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Bible Doctrine Presented in Visual Format

WHERE IS GOD

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Where is God?

Passage	Background and Explanation of the Passage in Question	Additional Notes
Introduction	The question "Where is God?" appearing in the Bible nine times, has been asked since antiquity. It's something of a misnomer because all humanity has the concept of God in their hearts (Ec 3:11; Rom 1:20). The question spawns from the following logic: We can't see God, and he moves in his time, which causes both the believing and unbelieving to ask the question. God is one to show up at the right time.	The Bible doesn't acknowledge atheism as a belief system. Alleged atheists only say in their hearts, there is no God (Ps 14:1), but the Psalmist doesn't acknowledge that they actually believe it.
Psalm 19:1-4 An Introductory Passage	God reveals his existence through the creation and special revelation—the Bible. Basically, God's creation speaks on behalf of God. Since humanity is incapable of creating anything out of nothing, the wise assumption is that this very, complex universe was created by an almighty, omnipotent God. The Bible always assumes God's existence, but never sets out to prove it.	The question "where is God" may stem from bitterness in asking "Why is God not helping me at present?" One formula for help has remained the same (Isa 40:31).
2 Kings 2:14 Passage #1	Even though the prophet Elisha knew of God's whereabouts, his asking about God's whereabouts was indicative of why God wasn't employing his supernatural power to part the waters ¹ . After striking the water the first time with Elijah's cloak, the waters didn't part. Round two did produce the result of the power of his office ² . In this case, a lack of faith wasn't involved, as is the case most times. He was vocalizing the fact that God hadn't moved yet.	The question, "Where is God" has an underlying assumption that God has omnipotent power. It goes to show that the concept of infinity and all that comes with it was put into the heart of man (Ec 3:11)
Which kind of God is best? An unjust God who always moves right away or a just God who moves when the time is right?		

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¹ Pulpit Commentary in Esword
² David Guzik in Esword

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Job 35:10 Passage #2	Often times the question "Where is God," which in essence is asking why God hasn't moved, actually stems from arrogance, but Job asks it in a good way. Life is difficult, and God is more than willing to help in these difficult times, which is the perspective Job poses the question. God wants to turn sorrow into joy. Due to pride, man often turns to man for help (Psalm 118:8-9), but by turning to God, it acknowledges God's existence. Pray for God's help and patiently wait for that help.	In Rev. 13, the world worships the beast, but when God judges the world (Rev 16), they won't blaspheme the beast, but rather the God of heaven (Rev 16:11), which proves the knowledge of the true God in their hearts (Ec 3:11).
Psalms 42:3 Passage #3	The author, most likely King David, wrote this Psalm around 976 BC ³ or 979 BC ⁴ . Assuming David to be the author, Albert Barnes places the timeframe of this Psalm during Absalom's rebellion ⁵ . The "they," who asked about God's whereabouts in 42:3, are namely Israelites and perhaps some Gentiles, who are siding with Absalom. At the time it was Absalom vs. David, but the God of David prevailed. Absalom should have seen it coming.	God will move. It is a guarantee, but God's people need to have the patience and maturity to wait on him. Further, no doubt, David was suffering from his sin of murdering Uriah (II Sam 12:10).
Psalms 42:10 Passage #4	The "enemies" in this passage asking where King David's God was were more than likely the servants of Absalom, which did not include Gentiles. David himself struggled with putting his trust in God (42:11), but it's like the enemies of God were prevailing for a moment and even basking in their success by reminding the servants of the Lord of their victory. At times, God allows the wicked to prosper, but it is only temporary (Jer 12:1). When God moves against his enemies, their time of prosperity will be finished.	During Absalom's rebellion, King David fled into the plains of the wilderness (II Sam 15:28). In Psalm 42:4, the author recalls how it used to be going into the house of the Lord, which serves as an argument for this timeframe.

Omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence all belong to God, and he uses his power, but all in due time.

