

What is God like in the Bible?

Background information simplified

<p>Sinful humans cannot come into contact with God's holiness. Sacrifice is one way to make a person clean enough to come into God's presence.</p>	<p>Moses is the key figure in the first five books of the Bible. He is the founder of Israel's religion, the giver of the Law (Torah), and a charismatic leader.</p>	<p>The letter from John was possibly by the same writer as the Gospel, although this is not certain.</p>
<p>The book of Exodus tells how God rescues his people. This shows that God keeps loving his people.</p>	<p>Moses meets God twice on Mount Horeb (or Sinai). In Exodus 3 it is in the burning bush. In Exodus 19, it is in a violent storm. When Elijah meets God in a whisper, the account is recalling Moses.</p>	<p>John tells his audience that God loves everyone. This is shown through the sacrifice Jesus made. Followers of Jesus should demonstrate the same sacrificial love of others.</p>
<p>God reveals his name: I Am Who I Am. This is a special moment. In biblical times, a person's name was bound up with their true identity.</p>	<p>Elijah has just had a showdown with wicked King Ahab. The God of Israel has defeated Ahab's God, Baal. Elijah flees from Ahab's anger and hides away.</p>	<p>The nations around Israel had lots of gods. These gods were moody and unreliable. The Bible presents the God of Israel as loving and trustworthy.</p>
<p>John's Gospel is different from the other three Gospels. The writer seems to have been reflecting on the significance of Jesus' life and teachings.</p>	<p>John calls Jesus 'the Word'. The Word was there before Creation and 'became flesh' in Jesus. John's teaching is: look at Jesus – see God.</p>	<p>To say 'God is love' is not just to say that God is loving. Love is not merely a quality of God; it is the very essence of God.</p>