

Theme: Who is God? God is the Infinite, Eternal, Sovereign Creator of everything.

I. Intro - Critical Misjudgments

- A. Plebe summer - I will get a 4.0, like always!
- B. I completely misestimated my abilities, difficulty of academy academics
- C. Many misjudge God and themselves today
- D. Who is God? God is the Infinite, Eternal, Sovereign Creator of everything.

II. The Awesomeness of God

- A. God is awesome and distinct from everything else
In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:6–8
 - 1. The four living creatures we have studied before
 - 2. Day and night they proclaim "Holy, holy, holy"
 - 3. This is a cry of the awesomeness of God
 - 4. This is a cry of the distinctness & superiority of God
- B. God is infinite - He alone has no bounds
 - 1. God is Infinite in knowledge - omniscient

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord... ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Psalm 139:4–6

- a. God knows everything about everything.
 - b. God knows everything about everything that ever has been, is, or ever will be, and everything that ever could be.
 - c. God's knowledge is immediate and inherent - He does not learn, study, or grow in knowledge
 - d. This is simply too wonderful for us - beyond us!
2. God is Infinite in Presence - Omnipresent
Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. Psalm 139:7–10
- a. There is nowhere outside of God's Presence
 - b. Heaven and Sheol - a merism - everywhere
 - c. God's Presence is immediate and inherent - He does not move to be somewhere, He is always everywhere at once
 - d. Once again, this is beyond our comprehension!
3. God is Infinite in Power - Omnipotent
Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8

Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by **your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.** Jeremiah 32:17

- a. Lord God Almighty - there is nothing He lacks the power to do
- b. This is the first statement in the Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty...
- c. God's Power is immediate and inherent - He does not work to grow or exert power; all power inherently is His.
- d. Once again, this is beyond our comprehension!

C. God is Eternal - He alone always necessarily exists

1. God is Eternal - with no beginning or end

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, **who was, and is, and is to come.**"⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and **who lives for ever and ever,**¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him **who lives for ever and ever.** Revelation 4:8–10

- a. Who lives for ever and ever (2x) - God is eternal
- b. Him who was, is, is to come - Exodus 3:14-15

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.'"¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, '**The LORD, the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob — has sent me to you.**' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation." Exodus 3:14–15

1. From Hebrew "to be" - Yahweh derived from this

2. LXX - I AM THE EXISTING ONE (Εγώ εἰμι ὁ ὢν)
3. God of fathers, your God, God into the future
4. God is the Eternal I AM, transcending time itself

- c. God is not old - He exists before and outside of the space-time continuum; He is eternal
- d. Once again, this is simply beyond us!

2. God is Eternal - He necessarily exists

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:11

- a. God is different than creation. Creation exists and is sustained by God's will, but God necessarily exists.
- b. Everything else draws life from God, but God is Life Himself from all eternity.
- c. This is beyond our comprehension!

D. God is Sovereign - He rules over all things

1. God is the Almighty Ruler over all things

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is **the Lord God Almighty,** who was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8

Now to the **King** eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17

- a. God is the King from all eternity!
- b. God has all power, and He exercises His rule to bring about His will and bring glory to Himself in His own time and way.

- c. God will accomplish all He desires in the end, and nothing and no one can stop Him
- 2. This does not mean that everything is ok in this world - God is allowing sin to run its course
 - a. If you don't see that this world is broken you are blind!
 - b. God's Sovereignty does not excuse our sin or give us a reason to not fight against evil.
 - c. The fruit of evil is seen in poverty, racism, hate-filled rhetoric, and murder as we saw in El Paso recently.
 - d. Trust in the Sovereignty of God should never make us inactive, but rather propel us into the fight against the evils with the assurance that righteousness will prevail in the end!
- 3. This is a comfort to believers!
 - a. The book of Revelation is written to a suffering church to remind them that though it appears evil has the upper hand, God is still Sovereign and is ruling over all things.
 - b. The Sovereignty of God is not some philosophical doctrine for discussion and debate, but rather a comfort to us in this broken world.
 - c. The Sovereignty of God is why we can know that God will work ALL THINGS to our good in the end.

III. God and Creation

- A. God is also the Creator of everything that exists

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for **you created all things**, and by your will they were created and have their being."
Revelation 4:11

 - 1. God is the creator of everything that exists

- 2. This is an essential, foundational doctrine of the faith

In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

I believe in the God the Father almighty, **creator** of heaven and earth - Apostles Creed

Why did God **create** humans?
To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
(Catechism, Q1)
- 3. Creation did not simply arise by random chance but was created by God for His glory.
- B. God is the Sustainer of everything that exists

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and **by your will they were created and have their being.**"
Revelation 4:11

 - 1. God not only created everything; it all continues to exist by His will
 - 2. Have their being - they are existing (ἦσαν)
 - 3. All creation sprung into existence from the will and pleasure of God, and it only continues to exist moment by moment because of His will and pleasure.
 - 4. He is far above our ability to even comprehend, and the proper response is worship!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see the importance of accurately knowing Who God is?

1. This is the beginning of everything!
2. If we do not start with this but rather with humans, we will run into the ditch quickly!
3. If we answer this question wrong, everything else will run into the ditch as well.
4. The biblical doctrines of humanity, sin and the fall, the law of God, the Gospel, salvation, and eternity only make sense in light of this biblical understanding of God.
5. If we reduce God from this awesome description, we will become the master and He the servant, we the judge and He the accused.
6. If we reduce God from this awesome description, we become the center of the story, and church and worship become oriented to us rather than God.
7. If we reduce God from this awesome description, it becomes a fertile breeding ground for every sort of mistreatment of our fellow humans.

B. A call to worship: God and the Gospel

1. When God is seen as the Infinite, Eternal, Sovereign Creator, the response is worship
2. This is what everyone in our text does - they worship God with passion
3. We Christians have a double reason, for this awesome God had condescended to save us sinful, rebellious humans! What a mystery!
4. If your heart is not stirred to worship, you are probably not seeing God as He truly is, for to see Him is to fall at His feet!

C. Response: God Is Great!

Who Is God?

Revelation 4:6-11
August 11, 2019

1 Timothy 1:17

Teaching keywords: Catechism; God; God's Works; worship

May the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever - may He reveal Himself to you and bless you abundantly! 1 Timothy 1:17

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." ⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹ "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:6–11