

## How Big Is God?

---

February 1997

**T**he vastness of our universe is incomprehensible to the human mind. The numbers of stars in a galaxy and the distance between those stars multiplied by the number of known galaxies in the universe presents data for which we have no recognizable point of reference. How then shall we grasp the God who made it all? How does the finite comprehend the infinite?

This admitted “bigness” of God can lead men into error if not rightly judged. For example, someone mentioned a bumper sticker he had seen which read: *God is too big for only one religion*. On the surface this sounds very sophisticated and philosophical. It provides a foundation for the pluralism that our country has come to adore (pluralism, as used today, simply means that all beliefs and convictions are equally valid. Nobody is wrong.)

The bumper sticker implies that religion is a limited view of God – like the blind natives who each have hold of a different part of an elephant and are describing what they feel to the others. Buddhism describes the ear of God; Islam the trunk. Christianity has a tusk while Judaism holds the tail. They’re all legitimate reflections of God, and anyone who fails to appreciate this truth is just a narrow-minded bigot, so it is affirmed.

But what this notion fails to consider is that God is so “big,” so transcendent, so utterly superior to the unaided human mind, that man knows little of Him apart from His direct revelation of Himself. If God has not revealed Himself, then all religions would be equally valid. But if God has revealed Himself – His true nature, character, will and laws – then everything which is contrary to that revelation is false. It is a product of human fantasy.

In response to Israel’s disobedience, Micah says, “*He has shown you ... what is good ...*” (Mic 6:8; cf. Dt 10:12-13). Through the revealing work of the Holy Spirit “*we have the mind of Christ*” (1 Cor 2:16). Paul wrote the “*commandments of the Lord*” which demanded compliance (1 Cor 14:37; 2 Th 3:14). Jesus declared that “*the word that I have spoken will judge*” all men (Jn 12:48).

It is **God’s revelation** of Himself, not the Christian’s bigotry, which defines the legitimacy of religion. The bumper sticker is not actually a defense of God; it is the ultimate statement of human self-will and a denial of His revelation. Such pluralistic propaganda is a direct challenge to the exclusivity of Christianity and sooner or later we will be called upon to defend that truth.