**SELF-EXISTENT GOD**

Sunday School Lesson 1

*The Attributes of God*

John 5:26

5/30/2021

**Introduction:** For this new lesson series, we are going to explore the amazing attributes of our God. Truly, there are not enough words in the English language to articulate all of His attributes, but we will try to review each attribute the best that we can with the Lord’s help from His Word. Unfortunately, like the apostle Paul, we only know in part right now, but one day we will know and understand so much more about the Lord. The dark glass that we look through now will be made clear! While it will be challenging to properly express the Lord’s attributes, I am certain that this lesson series will be a great blessing to all the believers who hear it. We serve a wonderful and mighty God. How could we possibly consider His nature without being overwhelmed with rejoicing and amazement? For the first lesson in this series, we are going to examine the self-existence of God. The definition of self-existent is something or someone who exists independently of other beings or causes. There is no person in this world who can claim this attribute for himself. We use the expression “self-made man,” but the truth is that there is no human being who has the capacity to be self-existent. This attribute belongs only to God. Let’s take a few moments this morning to examine the self-existence of the Lord.

1. **GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT BECAUSE NOBODY EXISTED BEFORE HIM.**
2. **Notice that God is the beginning (Revelation 1:8; Isaiah 46:9; Genesis 1:1; John 1:1).** There are those who seek to argue the potential of another unknown ancient in the universe existing prior to the Lord, but the Bible makes it very clear. The Lord is the Alpha and Omega. He is the beginning. Nothing existed before the Lord existed. While we will discuss the eternality of God during a separate lesson, it is important to understand that He existed before anyone or anything else existed. Some people struggle with this because they want to know what the Lord was doing before He created the universe. The problem with that question is that we are asking it from our perspective of time. Time for us began at the creation event described in the book of Genesis. The humanistic need to have someone who made God occurs because we are so limited in our capacity to understand that He is the beginning. He was not just there in the beginning. When we can comprehend that God was first, then we should be able to understand His self-existence. The real decision is not whether you will believe in self-existence. Instead, it’s just a matter of deciding who you believe is self-existent: man, God, or some other being.
3. **Notice that God is the God above all other gods (Psalm 95:3, 97:7-9, 135:5).** Repeatedly, the Bible says that the Lord is the God above all other gods. This makes it clear to us that God is self-existent. If He were created by someone else, that entity would then stake claim to supremacy. Thus, we can believe in total confidence that the Lord exists within Himself. Just as we realize that someone has to be first, we also realize that someone has to be at the top of authority. Humanistic scientists choose to believe in an eternal and infinite nothingness leading to the spontaneous start and evolution of man. This allows for man to be his own authority. This fact should make it plain that their theory is not about truth but about rejecting the authority of God. The Lord clearly tells us in His Word that He does not care to dwell in places made by man’s hands. I would present this as further evidence that God is not a created being. As He told Moses, I AM. Nothing else needs to be understood other than the fact that the Lord is the I AM. Before there was man, there was the I AM.
4. **GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT BECAUSE LIFE DWELLS WITHIN HIM.**
5. **Notice that the Father has life in Himself. He is the life (John 5:26, 11:25, 14:6, 4:24; Revelation 11:11).** The Bible tells us that the Father has life in Himself. This seems to make the self-existence of the Lord very obvious. He did not get life from anyone else. He did not need life to come from anyone else. He had life all by Himself and within Himself. Jesus clarified this further by stating that He is the life. Death could not contain the Lord because He is life. To help us understand this, we must remember that God is Spirit. The book of Revelation refers to the spirit of life. While the Lord exists within the three Persons of the Godhead, the same verse referenced at the beginning of this point notes that the Father has given the Son the same capacity to have life within Himself. The Scripture reveals to us that the Spirit of God is the source of life. This is not a source that was derived from anyone else at a prior time. This is the original and still the only source of life in all of the heavens and the earth. To summarize this point, if the Lord has life in Himself, why would He need anyone to create Him or bring Him into existence? Life is what brings us into existence.