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Psalm 79:10 Passage #5	In Psalm 79, Jerusalem (79:3, 7) got hurt by Israel's neighboring kingdoms (79:2-3, 6). These heathen asking "Where is their God," basically seems to claim that they can do to Jerusalem as they please and get away with it. Since 79:6-7 mirrors Jer 10:25, some think Jeremiah was the author ⁵ , which would put these heathen enemies to be the Chaldeans under Nebuchad-nezzar's rule ⁶ , but Gill states that this Psalm was written by Asaph, the seer of David as a prophecy ⁷ . According to 79:8, the sins of the Jews brought this invasion upon Israel. However with God, there is restoration.	During the time when God uses Gentile nations to judge Israel, they can pose the question, "Where is their God," but God is one who forgives and restores, even if it is in another generation.
Psalm 115:2 Passage #6	While there may be reference to a national calamity ⁸ , the context may simply be in regards to where your trust is. The nations or heathen (115:2) refer to the unsaved. From time to time, even Israelites made and worshipped idols (I Kings 12:28-30). Because man is stuck in time, temporarily worshipping idols may appear to be without consequences (115:4-8), but God will never be stuck in time. He will move. Don't your lack of sight hinder your faith.	If you have an idol, and someone asks you the question, "Where is your God?" You can answer with a specific location, but no real power will be involved whatsoever.
Joel 2:17 Passage #7	Nations or heathen, referring to non-Israelites or the unsaved, often times pose the question out of ignorance, in unbelief, or in mockery, which doubts God's existence and providence ⁹ . In Joel 2:17, the question spawned because of the sin of Judah (Joel 2:12-13). News of sin spreads (II Sam 12:14), which gives the enemy of God reason to blaspheme (Rom 2:24), as was the case here. They had brought this upon themselves.	If calamity strikes those in the 21st century, the question "why" needs to be asked in a mature manner. God does bring hardship because of sin, which can cause neighbors to ask why it happened.
If calamity strikes, the question "why" should be asked in the mature manner as to get to the root of the problem.		

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³ Pulpit Commentary in Esword

⁴ www.Biblehub.com

⁵ Psalm 3:2, written during Absalom's uprising, uses similar language as in Psalm 42:3.



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Micah 7:9-10 Passage #8	The original context of "Where is the LORD your God?" in this passage is the same as Joel 2:17, but Micah, a prophet to both the house of Israel and Judah, takes it a step further. After future restoration (7:7-8) arrives, those who posed that question (Psalm 23:5) will be filled with shame (7:10). True repentance must be present (7:9) at salvation, which Micah exemplifies.	The question "Where is God" assumes omnipotent power working on behalf of the godly. Eventually, those who love the Lord do get exonerated.
Malachi 2:17 Passage #9	Here the question is posed by God's own people. Certainly some were unsaved at this time. The question was posed in regard to the judgment of God after declaring that God was blessing the wicked for being wicked. Beware! Just because God hasn't judged sin yet does not mean it won't happen. Now is the time to repent and be saved. Now is the time seek God. It is a 100% guarantee that God will move. God is not stuck in time.	Telling the Lord where you are hurting is what he wants, and you must be patient on his moving. He is very much alive, and he will move in judging sin and helping those who put their trust in him.
I Kings 18:27 (The question is reversed.)	In I Kings 18:27, the prophet Elijah reversed the question and addressed it to the prophets of Baal. The very words "Where is your god" weren't used, but the question is insinuated. The God of Israel did move that very day.	The only thing to fear in calling false gods false may be persecution by the offended party (Ps 138:1).
Conclusion	Whether it's a career that seems to be stuck, a time of crisis, or lack of direction in life, God will move on your behalf, but you must look to him while on the mountain tops or in the valley. Whether it's help from heaven, or the judging of sin, God will move, after which you won't ask, "Where is God?" When you are in a position to move, you yourself can move. The rest needs to be given to God.	The believer must whole-heartedly trust the Lord for guidance and provision. If there is a way to convince God to move, it is by praying and doing what we are supposed to today (Heb 10:36).
The believer is not to put himself on the same level as the unbeliever when asking questions concerning God, his power, and his ways.		

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⁵ Pulpit Commentary in Esword

⁶ Matthew Henry in Esword

⁷ John Gill in Esword

⁸ Albert Barnes in Esword