

The image features a central teal circle with a thin black outline. The background consists of a sunburst pattern of radiating lines in various shades of green and teal, creating a dynamic, energetic feel. The word "Welcome!" is written in a white, elegant cursive font across the top of the teal circle.

Welcome!



Welcome!

IAM



I AM

*The Suffering
Servant*



I AM

*The Good
Shepherd*



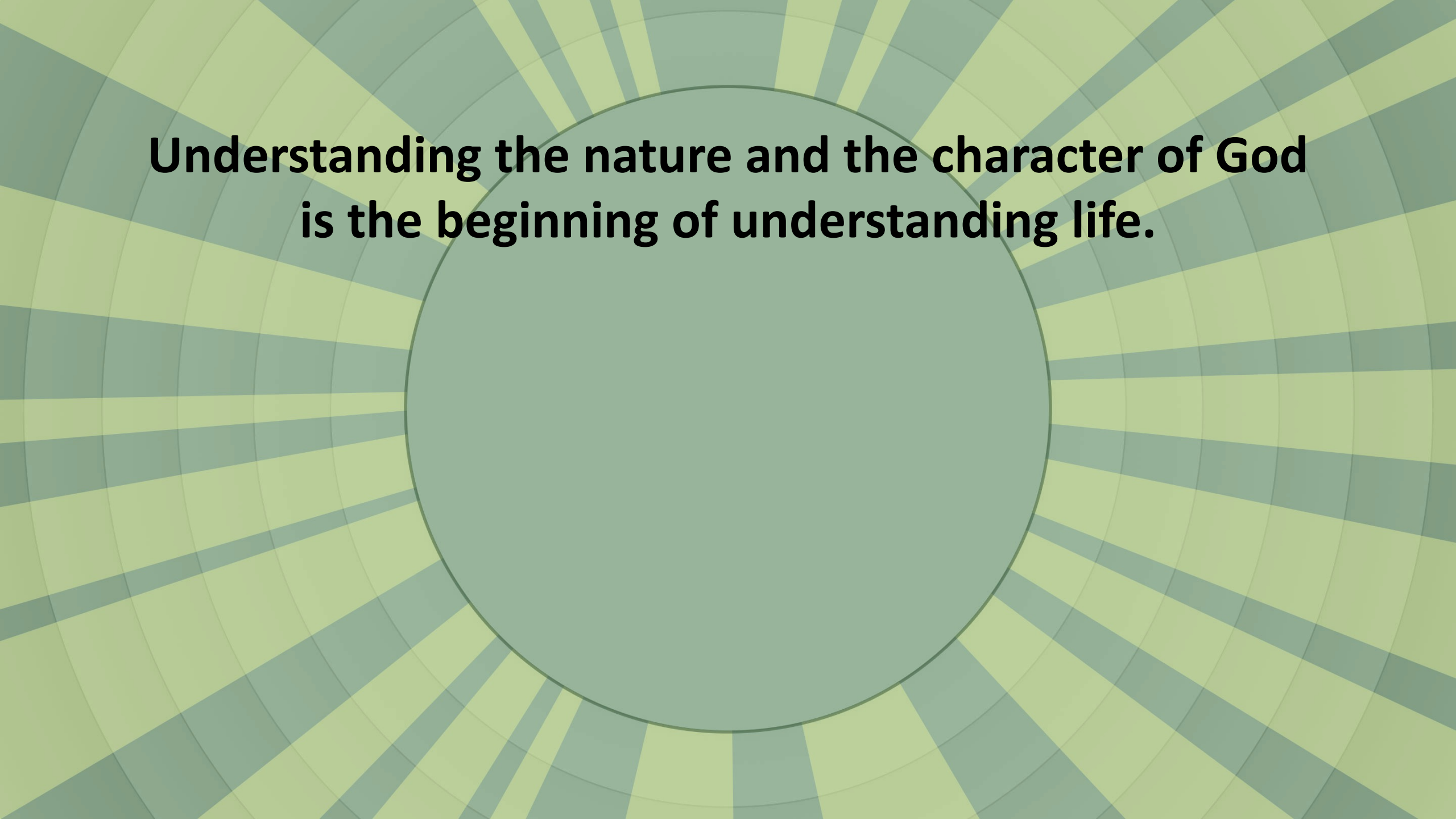
I AM

The Resurrection

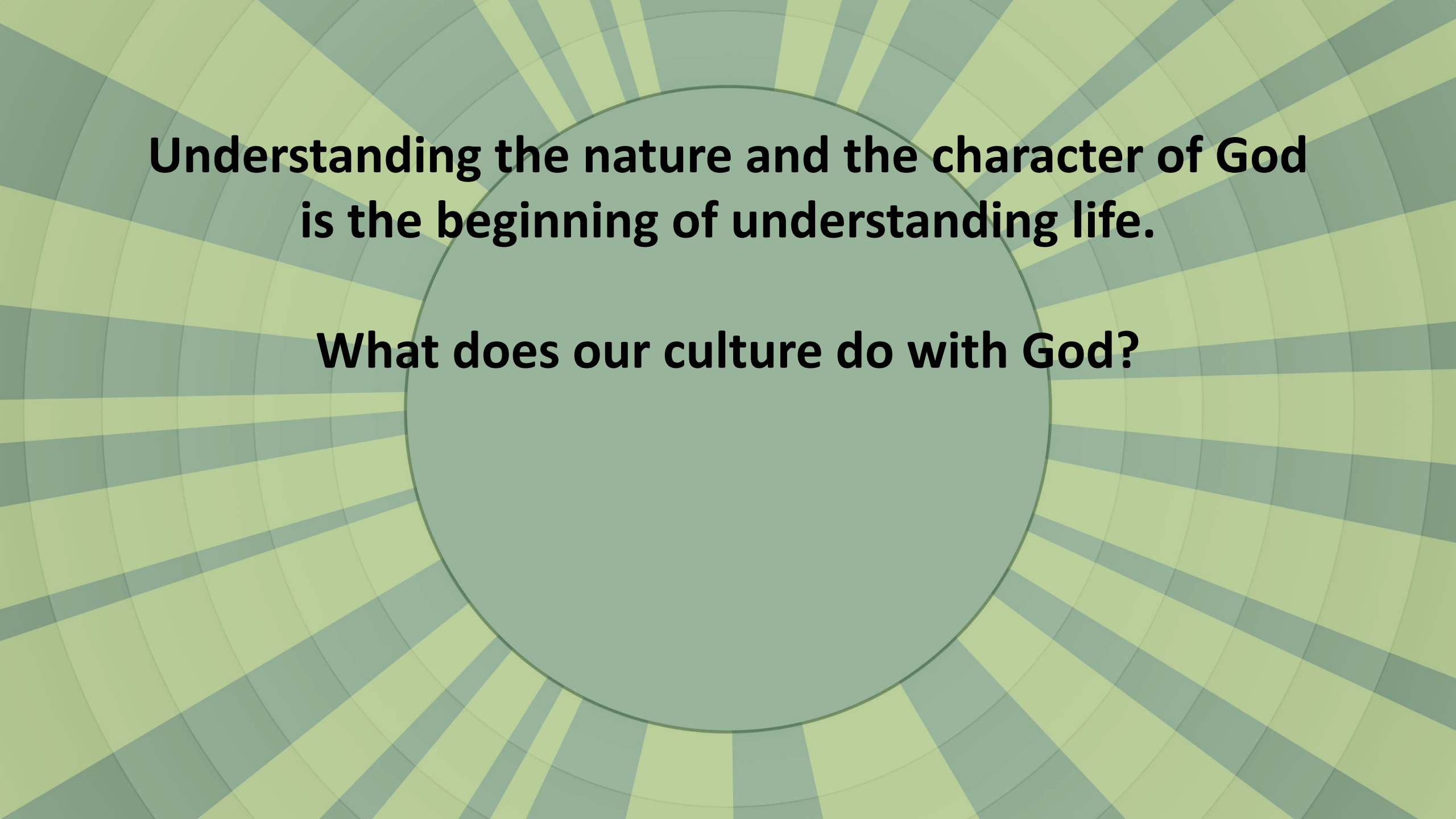


I AM

The Way
The Truth
The Life



**Understanding the nature and the character of God
is the beginning of understanding life.**



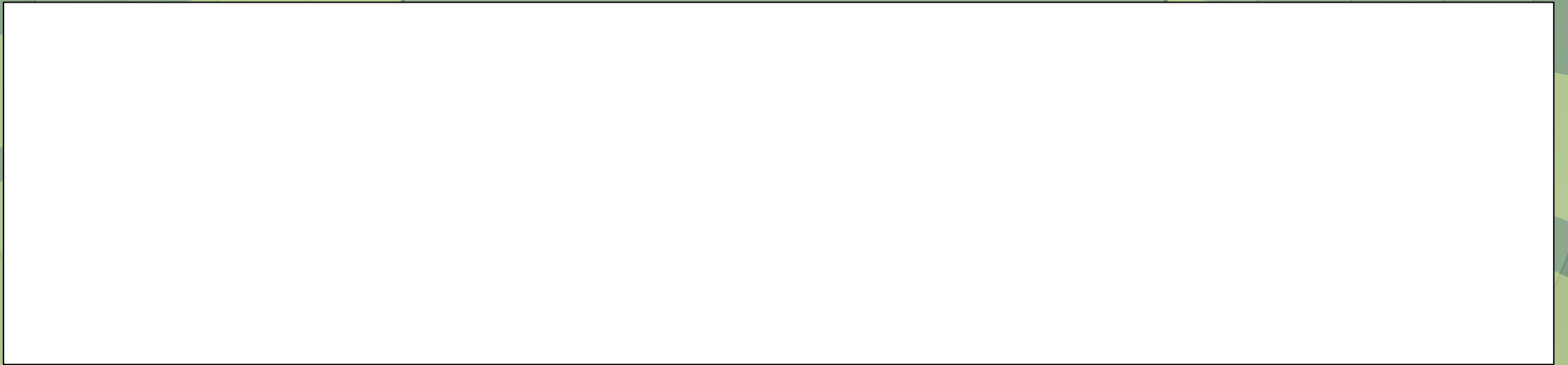
