

The God of the Big Picture 2 Incommunicable Attributes Part 2

(Milne 66-68, Grudem 168-184)

1. God is Eternal

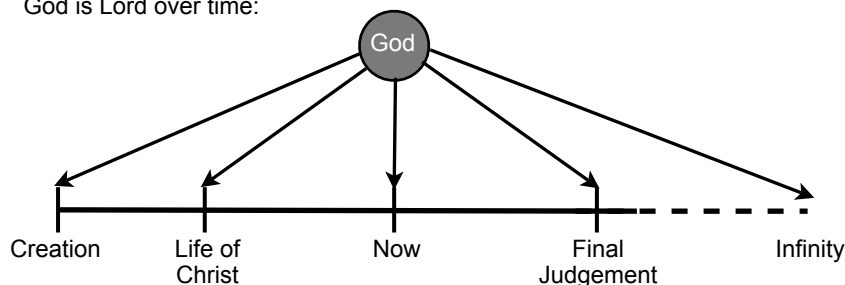
God has no beginning, end or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet, God sees events in time and acts in time.

A. God is timeless (*Psalm 90:2, Job 36:26*)

- If God does not change, then time cannot change God in his being, perfections, purposes, promises or his knowledge
- God is always perfectly present (*Revelation 1:8; cf. Revelation 4:8; John 8:58, Revelation 22:12-13*)
- Before God made the universe no matter existed and therefore no time existed (*Genesis 1:1*)
- God has no succession of moments, just one perfect present

B. God sees all time equally vividly (*Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8*)

God is Lord over time:



He speaks from his ability to see all of history at once (*Isaiah 46:9-10*)

C. God sees events in time and acts in time (*Galatians 4:4-5*)

- God acts differently at different points in time (*Acts 17:30-31*)
- Often God predicts his actions at one point in time and carries them out in another (*1 Kings 17:1; 1 Kings 18:41-46*)
- God can act in time because he is Lord of time
 - To display his glory
 - To reveal his redemption over a period of time
 - So that humanity may appreciate his wisdom, patience, faithfulness and Lordship over all events

D. Humans will always exist in time

- "and there shall be no night there" (*Revelation 21:23-25*)
- Casting down crowns (*Revelation 4:10*)
- Singing new songs
- Tree of life yielding its fruit each month (*Revelation 22:2*)
- Reigning for ever and ever (*Revelation 22:5*)

2. God is Omnipresent (*Omni* = all)

God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.

- God cannot be limited by space as he existed before space was created (*Genesis 1:1*)
- God is Lord of space (*Deuteronomy 10:14*)

A. God is present everywhere

- Close at hand (*Jeremiah 23:23-24*)
- There is nowhere we can hide from his presence (*Psalm 139:7-10*)
- God is all present with *all* of his being everywhere (*Acts 17:28; Colossians 1:17*)

B. God does not have special dimensions

- God cannot be contained by space (*1 Kings 8:27, Isaiah 66:1-2, Acts 7:48*)
- God is ever at hand but never contained
- God is a being who exists without size or dimensions and therefore exists as a far different being, far greater than we can imagine.

"Before God created the universe, there was no matter or material so there was no space either. Yet God still existed. Where was God? He was not in a place we could call a 'where' for there was no 'where' or space. But God still was!" (Grudem p.175)

C. God can be present for different purposes

- God can be *merely* present (*Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3*)
- God can be present to punish (*Amos 9:1-4, Isaiah 66:22-24*)
- God can be present to bless (*Psalm 16:11*)

1. In the Old Testament

- Tabernacle (Tent of Meeting) (*Exodus 40:34-35*)
- Ark of the Covenant (*Exodus 25: 20-22, 1 Samuel 4:4*)
- Temple (*2 Chronicles 7:1-3*)

2. In the New Testament

- Jesus (*Colossians 2:9*)
- Heaven (*Revelation 21:3*)
- Anywhere (*John 4:20*)

iv) When the Bible says that God is present it *normally* means present to bless (*2 Corinthians 3:17, Romans 8:9-10, John 14:23*)

v) When the Bible says that God is far away it means *not* present to bless (*Isaiah 59:2, Proverbs 15:29*)

vi) God is omniscient (all knowing):

- He knows my innermost thoughts (*Psalm 139:2-5*)
- Records my actions (*Psalm 139:16, Revelation 20:12*)
- Knows my tears (*Psalm 56:8*)

3. God is United

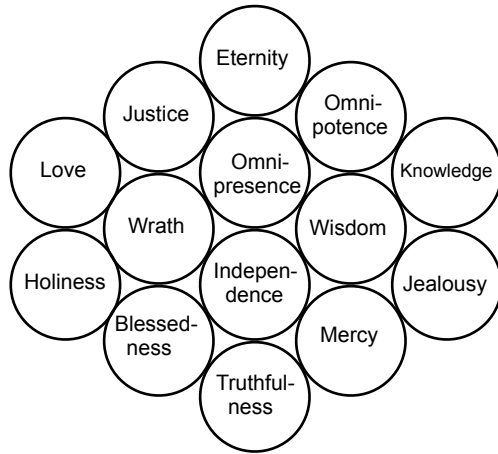
"God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times"

i) No attribute of God is more important than any other (Exodus 34:6-7)

e.g. 'God is light' (1 John 1:5) and 'God is love' (1 John 4:8)

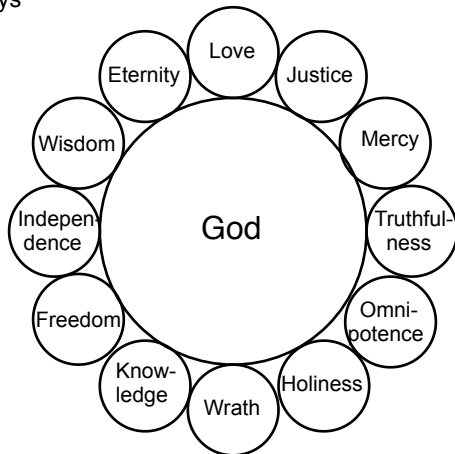
•Not God is part light, part love... or God is partly light and partly love... or God is more light than he is love but God *himself* is light and God *himself* is also love.

ii) God's being is not a collection of attributes of God added together:

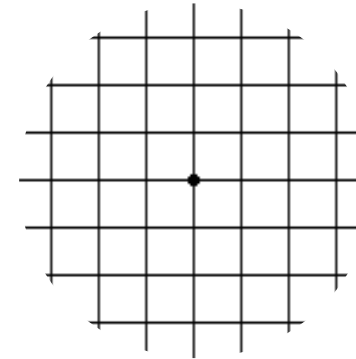


iii) God's attributes are not additions to his being.

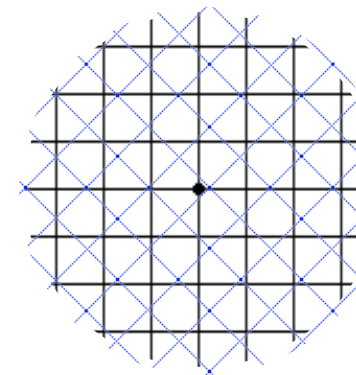
- God is always entirely loving, entirely merciful etc
- God is not sometimes a God of justice and sometimes a God of love.
- He is the same God always



iv) God is a Unity, seen best in his acts of redemption.



God's Love and Justice



God's Love, Justice, Holiness and Wisdom