

Attributes of God

KNOWING GOD

Exodus 3:1-16

A Few General Principles Regarding God making Himself known

VS. 2-4...God making Himself available to man—it is God who reaches out toward us

VS. 5...God is to be approached with respect

VS. 7-9...God sees our afflictions and CARES! He hears our cries!

VS. 13-15...”I AM”...Yahweh most significant name of God in OT.

*It is the name used when you see LORD (all caps)

*Jews for centuries wouldn't say it, out of fear of using His name in vain

*means...active, self-existent One and Redeemer

VS.16...Again we see God's concern

Exodus 3...provides a snapshot of God's transcendence and His immanence

TRANSCENDENCE

Transcendence- beyond the range of physical human experience

- Ez. 1:22-28...All we can use to describe God is our limited vocabulary and our limited experience---He is far beyond both
- Is. 55:8-9 // Rom. 11:33-36 // ...His character and ways are beyond what we can understand. We can understand goodness to a degree, but we cannot fully comprehend God's goodness or love or patience or justice
- Rom. 9:20-24 // Psalm 50 (vs.21) We need to beware of trying to bring God down to our level.

IMMANENCE

Immanence- (Lit. to be within or near) God making Himself available and being a part of our life

- Gen 3...He walked in their presence in the garden
- Ex. 3...He reaches out to Moses
- Ex. 25:8...He desired to dwell among His people
- John 1:14...The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
- Matt. 28:20... **“Lo I am with you always, even to the end of this age.”**
- John 14:16-18 / 16:7... We have the Holy Spirit
- Heb. 4:14-16 // 7:25 // 10:18-22... We can come to Him

GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM!!

John 17:3

- Life= vitality, vigor, animation, fullness of life (speaks of quality as much as quantity)

*****We come to know Him through our introduction into the faith (Jn3:16 / 3:36)**

*****We grow in our knowledge of Him here on earth**

***Paul prays for and works towards knowing God

++Eph. 1:15-23

--vs.17...wisdom=intelligence, understanding, knowledge

-- revelation= unveiling

-- knowledge= exact, complete, experiential knowledge

--vs. 18...heart= mind, will, emotion

--hope of His calling=confidence and security of being His

--riches of glory...=fullness of glory we will experience when

He one day inherits us

--the power that impacts us= see 2 Pet. 1:3

++Eph.3:14-19---to comprehend, His incomprehensible love

++Phil 3:7-12 (Jer. 9:23-24)---What is important to you?

++Col. 1:9-10

*****We will know Him in eternity**

(1 Cor. 13:9-13)---know His love more fully

KNOWING GOD SHOULD RESULT IN OBEDIENCE

If I Know God-→I will Trust God-→Which Makes Me More Willing To Submit To God
(Obey)

Titus 1:16 / 1 John 2:4 / 2 Peter 2:17-22

God is Good

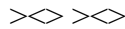
***I believe we all, at some level, struggle with the goodness of God.

***In what ways do you struggle with the truth that God is good?

(doubt is really an alternate belief system)

***Hope that through this study you will gain a deeper trust in God!

Psalm 34:8---A verse to practice and memorize this week



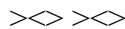
There is nothing good outside of God!! He is the source of anything good!!

Psalm. 14:1 // 53:1

Rom. 3:10-18

James 1:17...anything good comes from God

Genesis 1:3-31...His creation is good, vs. 31=VERY GOOD // 1 Tim 4:4



God displays His goodness in His glory

Exodus 33:17--34:9...

Background~

-Moses comes down from the mountain to find the people had built a golden calf.

-God says he will not lead the people into the promised land, but send an angel instead

-Moses pleads, asking God to lead them into the promised land.

---Read section 33:17—34:9

Overview~ Principles of God's goodness that can be seen from this Scripture

33:18-19—God's glory is seen in His goodness (??discussion on concept of glory here??)

-Goodness is a quality that runs through each of God's other attributes!!

-What if He was all-powerful without being good?

ASK: How would you define the word, good?

Goodness—used like our English word...

*something desired or approved {I got a good grade in my science class}

*having qualities to meet an expectation {his English is really good}

*possessing moral virtue {he made a good decision, or he is a good man}

34:6-7—God shows His glory / goodness

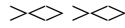
ASK: Does this fit your definition of good? Does your definition need to be changed?