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What does our culture do with God?

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What does our culture do with God?

Deny



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“When people ask me if a god created the universe, I tell them that the question itself makes no sense.

Time didn't exist before the big bang, so there is no time for god to make the universe.

It's like asking directions to the edge of the earth; The Earth is a sphere; it doesn't have an edge; so looking for it is a futile exercise. We are each free to believe what we want, and it's my view that the simplest explanation is; there is no god. No one created our universe, and no one directs our fate.

This leads me to a profound realization; There is probably no heaven, and no afterlife either. We have this one life to appreciate the grand design of the universe, and for that I am extremely grateful.”

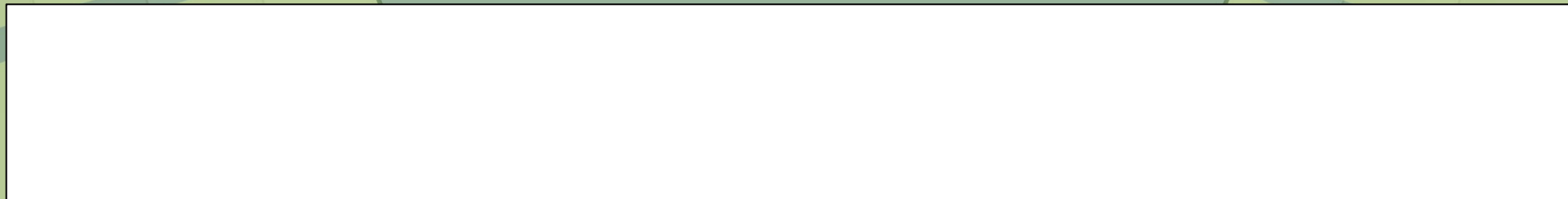
— **Stephen Hawking**

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What does our culture do with God?

Deny

Dismiss



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“I think it makes sense to believe in God, but exactly what decision in your life you make differently because of it, I don't know.”

