**Genesis 1:1 – Attributes of God, Part 2**

**In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth:**

**The omnipotence of God.**

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**Outline:**

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 **A. The Attributes of God vs. the Doctrine(s) of God**

 **B. The Creator-Creation Distinction**

 **C. The Omnipresence of God**

**2. The Omnipotence of God**

 **A. Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**

 **B. Genesis 1:3-27 A literal six-day creation event – Slide 1**

 **1. No interpretation needed – What would be the agenda in not holding a literal view?**

 **2. “Yom” followed by a cardinal number**

 **3. The formula followed in Genesis 1**

 **C. “Small god” accommodationist theories**

 **1. Gap Theory**

 **2. Day-Age Theory**

 **D. What God cannot do (lie, sin, deny Himself, act contrary to His nature)**

 **1. Scriptural Proof (Numbers 23:19, 1 Samuel 15:29, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 6:18, James 1:13, 17)**

 **E. Four Results of His power**

**1. All nature is absolutely subject to His will and word (Job 42:2)**

 **2. All men are absolutely subject to His authority (James 4:12-15, Philippians 2:10-11)**

 **3. All angels recognize His power (Daniel 4:25, Hebrews 1:13-14)**

 **4. All Satanic hosts bow to His almightiness (Job 1:2, 2:6)**

**3. Remember that one time when God became a man?**

 **A. Immanuel – God with us. (John 6:37-40)**

**Introduction:**

 We are back in Genesis today after taking a refreshing dip in the horse tank last week. I say that jokingly, but honestly, when one brother or sister makes that show of commitment, we all share in it vicariously, since we are all members of the same body. I don’t know about all of you, but I thought last week’s service was awesome, and super encouraging! I definitely felt the presence of the Holy Spirit here, and a strong sense of unity and shared purpose. Let’s all pray for more of that.

 Aside from the baptism service, for the past few weeks we have been slowing down and examining the God of the Bible, our God. The question has been posed, “How big is your God? It is each individual’s responsibility to answer this question. The reason we need to ask and answer for ourselves this question is because we tend to minimalize God. In addition to the influence of our naturally fallen minds, there is an active agenda that goes in opposition to the Living God that is bearing down on us during every waking hour. Consider for a moment that there is no such thing as neutrality. Virtually every piece of media input you receive either affirms biblical truth, or it is against it. Given the proportion of biblically affirming input we consume verses that of the unbelieving world, it’s no wonder we feel like we’re losing the fight for our hearts, minds, and spirits. Paul tells us in Romans 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

 It’s important that we get the size of God right in our minds so that we understand what He is revealing to us in His word. As I’ve said before, the various doctrines, or teachings given to us in scripture make a whole lot more sense when we have a correct understanding of who God is and what He is like. A.W. Tozer said, “I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God.”

 We must be extremely careful and studious about how we handle the subject of God. There is no room for frivolity or laziness regarding our acquisition of knowledge about Him. I’ve said it before, but if we don’t fill our minds with God’s word, we will fill it with the word of man, which is not neutral. We must pay attention and be vigilant regarding what goes in our minds and what we think.

 To begin with, The universe was made in such a way as to show us the nature and character of God. There is nothing whatsoever that is random about it. Everything having to do with the creation of the universe is purposeful. God made the universe as a way of intentionally revealing Himself to us. Psalm 19 tells us plainly that “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.”

 In addition to the fact that nature bears witness of the Creator, God has spoken to us in His word, revealing more of Himself. He wants for us to know Him. All of nature and space and all that pertains to living things virtually shouts out His name. It was all designed and created with the intention of pointing to God. It was made for His glory, as were we.

 So now we are taking a deeper look at who God is and what His word says about Him, so that we can understand what He has to say to us. Herbert Lockyer makes an excellent observation regarding this interconnectedness in saying, “It is imperative to believe that God *Is*, and that the Bible is His Word before we can approach its teaching on any other doctrine. The central doctrine of redemption, for example, presupposes the divine existence, divine revelation in Scripture, divine nature and attributes, and divine work in nature and providence. No truth stands alone.”

 The subject we are studying is often referred to as the Doctrine of God, which has a great many facets, as you could imagine. We are and will be highlighting some of His attributes as either detailed or indicated in scripture in an effort to know Him better. So far we have looked at the Creator/Creature Distinction, which reminds us that although we were made in His image and likeness, we are different in that we are created. We looked at a diagram that although it is admittedly not a full depiction of our relationship as created beings to God our creator, helps to at least show us where we are in His scheme.

