

## FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE #2

There are many obstacles to the human person's effort to know God by reasoning alone. Reasoning is often not clear and our human desires can lead us against what is good and moral and true.

We are therefore, in need of enlightening by God in order to know and understand those truths that are beyond human reason alone. We also benefit from God's enlightenment about those things that we could come to understand, but frequently misunderstand because of our human weaknesses. When we speak of God in this paper and following issues we use the pronouns "he", "him", "his". But we know that God is not male or female, but a pure spirit. The use of male pronouns does not mean that God is more like a male than a female, for God is in a sense both and yet neither. The use of male pronouns is just a convention.

In God's goodness and wisdom he chose to gradually reveal himself to humanity many years ago. God wanted to let humanity know the divine will and plan for us. God wanted to communicate his divine life for each of us and for all people. God in return wants us to try to come to believe in his existence and to gradually love him in return. The Creator is reaching out to his human creature and desires that we, his human creatures reach out to God in return.

God revealed himself to our first parents, Adam and Eve and invited them into intimate communion with himself and gave them many graces and gifts. The great sin of our first parents is told in the first book of the Bible called the Book of Genesis. This great sin of Adam and Eve did not sever their relationship with God but greatly weakened it for all generations.

God formed a covenant, or agreement with Noah and later with Abraham as also told in the Book of Genesis. The people who descended from Abraham and Sarah were chosen by God from all the various peoples on the earth to be the ones through whom he would continue to gradually reveal himself. The patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament received revelations from God that they were commanded to share with the Hebrew people of ancient nation of Israel. When the proper time would come, many centuries later, God would send a redeemer into this nation. The people of Israel in turn would then carry their knowledge of God and his plan of salvation out of their nation and into all of the nations of the world. The forty five books of the Old Testament of the Bible tell the story of the nation

of Israel, the revelations of God through the prophets, the peoples successful periods of following God, and the peoples periods of turning away from God, over more than one thousand years. The story of the human family's relationship with God is full of accounts of our sins and failures. And the story also tells of God's love for us and his desire to begin again and renew humanity. This dynamic story with our failures and our faithfulness to God continues very clearly in today's world. Humanity, it seems at times, wants to be fully independent of God and God's commandments. At times it seems that humanity wants to be free from God. But how can a creature really be independent from the Creator and survive very long? This struggle by us humans which includes many forms of offences against God, called sins, is what led God to try a more heroic way to bring humanity back to him. He sent the Son of God who took on human flesh and all of our human nature and lived a full life among humans in Israel. This person was named Jesus. Jesus was a Divine person yet had a full human nature. He loved his people and all people and ultimately surrendered his life in order to free us from our sins.

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In a mysterious wonderful way he won for us the gift of forgiveness so that we can begin again, and again to walk in the way of life that he demonstrated.