Bill Gates, interview with Rolling Stone Magazine

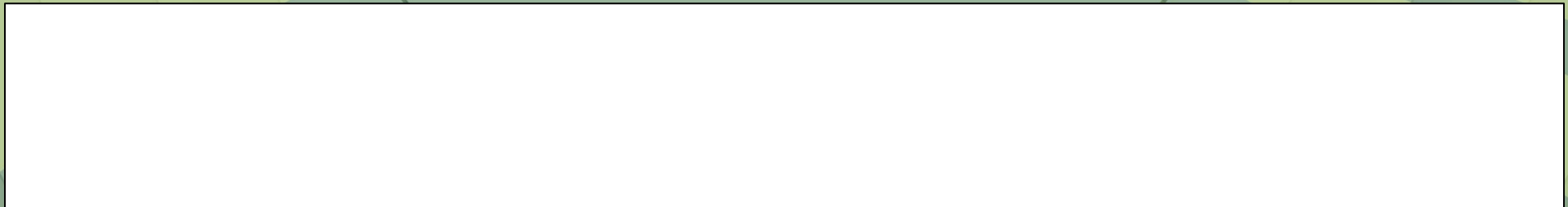
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What does our culture do with God?

Deny

Dismiss

Diminish



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What does our culture do with God?

Deny

Dismiss

Diminish

**“If it turns out that there is a God...the worst that you can say about him
is that basically he's an underachiever.”**

— Woody Allen

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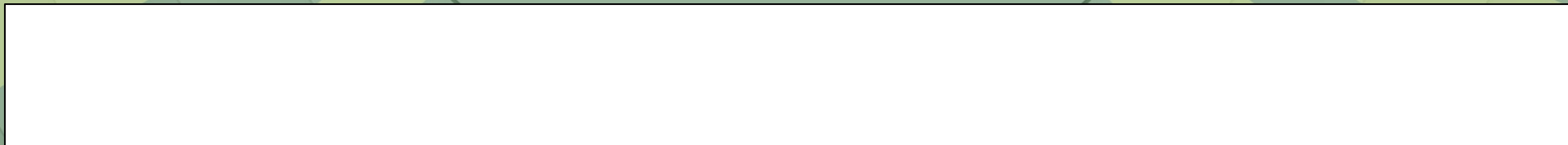
What does our culture do with God?

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Degrade



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“God is an ever-receding pocket of scientific ignorance.”

— Neil DeGrasse Tyson

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What does our culture do with God?

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Demote

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“Be sure to lie to your kids about the benevolent, all-seeing Santa Claus.
It will prepare them for an adulthood of believing in God.”

— Scott Dikkers, *You Are Worthless: Depressing Nuggets of Wisdom Sure to Ruin Your Day*

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What does our culture do with God?

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Exodus 3:1-15



Exodus 3:1-6

- ¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
- ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.
- ³ And Moses said,
“I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,
“Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”
- ⁵ Then He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”
- ⁶ And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

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Elohim: God

Over 2,500 times in the Hebrew Bible...Old Testament.

Plural noun....usually used with singular verbs.

Plurality is usually understood as the plurality of
“majesty”, or “honor”, or “excellence”.

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And He said, “Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply you. For I have seen your affliction from Egypt and will bring you out. And I will say to the Egyptians, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me.’ And I will bring you out of Egypt into the land of the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, and Jebusites, and I will say to the Egyptians, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me.’ And I will bring you out of Egypt into the land of the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, and Jebusites, and I will say to the Egyptians, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me.’”

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Having a sense of the powerfulness of God...

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Exodus 3:1-6

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- ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.
- ³ And Moses said,
“I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,
“Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”
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Yahweh: (Lord)

The proper name of the God of Israel

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*The powerful Elohim is seen as
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⁶ And He said, “I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac.”

Yahweh: (Lord)

The proper name of the God of Israel

The powerful Elohim is seen as the sovereign God over the nation of Israel.

This name seen as so holy that Israelites would not even say it...eventually the pronunciation was forgotten...
(there are no vowels in ancient Hebrew, markings were added later to indicate vowels).

