

# Above Us

Read from [Genesis 1](#), [Exodus 3](#), [Psalm 139](#), and [Isaiah 40](#)

The Bible says we were created in God's image: "***God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them***" ([Genesis 1:27](#)). To be created in God's image means that He created us to be like Him in a lot of ways, to share a common nature. For example, we can think and reason. We can feel emotions. Most importantly, we can make moral choices. The reason God created us in His image, with things in common, was so that we could know and have fellowship with Him.

The Bible says we were created in God's image, but it does say—it's important to point out—that we were *created*. God is the One who made us, not the other way around. We are dependent on Him for our existence; He is not dependent on us. This reveals an important truth: There are some things we do *not* have in common with God. There are some ways **that His nature is above ours**, and always will be. It is because of this higher nature of God that we worship Him.

We know God because we were made in His image. We worship God because we were *made*—**He is above us**.

It is in our response to God's higher nature that adoration, the third way to worship God through prayer, comes in. We simply bow before Him and allow ourselves to be awed, amazed, and overjoyed by Him. This is the purest form of worship—*worship-proper*—and will be our greatest joy in heaven.

There are several ways that God has a higher nature than us. We have already mentioned one that sets **Him above us forever**: He is the Creator. The gulf that separates our nature from the Creator's is illustrated by the story of two scientists who, after discovering how to clone humans, challenged God: "We don't need you anymore. We can make life ourselves now."

God said, "Ok, let's have a man-making contest."

The scientists said, "All right. This what we did in the beginning."

They reached down to grab a handful of dirt to form it into a man—until they heard God's voice from heaven: "Hold it. Get your own dirt."

People can be "**creative**" only with what they've already been given: materials, talents, opportunities. Only God can create out of nothing. The fact that God is the Creator forever puts Him **above us** and makes Him worthy of worship.

Another way that God's nature is **higher than ours** is revealed in His very name. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, and told him to go to Egypt to deliver His people, Moses asked Him, "What is your name?" People still believed in many gods

in those days, and Moses wanted to know what name to give when the people asked, “Who sent you?” Listen to God’s answer:

**<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”**

**EXODUS 3:14**

God told Moses, “**My name is I Am.**” In other words, God’s basic name is “**I Exist.**” When you think about it, could there be a more profound or important name for the one true God? Isn’t His existence the central truth of the universe? And that’s His name: “**I Am.**” (“**I Am**” is “**Yahweh**” in the Hebrew, or some have rendered it “**Jehovah.**”)

Notice “**I Am**” is His name, not “**I came to be.**” There was never a time God did not exist. No one made Him. He is eternal. That is the aspect of His higher nature that His name reveals. And it is truly awe-inspiring. You and I, as *creatures* ourselves, cannot conceive of anyone or anything having always existed. Everything had a beginning. Everything came from somewhere, but not God, according to His name (and many other Scriptures). God always existed. It is humanly inconceivable, and reveals that He is truly in a class all by Himself.

Read the following text and write down what aspect of God’s higher nature you see in it:

**<sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.**

**<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.**

**<sup>3</sup> You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.**

**<sup>4</sup> Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.**

**PSALM 139:1–4**

*(The writer says that God knows everything about him: when he sits and rises (2), the thoughts in his mind (2), what he’s up to (3), and even what he says before he says it (4). This text is referring to God’s omniscience, the fact that he knows everything.)*

God’s omniscience certainly sets Him above us all—especially when it comes to the future. Several years ago, as the turn of the twenty-first century was approaching, I did some research on the predictions that had been made over the years about the year 2000. (I read a book about it, *The 100 Most Entertaining Predictions About the 21st Century*.) And I found out that when it came to predicting what the future would hold, the best people could do was make some guesses—and some pretty wild ones at that.

One utopian novel, *Looking Backward, 2000–1887* by **Edward Bellamy**, imagines a man from the 1880s falling into a hypnotic sleep and waking up in the year 2000 to find: There is no more housework.

When it rains, no one gets wet. Instead a huge umbrella is rolled out over the city. It’s considered “an extraordinary imbecility” to let weather affect activity.

There are no bad marriages, because women refuse to marry unproductive men.

And sports are for amateurs only—no money, just glory.

