



*The  
Attributes  
of God*

*By  
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# The Attributes of God

Text: Jeremiah 10:10a:

“But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king.”

## Introduction:

- A. Since the beginning of time man has sought to portray God by Imagery, painting, and word descriptions, but he always fall far short of accomplishing the task.

No graven image can reveal God to us. I believe that is why God forbids the making of them.

- B. The nature of God is best revealed by His attributes.
- C. The attributes of God are not abstract, but a vital medium through which the nature of God is revealed to us.
- D. In fact it is impossible to distinguish between the attributes of God and the nature of God.
- E. Just as His names help us to understand His character; His attributers help us to understand His nature and essence.

Jehovah – Jireh means The Lord will provide

Jehovah – Ah Shalom means The Lord send peace

Jehovah – Tsidkenu signifies The Lord our righteousness

- F. The attributes of God are divided into two groups: the natural, communicable, or absolute attributes and the moral, incommunicable, or relative attributes.

1. The Natural attributes of God are omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, eternity, and immutability.
  2. The Moral attributes of God are holiness, righteousness, faithfulness, mercy, love-kindness, and love.
- G. The attributes of God are the essential, permanent, and distinguishable characteristics of His divine nature.
- H. They are inseparable from His nature, because they are the foundations for his various manifestations of Himself to his creatures.
- I. The attributes of God are possessed by all three persons of the Holy Trinity.
- J. The Natural attributes, also called the absolute attributes deal with the inner being of God. They relate to God's relation to Himself and belong to His nature independently of His relationship with the universe.
- K. The Moral attributes deal with the outward relations of God with His creation, its existence, and its dependence on Him.

## **I. The Natural Attributes of God.**

### **A. Omniscience**

Omniscience means all knowing. God has absolute and perfect knowledge of all things.

1. The Scripture speaks very clearly of God being an all knowing God.

**Job 11:7, 8**, "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as

heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?"

**Job 37:16**, "Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?"

**I John 3:20**, "God knoweth all things."

2. Proverbs 15:3 tell us that God's knowledge is absolutely comprehensive.

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

3. God has perfect knowledge of:

- ◆ Nature

Psalm 147:4, "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names."

- ◆ Man and his doings

2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

- Does God know everything about me?

Psalm 139:1-6, O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it."

- This verse makes it very clear that God's knowledge of us is "all inclusive."

Hebrews 4:13, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

- People think that they get away with things.
- But no one gets away with anything because God knows.
- He know all that we think, say, and do.

#### 4. God’s knowledge is from eternity to eternity

Isaiah 46:9-11, “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”

#### B. Omnipotence

This is the attribute of God by which He can bring to pass everything that He wills to happen.

1. God can do all things! God’s power knows no limits or bounds.

Job 42:2, “I know that thou canst do all things.”

Isaiah 46:11b, “I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”

- ◆ There is nothing too hard for God to do!
2. James tells us that all human actions, past, present, and future depend on His will.

“There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? Go to now, ye that say,

To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, **If the Lord will**, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

3. God does what is consistent with His Nature, Character, and Purpose.

A little boy was running without watching where he was going. He fell down and scraped his knee. The pastor say him fall and went over to him. He was crying and said, “Pastor can God make the scrape go away?” The pastor answered, “Yes” but He may want it to stay for a while so you can remember why it happened and not do it again.”

4. Even the old roaring lion **Satan** is subject to his power.

Job 1:12, “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”

Job 2:6, “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.”

Revelation 20:2, “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.”

### C. Omnipresence

The omnipresence of God is directly related to His omniscience and omnipotence. Since God is everywhere present, then He is everywhere active and knows all that is taking place.

1. Jeremiah understood that God was omnipresent

“Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.” Jeremiah 23:23, 24

2. If you read Psalm 139 verses 1-19 you find all three of these attributes.

- ◆ Verses 1-6 – the omniscience of God
- ◆ Verses 7-12 – the omnipresence of God
- ◆ Verses 13-19 the omnipotence of God.

When we understand that God possesses these three attributes it is:

First, a comfort – We to know that God is near and that He knows everything about us. Furthermore, He is able to take care of everything.

Secondly, it is a warning that no sinner can escape the judgment of God.

So we quickly understand that He can detect as well a protect or provide.

#### D. The Eternity of God

Eternity is infinite duration without beginning or end.

God is without beginning or end. He has existence without bounds, present without past or future. His eternity is youth without infancy or old age, life without birth or death, today without yesterday or tomorrow.

