

## For I am God, and not a man (Hosea 11:9)

(notes by Tom de Bruin for the [Virtual Vestry Class](#) on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021)

### Introduction

Read this article by Dr Aulikki Nahkola, published in the Dutch Adventist church magazine in 2016:

<https://www.adventist.nl/2016/09/28/our-mother/>

### The Bible

I have collected a number of Bible passages that can help us think about God's gender. You might want to consider looking these up in a variety of translations, as the Bible authors and Bible translators do often speak in shrouded terms!

Something like biblehub.com is useful for this.

I will often only give a verse, do make sure you look at the context as well!

### Metaphors

Read these passages where metaphors or similes are used about God.

- Isaiah 42:10–20, Isaiah 66:12–13 (also 45:10, 49:15?)
- Deuteronomy 32:18
- Matthew 23:37

### God's gender

These are the most famous passages where God is directly ascribed a/no gender. What do these passages say about God's gender?

- Genesis 1:26–27
- Proverbs 8:22–23
- Genesis 49:25
- Deuteronomy 4:15–20
- Hosea 11:9

### Does God have genitalia?

Read these descriptions of prophets seeing God and God's attendants. What can they tell us about God's gender and that of heavenly beings?

- Isaiah 6:1–4
- Ezekiel 1:26–28

### Conclusion

As a final word, allow me to remind us all of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13: 'For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.'