about in the passage.

The only way you can escape this judgment for all your sinful ways is if you believe in this Lord Jesus. If you believe that he is indeed Lord, the son of God and that he is the one who can forgive all your sins and that he can give you the gift of life that never ends, then he will welcome you into his Father's Kingdom and all your past sins will be forgiven. He guarantees that this is true because his blood shed, was what paid the price for your sins and allows you to be in a holy covenant with God.

Do you believe this message? If you do, pray this prayer to become a Christian:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Lord Jesus, come – Maranatha!