 We also dealt with the attribute of His omnipresence. He is everywhere, all the time, and He transcends creation. He is all through it, in it, and outside of it. Imagine God encircling the box of creation infinitely and eternally. There is nowhere that God is not, and He is not bound by time, since time is a function of His creation. Remember, His name is I AM. He is self-existing. This is a far cry from God as our “co-pilot,” or the “Man Upstairs.” God has created everything from nothing. This leads us to another of His divine attributes, Omnipotence.

 Omnipotence, or literally, the state of being All-Potent or All-Powerful as it pertains to God is a concept that I don’t believe we humans fully grasp. We spend an awful lot of time doubting His power. This is evident in the things we say and do on a daily basis. Think about it. When’s the last time you told someone, “Good luck!” As if God’s not really in control and there is some element of chance involved in things. You see, with absolute trust in God and His power, there is no room for chance. God is not random, fickle, unpredictable, or capricious. He will always conform to His word and nature. That’s why it’s so crucial that we work to understand these things. Blessed Assurance, right?

 When we consider the idea that God is all-powerful, we must start with the obvious. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth.” We know that the Genesis account goes on to record a literal six-day creation event. Before we get to that, let’s look at the first sentence. The account wastes no time either trying to prove God’s existence or relating how God created. He just did. The connotation here is that while it was effortless for God to create all the heavens and earth, he took care in doing it. The Hebrew word used in this verse is bara, which carries with it the idea of shaping, forming, and crafting. The creation of all creation wasn’t incidental or careless. It was achieved through unthinkably immense power from an immeasurably complex and deep intellect. It was an act of love that is impossible for our finite minds to understand.

 There is an immediate disconnect for many of us here. Though we may acknowledge that God made ALL things visible and invisible, we somehow suspend our belief when it comes to his ability to do certain things like invoke a virgin pregnancy, raise people from the dead, cause one of his prophets to live in the belly of a fish for three days, cause a world flood, or create everything that exists in six literal days.

 I’m going to say something controversial now, something that for nearly everyone on the planet would disqualify me intellectually. Here Goes:

God made all of heaven, space and all it contains, the earth and everything on it, everything that exists, in six days. How can I say this with confidence? Well, for one thing, my God is powerful enough to do it. Furthermore, I believe the bible. I believe that it is the inerrant word of God. If you could say that God did not create everything in six days, you are either saying the bible doesn’t mean what it plainly says, or that God is not powerful enough to do it in six days. The real question should not be “How could He do all that in six short days?” but rather, “I wonder why He chose to take six days to do that?” Don’t worry, there’s an answer for that…

 God’s power is displayed for all to see in all that He made, and the Genesis record bears witness to this power. In case you doubt, let’s look at the Genesis account of creation for a moment.

SLIDE 1

* Day 1 - The creation of light and the division of the light from the dark. (1:5)
* Day 2 – The division of water from earth, and earth from the atmosphere. (1:8) (heaven) This is most likely not the atmosphere as we now know it.
* Day 3 – Creation of plant-life on the earth. (1:13)
* Day 4 – Creation of stars, planets, moons, etc. (1:19)
* Day 5 – Creation of fish (water-dwellers) and fowl (flying things). (1:23)
* Day 6 – Creation of mankind and everything that moves on the earth. (1:31)
* Day 7 –God rested. Creation was completed, the work was finished. (2:2-3)

In Genesis 1, the termination of each day’s work is noted by the formula: “And the evening and the morning were the first (or second, etc.) day.” In other words, each day is bounded in a series of days. “Yom,” the Hebrew term used for “day” is followed by a cardinal number, which strictly means that the author was denoting a 24 hour day. Each day is a literal 24-hour period. There is no room for interpretation. The meaning is straight forward. Moses repeats himself in Exodus 20:11, which says, “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day.”

 To everyone but the bible-believing Christian, which is an increasingly shrinking population, the Genesis account is absurd. The devil has done a masterful job, with the help of mankind’s propensity for suppressing the truth in unrighteousness, in destroying the perception of biblical truth, and he started at the very beginning. Why? Because origins determine conclusions. If the bible gets the beginning wrong, what part of it is true? If the first chapter of the bible is complete idiocy, what reason is there to believe any of it? Do you see how this works?

 There are a couple of what I call “small-god” theories floating around out there that try to square a version of creation as written in the bible with evolutionary theory. First, we have Gap Theory. This is a widely held (even among evangelical Christians) idea that the primeval creation spoken of in Genesis 1:1 may have taken place eons ago, and that all the geological ages occurred in a massive time gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. This position figures Genesis 1:2 to be descriptive of the earth after some sort of great cataclysm destroyed the geological ages. The event left the earth in darkness and covered with water. After all this, the theory goes that God then reconstructed the world in six literal days.

