

Fill in the blank with just one word: **God is** _____.

BETHEL – September 24, 2006

I love Genesis 1:16b “He made the stars also.” (King James, RSV and others) A small, simple statement of EVERYTHING! So subtle, so secondary – almost as an afterthought. In context:

Genesis 1:14-16 *And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also.*

Kind of an “Oh, by the way . . .” or a “Oh yeah, I almost forgot . . .” or a “There was some other little thing . . . Oh yes . . . LIKE ,THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!” You want “Big Bang” theory? - - - God gives us the big bang - - - as an afterthought!

Now fill in the blank: **God is** _____

If it exists, God created it. Everything is created by God.

Science has a theory or proof? That is cool! But it is God who created the science itself.

Good and Bad? Fortune and Misfortune? God created it!

How dare any of us say that anything exists outside of God!

Isaiah 45:7

I make weal and create woe (RSV);

I make peace and create evil (KJV)

I make peace and create calamity (NKJV)

I bring prosperity and create disaster (NIV)

I am the one who sends good times and bad times. (New Living Translation)

I bring both blessing and disaster (Good News)

I make harmonies and create discords (The Message)

I bring peace, and I cause troubles (New Century Version)

Making peace and preparing evil (Young's Literal Translation)

I bring good times. I also create hard times. (New International Readers Version)

I make well-being and create calamity (English Standard Version)

Now fill in the blank: **God is** _____

Isaiah is my favorite book of the Bible – I love the way God hammers away at the non-believer and believer as well. I can just hear a powerful, sometimes almost sarcastic tone in Isaiah 40:21-26, 44: 6b, 8b, 24b-26a , 45:2-3, 5-6, 12, 18b, 22, 46: 5-9, 48:17b, 55: 3a (NRSV)

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one. I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who by myself spread out the earth; who frustrates the omens of liars, and makes fools of diviners; who turns back the wise, and makes their knowledge foolish; who confirms the word of his servant, and fulfills the prediction of his messengers; I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things. I made the earth, and created humankind upon it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host. I am the Lord, and there is no other. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, as though we were alike? Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales— they hire a goldsmith, who makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship! They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries out to it, it does not answer or save anyone from trouble. Remember this and consider, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me. I am the Lord your God, who teaches you for your own good, who leads you in the way you should go. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

Now fill in the blank with as many words as you need: **God is** _____

Exodus 3:14 best summarizes God: "I am who I am." or "I am that I am." or "I am the one who always is."

Is it at all possible to fill in the blank? **God is** _____

God is!