

# THE LIVING GOD

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## Introduction

The title "the living God" is used 27 times in the Bible.

In describing God as "the Living God," Scripture distinguishes between the Lord and all competing deities. Only the God of the Bible is the Living God, all other deities are mere idols. They are the invention of people that comes from demonic influence and inspiration.

Because God is the Living God, we can rely on Him completely. We can face our challenges courageously, and we can freely appeal to Him when we are in need.

## Usage of the biblical term "living God"

I have divided the 27 references into six separate categories as follows

### I. Worship the living God

#### A. Comparing Jehovah to idols (Jeremiah 10:1-17)

##### Background:

God calls His people not to be idolatrous like the nations (v. 1-5).

Idolatry is insane - they are made by man and have no more power than a scarecrow

There is none like the Lord! (v. 6-7).

Jer 10:6-7 There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might. Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.

All idols are made by man; Both idols and they who make and worship them are stupid (v. 8-9).

Jer 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.

Jehovah alone is:

the true God

the living God

the everlasting King (v. 10).

1 Thes 1:9 ...how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

#### B. Repent from idolatry and worship "the living God."

Paul heals a man, lame from birth, the crowds try to worship him, he exhorts them to repent of idolatry and worship the living God (Ac 14:8-18).

Ac 14:15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, "who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them."

## II. The living God communicates (His voice & Word)

### A. God speaks to (Israel) His people from the midst of the fire (Dt 5:26)

**Background:** Moses is recounting how they responded to the Lord's presence when He gave them the Law (Covenant of the Law). He spoke to them from the fire; they respond in fear and beg Moses to represent them before God, and tell them what He says.

(See Ex 19:9-25; Heb 12:18-24, 25-29)

Dt 5:24-27 "You said, 'Behold, the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives. 'Now then why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer, then we will die. For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? Go near and hear all that the LORD our God says; then speak to us all that the LORD our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do it.'

### B. The living God is silent

**Background:**

His people listened to false prophets and consequently perverted the words of the living God.

Jeremiah denounces the shepherds of Israel (v. 1-4).

The Messianic promise of David's righteous Branch (v. 5-8).

Jeremiah denounces the prophets and priests in Israel (v. 9-32).

God refuses to respond to them when asked, What is "the word of the Lord." (v. 33-40).

Because they have perverted the words of the living God for their own words! (v. 36).

Jer 23:36 For you will no longer remember the oracle of the LORD, because every man's own word will become the oracle, and you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.

### C. willful sin (Heb 10:26-31).

Heb 10:26-31 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Heb 10:31 It is terrifying to fall into the hands of the living God

The word of God is

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

### III. Jesus is the living God

#### A. The condemnation of Jesus at his trial (Mt 26:63)

The challenge of Jesus - at his trial - by the high priest - "I adjure You by the living God," ...

The challenge:

Mt 26:63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God , that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God."

His response:

Mt 26:64 Jesus said to him, " You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

#### B. Jesus is - "the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Mt 16:16)

Peter's confession of Christ (Mt 16:13-20)

Mt 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus builds the church on this faith/confession.

- 1) - Jesus, You are the Christ (the anointed Messiah of God).
- 2) - Jesus, You are the Son of God (Deity, God the Son).
- 3) - Jesus, You are the Son of the living God (resurrection of Christ).

The resurrection - Jesus is the living God

Lk 24:5-6 ..."Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen"...

Jn 6:57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.

Rev 1:17-18 ..."Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

### IV. Examples of faith in the "living God"

Ro 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

#### A. Israel enter Canaan on dry ground

Jos 3:10 "By this you shall know that the living God is among you" and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite.

Jos 3:11-13 "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan. 12 "Now then, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe. 13 "It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap."

## **B. David defeats Goliath** (1 Sa 17:26, 36)

1 Sa 17:26 Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"

1 Sa 17:36 "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."

## **C. Hezekiah - the living God defeats Assyria** (2 Ki 19:4, 16; Isa 37:4, 17)

4 of the 27 occurrences of "Living God" are in the context of Assyria's insult to the Lord uttered in the time of Hezekiah.

### **Background:**

An Assyrian envoy had ridiculed the idea that the God of the Israelites could withstand Assyria's might any more than the deities of the many people Assyria had conquered. King Hezekiah took the Assyrian ruler's insults to the Lord in prayer. Because God is the Living God, He intervened on Hezekiah's behalf. In a single night, the Assyrian army was decimated, and not one Assyrian arrow flew over the walls of Jerusalem. Sennacherib returned home, and before another invasion of Judah could be mounted, he was assassinated by two of his sons (2 Ki 19:35-37).

2 Ki 19:3-4 They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, rebuke, and rejection; for children have come to birth and there is no strength to deliver. 4' Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the remnant that is left."

2 Ki 19:15-16 Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and listen to the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God."

Isaiah also records this:

Isa 37:4 'Perhaps the LORD your God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the remnant that is left.'

Isa 37:17 "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who sent them to reproach the living God."

## **D. Daniel is rescued from the lion** (Dan 6:20, 26)

Dan 6:20 The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Dan 6:26-27 "I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; for He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever. 27 "He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

## **V. We are:**

### **A. Sons of the living God**

God's people are called - "sons of the living God"

Prophetic promise

Hos 1:10 Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered; And in the place Where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God."

Prophetic fulfillment

Ro 9:26 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."

**Note:** Paul declares Hos 1:10 was fulfilled by the Gentiles, as they respond to the gospel while the nation of Israel rejected Christ (Rom 9:23-31).

## **B. The temple of - "the living God." (2 Co 6:16).**

2 Co 6:16-18 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God ; just as God said, " I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 " Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

Peter declares - Jesus the living stone - makes us living stones - builds us into a spiritual house  
1 Pt 2:4-6 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

## **C. The church of - "the living God." (1 Ti 3:15)**

1 Ti 3:15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

## **D. We have come to the city of the "living God." (Heb 12:22)**

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God , the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,  
(see Heb 12:18-24)

## **E. We are letters of Christ (2 Co 3:3)**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the - "living God."

2 Co 3:3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God , not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

## **F. We are sealed**

We have the seal of - "the living God." (Rev 7:2)

Rev 7:2-3 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

The phrase "the living God" is a word play on the title YHWH (Exod. 3:14; Ps 42:4; 84:2; Mt 16:16). This same word play is often found in biblical oaths, "as the Lord lives." (from Revelation Study Guide by R. J. Utle)

## VI. Believers response to the living God

### A. Thirst

**We are to thirst for the living God**

Ps 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;

### B. Sing

**We are to sing to the living God**

Ps 84:2 My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD;  
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

### C. Hope

**Our hope is fixed on the "living God."**

1 Ti 4:10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

### D. Faith

**Our faith is in - "the living God."**

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God .

Unbelief results in falling away from - "living God."

### E. Serve

We serve the - "living God."

The blood of Christ - cleanses our conscience, so that we can serve "the living God."

Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

### **The following References were used in this study:**

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