

*Tim's new book provides a unique perspective on just who this God is, and why He behaves in the ways that He does. It will be enlightening, or thought-provoking; or possibly both.*

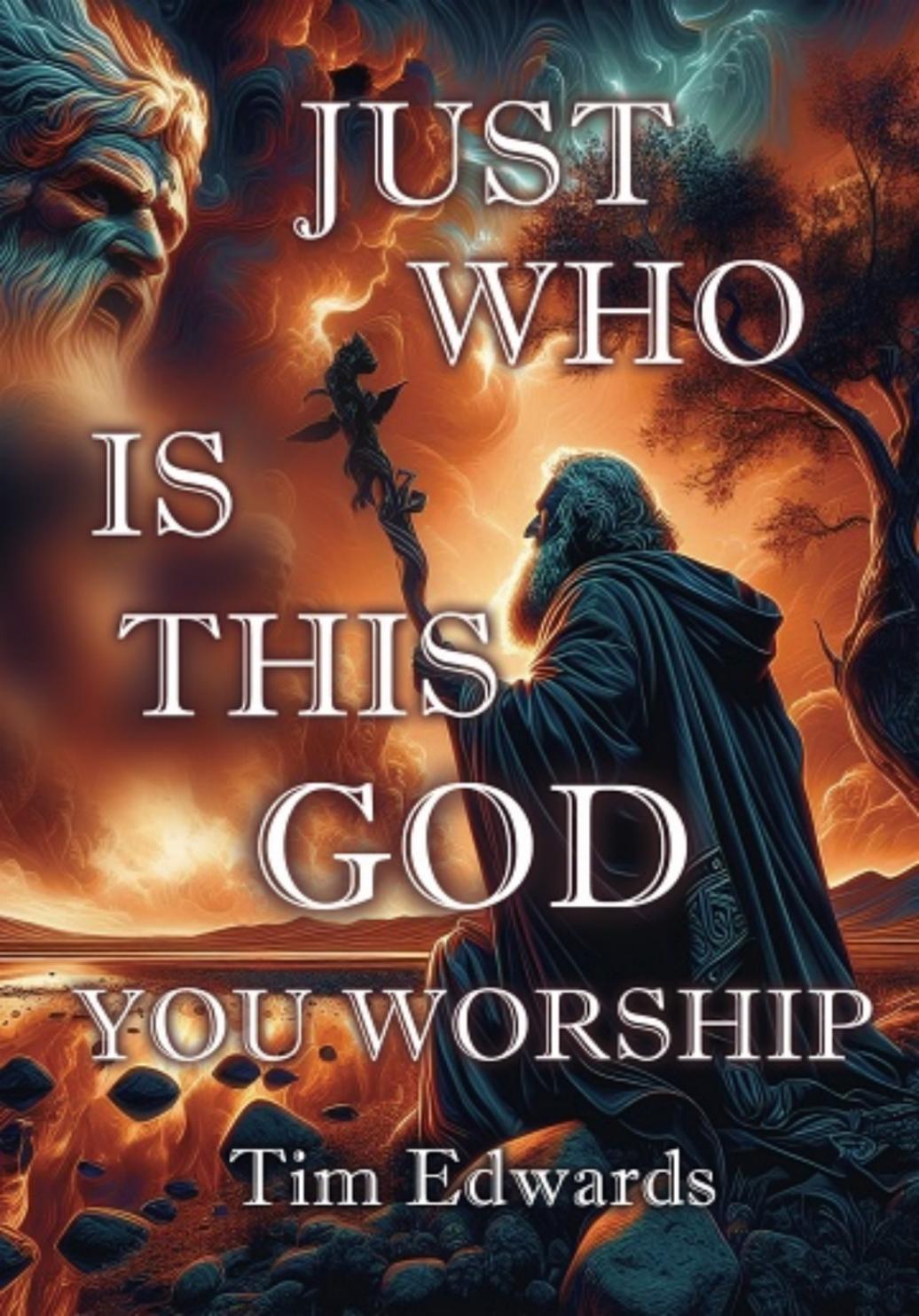
## **Just Who Is This God You Worship?**

By Tim Edwards

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JUST  
WHO  
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YOU WORSHIP

Tim Edwards

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# INTRODUCTION

It would seem that since the dawning of religion, humans have sought to discover the identity of their creator. In that quest, they have worshiped figurines or statues made of wood, metal, or stone. They have worshiped the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, the forest, the land, animals, and even other humans. That desire and drive to discover “who” God is has been central to mankind's existence for eons. For most, it remains a mystery.