Habakkuk 1:12, “Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One?”

“Eternity transcends all finite bounds of Time,  
Knows nothing of Duration, with successive years,  
Before Thy vision, panoramic and sublime  
Past, present, and future, at one glance appears,  
Unnumbered cycles past before Thy view,  
The new is as the old, the old is as the new.”

Only eternal God can give eternal life!

#### E. The Immutability of God

God is a self-existent, infinite Being. He is absolutely independent and eternal. Because God is infinitely perfect, He is above the possibility of change.

Malachi 3:6, "For I am the LORD, I change not."

Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

#### **Conclusions:**

The natural attributes reveal the sovereignty of God, They teach us that our God is all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful, eternal (without beginning or end), and unchangeable.

How Great Thou Art!



# The Attributes of God (2)

**Text:** Leviticus 19:2

“Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.”

## Introduction:

- A. In the last message we dealt with the Natural attributes of God: omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, eternity and immutability.
- B. In this message we will speak about the Moral attributes of God: holiness, faithfulness, truthfulness, righteousness, justice, mercy, love-kindness, and love.

## I. The Holiness of God.

If there is any difference in the importance of God's attributes, it is evident that God's holiness occupies first place.

Holiness is the one attribute which our God would have, His people remember Him by, more than any other.

In the visions God granted men in the Scriptures the thing that stood out most prominently was God's divine holiness.

A. The Prophets saw God as absolute holiness:

- 1. Isaiah speaks of Jehovah as "the Holy One," some 30 times."

Isaiah 57:15a "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place."

In fact the holiness of God is the message of the entire Old Testament.

2. The Old Testament prophets described God as the absolute Holy one with eyes to pure to behold evil and swift to punish iniquity.
3. Our Lord calls the Father holy:

John 17:11b "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."

4. God's holiness, as no other, is solemnly celebrated before the Throne of Heaven. The seraphim cry,

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8

5. God's holiness is revealed in His Law:

Psalms 19:7, "The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul."

- a. The law forbids, and reveals, the sinner's sin and God's holiness.
- b. Because God is holy - He hates sin:
- c. The infinite distance between Holy God and a sinner is sin!

Psalm 5:5, "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."

Psalm 11:5, "The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth."

God forgives elect sinners, but never sin.

The Sinner is only forgiven on the grounds of Another, The Lord Jesus Christ, having borne his punishment at Calvary.

For "without shedding of blood is no remission."

6. God's greatest manifestation of God's holiness is The Cross of Calvary.
7. The atonement shows God's infinite holiness and hate of sin.

None of the judgments upon fallen angels, on the earth, or lost humanity demonstrate God's hatred for sin, as does His wrath turned loose on His only Begotten Son at Calvary!

7. The attribute of holiness is ascribed to each of the three persons of the Godhead.
  - ◆ God the Father – is “the holy one of Israel”  
Isaiah 41:14
  - ◆ God the Son – is “the holy one of Israel”  
Acts 3:14
  - ◆ God the Holy Spirit – is the Holy Spirit  
Ephesians 4:30

#### B. Conclusions concerning God's Holiness:

1. Because God is holy - He is to be approached with reverence and godly fear.
2. When we get a right view of God it reveals our sinfulness.
3. We understand that our approach to a holy God must be through the merits of Christ, and on the grounds of His righteousness.

## II. The Goodness of God.

- A. God's Goodness is the essence of His eternal nature. He was eternally good before there was anything His goodness could be compared to, or anyone that His goodness could be imparted too.
  - 1. Because God is good all that comes from Him is good:
    - a. His decrees are good.
    - b. His creation is good.
    - c. His dealings with man are good.

Genesis 1:31a - "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

- 2. The goodness of God is seen when man transgressed God's law and God did not immediately bring wrath and judgment upon him.
  - ◆ Instead of destroying man God manifested His mercy and judgment mixed.

Our Lord spoke of the goodness of God, His mercy, and loving-kindness:

Matthew 5:45b - "for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

There are those that question God's goodness because there is sickness, suffering, and sorrow in this life.

But who is man, who has sinned against a holy and righteous God, to say unto Him, "why"? Rather man should say God is good because He has extended mercy.

- 3. God's greatest manifestation of His goodness is seen in redemption:

Galatians 4:4,5 - "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son "made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

- ◆ Some say that God could not be just in giving some saving grace and not giving it to all men.

