

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

The LORD Is the Only True God

To worship means to love, honor and testify to the worth of someone. It usually means that we choose it to be more important than anything else in our lives. Sometimes it is a god that people worship. Sometimes it is other people or things that they love. Sometimes, they really just worship themselves.

But God created people to worship Him. He is the only, true God. He is our Creator and our king. He deserves for us to worship Him. He deserves for us to choose loving and obeying Him over everything else in our lives.

Not only does God deserve our worship, but only when we worship Him, will we be truly happy and live life as it was meant to be. Seeking His glory is also for our best good!

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10

"Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God."

CASE STORY

Exodus 3-12,15; Acts 9:17

Our story is called:

The Case of the Heavenly Showdown.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was in the Heavenly Showdown?
2. Who won the showdown? What did the winner want to show the whole world?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth, in one of the greatest lands on earth--but I'm not going to tell you the name of it or any of the important people in the story until the very end.

Yes, this story takes place in what was a very Great Land in those long ago days. It had great buildings and houses. It had great temples where the people worshiped their idols. There was a great amount of sand, too, in this Great Land--a whole desertful. But, there was also a Great River that watered some of the land so the people could grow great crops of food.

As you might guess, there was a Great King who ruled over the Great Land. He thought he was so great that he even believed he was a god! Can you believe that?! He strolled around his great palace in his perfectly pleated, white linen kilt. He wore rich necklaces and bracelets of gold and jewels. He put colorful paint around his eyes and perfume on his body. On his head he wore not one but two, magnificent crowns placed on his perfect, black wig. And in his hand he proudly carried the king's scepter--a golden shepherd's crook.

"I am the Great King, the mighty ruler of my people," the Great King boasted. "I am blessed by our gods. Bes the snake god has protected my people and me from deadly snakebites; Hapi the god of the Great River was given us fresh water to drink and water our crops; Heqet, the frog goddess, has given life and children to me and my people; Ptah the god of creation parades freely in my land as bulls, the goddess Skehmet heals our sicknesses, Nut, the sky goddess, controls our skies; and Ra the sun god reigns gloriously above everything, bringing warmth and life to everything. I, myself, am a god. My people worship me and obey my every order. They delight to build great buildings in honor of me."

Yet while the Great King thought he and his gods were so great, there was another god who didn't think so highly

highly of him or his gods. It was the LORD, the one, true God. And this is the story of how He showed the Great King and the whole world who was really great and who wasn't.

Now the Great King made slaves out of the LORD's People and forced them to build his great buildings. The people were so unhappy and they cried out to the LORD for help; and He heard them.

The LORD spoke to an eighty-year-old man. "Old Man, go to the Great Land and speak to the Great King. Tell him to free My People. He has a stubborn, sinful heart. He won't listen to you, but don't you worry. I will use that stubborn heart to show him and the whole world that I am the one, true God, not him and his idols. My People will see how great I am and worship Me, too," the LORD told him.

The Old Man was scared. He knew how great the Great King was. He couldn't win against him! "Can't you send someone else?" the Old Man said to the LORD. "I'm just an Old Man. I don't even speak very well. I can't do what You want me to do!"

The LORD was angry with the Old Man. "I am the one, true God! This isn't about what you can do. It's about what I can do! Go to the Great King, Old Man, but take your brother to help you," He said.

The Old Man bowed low before the LORD. He knew the LORD was right. So even though he was still scared, he obeyed. Why? Because this Old Man didn't just worship the LORD with his words, he longed to please Him with his life.

Off the Old Man and His Brother traveled through the Great Land until at last they came to the splendid palace of the Great King.

"Great King, I have a message for you from the one, true God. He wants you to free His People to me so they can go worship Him," the Old Man said.

The Great King and his magicians just laughed. "The one, true God...bah!!! The gods I know are Bes the Snake god, Hapi the Great River god, Ptah the Bull, Creator of things, Skehmet, Healer of Sickness, Nut the Sky Goddess, and Ra the Sun god. And, of course, there's me. I don't know your one, true God and won't obey Him. I think the people are just being lazy. Now I will make them work even harder for me!" the King replied.

To make matters worse, now the LORD's People were mad at the Old Man and His Brother. "Thanks to you, the King is angry with us and is working us even harder," they

grumbled.

But the LORD said, "Don't worry, Old Man," the LORD told him. "I told you that the Great King had a sinful, stubborn heart. I am using it to show him, the whole world and My People that I am the one, true God. Go back to the Great King and I will tell you what to do."