 The rationale for this theory is that there had to be some way to harmonize the biblical record with the accepted system of geological ages. Renowned creation scientist Dr. Henry Morris says, “Many fundamentalists have felt they could ignore the whole troublesome system of evolutionary geological ages by simply pigeonholing them in this “gap” and letting the geologists have all the eons they want.” Sadly, this attitude has allowed the evolutionary establishment to take over the nation’s school systems, news media, and virtually every other institution in our society. Most gap theorists would not say they are evolutionists, but this has been the result of that theory. Morris writes that, “Historically, as well as logically, acceptance of the geological age system is inevitably followed, sooner or later, by acceptance of the evolutionary system.” This is because both are identified and dated by the same fossil record. Of course this is problematic for the Christian, since fossils and the fossil record are evidence comprised of the remains of dead things, and we know that there was no death before the fall of Adam.

 Another popular small god theory is the day-age theory. This is a trap I myself fell into when I was younger. This theory more or less equates the days of creation with the ages of evolutionary geology. Often times, the defender of this view will quote 2 Peter 3:8 which says, “…with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” After quoting this verse, the day-age person may smile smugly at their ignorant audience and sit back with their hands folded. See? Modern science and the bible can get along after all. Well, for one thing, the creation narrative is not the context for 2 Peter 3:8. Secondly, the order of creation events is very different from the order of evolutionary events suggested by the fossil record, and thirdly, we have again the problem of death occurring before the fall.

 In the end, we must ask ourselves what would be the motivation for trying to make God’s word conform to the word of man? If we are trying to use modern science to verify or dispute God’s word, are we not setting ourselves up as judges of God’s word? In other words, we are saying that God’s word must prove itself to the human mind, making it subject to our judgment. We get to say if His word is right, or if it is wrong. If we are doing this, we’d best be careful. Our God is big enough to handle the naysayers and mockers. Remember, He is omnipotent. Romans 3:4 warns us of an accusatory attitude toward God in saying, “Let God be true, though everyone were a liar.”

 So, God can create the entire universe and the earth and all living things in six short days. To be honest, He could have created it all instantaneously, but it was not His will to do so, or he would have done it. Why is this so? Remember, Genesis means “Origins.” It is the book of beginnings and everything God does has purpose. What is the purpose in taking six days to create all that is with a designated day of rest at the end? God used His creation process as a template for us. He organized our activities for us by setting a up our work week. His intention is for us to work six days and rest one. Why does it explicitly say in Genesis 2:2-3 that God finished His work and rested? What are we being told here? I’ll read it:

**“And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”**

It says that God ended His work which He had done, and He rested from all the work He had done. The evolutionist will tell you that the creative or formative process is incomplete, that it is ongoing. In fact, change will continue forever. The biblical creationist says that God is finished creating this earth and the heavens. The implication here is that on the one side we have change and uncertainty, and on the other, there is completion and stability.

This concept established by God of a six day work week with a day of rest, a seven-day repeatable cycle, is nearly universal in developed, prosperous nations and societies. There have been attempts to alter the cycle or to use a different pattern, but they have always failed. The seven-day week dominates all over the world. The template was established in Genesis.

At any rate, the bible is clear. God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh.

If we can acknowledge this astounding reality, perhaps the next question we could ask is, “Is there anything God cannot do? The answer is yes. There are things our omnipotent God cannot do.

 **Slide 2**

1. **God cannot lie.** “God is not a man, that He should lie.” (Numbers 23:19)
2. **God cannot sin.** “A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” (Deuteronomy 32:4)
3. **God cannot deny Himself.** “If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13)
4. **God cannot act contrary to his nature.** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (James 1:17)

So you see there are things the Lord cannot do, and we should take great comfort in that His power is aligned with His immutability, His unchanging nature. He is totally powerful, and totally reliable.

 God’s immense, unfathomable power is a fact. Once we begin to understand that He is omnipotent, we must then realize that there are ramifications of this fact, which is why we have a such a hard time admitting His power. Here are some of the results of His awesome power.

