

The Baptist Catechism:

Question 1

Who is the first and chiefest being?

Answer: God is the first and chiefest being.

Isa. 44:6; 48:12; Psa. 97:9.

Questions for further discussion:

1. Is God the first of all beings? Yes. I am the first (Isa. 44:6).
2. Is He the first cause of all beings? Yes. Of whom are all things (1 Cor. 8:6).
3. Are all other causes subordinate to the first cause? Yes. O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger and the staff in their hands is mine indignation (Isa. 10:5).
4. Is God the first in creation? Yes. He spake and it was done (Ps. 33:9).
5. Is He the first in providence? Yes. For in him we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28).
6. Is He the first in government? Yes. Thy throne is established of old (Psa. 93:2).
7. Is He the first in the world of grace? Yes. All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself (2 Cor. 5:18).
8. Is He first in the displays of His love? Yes. We love him because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).
9. Can we be beforehand with God? No. Who hath first given unto him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again (Rom. 11:35).
10. Should God then be first in our thoughts? Yes. When I awake I am still with thee (Ps. 139:18).
11. And first in our esteem? Yes. Whom have I in heaven but thee (Ps. 73:25).
12. Should we first give ourselves unto Him? Yes. But first gave their own selves unto the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5).
13. And should He have the first fruits? Yes. My soul desireth the first ripe fruits (Mic. 7:1).
14. Is God the chiefest being? Yes. Who is like unto thee, O Lord? (Exo. 15:11).
15. Is He above all pretenders? Yes. He is a great King above all gods (Psa. 95:3).
16. Is He chief in heaven? Yes. Who in heaven can be compared unto the Lord (Psa. 89:6).
17. Is He chief on earth? Yes. Thou Lord art high above all the earth (Psa. 97:9).
18. Is He only one of the chief? No. For he is the Most High (Psa. 56:2).
19. And will He ever retain His preeminence? Yes. For he is the Most High for evermore (Psa. 92:8).
20. Should God then be chiefly loved? Yes. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart (Luke 10:27).
21. And chiefly feared? Yes. Rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matt. 10:28).
22. And are those happy who are interested in Him? Yes. Happy is that people whose God is the Lord (Psa. 144:15).

A Scriptural Exposition of the Baptist Catechism- Benjamin Beddome.