Back the Old Man and His Brother went to the Great King. "Great King, you refuse to free the LORD's People or believe that He's the one, true God. Now He will show you that He's more powerful than you and your idols," the Old Man said.

Then the LORD showed He was more powerful than each of the Great King's idols. He turned the Old Man's staff into a snake that swallowed up the snakes of the Great King's magicians—He was more powerful than the Snake God, Bes. He turned the Great River into blood, making it undrinkable for the people of the Great Land and unusable for their crops—he was more powerful than Hapit the Great River god. He sent frogs that croaked and jumped into every home, even the Great King's Palace—he was more powerful than Heqet, goddess of frogs; gnats and blood-sucking dog flies and then sickness that killed all the bulls and other animals—He was more powerful than Ptah the Bull, Creator of Things. He sent huge hailstones that killed the crops—He was more powerful than Nut the Sky Goddess. He sent boils (like big, painful blisters) on all the people and even the Great King—He was more powerful than Skehmet, goddess of Healing. Then, He even sent darkness over all the Great King's land that was so thick that you could feel it—He was more powerful than even the great Ra, the Sun god.

The magicians of the Great King weren't laughing anymore. "Only the one, true God could do things like this, O Great King. He has overpowered all of our gods," they told him. "You must let His People go or the Great Land and everything in it will be destroyed!" But still the Great King's heart was stubborn and sinful.

Once more, the Old Man and His Brother went to the palace of the Great King. "Great King, the one, true God asks you again to free His People," he said.

"No, I won't! And don't ask me again," he ordered.

"Very well," the Old Man said. "The LORD bring one last punishment upon your Great Land. Then you will free His People."

At midnight that night, the terrible punishment came:

all the firstborn males, in the Great Land of the Great King died—from the firstborn of the cattle and servants to son of the Great King, himself. Yet not one of the LORD’s People died.

Now the Great King had to face the truth: the Old Man’s god alone was God, not him or his idols.

Right there in the Middle of the night, the Great King called for his guards. “Guards, go get the Old Man and His Brother. Bring them to me now!” he ordered. When they had been brought to him he commanded them, “Get up! Leave us! Take the people and go worship this god of yours. You’ve made your point. Leave us....but before you go, ask the LORD, the one, true God, to bless me,” he pleaded.

The next day the LORD’s People left the Great Land, led by the Old Man and His Brother. They praised the LORD for His victory over the Great King and his gods. He really was the one, true God!

This was only the beginning of what the LORD would do for His People. He continued to rescue them from all their enemies and take care of all their needs in amazing ways, time and time again. And, just as the LORD had told the Old Man and His Brother, it wasn’t just His People, or the Great King, or the Great King’s people who would know there was no god like Him. People from many lands and for many years would hear what the Only True God had done and they would know that He alone should be worshiped. ...that even includes you and me today!

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is the One, True God

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 86:8-10

“Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.”

