

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
November 11, 2020
Colossians 1:19
"Stuffing the Suitcase"

Colossians 1:19; For it pleased the Father that in him (Jesus) should all fulness dwell;

Having recently studied Chapter 1:12-22 we find no ambiguity concerning the Deity of Christ and His being One with the Father. This is also supported throughout God's Word and is basic doctrine. See John 1:1, 8:58, 10:30, 20:28. The difficulty in understanding the Trinity is the inability of the human mind to comprehend the immensity of this Enigma. God makes it clear in so many ways that He inhabits the Human Body of Jesus and as we also have studied, He displays His Omnipotence through Him. Our question today arises that as we accept this Wonder in faith and consider our great intellectual shortfall, can the Fulness of God truly exist as this Son of Man? We have scripture confirming this truth. See 1:15, John 1:14, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6.

Some of us pack for travel very efficiently. Others of us try to cram every possible change of clothes and every variation of weather and task oriented alternative into a suitcase that cannot possibly contain it all. We call it "over packing". You know who you are! Did God over pack? How can the Almighty God of the Universe pack Himself into a standard size human body? Let's start here. He lives in you and seems to fit just fine! Colossians 1:27, Romans 8:9, 11, Galatians 2:20. He states though that we have received the Spirit as a down payment. Ephesians 1:13-14. God lives in us in a way we can handle. We can contain 'enough' God to breed change in our souls. But in Jesus we find that All the Fullness of God dwells in Him. What a suitcase! What, exactly is the Full God?

Let's journey back in time 1400 years before the writing of this letter to the original words of the Torah of Moses who was the first to encounter the Full God. Exodus 3 has a presentation of the resume of the Lord as dictated to the Prophet. God gives Moses the founding of His Eternal Title in the Great "I Am That I Am". This title in verse 14, translated as 'ehyeh 'āšer 'ehyeh' is an open statement partially filled in throughout the chapter and continued through all The Word of God. Review Exodus 3 and find each instance of God defining His Person in all the "I Am" statements. Beginning in verse 6 He claims, I Am the God of thy father Abraham... Moving on He continues, I have surely seen the affliction of my people v7, I am come down to deliver them v8, I have also seen the oppression v9, I will send thee v10, I will be with thee v12, I Am hath sent me v14, The Lord God (YHWH) v15, I have surely visited you v16, I have said and I will bring you up v17, the Lord God of the Hebrews v18, I am sure v19, I will stretch out my hand v20, I will give this people favor v21. God describes His attributes many ways in this chapter alone. We see here a powerful but incomplete quantity of God's Quality. A job description if you will. In His "I Am" statements, the Lord tells us He sees all, knows all, visits, saves, delivers, speaks, sends, accompanies, defends and favors. His Title and His Name include all the wondrous facets of provision for the soul of man. We see His unyielding, unyielding and unstoppable love, and total control here and in all the stories of the men and women through whom He brought about His will and plan. We understand His Fullness as much as we can as we follow history and learn of His creation, wisdom, power and companionship. We also see in

Jesus, a continuation of this list and we can look, for example, to the book of John for His seven 'I Am' statements where He further identifies the many aspects of the Holy Creator.

1. "I am the bread of life" – John 6:35, 41
2. "I am the light of the world" – John 8:12, 9:5
3. "I am the door of the sheep" – John 10:7, 9
4. "I am the good shepherd" – John 10:11, 14
5. "I am the resurrection and the life" – John 11:25
6. "I am the way, the truth and the life" – John 14:6
7. "I am the true vine" – John 15:1, 5

To attempt to collect all that God is into words, phrases and wondrous miracles would be impossible. John 21:25. The Bible is complete in that it gives to us what is necessary for salvation, growth and knowledge but no library could fully define God. Yet "it pleased the Father that in him (Jesus) should all fulness dwell;" Everything we can think or imagine and much more is fully contained in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:14-21. He is truly the fullness of God in man so we can relate to Him. His Greatness and Glory comes down to us in our weakness and frailty. We can't pack for that trip but in Him we are already there. Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Ephesians 2:19 and right back here in Colossians 1:13.