

The Baptist Catechism

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*With Scripture Proofs*¹

Q. 1. Who is the first and chiefest being?

A. God is the first and chiefest being.¹

¹ *Isaiah 44:6*: Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

Isaiah 48:12: “Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.

Q. 2. Ought everyone to believe there is a God?

A. Everyone ought to believe there is a God;¹ and it is their great sin and folly who do not.²

¹ *Hebrews 11:6*: And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

² *Psalm 14:1*: The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

Q. 3. How may we know there is a God?

A. The light of nature in man and the works of God plainly declare there is a God;¹ but His Word and Spirit only do it fully and effectually for the salvation of sinners.²

¹ *Romans 1:19–20*: For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Psalm 19:1–3: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

¹ Scripture References not in the 1695 Baptist Catechism are in bold print and have been marked with an asterisk (*).

Acts 17:24: The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

² *1 Corinthians 2:10:* these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

2 Timothy 3:15–16: and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Q. 4. What is the Word of God?

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience.¹

¹ *2 Timothy 3:16:* All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Ephesians 2:20: built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

Q. 5. May all men make use of the Holy Scriptures?

A. All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted to read, hear, and understand the Holy Scriptures.¹

¹ *Revelation 1:3:* Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Acts 8:30: So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

John 5:39: You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

Deuteronomy 17:18–19: “And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them,

Q. 6. What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scriptures?

A. The Holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to be-

lieve concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.¹

¹ *2 Timothy 1:13*: Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15–16: and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Q. 7. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit,¹ infinite,² eternal,³ and unchangeable⁴ in his being,⁵ wisdom,⁶ power,⁷ holiness,⁸ justice, goodness, and truth.⁹

¹ *John 4:24*: God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

² *Job 11:7–9*: “Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? It is higher than heaven—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know? Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

³ *Psalms 90:2*: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

⁴ *James 1:17*: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

⁵ *Exodus 3:14*: God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

⁶ *Psalms 147:5*: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

⁷ *Revelation 4:8*: And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

⁸ *Revelation 15:4*: Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

⁹ *Exodus 34:6–7*: The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding

in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Q. 8. Are there more gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.¹

¹ *Deuteronomy 6:4*: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Jeremiah 10:10: But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

Q. 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.¹

¹ *1 John 5:7*: For there are three that testify:

Matthew 28:19: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Q. 10. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for His own glory, He has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.¹

¹ *Ephesians 1:4*: even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Ephesians 1:11: In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Romans 9:22–23: What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

**Isaiah 46:10*: declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times

things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

**Lamentations 3:37:* Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?

Q. 11. How does God execute his decrees?

A. God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q. 12. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is God’s making all things of nothing, by the word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good.¹

¹ *Genesis 1:1–31*

Hebrews 11:3: By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Q. 13. How did God create man?

A. God created man male and female, after His own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.¹

¹ *Genesis 1:26–28:* Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Colossians 3:10: and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Ephesians 4:24: and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.