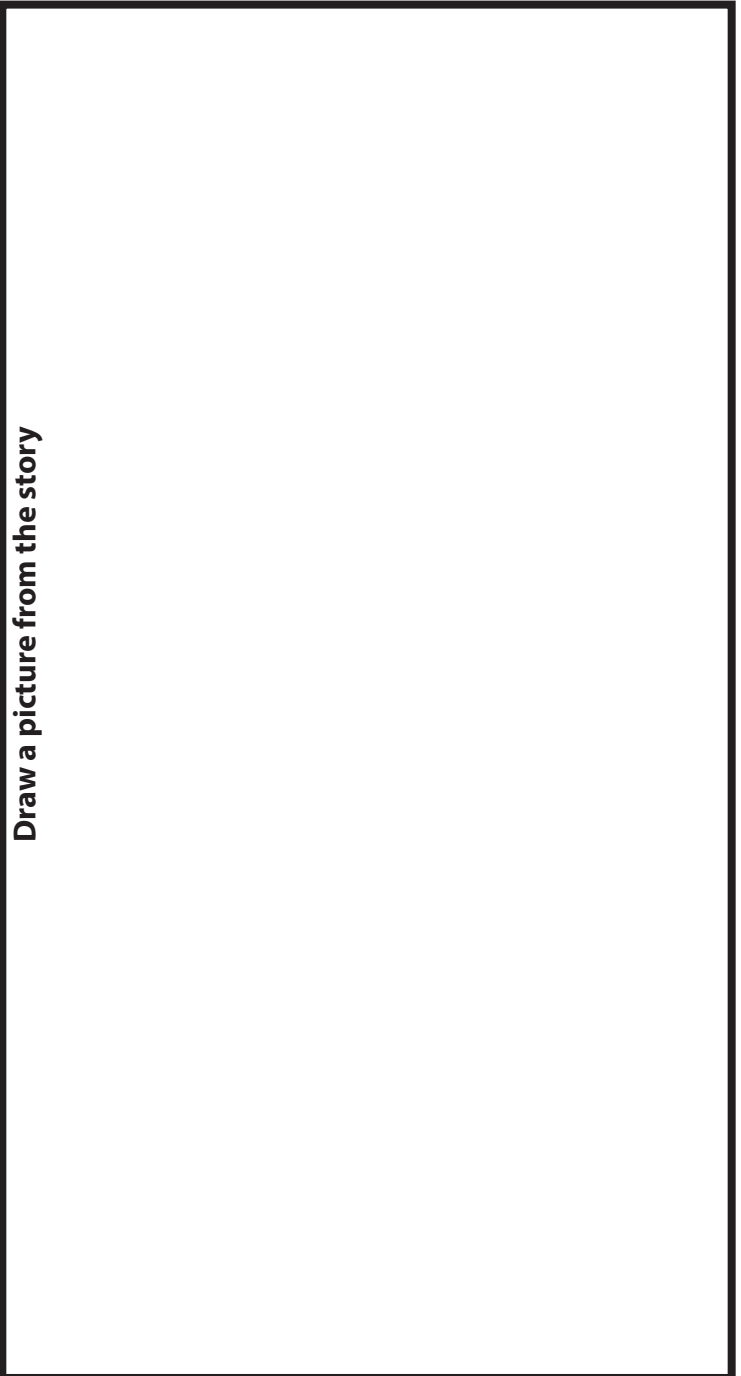
These verses remind us that the LORD is the one, true God and worthy of all our worship and praise!

Did you figure out the real names of the people in our story? The Old Man and His Brother were Moses and his brother, Aaron. The Great King and His people were Pharaoh and the Egyptians. And this was the story of how the LORD—rescued His People—the Israelites—from slavery in the Great Land of Egypt, and showed that he was the one, true God.

Isn’t it amazing to see how the LORD used even the hard, rebellious heart of Pharaoh to display to all that He is the Only True God? But did you know that is not the only way that the LORD uses stubborn, sinful hearts to show that He is the one, true God. The LORD also works in stubborn, sinful hearts, helping them repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He can work like this is our heart today!

Let’s praise the LORD as the one, true God. Let’s ask Him to help us confess our sins to Him and trust in Him to forgive us. Let’s ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and make our heart soft and worshipful so that through even us He might show the world that He truly is the one, true God.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: To worship something means to bow down before it. Answer: (Largely) False. Worship can include bowing down to something, but it's really far more than that. It starts in the heart with a desire to love, honor and tell of its worth. We treat it as the most important thing in how we live.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was in the Heavenly Showdown? Answer: Pharaoh, the gods of Egypt and the LORD.</p> <p>b. Who won the showdown? What did the winner want to show the whole world? Answer: The LORD. He is the One, True God.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10 "Among the ___ there is none like you, O LORD; no ___ can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you ___ are God." Answers: gods, deeds, alone.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 9</i></p> <p>Verse 3 Holy, holy, holy, Though the darkness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow'r, In love and purity.</p> <p>Words: Reginald Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>"The LORD made us to worship Him as the only, true God; yet, our sinful rebellion against Him "darkens" our hearts so that we refuse to see and confess Him as the glorious God He is. Instead, we seek other things to worship in His place. Nonetheless, there is none like the LORD, who is perfect in power, love and purity. He is holy!"</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the one, true God.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we are sinners with stubborn, sinful hearts. We need Jesus to be our Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for being able to work in our hearts and change them.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to worship You and live for You. Make our lives help show others that You are the one, true God!</p>	<p>There Is None Like You <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 10</i></p> <p>Among the gods, there is none like you, O Lord; No deeds can compare with yours. For you are great and do marvelous deeds, O Lord, You alone are God. Psalm Eighty-six, eight and ten.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 86:8, 10 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>This verse tells us that there is no one like the LORD. If we compare anyone else's deeds to the LORD's, it is easy to see just how great He is. He alone is God and worthy of our worship.</p>