

**Subject: *Knowing the One True God***

**Scripture: *2 Samuel 7:18-24***

I am preaching a message the world doesn't want to hear and many people will not tolerate. Some of the world's thinking has come into the church and we may be surprised to know how many professing Christians would not agree with the sermon I'm preaching. This message is not politically correct or popular, but it Biblical and that's all that matters. Let's begin with the historical background for our text. This chapter describes God's covenant with King David. It is a monumental chapter in God's Word, having implications that reach into the future and include the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. David wanted to build God a house of worship. God spoke through Nathan the prophet and said, "No David, you're not going to build me a house, but I am going to build your house," meaning his family line or dynasty. When David heard this he was humbled, sat down, and prayed. We have read part of this wonderful prayer. I want us to focus on verse 22, in which David says three things: God, you are great; there is none like you; and there is no other god but you. In this prayer David described God as the unique and only true God. This same David told his son Solomon to know and serve God.

### **1. How God reveals Himself as the one true God**

The Bible is first and foremost a revelation of the character and the works of God. It tells us plainly who God is and what He does. The Bible states clearly and often that there is only one true God. Now that is either true or it is false. If God is not the only true God then how can we believe anything else the Bible says? Many verses in the Bible describe our God as the one true and living God:

**Deuteronomy 4:35** *Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.*

**Deuteronomy 6:4** *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

**1 Kings 8:23** *And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:*

**1 Chronicles 17:20** *O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.*

**Psalms 86:10** *For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.*

**Isaiah 40:18** *To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?*

**Isaiah 43:10** *Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*

**Isaiah 44:6-8** <sup>6</sup> *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.* <sup>7</sup> *And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them show unto them.* <sup>8</sup> *Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.*

**Isaiah 45:5-6**<sup>5</sup> *I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:*<sup>6</sup> *That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.*

**Isaiah 45:18** *For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*

**Isaiah 45:22** *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

**Isaiah 46:9-10**<sup>9</sup> *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,*<sup>10</sup> *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

**John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

**1 Corinthians 8:4** *As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.*

**1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

Why then doesn't everybody know Him and acknowledge Him as the one true God? If God is so great and if He is the only true God and He is capable of revealing Himself, then why are there so many different gods? That brings us to the second part of the message:

## **2. How the world rejects the one true God**

In the second part of this message we are going to look at a brief historical summary from the Bible as to how mankind rejected the knowledge of the one true God and then replaced God with other false gods. First, let's look at Paul's summary of what happened in Romans 1.

**Romans 1:18-23**<sup>18</sup> *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*<sup>19</sup> *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*<sup>20</sup> *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*<sup>21</sup> *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*<sup>22</sup> *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*<sup>23</sup> *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Paul and others preached the truth to people who worshiped false Gods (Acts 14:15-17; 17:16-30). The world's unbelief and rejection of God is inexcusable. Where did people begin to worship other gods? When did people reject the one true God and replace Him with false gods? The Bible begins with the simple statement of creation by the one true God.

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

From creation God revealed something about Himself.

**Psalms 19:1-3** <sup>1</sup> *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.* <sup>2</sup> *Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.* <sup>3</sup> *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.* This is sometimes called “general revelation.” Creation tells us something about God in a clear, consistent, and convincing way.

From Genesis 1 through Genesis 9, there is only one God. In Genesis 9 we read about Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. All people came from Noah and his sons.

**Genesis 9:18-19** <sup>18</sup> *And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.* <sup>19</sup> *These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.*

At this point in time all people knew the one true God. But something happened at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11). All people were scattered and spoke different languages. Apparently this was when people began worshiping false gods. God called Abraham to be the father of a special chosen people, Israel (Gen. 12). We know that Abraham and his family lived in Mesopotamia (Iraq) and worshiped false gods.

**Joshua 24:2** *And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.*

In the last of Genesis into Exodus we read about the Egyptians and we know they had many false gods or idols. The ten plagues were judgments upon the false gods of Egypt.

**Joshua 24:14-15** <sup>14</sup> *Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.* <sup>15</sup> *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

God continued to reveal Himself to the world through His people Israel. They knew Him and they had His written law. They were to be God’s witness to the rest of the world. As a nation, Israel was like an island in a sea of idolatry.

**Deuteronomy 4:35** *Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.*

Why has the world rejected God and made many false gods as a replacement? People want a god they are comfortable with, a god they can see, a god they can control and manipulate. When the world rejected God and replaced Him with other gods, this made way to reject and replace other things. For example, special creation as described in the Bible was replaced by legends and myths and in modern times the theory of evolution. Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone was rejected and replaced by religious deeds. Regardless of what people may believe, there is only one true God, and He will not share His glory with another. It is our privilege to know Him and make Him known.