34:8—What is the response of Moses to seeing the goodness of God?

WORSHIP /// Psalm 118:1 // 135:3 // 136:1 // 145:7

34:9—Repentance? (Similar the covenant is renewed, restored relationship??)

REPENTANCE /// Romans 2:4...Why does the goodness of God lead us to repentance?



God's goodness in "affliction"

*Psalm 119:71

The perspective of those who are following or love God can see His goodness in everything that happens. It is not His goodness that ever changes, it is simply our perspective.

For example...Someone may talking to you from the other side of the street and say "Can you see that house in the distance?" and you say "No, all I can see is trees." But when you move over to the other side of the street, you can clearly see the house that was there the entire time.

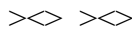
*Psalm 84:11--The above example shows us how what we perceive to be hardship can in fact be God's good gift.

*Romans 8:28

*Psalm 73---A false perception (wrong perspective of what is good)

~notice...1st and last verse...what is truly good is the closeness to God!

*How can God's goodness be seen in unanswered prayer or difficulty?...2 Cor 12:8-9



A Few General Principles About God's Goodness

Believing in God's goodness brings hope.

~ Ps.27:13-14

Q: In what specific areas do I lack hope?

Q: How can I look for God's goodness in these areas?

Believing in God's goodness draws me nearer to Him.

~ Ps.86:1-5 ~ Ps.100:1-5

Q: What false beliefs do I have about His goodness that keeps me away from Him?

God's goodness is not just in His character...It is in His actions.

~Ps.119:68

Anything good is from God.

~Ps.14:1-3 ~Ps.16:2 ~Ps.145:9

Q: What things in my life do I consider bad?

Q: What things do I consider good or enjoyable, in which I do not involve God?

Our kind treatment from God is not a result of our good deeds, but of God's goodness.

~Ps. 25:6-8

Q: How will basing my relationship with God on His character, rather than mine affect me?

We are to look at and enjoy God's goodness.

~Ps. 34:8

Q: What good things of God have I consciously enjoyed so far this week?

Q: Name a few of God's good things that you will look for and enjoy this week.

We are to thank and praise God for His goodness.

~Ps. 118:1 ~Ps.135:3 ~Ps.136:1 ~Ps.145:7

Q: How much time do I spend thanking and praising God for the good in the way things are, compared to praying for things to be different

Other miscellaneous verses about God's goodness...

1 Chron. 16:34 /// Neh. 9:35 /// Matt. 19:17 /// Mark 10:18 /// Luke 18:19

A related topic...GOD'S WILL

...because we can't reconcile the fact that God's will can be done, man can sin, and God can be good all at the same time.

- **He has a divine purpose-** Eph 1:11 // 2 Tim. 1:9 // Rom. 9-11 (see 11:33-36)
/ Ps. 33:6-11
- **Permissive Will-** God's plan is executed through sinful people and decisions
--Israel wants a king...1 Sam. 8:5-9 / 19:22
--God had already decided that the Messiah would come from a king of Abraham's family...Gen. 17:6 / 35:11
--Man's sin and God's plan...Act's 2:23-24

God is Immutable (Unchanging)

The word immutable---has the idea of not mutating

***He does not change in His character, purpose, fairness, or promises.

***There is no inconsistency in Him

Ps.102:27 // James 1:17 // Eccl.3:14 // Ps.90:2 // Is. 48:12

Questions / Thoughts:

*What is true of somebody that changes?

*How am I affected by somebody who changes in character, purpose, fairness, or promises?

*What about me changes? mood, strength, interest, maturity, knowledge, purpose, etc...

*Do I have any problems/difficulties with the fact that He is unchanging?

Specifically...

*His Word does not change...

Heb. 13:7-9 // Ps.119:89-90...settled= stationed / set firm

*His promises do not change

Num. 23:19 // 1 Sam. 15:29 // Rom. 11:29 // Titus 1:2

*His purpose does not change...

Job 23:13 // Ps. 33:11 // Prov. 19:21 /// Is. 14:24 ///Is. 46:9-10 // Mal. 3:6 (Romans 9-11)

*His faithfulness and mercy does not change

Lam. 3:22-23 // // Ps.119:90 // 2 Tim. 2:13 /// Ps. 100:5

*His love does not change

Jer. 31:3 /// John 13:1

*His judgments have not changed

Is. 31:2 /// Acts 17:31

*His energy level does not change / He does not age

Is.40:28 /// Ps. 102:23-27

++Idea of Hindu?? Start helpless grow strong, get helpless again---THIS IS NOT GOD!

