

What About...the Invisibility of God?

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Have you ever wondered why no one has ever seen God the Father? Moses understood he could not look at the face of God (Exodus 3:6), yet he asked God, “*Show me Your glory*” (Exodus 33:18).

But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live! ...you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen” (Exodus 33:20-23).

Since we are created in God’s image and likeness (Genesis 1:26; 9:6), we know we look generally like God. So we can assume God the Father has a form which looks something like ours. But no one knows what His face looks like.

Ezekiel had a vision which we know is of God the Father. This is not Jesus because it is like the vision John had in Revelation 4 and 5 where Jesus took the book out of the hand of Him who sat on the throne. In his vision, Ezekiel saw the faces of four living creatures, but when describing God, he said:

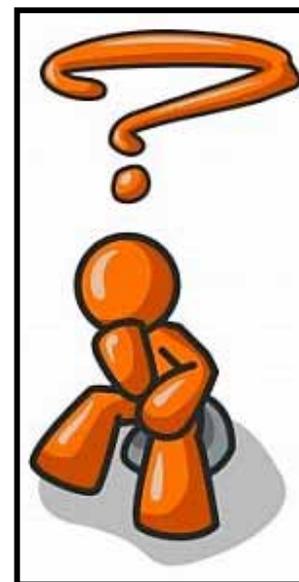
...on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man. Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him (Ezekiel 1:26-28).

Isaiah described his vision of God without reporting any view of His face (Isaiah 6:4). John did the same in Revelation 4 and 5. Jacob (Genesis 32:30) and Manoah, the father of Samson (Judges 13:22), both declared they had seen God face to face and survived. But the Apostle John explained that this was not an exception. These were theophanies of God the Son, the angel of the Lord, who we know as Jesus Christ. John wrote,

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him (John 1:18; 1 John 4:12).

We know God the Father has chosen to remain invisible. Even in the rare visions of Him, no one has ever seen His face. Many have seen God the Son but not God the Father.

- Not the One *who alone possesses immortality*
- Not the One *dwells in unapproachable light*
- Not the One to whom we can say, *To Him be honor and eternal dominion!*
- This one *no man has seen or can see* (1 Timothy 6:16).



But why? One answer might be given in Deuteronomy 4:11-12, 15-16.

You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain ...Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form — only a voice... So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female.

Apparently, God not only forbid them to make images of His creation, He did not want them to make an image of Him either.

**God remains invisible so
we won’t make an image of Him**

Why? We don’t know. But here’s a thought. People who worship images can only conjure up in their own minds the character those images represent. How many who look at a statue of “the Virgin Mary” think of the Mary of the New Testament?

If we knew what God looked like, we would be tempted to make an image of Him and worship the image instead of the infinite, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, holy, just, loving, truthful, immutable, sovereign character of God Himself.