**God - Stories & Illustrations**

**God comes to us before we go to him. God came to Abraham when there was nothing to come to, just an old man at a dead end. But that’s God for you. *(James Van Tholen, in The Best Spiritual Writing of 2000)***

**Our school 's audio-visual coordinator wrote out this equipment order: "Send one glass plate for overhead projector. An overzealous minister broke ours when his hand came crashing down during religion class. Please bill us." A glass plate soon arrived, with a note from the supplier: "Please accept with our compliments," it read. "We do not charge for an act of God." *(Marilyn Tamm, in Reader's Digest)***

**The culture of the Australian aborigine recognizes no sort of Supreme Being. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 180)***

**Top 10 billboards by God: On behalf of an anonymous client, a Fort Lauderdale advertising agency launched a unique billboard campaign which has since spread to other parts of the country. All the messages are signed “God.” A sampling:**

**1. “Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be A Test.”**

**2. “Need Directions?”**

**3. “That ‘Love Thy Neighbor’ Thing. I Meant It.”**

**4. “You Think It’s Hot Here?”**

**5. “Big Bang Theory. You’ve got to be kidding?”**

**6. “Will The Road You’re On Get You To My Place?”**

**7. “Keep Using My Name In Vain And I’ll Make Rush Hour Longer.”**

**8. “Loved The Wedding. Invite Me To The Marriage.”**

**9. “What Part of ‘Thou Shalt Not . . .’ Don’t You Understand?”**

**10. “Let’s Meet At My House Sunday Before The Game.” *(The Life @ Work Journal)***

**Can you guess what state capital is sometimes used as a synonym for God? How about Providence, Rhode Island. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A young Communist girl once came to Dr. George Hedley, a college professor working with labor groups. She gave him the usual Communist line, saying that she didn’t believe in God. “What kind of a God don’t you believe in?” Hedley asked. It turned out that she didn’t think there was a grandfatherly gentleman sitting on a throne in the skies. “Do you think the universe makes sense?” he asked the girl. “Do you think that effect follows cause regularly enough so we can count on it?” She had to admit she did -- or abandon the whole Marxists philosophy. “Does it seem to you,” the questioner continued, “that this kind of sensible universe may have been planned and set going by a conscious intelligence?” “It must have been,” said the girl. “Well, then,” concluded Dr. Hadley, “if you are confident of that, you are much surer of your belief in God than a lot of clergymen and professors I know!” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 20)***

**In a newspaper appeared an article which told of a little chapel in the Orient erected to God by native converts; and how, on the very day of dedication the building was struck by lightning and burned down. The natives were quite naturally taken aback by this happening, since the Chapel represented a real sacrifice on the part of each one of them. They began to grope about in their minds to find a cause. Their conclusion was that the “Devil God” had burned it. The Christian leader said, “We will rebuild it. The fire was caused by your wickedness. It was God’s way of showing His displeasure at your sins.” The natives refused at first to rebuild the church. They argued that it was useless to build churches to a God who would destroy them by lightning. The leader settled this by saying, “Ah, but this time we are going to put lightning rods on the church, and then it cannot burn down.” So a brace of metal rods were held up to these trusting souls as being able to off-set the anger of God. What a terrible undermining of the Power! The man would then turn around and try to tell these people “God is all powerful.” This is a typically confused picture of anthropomorphic deity. *(Walter Lanyon)***

**Many Western liberals and secular types look at the zealotry closing in on them and draw an obvious conclusion: religion is the problem. As our global politics become more enamored of religious certainty, the stakes have increased, they argue, and they have a point. Thereof terrorists of Al-Qaeda invoke God as the sanction for their mass murder. And many beleaguered Americans respond by invoking God’s certainty. And the cycle intensifies into something close to a religious war. When the Presidents of the U.S. and Iran speak as much about God as about diplomacy, we have entered a newly dangerous era. The Islamist resurgence portends the worst. Imagine the fanaticism of 18th century Christians, waging religious war and burning heretics at the stake. Now give them nukes. See the problem? Domestically, the resurgence of religious certainty has deepened our cultural divisions. And so our political discourse gets more polarized, and our global discourse gets close to impossible. *(Andrew Sullivan, in The Conservative Soul)***

**You wanted a sign? You might have a hard time avoiding reminders of the Almighty on the highways these days. Billboards bearing “messages from God” have appeared in 40 states since last year. The arch one-liners were commissioned anonymously and conceived by Charlie Robb, former creative director for the Smith Agency in Fort Lauderdale. Although some have criticized the signs as being too flippant, Robb said, “There's no downside to what we're selling here.” Some sample messages, each signed simply “God”: “Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game.” “Loved the wedding. Invite me to the marriage.” “Will the road you're on get you to my place?” “That 'love thy neighbor' thing--I meant it.” “Do you have any idea where you're going?” “Need a marriage counselor? I'm available.” “Follow me.” “Keep using my name in vain, I'll make rush hour longer.” “I don't question your existence.” “What part of 'thou shalt not' didn't you understand?” “I love you . . . I love you . . . I love you.” “We need to talk.” “Don't make me come down there.” *(Tom Kuntz, in New York Times)***

**In his newsletter, Parables, Etc., Michael Hodgin tells the story of a little girl traveling with her family in a sleeper car back in the days when everyone traveled by train if they had to go long distances. The sleeping cars generally had a narrow aisle with even narrower beds stacked two high on either side. They were made private by curtains. That night the little girl was put in an upper bunk. She was told that Mommy and Daddy were right below her, and she was not to get scared because God would look after her. As everyone began to doze off, the little girl called out, “Mommy, are you there?” “Yes, dear,” replied the mother. A few minutes later, the little girl called out again, “Daddy, are you there?” and Daddy said, “Yes, dear, I’m here too.” Things got quiet for a few minutes, then the little girl started again. “Mommy, are you there?”  And this time she also asked if her brother and sister were there. After everybody answered, “Yes!” it quieted down. But the questions were repeated again a few minutes later, and then again. At last another passenger lost his patience, and in a deep voice said, “We’re all here!  Your father, your mother, your brother, and your sister. Now go to sleep!” Silence ruled for about thirty seconds. Then the little girl was heard to whisper, “Mommy, was that God?” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The Spanish exclamation Ole!, commonly heard at bullfights and flamenco dances, comes from Allah, meaning “praise be to God.” *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 43)***

**Aidan Broylas was studying a map of the United States when something struck him as being quite amazing. After thoughtfully considering it, the 6-year-old said, “Mom, isn’t it great how God fit all these states together?” *(Maria Micklan, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**The truth is, then: That God is Principle, Law, Being, Mind, Spirit, All-Good, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, unchangeable, Creator, Father, Cause, and source of all that is*. (Charles Fillmore, in Christian Healing)*
Spurgeon, the noted English pastor and writer, once noted a weather vane on the roof of a barn. That was nothing out of the ordinary in his country. What was unusual was the inscription written under it: “God is love.” “Just what do you mean by putting that text there?” Spurgeon asked the farmer. “Do you think God’s love in changeable like that?”  “You don’t get it,” the farmer replied. “What I mean is, no matter which way the wind blows, God is still love.” *(A. P. Bailey, in Indianapolis Star)***

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