



Network for Revival Prepare Issue 50 – June 2024

Revival and the Awesomeness of God (2)

Revival should be about an overwhelming awareness of God's awesome holiness. It should also be about seeking ever-deeper personal holiness.

Last time, we looked at the wonderful biblical descriptions of God:

- He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth: heaven is his throne, the earth his footstool
- He lives in unapproachable light
- His face is like the sun shining in all its brilliance
- His eyes are like blazing fire.
- His feet are like bronze glowing in a furnace,
- His voice is like the sound of rushing waters: it strikes with lightning and shakes the earth
- He is greatly feared by the heavenly host

But this is “the appearance of the likeness of the glory of God” (Ezk 1:28). The ultimate awesome nature of God is far beyond this “likeness.” There is much that is beyond our comprehension. But we can begin to explore the overwhelmingly awesome nature of God.

God is eternity

Jesus said to his Jewish opponents “before Abraham was born, I am!” (Jn 8:58). He was effectively saying I was alive over 2000 years ago. But his actual words were “I am” i.e. over 2000 years ago “I am.” That is an amazing statement. It clearly refers back to when “God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you’” (Ex 3:14). God is “I am.” This is clearly affirming the eternity of God, including the incarnate Son of God. It isn't just that God existed millions or billions or trillions of years ago. He still does exist millions or billions or trillions of years ago. In fact, he still does exist in eternity past. But he also exists right now millions or billions or trillions of years into the future, in fact, throughout eternity future. This is mind-boggling. This is the God who is being ignored, rejected, sinned against. We need him to bring revival to correct this.

God is infinity

Paul said Jesus ascended “to fill the whole universe” (Eph 4:10). Just think of that. Solomon, when dedicating the temple, prayed “The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you” (1 Kings 8:27). God fills the whole universe and is constantly totally present at every point in it. Scientists tell us the diameter of the universe is 540,000 million, million, million miles. It takes 92 billion years for light to cross it, travelling at 186,000 miles per second. And God is fully present at every point in it right now. But, of course, he is also present throughout eternity beyond the universe. This is beyond our comprehension. This is the God who is being ignored, rejected, sinned against. We need him to bring revival to correct this.

God is I Am. We worship I Am. He is saying to us:

- before time began, I Am
- in eternity future, I Am
- throughout the vast universe, I Am
- throughout infinity, I Am

When we pray, including for Revival, we are heard by God throughout the universe

When we pray, we are heard by God throughout time - millions of years ago, millions of years ahead.

When we pray, we are heard by God throughout infinity

When we pray, we are heard by God throughout eternity.

He doesn't just live now. He doesn't just live here. He is always everywhere right now. What a privilege to pray to such an overwhelmingly awesome God!

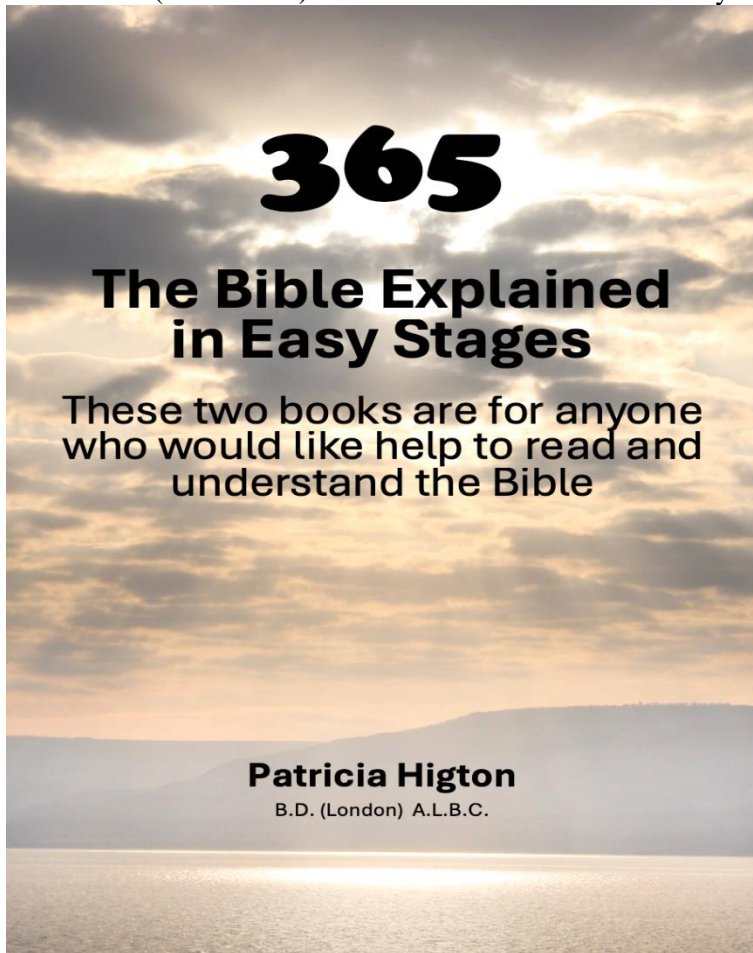
God is Trinity

God is Trinity: three Persons yet one God (Jn 15:26; 1 Peter 1:2). Each possesses all of the divine Being and has a common mind, will and power. They are co-equal, co-eternal and mutually indwelling (Jn 10:38). That is beyond our comprehension.

We should, of course, remember that God is love. Love fills the whole of the universe, of time, of infinity and of eternity. He is awaiting our prayers, including those for Revival.

A tool to get to know the Bible better, including preparing for and following up Revival

One of the challenges about Revival is that many people who are brought to faith will be largely or wholly ignorant of the Bible. My wife Patricia (a theological graduate and experienced lay-Minister) has written a two-volume book (free on-line) which addresses this. It is also very helpful for a much wider audience too.



Do please either use this resource yourself or recommend these books to others. Most people will choose to read the daily portion on their smart phones, and they also need preferably the NIV version of the Bible (which is also available on-line).

Many Bible Notes, while good in themselves, are mainly helpful thoughts for the day. By contrast, '365' seeks to provide an explanation of the Bible passage, covering nearly all the New Testament and two-thirds of the Old Testament, (omitting mainly chapters about historical detail or of sacrificial ritual, etc.). After reaching the end of these two books, the reader should have a much better understanding of the Bible – the world's best-seller, inspired by God to bring the story of salvation to humanity.

A professor of theology wrote to Patricia, after reading these books: 'I think you've done a great job of writing clearly and concisely, in an informative way, whilst also conveying your deep love for the subject matter (for the Bible itself, and for its message). It's a really impressive achievement. Many congratulations!'

Books 1 and 2 cover most of the Bible by suggesting a passage to read, providing an explanation of it and applying it to life. The undated 365 readings in each book may be completed in two years or at the reader's own pace.

Available at

<https://christianteaching.org.uk/365-the-bible-explained-in-easy-stages/>

God bless you,

Tony

In Network for Revival God has called us to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord." This includes:

- Encouraging people to seek holiness and true biblical discipleship.
- Encouraging people to major on prayer for Revival.
- Encouraging churches to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit (see [Church Development](#) for information and resources).
- Encouraging people to "Watch!" for the return of Jesus (Mk 13:32-37 – see [Eschatology](#)).