

# Digging Deep: Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology

Class 12: The Doctrine of God, part 8

## *The Attributes of God*

“... this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

**John 17:3**

### **I. God is Independent (Self-Existence/Aseity)**

#### **a. What It Means...**

##### **i. God Exists Only in Himself**

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

**Exodus 3:13-14**

##### **ii. Creation Exists Only in God**

“Yet [God] is actually not far from each one of us, for ‘In him we live and move and have our being.’”

**Acts 17:27-28**

“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.”

**Revelation 4:11**

...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

**1 Corinthians 8:6**

[Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

**Hebrews 1:3**

And [Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**Colossians 1:17**

*(Also see: John 1:3, Rom 11:35-36, Rom 4:17)*



## **b. Why It Matters...**

### **i. God Cannot Need Anything**

Who has first given to me, that I should repay him?  
Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.

**Job 41:11**

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

**Acts 17:24-25**

“Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.  
I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.  
For every beast of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.  
I know all the birds of the hills,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.  
If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and its fullness are mine.  
Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High,  
and call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

**Psalms 50:8-15**

### **ii. God Cannot Be Lonely**

“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed... Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”

**John 17:5,24**

**Q: Then why did God create us?**

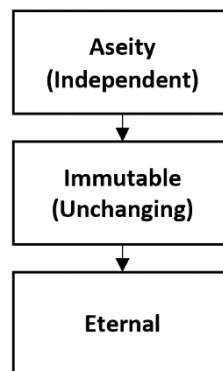
**A: God created us, not because He needed anything, but because He chose to glorify Himself.**

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

**Ephesians 1:4b-6**

***Why this is good news for believers:** Because God does not need your works nor your relationship, His love for you can never change or ebb and flow, because it is dependent upon Himself who is love and does not change.*

## **II. God is Eternal**



### **a. What It Means...**

#### **i. God Has No Beginning or End**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1:1**

[Melchizedek] is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

**Hebrews 7:3**

#### **ii. God is Timeless**

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**Psalms 90:2**

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**Revelation 1:8**

“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

**John 8:56-58**

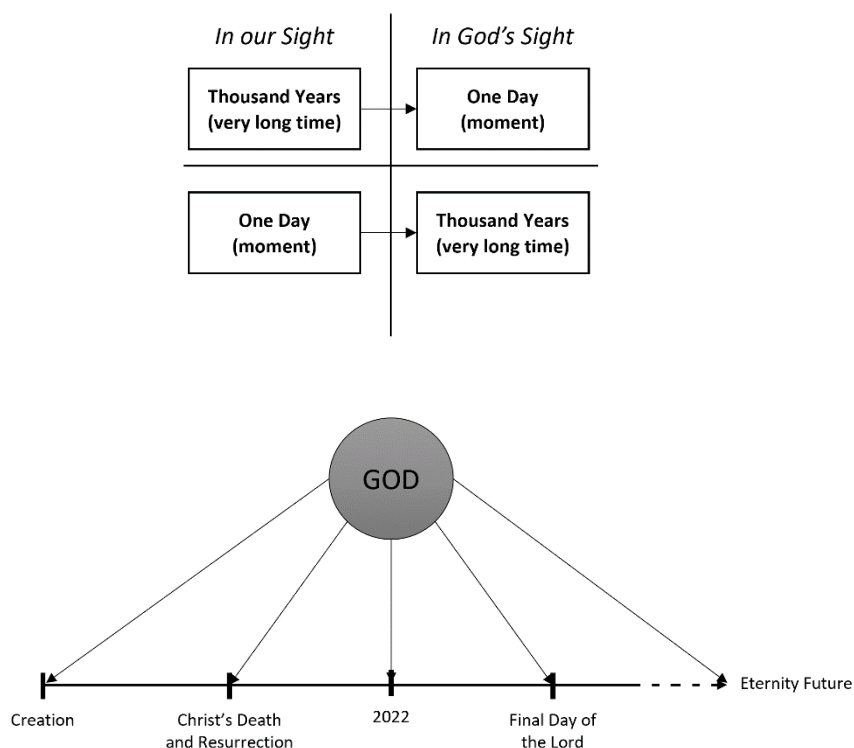
### iii. God Sees All Time Simultaneously

For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.

**Psalms 90:4**

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

**2 Peter 3:8**



### iv. ... Nonetheless, God Acts in Time

**b. Why It Matters...**

**i. If God seems Delayed in His Promises, He is Not**

For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.  
If it seems slow, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay.

**Habakkuk 2:3**

... scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ... But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

**2 Peter 3:3b-4, 8-10**

**ii. God Will Be Our Refuge Forever**

“There is none like God, O Jeshurun,  
who rides through the heavens to your help,  
through the skies in his majesty.  
The eternal God is your dwelling place,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms.  
And he thrust out the enemy before you  
and said, ‘Destroy.’”

**Deuteronomy 33:26-27**

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

**John 17:3**