

# The Attributes of God

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# The \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- Isaiah 55:8-9
- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

# The Incomprehensibility of God

## Definition

- Incomprehensibility
- Does not mean we are referring to something we are unable to comprehend at all.
- Does not mean God is unknowable
- Does mean that none of us can comprehend God exhaustively

# The Incomprehensibility of God

- The idea of Incomprehensibility of God comes from the basic tenet that we, the finite, cannot grasp the infinite
- This concept warns us not to think we have mastered all there is to know about God

# The Incomprehensibility of God

A balance between two errors

- The first is thinking that since God is incomprehensible, He must be utterly unknowable, and anything we say about God is conjecture.
- The second is that we assume that we have captured God and know Him completely

# The Incomprehensibility of God

## The middle ground

- God remains incomprehensible because He reveals Himself without revealing everything about Him.
- Deut: 29:29
- It is not as if we have no knowledge of God, or as if we have a complete knowledge of God
- Instead, we have the knowledge God sees fit for us to have for our good

# The Incomprehensibility of God

A brief historical example

- In the late 1800's Protestant liberalism identified God with nature to the point that God was nature. Pantheism. Therefore we can grasp God because he is confined in nature.
- In the early 1900's Neo-orthodoxy rejected that notion (rightfully) and replaced it with God as "wholly other". As wholly other, God is so dissimilar to us that there is no way for Him to speak to us.

# The Incomprehensibility of God

## The correct middle

- The point of connection between God and man is found in Genesis 1:26-28.
- This makes it possible for communication to occur. We are not God but we bear His image and therefore, God can reveal himself to us, not in His language but in ours. He can communicate to us in a manner that we can understand, not exhaustively, but truly and meaningfully. John 1:1-14



# The Incomprehensibility of God

What does this mean for us?

- There is always more of God for us to contemplate and know. We have scratched the surface and our hearts desire more and more. (CS Lewis, *The Last Battle*, “further up and further in”)
- We are humbled and contrite as we consider what we do know about God and how much there is still to know

# The \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- 2 Chronicles 6:18. “But will God indeed dwell with mankind on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built.”

# The Infinity of God

## Definition

- What is infinity?
- It is not big,
- It is not huge or tremendously large
- It is not extremely humongously enormous
- It's Endless

# The Infinity of God

## Definition

- Infinity is the idea that something has no end. In our world we have nothing like it. Our universe is bounded. There is a limit. It is not infinite
- Infinity is not getting larger. It is already fully formed, endless. Infinity does not go on and on like it is growing somehow. It just is.
- Infinity is not a number, it is an idea. It cannot be measured

# The Infinity of God

## Definition

- Big numbers:  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  is the number of atoms in a mole of a substance. For water it would be 18 grams of water contain that many atoms of water. That's a lot.
- $10^{100}$  is a googol. It is more than all the elementary particles in the entire universe .
- But these numbers are nothing to infinity

# The Infinity of God

Last thoughts on infinity as a concept

- $\text{Infinity} + 1 = \text{Infinity}$
- $\text{Infinity} + \text{Infinity} = \text{Infinity}$
- $\text{Infinity} \times \text{Infinity} = \text{Infinity}$
- But  $\text{Infinity} - \text{Infinity} = \text{Undefined}$
- And  $\text{Infinity} / \text{Infinity} = \text{Undefined}$
- Why undefined; because you can have different sizes of infinity!

# The Infinity of God

- Personal testimony: When we were in Kenya we went camping with our best friends, Jay and Elisa. Jay's brother was visiting from the States and he came along. He had just graduated from college and was pursuing a PhD in mathematics. I asked him what in math he was studying. He replied "Infinity." I was at a loss for words at that point and he looked at me and continued, "It is really the study of God." I have never forgotten that comment.
- Only God is infinite

# The Infinity of God

- God has no limits. God has no boundaries. God is measureless.
- The finite mind of man can never comprehend the infinite nature of God.
- The Infinity of God is, like His Holiness, an attribute of His attributes. His Wisdom is infinite. His Glory is infinite. His Love is infinite, His Grace is infinite.



# The Infinity of God

## The Infinite Sacrifice

- The Infinity of God is made manifest on the cross.
- Only an Infinite God could be the Infinite Sacrifice for the sins of this world
- God's Infinite Love is displayed for all to see in the death of His Son

# The Infinity of God

What does this mean for us?

- God's Infinity humbles us. Just as we struggle to come to grips with infinity in mathematical terms to a greater extent do we struggle to comprehend a personal God who is infinite in all He is
- God's Infinity sends us to our knees in worship. We are "undone", "ruined", "lost". (Isaiah 6:5).

# The \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- Deuteronomy 33:27
- “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

# The Eternity of God

- The idea of eternity, as infinity, runs through out the Bible
- Romans 1:20
  - Eternal power
- Romans 9:5
  - Eternally blessed
- Ephesians 3:11
  - Eternal purpose
- 1 Timothy 1:17
  - The King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible

# The Eternity of God

- Genesis 21:33
  - “Everlasting God”
- Psalm 90:2
  - “From everlasting to everlasting, You are God”
- Psalm 106:1
  - “For His lovingkindness is everlasting”

# The Eternity of God

## Definition

- Eternity of God refers to His existence backward through time further than we can imagine, and also forward into the future, as far as we can imagine and beyond.
- God never had a beginning and will never have an ending
- There was never a time when He was not, and there will never be a time when He ceases to be.

# The Eternity of God

Definition continued

- God's Infinity relates to space, His Eternity relates to time.
- Just as Infinity is an attribute of all God's attributes so Eternity is an attribute of all God's attributes:
  - His love will never end
  - His mercy will never cease
  - His truth will never expire

# The Eternity of God

- God existed before time began
  - Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God...
  - Before God spoke the universe into existence God was there
  - Before there was a clock or calendar or watch there was God
  - Before there was history, God existed. He is outside space and time



# The Eternity of God

- God Exists in the Past, Present, and Future at the Same Moment
  - We exist in time with each event following another. God on the other hand sees it all at once. He is outside of time. Time does not constrain Him
  - God transcends time, He encompasses time, He sees eternity at once for He dwells in eternity

# The Eternity of God

What does this mean for us?

- The confidence to live completely for God as we too will share in His Eternity. Ecclesiastes 3:11
- The knowledge that this brief temporary life is but a prelude to Eternity in the presence of God. Romans 8:18
- We can live confidently as God's Sovereignty is Eternal. Colossians 1:16
- We are secure at all times because God is our Eternal Rock. Isaiah 26:4. He always has our back.

# Review

- Our God is Incomprehensible
  - But we can know Him as He reveals Himself. He speaks in ways we can understand.
- Our God is Infinite
  - Yet He came to earth in finite form to share in our humanity to pay the ultimate price for our rebellion
- Our God is Eternal
  - But He entered space time because of His great eternal love for us

# The Incomprehensible, Infinite, Eternal God

- Questions
- Comments
- Insights
- Prayer requests