6. **Notice that the Lord is the giver of life to all living things (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:22; John 1:4; Revelation 2:7).** For mankind, our life can be taken away. That’s because we have been given life from the Lord. It was not something that we created within ourselves. If that were the case, then we could just produce some more life whenever it is needed. God breathed life into mankind. He also spoke animal and plant life into existence. The Bible also tells us that He planted the tree of life in the garden. While our understanding of this tree is limited, the Bible tells us that this tree has the capacity to give eternal life. That’s because the Lord grew it. The soul of man is eternal because it was breathed in life by the Lord. The only thing left to decide is whether that soul spends eternity in agony or in the sweet presence of the Lord with a glorified body to go with it. While God has made mankind to be able to create life through our children, we understand that the true life of man lies within the soul. That is something that no person can create. It is only created by our self-existent Creator.
7. **GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT BECAUSE THE LORD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH.**
8. **Notice that God is not just the God of the earth. He is the God of the entire universe (Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:24; Isaiah 45:18, 66:1-2; Hebrews 11:3).** If God had only created the earth, then it would be difficult to believe in His self-existence. After all, there is a vast universe filled with stars and planets. The natural question would be who created them if not God. Thankfully, our faith is in a God who is the Creator of all aspects of the universe. While we do not really know the depths of space, we know that God created all things contained therein. While this may not be definitive evidence by itself of God’s self-existence, it certainly strengthens our resolve in it when compared with the other observations already made in this lesson. We must notice that the Bible simply refers to it as the heaven. This covers an indefinite amount of space. It is not just limited to our galaxy, universe, or cosmos. Does the work done by His hand seem to be that done by someone who is submissive to a creator? No, it most certainly does not. The heavens were made by a self-existent God.
9. **Notice that the Lord made all things. There is nothing made without Him (John 1:3; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16).** This Bible verse makes it clear that all things are made by the Lord. There is NOTHING made without Him. The Bible does not put any restrictions on this verse. It does not list out any exceptions. Consequently, this would apply to Himself. He was not made by anyone else. He is self-existent. He is the maker of all things. If there were someone who had created Him, then this verse would not be true. Certainly, that being would have created other things also. Let God be true, but every man a liar. The Lord has told us all that we need to know in order to believe in His self-existence. At this point, any hesitation is due to a lack of faith. Of course, we ought to be glad that we serve a self-existent God. Would we really want to base our eternal destination on Him if there were some other higher being? I am thankful that we serve a self-existent God. Let us praise and magnify Him, as He is worthy of all praise and honor given unto His blessed holy name.
10. **GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT BECAUSE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS DEMANDS IT.**
11. **Notice that the Lord emphasizes that the creation must properly regard and obey the creator (Romans 1:25; Malachi 2:10; Psalm 102:18).** The Bible establishes the principle that the creation should regard and obey the Creator. This is seen over and over again in Scripture. Since God created man, the expectation is that man will worship, honor, obey, and praise the Lord. If there had been some other creator above the Lord, it is only reasonable to conclude that the Lord would have given honor Himself to such a being. His righteousness would have demanded for this to take place. As stated, the Lord has told us in His Word that He is the only One. There is no one else, regardless of how far man tries to reach out into the unknown to look for another. The book of Romans speaks of the creatures worshipping other creatures more than the Creator Himself. He is not a creation. He cannot be a creation. His righteousness demands for us to believe that He is the Creator. He is not an inventor. He did not make something from something else. He made something where there was nothing.
12. **Notice that it would be prideful to place yourself in the highest position of prominence if there was someone of higher authority (Isaiah 14:13-14; Proverbs 6:17).** The Lord hates a proud look. Satan was cast out of Heaven because he tried to ascend above the Lord. He tried to take the highest seat possible. Consequently, the sin of pride is the oldest sin in existence. There are so many verses that deal with pride and its destruction that we can clearly understand God’s hatred toward it. This leads us to consider the self-existence of God. The Lord speaks of His glory in His Word. He commands us to worship Him. He desires our praise and recognition of His position above all. This is not pride because truly He is the only One worthy of such honor. If you choose to reject His self-existence, then you place pride at the doorsteps of the throne of God. Let us not impinge upon the character of our Lord by denying His self-existence. Let us worship the one and only God.