

What is God Like?

Human and Nature Comparisons

He replied, 'Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding' Judges 13:18

We cannot describe God accurately because he is an entity beyond anything we have ever seen or experienced, so we use simple comparisons with things that are within our knowledge.

Human comparisons

Pick out the human terms used to describe God in the verses below and decide what characteristics they are telling us about God.

Isaiah 66:1-2 NLT

"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.

My hand made all things. All things are here because I made them," says the Lord.

Isaiah 49:16

See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands. NCV

Isaiah 40:10-12 (or 10-31)

Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power.

He will rule with a powerful arm.

See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

He will carry the lambs in his arms,
holding them close to his heart.

He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

¹² Who else has held the oceans in his hand?

Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers?

Who else knows the weight of the earth

or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale?

Hebrews 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. NIV

Genesis 6:6

He was sorry he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. NCV

Numbers 6:24-26

"The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace."

Exodus 33:18-23 NCV

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now, please show me your glory."

¹⁹ The Lord answered, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will announce my name, the Lord, so you can hear it. I will show kindness to anyone to whom I want to show kindness, and I will show mercy to anyone to whom I want to show mercy. ²⁰ But you cannot see my face, because no one can see me and live.

²¹ "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes that place, I will put you in a large crack in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face must not be seen."

Jeremiah 18:15-17 NIV

Yet my people have forgotten me; they burn incense to worthless idols, which made them stumble in their ways, Like a wind from the east, I will scatter them before their enemies; I will show them my back and not my face in the day of their disaster.'

Comparisons in Nature

What do these comparisons with nature tell us about God?

Fire: Hebrews 12:29

Light: Revelation 21:23

Fountain of life, light: Psalm 36:9

Refuge, strong tower: Psalm 61:3

Sun & shield: Psalm 84:11

Eagle hovering over its young: Deuteronomy 32:11

Hen gathering her chicks: Matthew 23:37

Psalm 18:1-15

How does the Psalm 18 poem use nature and human terms to describe God?

What does it tell us about how David, the writer 'sees' God?

If God arrived in all His power, what would happen to the earth?

There are many other examples that you may be able to think of or find.