

## BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

*We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other*

**Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:**

**Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?**

***He's Not Like Anyone Else!***

PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

**Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, ESV**

**Bible Verse: "O LORD...there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath."**

PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 6,7

## BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 1:*

**The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit**

God is spirit. God the Father has no body for us to see, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. No human look upon God in all His glory. He is too holy for us to see.

Jesus is God's Son. He is spirit, like His Father, but He became human to live on earth and to die for God's people's sins. He is completely God AND completely man. God's people will live face to face with God in heaven. There, they will see Jesus. He will still have a human body; but there, He will shine with magnificent glory because he is God.

## BIBLE VERSE

***How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!***

**Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: John 4:24 ESV**

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

## CASE STORY

Exodus 33:12

**Our story is called:**

**The Case of the Strange Sightings.**

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who had the strange sightings? What did he see each time?
2. What else did he want to see but didn't get to right then? When did he get to see it?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

One, two, three, four, five. Five times Moses climbed up the dry, rocky mountain called Mt. Sinai. It was far from a pleasant climb. There were many dry, dusty rocks to scramble through. There were few, if any, trees to shade him from the hot sun. And then there were the snakes and scorpions which hid among the rocks that he must watch for.

Why would Moses, why would ANYONE, choose to climb such a mountain over and over? Because this mountain was none other than Mt. Sinai, the "Mountain of God." It was a place where the LORD met with Moses.

The first time Moses climbed this mountain was about a year earlier. Moses had led his father-in-law's flocks to graze near the bottom of it. And there, from the valley, he spotted a strange bush blazing with fire but somehow never burned up.

"I will go over and see this strange sight—why that bush doesn't burn up," he thought, filled with curiosity. So Moses left his flocks and began to climb up towards the bush. When Moses got closer, he was even more surprised with what he found. The bush wasn't on fire at all! No! Something else—or as Moses was about to find out—SOMEONE else was behind this amazing sight. It was the LORD!

"Moses, Moses!" The Angel of the LORD, the LORD's special angelic messenger, said to Moses, calling from inside the bush.

"Here I am," Moses replied with fear and surprise.

"Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground," the Angel of the LORD told Moses. "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

It was God who made the bush shimmer with His glory! Yes, the LORD is spirit and Moses could not see Him. But

this day, he got to see a little bit of His glory! He got to hear the Angel of the LORD! Wow!

As you can probably imagine, Moses quickly obeyed. He took off his sandals and bowed down, hiding his face. Here he stood in God's presence! God, who is holy--perfectly, purely good and oh, so great! Nothing sinful can live in His presence. And there he was, only a sinful man. What would happen to him? Would he die?

No, Moses didn't die. The LORD had a message for Moses to give and a job for him to do.

"Moses, I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt," the LORD told him. "I have come to rescue them from the land of Egypt and bring them into the land I promised them. I want you to go and lead them here to My mountain so that they can worship Me."

What a message! What a job! There were thousands and thousands of Israelites forced to work as slaves in Egypt! And the LORD wanted him to lead them all! Moses doubted he could do this. "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" he asked the LORD. Was Moses so busy thinking about himself that he forgot the greatness of the God in whose very presence he stood? The Israelites wouldn't be freed because of how great Moses was. They would be freed because of how great God was.

"I will be with you," the LORD told Moses, "the God of your fathers, the LORD, the I AM WHO I AM."

So Moses obeyed the LORD and headed down the mountain. He would go to Egypt, just as the LORD commanded him to do.

In Egypt, the LORD fulfilled all His promises to Moses and the people of Israel. With many mighty acts, the LORD showed all of Egypt that He was the one, true God and freed the Israelites. Moses led them away from slavery and brought them to worship Him there at the foot of Mount Sinai, just as the LORD told him to.

At first the people worshiped the LORD. They couldn't see Him, for the LORD is spirit. But they certainly heard His voice and they felt His mighty presence. With thunder, lightning, thick clouds and blazing fire, the LORD's presence descended Mount Sinai and He gave them His great laws, the Ten Commandments, for them to obey. This was enough for them to see how great the LORD was! They bowed down before Him. They longed to obey Him; yet, they feared Him, too.

"Moses, don't have the LORD speak to us again! Go up the mountain and speak to the LORD for us, then tell us what He says and we will obey. We are too scared to hear His voice again!" the people pleaded.

So, one, two, three times, Moses went up Mount Sinai again to receive the rest of God's laws. But while God was speaking to Moses on the top of Mount Sinai, the people were forgetting Him down below at the mountain's bottom. The LORD is spirit. He was so different from the gods of Egypt who had seemed to mighty to them. They couldn't see the LORD and they didn't like that. They wanted a god they could see and touch and decided they would make the LORD into one like that. They brought golden earrings to Aaron, Moses' brother, and he made them a golden calf that they could look at and worship. They bowed down to it and had a big, wild party to honor it.

Oh, how angry Moses was when he came down the mountain and found the people worshipping this golden calf! Moses ordered the calf to be ground up into dust, mixed with water, and he made the people drink it. Anyone who refused to stop worshipping the calf was killed--three thousand people died that day!

