God reveals himself to mankind

Who is God?

*1. God's personal attributes:

*a. He is both; Personal & Infinite

GOD

Personal	Infinite
Sovereign Creator	Eternal Life
Righteous	Omniscient all-knowing
Just	Omnipotent unlimited power
Truth	Omni present present everywhere
Love	Immutable unchanging

i. **Personal:** He thinks, He reasons, He communicates and He reveals himself / He makes himself known

ii. **Infinite:** God is bounded by neither time nor space. God knows no limitations in accomplishing all his will.

*b. Personal attributes:

▼1. **Sovereignty:**

a. **Before anything existed, God**
Then God created angels, making Him their sovereign ruler, giving Him the right to determine their function and existence, establishing both their physical laws and spiritual laws. In relation to their worship and service.

The potential for sin: free will / volition
Lucifer rebelled due to his own volition. God sets the laws for obedience and disobedience.

God determines what's right and what's wrong

In God's sovereign authority, He determines how his creatures will have a relationship with Him.
Man's rebellious volition says no, I will decide the terms of our relationship.

Truth is what conform to the reality that God creates

God is the one who establishes creation the way it is, then he defines that reality; which is truth.
In that God created everything, there is an objective truth that we can speak of, and understand; a truth that is apart from our natural existence or subjective perception.

The regenerate man can understand creation and truth.

In God's sovereign purpose, he created man with volition with the ability of self-determination; in spite of the extreme views of predestination; that say whatever God wills that is what is going to happen.

God defines reality

The revelation of reality

Psalm 85:10 (NKJV)
10 Mercy and **truth** have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed.

b. God who designed creation, sustains truth that is built into it

Psalm 146:6 (NKJV)
6 Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps **truth** forever,

c. **Psalm 86:15 (NKJV)**
15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

▼2. **Righteousness:**

*a. **Righteousness, is the perfect moral ethical standard of God**. Sometimes referred to as the holiness of God.
Holy: means to be set aside, distinct or unique.

i. **The perfect righteous character, of the one true and only God, makes Him distinct;** from all man-made gods.

*b. In the Hebrew, tsedeq, **Righteousness** and **Justice** are the same word, they are two sides of the same coin.

The Greek also uses one word dikaios to describe **righteousness** and **justice**

There is no universal abstract standard of righteousness for God conforms to

God is the definition of righteousness

God's righteousness is the standard, justice is the application of that standard.

i. **Righteous:** tsedeq

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NKJV)
4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

Psalm 7:9 (NKJV)
9 Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.

ii. **Justice:** tsedeq

Psalm 7:11 (NKJV)
11 God is a **just** judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.
Malachi 2:17 (NKJV)
17 You have wearied the Lord with your words; "Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of **Justice**?"

iii. **Justice:** dikaios

Matthew 5:45 (NKJV)
45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the **just** and on the unjust.

iv. **Righteousness:** dikaios

Matthew 9:13 (NKJV)
13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the **righteous**, but sinners, to repentance."

*c. **Emanating from His character, God defines his standard of righteousness to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17**

i. In order for God's creatures to live up to his perfect standard of righteousness; there must be a confidence in what His communicates, Plus obedience

As faith, confidence or belief in his word.

Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV)
16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Truth is the definition of God's expressed standard; which is His covenant with man.

The idea of law, indicates that it's legally binding between God and man

ii. **Psalm 119:142 (NKJV)**
142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

▼3. **Justice:** is the application of God's perfect standard for his creatures

*a. **Justice applied:**

i. **Genesis 3:13–19 (NKJV)**
13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.
15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."
16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."
17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.
18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field;
19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

Spiritual death for all mankind, is the result of disobedience according to Genesis 2:17

*b. **Justice is also the final cleansing, when He makes everything right:**

i. **Psalm 89:14–18 (NKJV)**
14 Righteousness and **justice** are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and **truth** go before Your face.
15 Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance.
16 In Your name they rejoice all day long, And in Your righteousness they are exalted.
17 For You are the glory of their strength, And in Your favor our horn is exalted.
18 For our shield belongs to the Lord, And our king to the Holy One of Israel.

*c. **In verse 14, the psalmist links for attributes:**

i. Righteousness = the perfect standard of God's character.
Justice = the application of that standard.
Mercy = the expression of God's love to all mankind, in providing a solution.
Truth = the definition of reality in the covenants, which reveal the previous 3 (righteousness, justice & Mercy)

God's personal attributes

GOD

Personal	Infinite
Sovereign Creator	Eternal Life
Righteous	Omniscient all-knowing
Just	Omnipotent unlimited power
Truth	Omni present present everywhere
Love	Immutable unchanging

Truth: God's absolute truth

The Principle: God has a right to define reality, because he is the creator

i. **Job 38:1–7 (NKJV)**
1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:
2 "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?
3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you answer Me.
4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.
5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?
6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,
7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:31–33 (NKJV)
31 "Can you bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion?
32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?
33 Do you know the ordinances of heaven? Can you set its dominion over the earth?
34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you?
35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, 'Here we are'?

Because God's character is perfect righteousness, how God defines reality is perfectly righteous and just, and fair.

▼5. **love: God is love**

*a. **God's mercy, his kindness and patience are an expression of his love toward us.**

i. **1 John 4:7–16 (NKJV)**
7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.
13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.
15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

God's love defines it, is eternal

ii. **Psalm 117:2 (NKJV)**
2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

iii. **John 3:16–17 (NKJV)**
16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

No single attribute of God is the sum of complete nature of his character

*2. **The personal attributes of God**

GOD

Personal	Infinite
Sovereign Creator	Eternal Life
Righteous	Omniscient all-knowing
Just	Omnipotent unlimited power
Truth	Omni present present everywhere
Love	Immutable unchanging

Sovereign = God is the creator of the universe and all that inhabits it.
Righteousness = the perfect standard of God's character.
Justice = the application of that standard.
Mercy = the expression of God's love to all mankind, in providing the Perfect solution.
Truth = the definition of reality in the covenants, which reveal the previous 3 (righteousness, justice & Mercy)