

A Theology of God - Part 3

Multiple Passages

Attribution

Throughout the fall of 2016 we looked at the first three “sections” of this series on the “Theology of God” of “What do we know about God” from a Biblical point of view? So many sad and frustrated people, in our day and age, believe they have knowledge of Who God is and what He is like. Again, sadly, their conclusions are more rooted in what they already think and what they “want” him to be like. They end up recreating God more in their own image than they do having any real knowledge of Who, the late Francis Schaeffer, the late theologian said was “The God Who is there”. It is, indeed one of the great, and extremely disastrous tendencies of man to seek to serve a god more like their own nature and tendencies that One that is revealed in the Word that He sent through the Prophets and Apostles.

We went through some 12 character qualities that the Bible puts forth the speak of what God is like:

1. God is Light
2. God is Love
3. God is Invisible
4. God is Unsearchable
5. God is Inscrutable
6. God is Eternal
7. God is Immortal
8. God is Omnipotent
9. God is Omniscient
10. God is Omnipresent
11. God is Immutable
12. God Alone Is Wise

That brings us to another set of Character Qualities that we see the Bible describe as belonging to our Lord and Master.

1. God is Glorious.

Ex 15:11 “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

- Moses, above, many of the Prophets of the OT, was well aware of the Glory that was an innate part of God’s character.
 - Likewise, there was no other, man or idol, that was anything like the god of the Israelites.
 - This was, BTW, a matter that it seems Moses (and the other Prophets of Israel) was never really able to get fully over to God’s people.

Ps 145:5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.

- David, clearly, was one who was aware and mindful of this glory, and did all that he could to ponder and increase both his awareness and appreciation of it...
 - Just to note, this included for him, and also for each of us, the consideration of His wondrous majesty, as well as all that He has done!
- Of course, We must follow his example and instruction!
- God is also referred to as:

2. God is Also the Most High.

Ps 83:18 That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.

- In Psalm 83 David is seeking for God to frustrate those who had set themselves Against His people...
 - To undergird and give his request a basis for hope and confidence he calls God: "...the Most High over all the earth"
 - His prayer is that those enemies and ones who have set themselves against God would
 - That they might come to "know Him"
 - That they might come to realize He is the only genuine Lord
 - That He alone is "...the Most High over all the earth - including them!
 - The idea is that there is none like Him Who, alone is worthy of worship and service.
 - Man is obligated, as a part of the creation of God, made in His image, to yield to that truth and fall down and worship Him.
- The recognition and yielding to this truth is a thing that many put forth in the Bible.
 - Stephen said it over in the Book of Acts...talking about the rebellion of Israel during the OT Period...

Acts 7:48 "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says:

- Again the "Most High" was a common OT title for God seen frequently as used by the Prophets of God.
- Interestingly, we see the Word of God described in terms that man has taken to denying that any man is:

3. God is "Perfect".

Matt 5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- Matt. 5 is one of that passages that speaks of our responsibility to love one another, even our enemies.
 - We are to do this as a mirror of how God has loved us (when unredeemed, we were His enemies).
 - Loving those who love us is no real big deal...it is following the example of God that demonstrates that we are His children.
- To be “perfect” here, is to be MATURE, completed and fulfilling God’s desire for us...
 - God is perfect, He does that serves His purpose and plan.
 - That’s why we are to be perfect as He is, serving His purpose and plan as well.
- A Well-known aspect of God’s Character is that God is Holy!

4. *God is Holy.*

Ps 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God is holy.

- The holiness of God is one of the reasons that we recognize Him as His.
 - The word here, that David uses is a word that basically means “other” or different.
 - It speaks of the quality of God that makes Him different from men, and from all that men have imagined.
 - Note that He is Holy (different) and that we are to worship Him at His “holy Hill”, meaning worshipping Him in His “differentness”.
 - “Hill” can mean a place that is distinctive and other than where we all live or dwell; namely that we all are.
- David is telling us to Exalt or recognize God as Who He is; and to come and worship Him in what is distinct and different about Him as opposed to men.
 - There is an interesting thing about false God, no matter what religion or cult they arise from.
 - They are ALL crafted after the image of the founders and ones pursuing it.
 - This the commonality about idols...
 - They are all crafted in image of man.
 - but God, David says, is “OTHER”.
 - We are to worship Him in that differentness, not ONLY in what He does for us.
 - Often not the easiest of tasks - but one we must pursue.