**Slide 3**

**1. All of nature is absolutely subject to His will and word (Job 42:2)**

**Job 42:2 says, “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”** God is all-powerful and exercises complete sovereignty over all creation. Nothing can undermine His plans or His will. He does whatever He chooses. Think of it. The universe is in harmony. What if one solar system went out of order? The planets in that system deviated from their orbits and crashed into one another? Would that affect neighboring systems? What then? There are relatively minor interruptions and disruptions in the heavens, but God has not allowed them to destroy us here on earth. All things are kept in check. As for our earth, the balance and delicacy required to sustain us and not bring us to extinction has been maintained by our Creator. When it is time, He will melt the present earth and heavens in intense heat, then recreate the heavens and earth for us. This is outlined in 2 Peter chapter 3. God is in total control.

**2. All men are absolutely subject to His authority (Philippians 2:10-11)**

**Philippians 2:10-11 puts everyone who ever lived in their proper place. “…at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** Be it today or in the future, we will all bow. All will be humbled by God’s power. We can rail against God, and ironically deny that the One who made us even exists, but the reality is that God is “I AM,” and we are all subject to Him. It doesn’t matter at all what you or anyone else thinks. Consider how arrogant we are! It’s utterly astonishing! How in the world can we possibly diminish God as we do and believe that we are right or okay? You, me, everyone, WILL bow to Him and confess that He is LORD. Galatians 6:7 tells us that “God is not mocked, whatever one sows, that he will also reap.”

**3. All angels recognize His power (Hebrews 1:13-14)**

**“And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?”**  This is self-explanatory.

**4. All Satanic hosts bow to His almightiness (Job 1:6-12)**

**“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” 8And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” 9Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? 10Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” 12And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”**

 In this exchange, Satan approaches God as a servant would. The Hebrew word for the phrase “to present themselves” here is “*yahtsav*.” They presented themselves to the Lord. The connotation given in Hebrew is that they stood as servants or courtiers with the implication of readiness for service. This may make some of you uncomfortable, but the picture here is one of Satan’s being a servant to the Lord. Not of the Lord, but to the Lord. Satan is on a leash. The only authority He has is granted Him. We will deal with this when we talk about the problem of evil later, but for now, just know that Satan is under God’s complete authority just like everything else in creation. If this challenges you, think of it another way. Is Satan powerful enough to do whatever he pleases? Is he not under the ultimate control of the OMNIPOTENT (all-powerful) God? If this were not the case, God and the devil would be in an indeterminate tug of war. The outcome would be uncertain. NO, somehow, some way, God is using Satan to accomplish His purposes. Either that, or He is not really in control. The fact that God is in total control of all things should have deep implications for the way we think. We must rest in the fact that our all-powerful God is in complete control. Remember, Isaiah 55:8-9 says,

 **“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
9“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

 Perhaps the most mind-boggling realization we can have about our omnipotent God is that He humbled Himself and inhabited the body of a man in order to make a way for us to be saved from His wrath. We are hopeless sinners, lost and at war with our all-powerful and completely just God. We spend all of our time either denying him completely or trying to alter Him to be something we can control and even ignore when it pleases us. If we do say we believe in Him, we get angry when He acts in a way that doesn’t suit us. We must realize how badly we need Him, just as He is. He is perfect, and we could not of ourselves ever have a chance to be in fellowship with Him. We are born in a state of eternal separation from Him. While all of this is true, He loves us so much that He quite literally lived and died for us, taking our punishment on Himself. He is All-Powerful, but He has used His power to create not only us, but an infinitely wonderful universe for us. Then He wielded all that power to save us from ourselves. God is unspeakably, terrifyingly powerful, but He loves us.

Remember, Jesus is God. He was called Immanuel, God with us. He suffered and died so that we would not have to face an eternity separated from our maker. Please think deeply about these things. Even if you have trusted Christ and believe in Him, please meditate on these truths and let your faith be perfected. If you haven’t accepted Jesus’ sacrifice on your behalf. Do not wait a moment longer. Today is the day of your salvation.

Application:

1. Genesis 1:1-27 Be renewed in your mind. Challenge yourself to reflect on the account given in Genesis. Pick a time when you have nothing else going on. Find a quiet place with no distractions. Read God’s word slowly. Pause often to think about what you have read. Think about what you’re learning means to you. Most importantly, ask the Holy Spirit for help and understanding, and allow God’s truth to win the war for your mind. (John 14:15-17)

2. Proverbs 4:20-27 Be ready to defend God’s truth against attacks that come in your own mind and from outside. Question everything you are exposed to. Is this consistent with God’s word? Try to consume only information that aligns with God’s word. (Philippians 4:8)

3. Proverbs 9:10 Be respectful and fearful of the Lord’s incomprehensible power and authority. Let this attitude toward God direct your thinking and your actions. (James 1:22-25)