What was worse, they had broken their covenant--their solemn promise-- with the LORD! Hadn't He told them to worship Him alone and not make any idols? By all rights the LORD should punish them and reject them as His people. Would He? And so now, Moses climbed up the steep Mount Sinai a fifth time to speak to the LORD about the people.

Moses reached the top of Mt. Sinai and cried out to the LORD: "LORD, You've said that now You won't go to the Promised Land with us. That You will only send an angel, because You might destroy the people for their sinfulness on the way. LORD, You've said, 'Lead these people,' but You've not let me know whom You will send with me.

"You've said, 'I know you by name, Moses. You and I talk together like friends,'" Moses continued. "You say You're pleased with me. If You are, then teach me Your ways so I may know You and continue to find favor with You. Remember that this nation is Your people. LORD, please don't send us to the Promised Land unless You go with us," Moses pleaded.

"I will do what you ask because I am pleased with you and I know you," the LORD replied. "I won't send an angel to go with you. My Presence will go with you and I will give

you rest," He promised.

Then Moses, the very same man who only a year ago had been too scared to even look at the Angel of the LORD and a even a little bit of God's glory in the burning bush, said something very, very shocking. "LORD, show me your glory," Moses bravely asked.

What was Moses doing?! God was pleased with him and spoke to him like a friend, but still he was just a sinful man. How could anyone gaze upon God in all His glory and live?

The LORD told Moses: "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the LORD, in your presence. But, you cannot see My face. You are only a sinful man. No can see Me and live."

Then the LORD placed Moses in a cleft of a rock and let His glory pass by. He shielded him from seeing His glory until He had passed by. Then He allowed Moses to see a bit of the end of His glory.

The Bible doesn't tell us what Moses saw or what he thought that day when God's glory passed by, but that little bit of God's glory he saw must have been one of the most amazing thing anyone has ever seen.

Moses saw a little of God's glory that day, but do you think that Moses ever got to see all of God's glory? Yes, he did. Not here on earth, but when he died and went to live with the LORD. Even now, Moses is looking upon God in all His glory in heaven. And not just Moses, but all of God's people who have died already. They are all enjoying life in God's glorious presence now. And that is best of all.

**Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit**

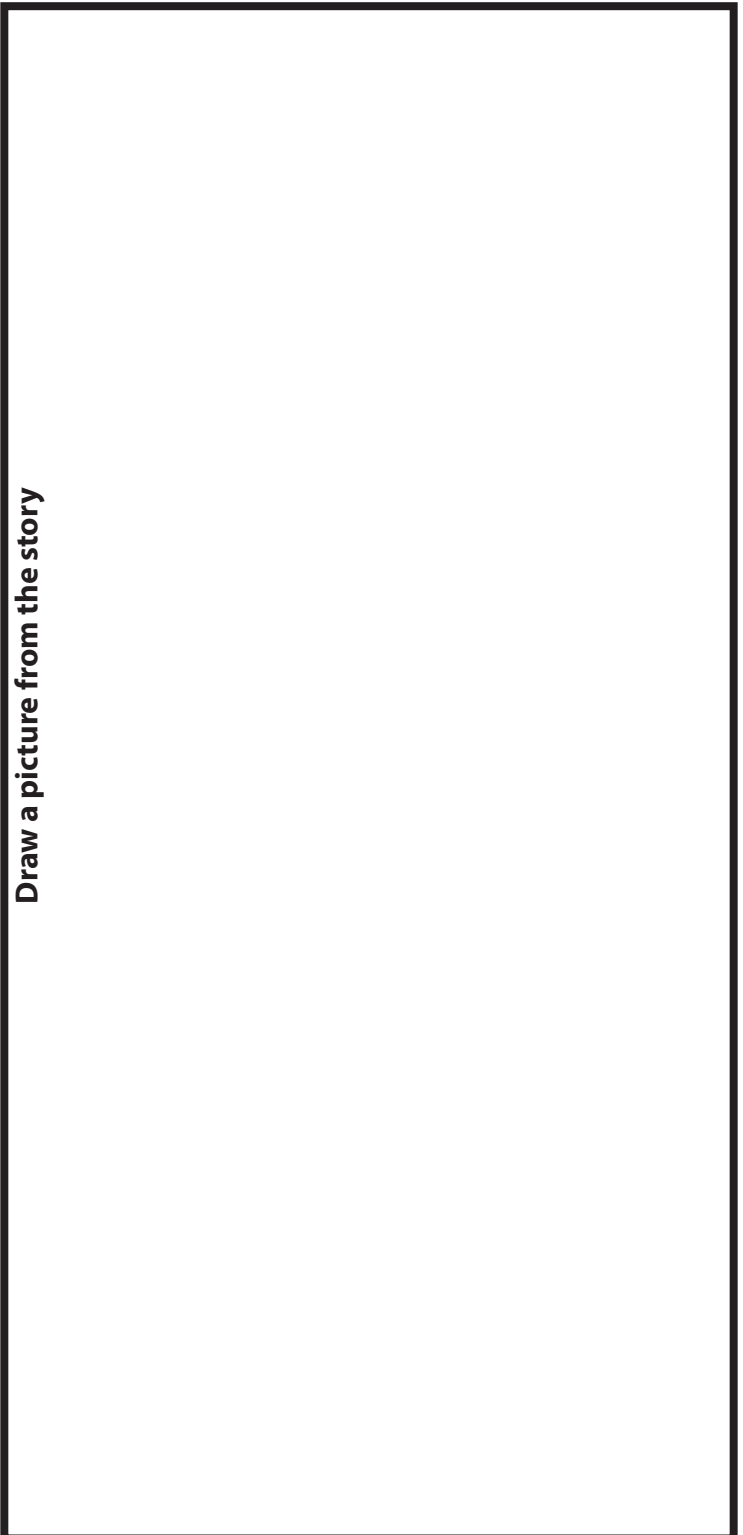
**Our Bible Verse is: John 4:24**

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

What about you and me? Could we get to see God's glory, too? Yes, we can! For God offers forgiveness of sins to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. All who do become God's own, dear people. They will enjoy knowing God in their hearts now, by His Holy Spirit. And then, when they die, they will get to live with God forever and ever. They will see Jesus, the Son of God, in all His glory. The Bible tells us that the glory of God shining from Jesus will be so bright that there will be no need for sun or moon because God's glory will shine out from Him like a bright light from a lamp. And they will not

just see Him. No! God's people will be able to know God deeply. That will be more wonderful than anything we can imagine!

Let's praise the LORD, who is a glorious spirit. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts; help us turn from our sins and trust Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to make us His own people so that one day we can stand in His presence with Him, worshipping Him in all His glory and delighting in knowing Him.



Draw a picture from the story

**SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

**1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:**

God the Father has no body for us to see, but the glory of His perfection shines out from Him.

*Answer: True.*

**2. Crack the Case Questions:**

**a. Who had the strange sightings? What did he see each time?**

*Answer: Moses. The first time he saw a bush that seemed on fire, but it wasn't burning up. The second time, he saw a bit of the LORD's glory.*

**b. What else did he want to see but didn't get to right then? When did he get to see it?**

*Answer: He wanted to see all of God's glory. He got to see it when he died and went to heaven.*

**3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:**

**John 4:24**

" \_\_\_ is spirit, and those who \_\_\_ him must worship in \_\_\_ and truth."

*Answers: God; worship; spirit.*

**AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY**

*A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication*

**A** God, we praise You for being the one, true living God. You are Spirit, holy and glorious.

**C** God, we confess that we are sinners and do not deserve to see Your glory. Only through Jesus, can we ever come into Your presence and live.

**T** God, we thank You for sending Jesus to make the way for us to be forgiven. We thank You that because of Him, Your people will get to see all Your glory and live in Your presence in heaven.

**S** God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people who get to see all Your glory and live in Your presence one day!

**BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**

**O Worship the King**

*PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 11*

**Verse 1**

O worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

God is spirit. We cannot see spirit, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. From heaven above, He rules as King over all, reigning in the splendor of His glory. Those who see Him, like the angels cannot help but praise Him for how glorious He is. He is girded in their praise. That is, their praise surrounds Him, just like when we gird our Middle with a belt.

But not only is the LORD full of glory, but He is also full of steadfast love for all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They are His people and He is their God, forever and ever. He is the Ancient of Days--He has always lived and He has always loved them. He is their shield and defender. He will take care of them every day of their lives and bring them safely home to live with Him forever. There, they, too will see Him in His glory and their praise will surround Him for His wonderful love shown to them.

**BIBLE VERSE SONG**

**The Hour Is Coming**

*PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 12*

The hour is coming, and is now here,  
The true worshipers will worship the Father,  
Will worship in spirit and truth,  
The hour is coming, and is now here,  
The true worshipers will worship the Father,  
Will worship in spirit and truth,  
For the Father is seeking, Such people to worship him,  
For the Father is seeking, Such people to worship him.  
For God is spirit, God is spirit, God is spirit, God is spirit.  
God is spirit, God is spirit. God is spirit, God is spirit,  
God is spirit, God is spirit. God is spirit, God is spirit.  
And those who worship him, And those who worship him,  
Must worship in spirit and truth.  
And those who worship him, And those who worship him,  
Must worship in spirit and truth.  
John Four, twenty-three and four.

*Words: John 4:23-24, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2015*

This verse tells us that God is spirit. It also tells us that if we want to be true followers, true worshippers of God, that we will worship Him with the spirit He put inside of us. How do we do this? By turning from our sins, believing in Jesus, the Son of God, and trusting in Him as our Savior. When we do, God puts His Holy Spirit inside our spirit. He works powerfully inside us, helping us to live out our faith in Him by seeking to know Him more and more and love Him in everything we do in our lives.