5-Day Devotional: Who is God the Father?

Day 1: I AM - The Eternal God

Scripture: Exodus 3:13-14 *"Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" Then what shall I tell them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me to you."'"*

Reflection: God's name reveals His eternal nature. He is not "I was" or "I will be" - He is eternally present, unchanging, and constant. In a world where everything shifts and changes, where we can't predict housing markets, relationships, or even tomorrow's headlines, God remains the same. He doesn't have identity crises, bad days, or moments of uncertainty. He is ultimate reality itself.

When God tells Moses His name is "I AM," He's declaring that He never had a beginning and will never cease to exist. He doesn't change with cultural trends or ask humans for counsel on right and wrong. This eternal, unchanging nature of God means we can plant our feet firmly on His Word, knowing it was true 6,000 years ago and will be true 5,000 years from now.

Application: What area of your life feels most uncertain right now? How does knowing God as "I AM" - eternally present and unchanging - speak to that uncertainty? Today, identify one promise from God's Word that addresses your situation and remind yourself that this truth is as solid today as it was when it was written.

Prayer: God, thank You that Your name is I AM. In a world of constant change and uncertainty, You remain the same yesterday, today, and forever. Help me to plant my feet firmly on Your unchanging Word and trust in Your eternal presence. Amen.

Day 2: God the Creator

Scripture: Genesis 1:1, 27 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."*

Reflection: God spoke the entire universe into existence - ex nihilo, out of nothing. Stars, planets, mountains, oceans, and every living creature came into being by the power of His word. But the crown of His creation was humanity. Unlike any other part of creation, we alone bear God's image.

What does it mean to bear God's image? It means we have the capacity to discern right from wrong, to create, to love, to reason. It means that living in God's image is doing what God would do if He were in our shoes. Whether you're a homeless person or royalty, you are infinitely valuable because you bear the image of the Creator Himself.

God didn't just create you and walk away. Genesis 2:7 tells us He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." Imagine Adam's first moment - opening his eyes to see the face of God breathing life into him. That same God who formed you knows you intimately and values you beyond measure.

Application: You bear the image of God. How does this truth change the way you see yourself today? How should it change the way you see others - even those who are difficult to love? Today, look for one opportunity to treat someone (including yourself) with the dignity that comes from being made in God's image.

Prayer: Creator God, thank You for forming me in Your image and breathing life into me. Help me to see myself and others through Your eyes - as infinitely valuable and precious. May I live today in a way that reflects Your image to the world around me. Amen.

Day 3: God the Lawgiver

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-2; Psalm 119:4 *"And God spoke all these words: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery... You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.'"*

Reflection: Most people are comfortable with God as Creator - they appreciate the beauty of nature and the gift of life. But when we acknowledge God as Lawgiver, things get uncomfortable. We live in a culture that says, "What's right for you is right for you, and what's wrong for you is wrong for you." But this is completely false according to Scripture.

God existed long before you or I came on the scene. Before the earth was formed, before the sun and stars existed, God was there in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He was and is the ultimate reality, the King of the universe. When He created the world and humanity, nothing changed about His authority. He didn't hand us His throne and crown and say, "Now tell me what to do."

God is the one who determines right and wrong in this universe. His Word is the final authority - not our preferences, not what makes us comfortable, not cultural expectations. Murder was wrong 6,000 years ago and will be wrong 5,000 years from now. God's commands to gather together for worship, to make disciples, to live in holiness - these don't change with the times.

Application: Is there an area where you've been treating God's Word as a suggestion rather than a command? Where have you been putting your preferences above His precepts? Today, identify one area where you need to submit to God's authority and take one concrete step toward obedience.

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for the times I've treated Your Word as optional or tried to rewrite Your commands to fit my preferences. You are the Lawgiver, and Your Word is eternal and unchanging. Give me the humility to submit to Your authority and the strength to obey. Amen.

Day 4: God the Judge and Giver of Victory

Scripture: Psalm 7:11; Deuteronomy 20:4 *"God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day... For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."*

Reflection: Imagine a judge who let terrorists go free with just a promise not to do it again. The world would be outraged - that judge would be removed immediately for failing to dispense justice. Yet this is what we often expect God to do with our sin. We want Him to overlook it, excuse it, let it slide.

But God could not remain on the throne of heaven if He simply ignored sin. He is a righteous judge. So how does He maintain justice while showering love on His people? The answer is the cross. God took all the sin of the world and placed it on His Son Jesus. When Jesus died, all sin died with Him. This is how God dispensed perfect justice while demonstrating perfect love.