Is 5:16 But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, And God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness.

- Isaiah here, says much the same thing...

- This is a part of what sets Judah’s God apart, namely his exalted moral character.
 - He is not merely a provider who is useful to humans; he is **holy** in himself, and he proves it by enforcing his moral order.
- Another of the characteristics is that He is:

5. *God is Just.*

Deut 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

- This says more than that God is just a reliable foundation (as is said a number of times elsewhere).
 - The word “ROCK”, representing the stability and permanence of God, was placed at the beginning of the verse for emphasis
 - and was followed by a series of phrases which elaborated the attributes of God as the Rock of Israel.
 - His work is perfect;
 - For all His ways are justice,
 - A God of truth and
 - without injustice;
 - Righteous and upright is He
 - It is one of the principle themes in this song (see vv. 15, 18, 30, 31), stressing the unchanging nature of God in contrast with the fickle nature of the people.

Is 45:21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

- Isaiah is speaking of the true nature of the God of Israel and he sums up by proclaiming that that there is none besides Him, namely One Who is a Just God and Savior.
- Further, the Bible says that God is One Who is:

6. *God is “True”.*

Jer 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

- In Jeremiah 10 he is speaking about all of the false God’s that surround Israel and that they had been dabbling in.
 - God is the True God, as opposed to all of those who present themselves as gods, either in false worship, or as those who occupy the place in the lives of those who do not pursue the One True God.

- Surprisingly, or not so! there are many, many things that occupy different peoples' lives where the One True God ought to be.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- Here in John 17:3 we see Jesus, in Gethsemane, praying for Himself before surrendering to the pursuit of the cross.
 - He says that His purpose is that He is doing this terrible thing in order that “they” may know “You” speaking of those who would come to know the Lord,
 - that they would come to know their God, whom He speaks of as “the ONLY TRUE GOD” and to know Jesus, Whom God had sent.
- The God in view here is “True” as opposed to all of the false gods
- Further, the Lord God is spoken of as:

7. God is Upright.

Ps 25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

- Good is not a necessarily a moral quality, it speaks of that which is pleasant or desirable. It can speak of moral goodness, but I suspect that this is not the usage here.
- The idea here is what good thing that God did that is described in the second phrase.
 - He teaches sinners in the way.
 - In the prior verse David has been begging God for His direction.

Ps 92:15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

- One of the more famous appellations for God in the Bible is that God is:
- ### *8. He is Righteous.*

Ezra 9:15 O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!”

- In Ezra 9 Ezra address the intermarriage of Israel with foreign brides (or husbands).
 - There had apparently been a loss of separation in this area and Ezra speaks rather harshly to the matter.
 - Mixed marriages with semi-idolaters caused Ezra great pain, 1–4.
 - His intercession and confession are recorded, 5–15.

- The point made here (and in many other places) is that God is righteous and wants His people to live righteously and holy (separate or “other”) lives as well.

Ps 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.

- Psalm 145 is one of David’s Messianic Psalms.
 - This is an alphabetic acrostic
 - of personal praise, 1–3;
 - of the Lord’s wonderful works, 4–7;
 - of His love, 8–9;
 - of His millennial kingdom, 10–13; and
 - His providential care for His creatures, 14–21.
- Noting that last section, we can see that one of the things that David was saying is that God would be completely and fully righteous His sending of the Messiah for Israel.
 - Note two things here:
 - He’s righteous in ALL His ways (everything He does or will do)
 - He is (and will be) Gracious in ALL HIS WORKS
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