Even Christians, it seems have great difficulty in knowing the God they worship. They ask: “Why does God allow traffic accidents?” “Why does God allow war?” “Why does God permit suffering?” “Why did God allow my mother to suffer and die of cancer?” Many believe they may be unworthy to serve God; unworthy of His forgiveness; unworthy of His healing; or unworthy of His blessings. Others believe they

must “clean up their act” before entering the “kingdom of God”; or that they must follow a strict preset of rules, regulations, and requirements to be acceptable to God.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob however is a god who WANTS to be known! He has spent some 4000 years writing a book through the lives of men and women in an attempt to make Himself known to us. He has also created US in HIS likeness. He has made us like Him! His desires and motivations, therefore are not unlike our own. If then we can know our parents, our children, our brothers and our sisters; then we can know God (at least to the extent that He has revealed Himself to us --- and that revelation is actually quite extensive).

Much of what we discuss here relates to the “how” of what God has done, and why that “how” was necessary. In other words, these discussions will focus on the mechanisms by

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which God has accomplished the provisions of salvation for man; and why those mechanisms were necessary. God's purpose in these accomplishments is simple: He does not want ANYONE to perish. (2 Peter 3:9). The mechanisms used in these accomplishments provide great insight into WHO this God is, and how He relates to us. Why did He do the things He's done? Why does He allow some of the evil we see here on earth? What does He want from us? Why does He allow sickness, suffering, war, and death?

So let us begin to examine just who this God is. Just like our parents, brothers, sisters or children; there will certainly be some things which we do not understand, but that does not prevent us from “knowing” them. There are just some things we won't “get”.

**JUST WHO IS THIS GOD YOU  
WORSHIP?  
(Do you REALLY know Him?)**

**ADAM AND EVE**

Our first glimpse into the character and motivations of God is found in His interactions with the first recorded humans in the book of Genesis. In chapter three, verses 8-9 we discover that it was His habit to walk in the garden and to visit with them. This sparks the question: “Why did He create them?”

He already had created the angels. They serve Him night and day. They carry out His commands. They participate in worshiping Him. What “need” was there to create another being? Did He not already have companionship? Did He not already have those who worshiped Him? Well, the angels were not LIKE Him! Genesis 1:26 reads: “Let us make

man in OUR image, after OUR likeness: ----”  
(KJV)

Then again, in Genesis 2:18 we read: “It is not good that man should be alone: -----” (NKJV)

So --- He wanted to create someone LIKE Him; and He did not want that someone to be lonely! But what did God know of loneliness? How could He know of it unless He had experienced it? Yes. God knows ALL; but His creation of man, His visits with man, and His desire for companionship, along with His provision of a companion for man certainly suggests that His desire is for MORE than just KNOWING! His desire is for EXPERIENCING LIFE, for knowing another being like Himself, for loving and being loved; and for doing so with another being who is possessed of the free will to CHOOSE Him!

To be chosen by another for love and life are perhaps the most rewarding experiences in life

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for humans. Marriage, family and friends provide some of the most valuable and memorable experiences in life!

Being alone is a special experience. One can experience peace, tranquility, the absence of strife, and rest. On the other hand, being alone produces a deep yearning for purpose, companionship, commitment, comfort, and the interaction that accompanies a friendship or relationship.

Finding someone to share our experiences with produces a sense of belonging, satisfaction, and fulfillment that few other life events can match. Taking a journey to the Grand Canyon is much more enjoyable when the joy of another person can be joined with your own. God observed that “it is not good that man should be alone”, (Gen 2:18) (NKJV) so He provided a companion for man. The provision of a friend or spouse was

deemed to be an important aspect of life here on this planet by its' Creator.

Similarly, finding someone to love, and who returns that love is perhaps the ultimate in earthly companionship. Raising a family, sharing life and love throughout our trials, fears, victories, and accomplishments represents a profoundly fulfilling journey. These yearnings, desires, accomplishments, trials and victories are an important part of our lives, and sharing them with a loved one makes everything more rewarding and exciting.

