

Lecture 7: Themes from Basic Bible Studies (II)

Our Father, we thank You that we can come and ask for You to be with us and teach us. Help us in our understanding. We thank You for Your love and faithfulness to us which is sure every day. And we thank You we can trust you to be with us now, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction and Review: After reviewing the general emphasis of the *Basic Bible Studies*, Professor Barrs continues to examine the major theme of “the character of God.” Following a repetition of God’s personality, he now expands on outline point III-A-2, God’s sovereignty, before addressing two further points.

Themes from Basic Bible Studies (II)*I. Origins**II. General Emphasis**III. Themes**A. The character of God**1. Infinite and yet personal**2. Sovereign over creation, history, and salvation**a. Creation by will, not necessity (Ephesians 1:11)**b. God’s personality not dependent on creation (Constrained only by His own character)**c. “There is no chance behind of God”**3. Creation ex nihilo**a. The contingency of matter and the need for a first cause**4. Distinction between the God of scripture and pantheism**a. Creation is not an extension or part of God**1) Impossibility of moral distinction in pantheism**2) Loss of human individual significance in pantheism**3) The pantheist’s inconsistency**a) Krishna and Arjuna in the Bhagavad-Gita**4) Necessity of some discontinuity between humans and God**a) The Sistine Chapel**B. The nature of humanity**1. Created in the image of God**a. Unique among creation - moral, rational, creative, loving, dominion**b. Individual significance - choice, communication, creativity**c. 20th century problem - without God, there is no explanation for the “personal”**1) The theater of the absurd - no real right and wrong**2) Modern art - loss of objectivity and communication**d. A major point of Schaeffer’s apologetic**1) Summary example: Woody Allen’s *Sleeper**