Mr. Bellamy was obviously imagining the future through some rose-colored glasses. He wasn't alone. The science editor of the New York Times, in a 1950 *Popular Mechanics* article, also had some rosy predictions for the year 2000: the state-of-the-art home would cost \$5,000, every family would have their own helicopter, parked on the roof; and science would have done away with aging (no one looking a day over 40).

The future is a mystery to the human being, but it—and all other knowledge—is an open book to God: “**Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.’**” ([Isaiah 46:10a](#)). His omniscience puts Him **above us** and makes Him worthy of worship.

Read these additional verses from [Psalm 139](#) and write down what aspect of God's higher nature they reveal:

<sup>7</sup> **Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?**

<sup>8</sup> **If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.**

<sup>9</sup> **If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,**

<sup>10</sup> **Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.**

[PSALM 139:7-10](#)

*(The writer asks where he can go to flee from God's presence (7), and realizes the answer is nowhere—not the highest heights or the lowest depths (8), not the east or the west (9). He is referring to God's omnipresence, the fact that he is everywhere.)*

God's omnipresence sets Him **above us**. He is everywhere, all the time. This is true only of God.

This should also be a great encouragement to us. We're not alone as we make our way through life. God is our companion.

Have you noticed God's presence with you? If not, it's simply because you're not looking for it. Do a little experiment right now. Look around you and find three things with blue in them—articles of clothing, a purse, a book, etc. Take a moment and do that before you read the next paragraph....

What happened after a few seconds of looking for items with the color blue? Everything around you with the color blue in it began to jump out at you, didn't it? Those blue items were there all the time, but you hadn't noticed them because you weren't looking for them.

It works the same with the presence of God. It is with you at all times, but you might be missing it just because you're not looking for it. Start looking for His presence in your life—in your blessings, in your day-to-day pleasures, in your family and friends and

church, and even in your struggles (in the strength you're given to make it through them)—and you'll see Him everywhere you go.

Let's look at one more aspect of God's higher nature. Read the following verses from [Isaiah 40](#), and write down what aspect of God's higher nature they reveal (an aspect, that is, that we haven't discussed yet):

**<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales?**

[ISAIAH 40:12](#)

**<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.**

[ISAIAH 40:26](#)

*([Verse 12](#) refers to all of the earth and its great mountains being but dust on God's scales—they weigh nothing to him. [Verse 26](#) refers to God's control of the mighty stars by his mightier strength. These verses reveal God's omnipotence, the fact that he is all-powerful.)*

God's creation and control of the stars is a particularly outstanding display of His power. **First** of all, there are so many of them. You can see about 3000 stars in the night sky, but in our Milky Way Galaxy there are more than 100 billion stars. That's just our galaxy. There are more than 100 billion galaxies, and each of them has another 100 billion stars or so. That means there are some 10 billion trillion stars in the known universe. There are about as many stars in the universe as there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the earth.

**Secondly**, there's such a great distance between each of these stars. The average distance between the stars in our galaxy is 30 trillion miles. How far is that? Well, the Space Shuttle travels about 17,000 miles per hour (about five miles per second). It would take over 200,000 years to travel on the space shuttle from one star to another in our galaxy. Authors **Norman L. Geisler** and **Frank Turek**, in their book *[I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist](#)*, point out that "if you had gotten into the Space Shuttle at the time of Christ and begun traveling from our sun toward another star an average distance away, you would be only one-hundredth of the way there right now." And that's just the distance between two of the stars in our galaxy. Imagine that distance between all of the innumerable stars in the universe—that distance from "one grain of sand on the beach" to another.

And **thirdly**, each star contains such vast power. Scientists tell us that our sun gets its energy from nuclear fusion reactions that go off in its core, producing temperatures of 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. And our sun is a small star.

**Bible Study: THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE**

**Prayer Series: Survey of the Doctrines of Prayer**

**Pastor Eddie Idefonso**

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These stars—so great in number, so unimaginably distant between, and so powerful—are the handiwork of God. *“Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”* He is truly *Almighty God*—**far above us**, and worthy of our greatest adoration.

There are some ways in which we are like God, made in His image. Because of this we can know Him. There are other ways in which God has a nature **far above ours**: He alone is the Creator; He alone is the eternal **“I Am”**; He alone is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. It is because of His infinitely higher nature that we worship Him.