Since God has not changed, nothing that matters has changed?

It makes it much more simple, as to what my drive and direction in life should be...It has never changed, from the beginning of time until now. It is to know, trust, and obey God

Questions:

*How can I find comfort in the truth of His unchanging?

*How should this affect my direction in life?

*How can I specifically praise Him regarding this truth in my life? (ex...His unchanging love for me---regardless of my actions or lack of actions)

*Am I waiting for Him to be different or change His standards, before I obey?

Difficulties of Understanding God's Immutability

--What about that He was sorry that He made man? (repented / changed His mind?)

Gen. 6 repented=grieved/// Ex. 32 /// 1 Sam. 15:11 /// Jonah 3:10 ///

--Regarding God changing his mind or "repenting"...this is in reference to His promises or plan that is conditional...His actions or dealings may change, but He does not.

Jer. 18:7-10

~~Luke 18:1-8...He will have His way, His justice...We must perseverance

Israel is the perfect picture of God seeming to change His mind, but having a perfect plan

The bottom line...HE KNEW and still chose to allow Himself to suffer sorrow on our behalf!!! He knew He would be made sorrowful in the garden, He knew He would have to give up His only Son...yet He chose to do it because HE IS A GOOD AND RIGHTEOUS GOD!!! HE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT DENY HIS OWN CHARACTER---even at the cost of His own sorrow!!

GOD IS HOLY

Holy=cut off, separate from sin

1 John 1:5 / Is. 57:15 / Rev. 15:4 / Mark 1:24

God's holiness means that He will not be a part of anything sinful, unrighteous

Ex. 3:5-6 / Ex. 15:11 / Lev. 11:44-45 / Lev. 20:26 / Josh 24:19 / 1 Sam. 2:2 / Ps. 5:4 / Is. 59:2 / Ps. 66:18

1 Pet. 1:15 // Lev 19:2—We are to be holy, because He is holy

Ps. 29:2 //Rev 4:8—We are to worship Him because He is holy

Questions / Thoughts:

What does it mean for me personally that God will not sin, or will not be a part of sin?

How can I find comfort in His holiness?

How should His holiness affect the direction of my life? Daily living?

Do I have any problems/difficulties with His holiness?

GOD IS GREAT

Is. 40:12-31

Notice the 3 questions...

Vs. 25~Addresses our lack of ability to comprehend God and His awesome ways!

Vs.27~ Addresses our disbelief in Gods love and care for us

Vs. 28~Addresses our disbelief in Gods ability to work actively in our life today.

(2Cor. 3:4-18)

Related topics about getting to know God

Q: Are dis-interested in getting to know God? Would just rather know what to do or how to walk correctly?? This is why our lives and church do not possess life...because they are full of us and devoid of the Living God. We shut Him out...we do not know Him therefore we do not trust Him, therefore we do not submit to Him.

More often than not...we want to put God onto our plans or ideas, rather than us fall in line with Him and His plan.

...look up Ex.3----I AM!

...look up Phil. 3----- knowing God

---Think in terms of my Father God is..._____, rather than trying to comprehend “the attributes of God”.

---The attributes of god should put us in a state of complete awe. First, because of the reality of who God is...then because of the reality, that this God wants to be involved personally with every aspect and every moment of my life. From the mundane to the intense, from the simple to the complex, He wants to be involved in my mind, my heart, my actions etc...

~~~~~This points to His transcendence and immanence

\*His transcendence--so deep and far beyond us and our comprehension (Is. 55:8-9)

\*His immanence.—(lit.--to be within or near) that He has made a way to be involved intimately with us(Matt.28:20).

We have the opportunity to get to know the God of Israel, the God of heaven the God of Isaiah, the Christ of the gospels, the God of the early church,.

\*God is more accessible now than He ever has been throughout history.

Beware of trying to fit God into our own perception! Ps. 50:21

Beware of not acknowledging the truth of who God is..Rom. 1:18-23

IS. 6 =coal--holiness...notice the figurative language God cannot be described with our human words...just grasped at.