How quickly man is to forget that it is man that sinned against a Holy God not visa versa. God is not obligated to save anyone (for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God). God would still be good and just if He choose to save none.

It is because of God's goodness that He gives His grace and chooses some unto redemption. But the elect can only come through the merits of His Son Jesus Christ, not because of our own goodness.

### **III. The Truthfulness of God.**

A. God is truth:

He is absolutely perfect - thus the True God

John 17:3 - "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

B. God is absolute truthfulness:

In Titus 1:2, He is called "God who cannot lie."

### **IV. The Faithfulness of God.**

A When God reveals His purpose it becomes a promise or a just threat.

- B However, the ground for fulfillment of the promise or threat is not due to any obligation to the recipient, but simply to His own faithfulness to His purpose.
- C God's faithfulness is grounds for both Hope and Fear:
  - 1. In Scripture God's faithfulness is presented as grounds for hope much more than that of fear.
  - 2. God has faithfully fulfilled both His promises throughout Scripture.

Therefore, His faithfulness is grounds for belief in the fulfillment of His future promises, judgments, and punishment.

## **V. The Righteousness and Justice of God:**

- A. In a certain sense the attributes of righteousness and justice are the manifestation of God's holiness.

Holiness speaks of the character of God while righteousness and justice express that character in God's dealings with man.

- B. The Elements of Righteousness.

- 1. Legislative holiness is the imposing of righteousness through certain laws and demands.
- 2. Judicial holiness is the execution of the penalties attached to those prescribed laws and demands.

Righteousness and justice are the revealing or carrying out of God's holy nature in the government of the world. Righteousness shows us the love of God for holiness, and justice reveals his hatred of sin.

- C. The righteousness of God is revealed in two ways: the punishment of sin, and the rewarding of righteousness.

QUESTION - What does the justice of God mean"?

1. The justice of God is His attribute that causes Him to treat others in strict accordance with their just due.
  - a. Man's justice is imperfect because of man's limited knowledge, reason, perception of right and wrong, and man's prejudices.
  - b. However, justice that proceeds from a Perfect God does not have these shortcomings, and is exercised in the strictest form of perfection.
  - c. The justice of God necessitates His dispensing absolute justice. He must give each individual a full measure of what they deserve.
  - d. God's justice makes Hell just as imperative as Heaven!
    - (1). God's wrath comes upon the Unregenerate because they have sinned or rebelled against God's law and His authority.
    - (2). God's blessings are bestowed on God's Elect, those who are the recipients of God's unmerited favor (Grace), because their sins have been forgiven by the atonement of Christ at Calvary.
2. The reward for righteousness.
  - a. Forgiveness of sin

I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

b. The reward of living righteous

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10

## **VI. The Mercy and Loving Kindness of God.**

The attributes reveal the kindness, goodness, and compassion of God to us.

A. Mercy is usually exercised in connection with guilt.

The mercy of God caused Him to seek the welfare of the elect sinner, even at great cost and sacrifice to Himself.

Ephesians 2:4-9, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

B. Loving Kindness is the attribute that leads God to bestow constant and choice blessings upon his obedient sons and daughters.

Romans 8:32. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"



1. In these verses we see the mercy of God toward elect sinners.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any (any who? Any of the elect) should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

2. We also see his loving kindness to the saints.

Psalms 32:10, “Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.”

## **VII. The Love of God.**

The Bible sets forth God, our Supreme Being, as love.

The heathen gods are always depicted as angry hateful beings that were in constant need of being appeased. (thus showing the state of those who invented them.)

I John 4:8 tells us that “God is love.”

Love is the expression of His personality corresponding to God’s nature.

### **A. The objects of God’s love.**

1. His only begotten Son is the special object of His love.

Matthew 3:17 tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ is the beloved Son.

2. The elect are the special objects of His love.

1 John 4:10, “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

### **B. God’s love is revealed.**

1. In His infinite sacrifice for man's salvation as seen in the verse just quoted.
2. In His giving of a full and complete pardon of our sin through the propitiation of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. By remembering and helping His children in all circumstances of life.

Isaiah 49:15, 16, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

- A. God is holy
- B. God's righteousness (standard) requires holiness from His children.
- C. God's justice punishes sin and rewards righteousness.
- D. God is merciful – having mercy on those who are unworthy of mercy.
- E. God's loving kindness is given to those who obey and keep his righteous standard.
- F. The love of God is God's nature being revealed through His infinite sacrifice, full pardon of sin, and care for the elect in all life's situations and circumstances.