Exodus 3:1-6

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- ³ And Moses said,
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“Moses, Moses!” And
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for the place on which
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and the God of Jacob.”

יהוה

Exodus 3:1-6

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- ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and he saw the angel of the Lord face to face, and he said, "Why am I seeing this, and why am I approaching this?"
- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, and I will touch it." And the Lord said to him, "Do not approach it, for you will die. For now I see that you are standing on the ground, but you are really a mortal man."
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had approached, He called to Moses from the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
- ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near here, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."
- ⁶ And He said, "I am the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

Tetragrammaton

יהוה

Exodus 3:1-6

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- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, and I will touch it." And the Lord said to him, "Do not touch it, for you will die. For now I see that you are standing on the ground, but you are really a stranger in the land."
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he was approaching, He called to Moses from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
- ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near here, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."
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- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see what he will say to me."
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, He called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "I am."
- ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near this place, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."
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he waw he yodh

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- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, and I will touch it." And the Lord said, "Do not touch it, for you will die. For now I see that you are standing in the midst of the bush, and you are not burned."
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- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, and I will touch it." And the Lord said to him, "Do not touch it, for you will die. For now I see that you are standing on the ground, but you are really on a rock. And when the Lord touches the rock, you will be like the rock, and you will be crushed. Instead, you must take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had taken off his sandals, the Lord said to Moses, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will protect you from all harm wherever you go. For I have chosen you, and I have put my name on you, saying, 'I will be with you and will protect you wherever you go.'"
- ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near this place, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."
- ⁶ And He said, "I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

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- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, and I will touch it." And the Lord said, "Do not touch it, for you will die. For now I see that you are standing on the rock, and you are saying, 'I will touch it.'"
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, the Lord called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
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hewhay

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- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, and I will touch it. If I am touched, I will be safe, and I will not be afraid."
- ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, He called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
- ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near here, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."
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- ⁵ Then He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”
- ⁶ And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Exodus 3:7-12

⁷ Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,
⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

¹² He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Exodus 3:13-15

¹³ Then Moses said to God,
“If I come to the people of Israel and say to them,
‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’
and they ask me,
‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.”

And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel:
‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’
This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all
generations.

Exodus 3:12-15

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This is my name forever, and thus I am to be called
throughout all generations.’”
- ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel:
‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham,
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This is my name forever, and thus I am to be called
throughout all generations.’”

From the verb **“to be”** ...
‘hawyah’

Exodus 3:12-15

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This is my name forever, and thus I am to be called
throughout all generations.’”

From the verb “to be” ...
‘hawyah’

In the uniqueness of Hebrew grammar,
it can mean:

‘I am’

‘I was’

‘I will be’

‘I am that I am’

***I am the same yesterday,
today and tomorrow.***

‘I will be with you’

Exodus 3:12-15

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In the uniqueness of Hebrew grammar,
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***I am the same yesterday,
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‘I will be with you’

...the personal presence of God in the
everyday of our lives.

Exodus 3:13-15

¹³ Then Moses said to God,
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and they ask me,
‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.”

And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel:
‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’
This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all
generations.

I AM *the Way, the Truth and the Life*



³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

³² If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him at once.

³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

³⁶ Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”

³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

³⁸ Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

I AM *the Way, the Truth and the Life*

John 14:1-15

- ¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
- ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
- ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
- ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”
- ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”
- ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I AM *the Way, the Truth and the Life*

John 14:1-15

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

**No one comes to the Father
except through me.**

I AM *the Way, the Truth and the Life*

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.

From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does His works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

I AM

So.....therefore.....what now?

I AM

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**Understanding the nature and the character of God
is the beginning of understanding life.**

I AM

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1. God: ***Elohim*** is the powerful God of creation.

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1. God: Elohim is the powerful God of creation.
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3. God: ***(hayah)*** is the God present in every dimension
and in every moment of our lives.

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1. God: Elohim is the powerful God of creation.
2. God: Yahweh is the sovereign Lord of His people.
3. God: (hayah) is the God present in every dimension
and in every moment of our lives.
4. Jesus: (***being God Himself***) is the way of life,
the truth of life, and fulness of life.