Since we are made in HIS likeness, then it must be that God Himself has these same desires: experiencing life, experiencing love, and enjoying the interactions of the freewill choices made by His loved ones. This is no mystery. To love and be loved, and to enjoy life with our families is a shared desire for us all. Many of the answers to the “who” of the great “I am” are

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found within our own hearts. The “how” of our creation may remain a mystery until we meet face-to-face; but many of the answers to knowing our God can be found quite close to home, within our own hearts.

Yes, God is capable of knowing all that we will do or say; but that doesn't negate His desire to LIVE it with us! Hebrews 8:12 tells us that He is just as capable of FORGETTING as He is of KNOWING! (“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”) Is the experience of life worth living even though we know we will die? Most of us would answer affirmatively. We do not know all that will happen between now and then; but we live our lives in anticipation and hope. Likewise, God's desire, as evidenced in His statements and behavior is to live that experience WITH us. Yes. He can “know” all that's coming. He can also choose to “forget” it and live life with us, helping us through the

difficulties and rejoicing with us in our victories. Nothing can be more rewarding.

There is, however more. In creating man and woman, God also gave them a gift! He created a place for them to live, a garden. Have you ever just sat down in the outdoors (in the woods or a garden, or even your porch)? It's great to just soak in the peace, the silence, the lack of demands or responsibility. Moreover, it was a place where The Creator Himself chose to visit with man on a regular basis. (Gen 3:8). Peace, love, and companionship; who could dream of more?

Additionally, He gave them AUTHORITY over every living thing here on this earth. (Gen. 1:28) Many wonder why He would do such a thing. God was all powerful. He could do or make anything he wanted! Why would He choose to give MAN authority over all the

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earth? Well, we must again look within ourselves for this answer.

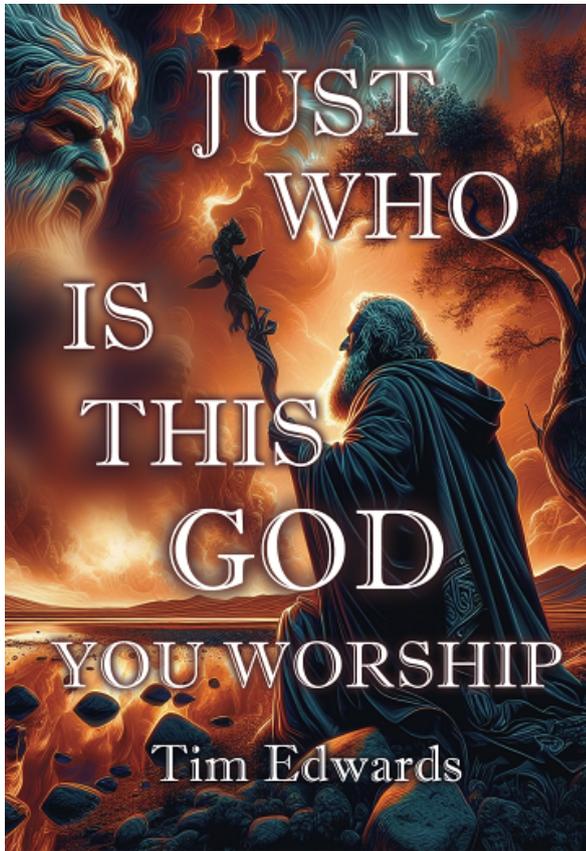
Consider: You give your son an electric train for Christmas. Do you, out of concern that he might wreck the train, require that YOU be at its' controls every time it runs? Do you require that YOU be there to command your son every time he wants to run it, or do you tell him "Here's an electric train, son. It's yours. It's a gift to play with whenever you want."?

I know. Sometimes we Dads give a gift to our son that we, ourselves secretly want to play with (a train, a radio-controlled plane, a gaming computer, or perhaps even a car). But this is not our God! He doesn't give gifts to benefit Himself. He does it out of love for His children! How frustrating it would be for a child to receive a gift from a parent and then be told they couldn't play with it unless mom or dad

was there to tell them HOW to play with it! No. That's not a gift at all! That's bondage!

Hence our answer: It would not really constitute a “gift” if God were to retain complete control. That would not constitute absolute love. A loving father gives a gift without such “strings”. Therefore, God granted all authority over the affairs of earth to mankind.

That is a true gift!



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