And here's the beautiful truth: this same God who is Judge is also the one who gives us victory. If you are in God's will for your life, you will experience victory. Battling depression? God will give you victory if you stay on His path. Fighting addiction? God will give you victory if you continue in His will. Facing debt, broken relationships, or overwhelming challenges? God doesn't hand out losses - He hands out victories to those who remain faithful to His path.

Application: What giant are you facing today? What battle seems impossible to win? Bring it before God the Judge and ask Him to fight for you. Then commit to staying faithful to His path, trusting that He will give you victory in His timing and His way.

Prayer: Righteous Judge and Giver of Victory, thank You for the cross where justice and mercy met. Thank You that You don't leave me to fight my battles alone. I bring [specific struggle] before You today and ask You to fight for me. Help me to stay faithful to Your path, trusting in Your promise of victory. Amen.

Day 5: God's Greatest Gift - His Word

Scripture: Psalm 119:14, 16 *"I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."*

Reflection: God has given us so many gifts - His image, property, the ability to produce wealth, victory over our enemies. But the ultimate treasure He has given us is His Word. The Bible contains the very words from God's heart to ours.

God's Word is like armor that protects us. It shows us how to live in our families, how to conduct ourselves in business, how to avoid the landmines that destroy so many lives. When Satan attacks (and if you're a believer, you are in his crosshairs), God's Word is the helmet that protects your mind, the breastplate that guards your heart, the shield that deflects the enemy's arrows.

One day in heaven, the armor of God will become visible. We'll see the dents, the gashes, the arrows that were aimed right at us but didn't penetrate because God's Word protected us. We'll take off our helmet and see a dent a foot deep - the attack that was designed to make us end it all, to walk out on our family, to chuck everything. And we'll realize that God's Word saved us.

The most precious thing God has given us, other than His Son Jesus, is His Word. It's not just information - it's protection, guidance, and life itself.

Application: How are you treating God's Word? Is it gathering dust on a shelf, or are you putting on the armor daily? This week, commit to reading God's Word every day - not out of obligation, but recognizing it as the precious gift and protection it is. If you don't have a reading plan, start with one chapter of Proverbs each day (matching the day of the month) and one Psalm.

Prayer: Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word. Forgive me for the times I've neglected this treasure. Help me to delight in Your Word, to meditate on it, and to let it protect and guide me each day. May Your Word become greater in my life as I become less. Amen.

Weekend Reflection: "He Must Become Greater, I Must Become Less"

Scripture: John 3:30 *"He must become greater; I must become less."*

Reflection: This week we've explored who God the Father is - the eternal I AM, the Creator, the Lawgiver, the Judge, and the Giver of all good things. Now the question is: what is our response?

When John the Baptist was asked who he was, he replied, "I am not." While God's name is "I AM," our name is "I am not." We are not God. We are not the center of the universe. We're not even the center of our own families. God is the center.

John 3:30 sums up the Christian life: "He must become greater, I must become less." The Christian life is looking at the great I AM - the great Giver, Lawgiver, Judge, and Creator - and saying, "He must become greater in my life and I must become less. His will, not mine. His ways, not mine. Your will be done, not mine."

Why should we do this? Why does God have the right to tell us what to do? Because of what He's done for us. Like the Vietnam veteran who spent his life caring for the friend who saved him under machine gun fire, we follow Jesus not out of harsh command or fear, but out of gratitude. After what He's done for us - creating us, sustaining us, dying for us - there's nothing we won't do for Him.

Every time we come to God with a crisis, He answers with His name:

- "I'm stressed and anxious. Who will calm me?" *I AM.*
- "I'm going under. Who will be there for me?" *I AM.*
- "I'm lost. Who will show me the way?" *I AM.*
- "I'm alone. Who will love me?" *I AM.*
- "Everything is falling apart. What will be left?" *I AM.*

Application: Where are you battling with God right now? What is He asking you to do that you don't want to do? What area of your life are you still trying to control instead of surrendering to Him? This weekend, adopt John 3:30 as your new mantra: "He must become greater, I must become less." Write it down. Pray it. Live it.

Prayer: Great I AM, You are the Creator, Lawgiver, Judge, and Giver of all good things. I confess that too often I try to be the center of my own life. Today I choose to say with John the Baptist: You must become greater, I must become less. Not my will, but Yours be done. Thank You for loving me, sustaining me, and holding me together. I surrender all to You. Amen.