

GOD

GOD'S NATURE

"What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us." -- AW Tozer

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
Exodus 3:13-15 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

These two verses tell us something about God's nature...one...that is some ways he is NOT like us...and in other ways He IS like us. Well...that we are more like Him, really.

I believe there is one, and only one, living and true God and His divine nature is undivided and indivisible. There exist three eternal distinctions in the divine essence, known respectively as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

1 God = 3 Distinct Persons

RENE DESCARTE, "I think therefore I am"

"I AM"

His name: YHWH Yahweh

Absolute Attributes: Ways God is NOT like us...

Relative Attributes: Ways God IS like us (or we like Him...)

13 Things His Name says about Him...

1. HOLINESS (Is. 6:3): In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2**Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. **3**And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

this, His most prominent attribute, denotes the fact that in being totally apart from sin, He is totally morally excellent and pure. God is the absolute standard of truth and goodness and beauty. There is no law-book to which he looks to know what is right. No almanac to establish facts. No guild to determine what is excellent or beautiful. He himself is the standard of what is right, what is true, what is beautiful.

2. SELF-existence (Ex. 3:13,14): God doesn't depend on anyone or anything for His thoughts (Rom. 11:33-34), will (Rom. 9:18), power (Ps. 115:3) or counsel (Ps 33:10,11). God is utterly independent. He depends on nothing to bring him into being or support him or counsel him or make him what he is. Everything that is not God depends totally on God. The entire universe is utterly secondary. It came into being by God and stays in being moment by moment on God's decision to keep it in being.

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3. SELF-SUFFICIENCY (Ps. 50:10-12): God has never had, nor ever will have a single need for which His own divine nature has not already provided.
 Ps. 50:10-12 I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
4. ETERNAL (Dt. 33:27): God is free from the tyranny of time. He is neither conditioned nor confined by time. He never had a beginning. Every child asks, "Who made God?" And every wise parent says, "Nobody made God. God simply is. And always was. No beginning." God will never end. If he did not come into being he cannot go out of being, because he is being. – "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."
5. INFINITE (I Kings 8:22,23,27): God is bounded only by His own nature, will and decrees. God is absolute reality. There is no reality before him. There is no reality outside of him unless he wills it and makes it. He is all that was eternally. No space, no universe, no emptiness. Only God. "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"
6. Omnipresence (Jer. 23:23,24): God is everywhere present in all things; not that He is everything (PANTHEISM). "Am I only a God nearby," *declares the Lord*, "and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?"
7. Omnipotence (Gen. 18:14): God can do anything if it can be done and if it does not CONTRADICT His nature. "Is anything too hard for the LORD?"
8. Omniscience (**Ps. 147:4-5**): God possesses complete and universal knowledge of all things past, present and future. "He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure."
9. IMMUTABLE (James 1:17): God never changes from Himself. God is constant. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He cannot be improved. He is not becoming anything. He is who he is. "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."
10. SOVEREIGN (Gen. 45:8): God has the total freedom, power, knowledge, etc., to carry out His pre-determined plan of action. God does whatever he pleases and it is always right and always beautiful and always in accord with truth. All reality that is outside of him he created and designed and governs as the absolute reality. So he is utterly free from any constraints that don't originate from the counsel of his own will. Joseph to his brothers..." So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt."
11. Incomprehensibility/Inscrutability (Rom. 11:33): There is much about God we cannot COMPREHEND. There is much about God we cannot understand or reconcile. (MYSTERY) – FREE WILL VS. ELECTION "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!"
12. TRANSCENDENCE (Isa. 57:15a) - God is above and beyond His creation, independent of natural laws, the world's creator, sovereign and judge. All the universe is by comparison to God as nothing. Contingent, dependent reality is to absolute, independent reality as a shadow to substance. As an echo to a thunderclap. All that we are amazed by in the world and in the galaxies, is, compared to God, as nothing. YOUR SHADOW ON A BRIGHT DAY –

"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
 who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:" "I dwell in the high and holy place, - - - - -
 and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
 to revive the spirit of the lowly,
 and to revive the heart of the contrite.
 For I will not contend forever,
 nor will I always be angry;
 for the spirit would grow faint before me,
 and the breath of life that I made.

13. WORTHY (**Revelation 4:8-11**) God is the most important and most valuable reality and person in the universe. He is more worthy of interest and attention and admiration and enjoyment than all other realities, including the entire universe.

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”