

The
Twilight Zone
God

Sunday, August 28th

Pastor David Flowers

The Twilight Zone God

- Who is God? What is God like? Our portrait of God impacts us and our faith for better or for worse.
- The New Testament presents Jesus of Nazareth as God come to us in the flesh; through Jesus we know who God is and what God is like. Yet many Christians let other competing views of deity overpower the God revealed in Jesus. Why is that?
- In *The Twilight Zone God*, we're invited to throw off all portraits of God that contradict that of Jesus, and we will look at the importance of the revelation of Christ and how it ought to impact our thinking about God, the Scriptures, and the way we live.

There is a fifth dimension...



What is God like?

Many have envisioned God as...

- A tribal deity favoring certain nations
- The God of Plato and Greek philosophy
- Zeus, king of the gods throwing bolts of lightning
- Mars, a god of war and violence
- The American Santa Claus
- An angry, aloof, and/or abusive, drill-sergeant father
- The Twilight Zone God (Anthony)

Luke 9:51-56 NIV – Samaritan Opposition

51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; **53** but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”

55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them. **56** Then he and his disciples went to another village.

Jesus Challenged Expectations

and Other Portraits of God

A few examples would be when...

- Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2 in Nazareth synagogue
- He said “you’ve heard it say, but I say to you...”
- He welcomed sinners and rebuked the “righteous”
- He rejected the notion that all bad things happen because of our sin or because God wanted it to happen; there are complex forces at work (e.g. Jn 9:3; Lk 13:4)
- He rebuked or “exorcised” the storm and calmed the sea
- He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (Palm Sunday)
- He said, “I and the Father [God] are one!”

John 14:5-8 NIV—Jesus Preparing to Leave Disciples

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

John 14:9-10 NIV

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Competing Portraits





IESVS NAZARENVS
REX IUDAEORVM
יהושע נצרי מלך היהודים

Hebrews 1:1-3 NLT

1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. **2** And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.

3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

v.3 NIV - "exact representation of his being"

The Twilight Zone God

Reflection and response questions:

1. Are there ways you have been thinking of God that don't fully reflect the God revealed in Jesus?
2. What ways have you seen bad theology manifest itself in the way you relate to God and your neighbor?
3. Would you respond to the invitation to throw off all competing portraits of God by asking for the Spirit's help in making Jesus central and supreme in your life, in this church, and in the surrounding community?

The
Twilight Zone
God

Access and download sermons @ www.granthamchurch.org