

In His Image

Attributes of God Given to Humankind - Lesson Four
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Multiple Sources)

Introduction: Ex. 15:11; Psalm 113:5

A. Which of these attributes of God were given to us? - Gen. 1:26-27

B. Has it occurred to you yet that these are only the revealed attributes of God? He has revealed only those things that He wants us to know in this world, that is the things we are capable of apprehending in this realm. In view of His infinite Greatness, it necessarily follows that there is much about Himself that He has chosen to reserve until He is fully revealed in all of His Glory in Heaven.

C. 2Sam. 7:18-24 - This foreshadows the Kingdom of God today

I. COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF REVEALED ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

AA. Freedom - That attribute of God whereby He does whatever He purposes

1. Psalm 115:3; Dan. 4:35

2. Nothing in all of the heavens and earth can hinder God from performing His will.

3. While God is free to do whatever He chooses, He is always and infinitely trustworthy

4. However, God cannot do anything that would be opposed to His own character or He would cease to be God. Therefore, God's freedom and power is qualified by His other attributes.

a. E.g. God can't lie (Titus 1:2); God can't deny Himself (2Tim. 2:13); God can't be tempted by evil (James 1:13)

BB. Perfection (completeness) - God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for Him.

1. Matt. 5:48; Psalm 18:30

2. "God's... perfection is the sum and substance of all the... (noble - prb) attributes... Accordingly, when we speak of God's perfection, we do not refer exclusively to His moral excellence, whether 'goodness or holiness,' but we mean that God is the sum-total of all excellences, the One (for) whom no greater, higher, better can exist either in thought or in reality. In other words, God answers fully to the idea of God" (Bavinck 246).

CC. Blessedness - God is joyful in Himself and in all of His character.

1. Joyful in Himself - 1Tim. 6:15

2. "Blessed" - makarios means happy. God is perfectly happy and has fullness of joy in Himself.

3. Gen. 1:31; Isa. 62:5

DD. Beauty - Attribute of God whereby He is the sum of all desirable qualities

1. Psalm 27:4 - God's beauty focuses on the positive that He possesses all desirable qualities - Psalm 73:25

3. We enjoy beauty in the world because it reflects God's beauty: music, art, nature, etc.

EE. Glory - The Divinely generated brightness that surrounds God's revelation of Himself. It emanates as an expression of His greatness and character; the appropriate outward expression of His own excellence

1. Psalm 104:1-2; Luke 2:9; Matt. 17:2; Rev. 21:23

2. "Though we do not now find ourselves surrounded by a visible light, there is a brightness, a splendor, or a beauty about the manner of life of a person who deeply loves God, and it is often evident to those around such a person. In the life to come, such brightness will be intensified, so that as we reign with Christ, it seems that we also will receive an outward appearance that is appropriate to that reign and to our status as image bearers of God and servants of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Grudem 221).

3. Prov. 4:18; Dan. 12:3; Matt. 13:43; 1Cor. 15:43

FF. Invisibility - God's total essence, all of His spiritual being, will never be able to be seen by man, yet God still shows Himself through visible, created things.

1. John 1:18, 6:46; 1Tim. 1:17, 6:16

2. God shows Himself through visible, created things.

3. Gen. 18:1-33, 32:28-30; Ex. 13:21, 24:9-11; Isa 6:1; Col 1:15; John 14:9

GG. Patience - God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.

1. Num. 14:18; Jonah 4:2; Rom. 2:4

HH. Peace (Order) - In His actions, God is separate from all confusion and chaos

1. 1Cor. 14:33; Rom. 15:33; 2Thes. 3:16

Conclusion:

A. "Without doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is the name of God. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is ... what he in his deep heart understands God to be. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes a Church. Always the most revealing thing about a Church is her knowledge of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech. Were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, "What comes into your mind when you think about God?" we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man." (A. W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, p. 4)