

Behold the Holy One



A deeper look at God's infinitude.

Igor V Kovalishin

A look at God with scientific consideration.

Behold the Holy One: a deeper look at God's infinitude

By Igor V Kovalishin

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Contents

Introduction.....	1
A Word of Caution to Heretics!.....	5
How Can I Be Saved?	7
1. Shortfalls of Human Reason	9
2. The Fog of Unknowing.....	27
3. Mystery of the Trinity	37
4. A Holy God in the Unholy World.....	49
5. The Attributes of God	57
6. Behold the Holy One	73
7. An “Angry” God of the Old Testament?	101
8. The Problem for the Atheist.....	109
9. An Amazing Future with an Amazing God	145
Closing Remarks.....	207

5. The Attributes of God

“The attributes of God tell us what He is and who He is.”

~William Ames~

On Attributes:

When we think of someone, we immediately start to think about their character and what kind of human being they are. We can describe good and bad characteristics of this person. We understand that these parts make this person who they are. Because we're used to such analysis, the same process is also applied to God. Through the exploration of the Bible, theologians were able to compile a list of different attributes or inherent characteristics that God possesses. This is definitely a good way to approach human beings, but even with such an approach, we're never able to completely analyze or fully understand humans, much less God. With a list of attributes we can draw some sort of a weak mental image of the Creator, who, in reality, is much greater than any images or mental visions of Him. The trap that humans frequently fall into is that they begin to view God as a list of attributes but not as a being possessing these and many other attributes. When they start to see God as a being with

these and other attributes, then God becomes more personal, and not a concept or a figment of theological or philosophical imagination. The proper approach to the attributes would be to discover them through having a personal relationship with the being that possesses them. This will not only educate us about the attribute but also show us how that attribute is displayed through the actions of God in the world around us. This is the point when the attribute becomes something more than a cold list of words, but something meaningful, personal, and relatable, at least to some degree. Such knowledge can be only gained when we not only know about God but also know God personally. We encourage the reader to start building a personal relationship with God in order to understand this truth more deeply.

With all that said, we'll compile a short list of some of the attributes with a brief description of each. It's outside of the scope of this book to fully and completely analyze the attribute, and more detailed material has already been written and publicly available for the anyone seeking to know more.

Natural Attributes:

God is Spirit

It's difficult for us to properly understand the spiritual being of God. We, as physical beings, can grasp a physical part, but will definitely have hard time with the spiritual side. Possibly the closest thing of what we might think when we think of a spirit, is portrayal of ghosts that we've seen in the movies, but this is very weak and meager explanation of what Jesus means when He says that "God is Spirit" (John 4:24). There's a much bigger meaning hidden there. Jesus elevates the understanding of God far beyond our comprehension, and by using very few words, tells humanity in the face of Nicodemus, that God is so much higher and more complex that the only way to describe Him would be using a concept that we can't even begin to properly understand. That one sentence implies so many wonderful and hidden meanings, that it will take us an entire eternity to understand the depth and meaning of it, and even that won't be enough.

God is Immutable (Changeless)

God reveals this attribute by making a clear and concise statement "For I am the LORD, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). God is the same yesterday, today and

tomorrow (Hebrews 1:12). God isn't going to get a little bit wiser, a little bigger, or a little bit more powerful with time. It's impossible for Him to learn something new or discover something He wasn't aware of before. There won't come a day when God will become a little bit better than He already is or perfect Himself in any way. God is perfect in every sense and meaning of that word, and this perfection remains set in stone without even a single hint of a change. God can't become a little worse or degrade in any way. This is a complete impossibility. This is another concept that we, as constantly changeable, self-improving, and morphing human beings have difficulty understanding. Since we're far from perfection, it's impossible for us to understand full perfection. This will only become a possibility in the new and regenerated body.

God is Omnipotent (All Powerful)

With just a word God was able to create the universe, galaxies, planets, plants, animals, and everything surrounding us. To this day, we try to discover the intricacies of the universe and the world around us. We marvel at the complexity and design of the human body where each organ seems to have been designed specifically to perform the function that it serves. No matter how much humankind tries to deny

that there was an intelligence behind the creation that they see, they simply keep running into the fact that without an intelligent creator, they're simply unable to properly explain everything. The simple fact of the existence of a complex world shows us the power and might of God. This doesn't end there. God can do everything and anything and nothing is impossible for Him. We will end this section with the question posed by God Himself: "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14).

God is Omniscient (All Knowing)

Within Himself, God possesses all knowledge, or, in other words, God knows everything that there is to know about everything from the smallest detail to the largest overview. The knowledge that God possesses is complete in every aspect and perfectly exhaustive. God has no need to learn anything, since He already knows it all. God has no need to think about something. He knows everything about everything at the same time all the time. God knows Himself perfectly, since only He, in His infinity, can know the infinity that He is. "The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). As with other attributes, this is something that we're unable to grasp, since we're unable to know everything about even a single thing.

Our ability to collect knowledge is restricted by our mental capacity and abilities. This isn't the case with God. There's no limitation on Him by any of the restrictions that are placed on us. The fact that God possesses all knowledge allows Him to make decisions and lay plans with perfection that we as humans are simply unable to grasp or understand. Together with the apostle we can proclaim in wonder "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?'" (Romans 11:33-36).

God Omnipresent (Is Everywhere)

When we think about God in His infinity, we must recognize that this means that He's everywhere it's possible to be at the same time. God is nearby every being and, at the same time, He's as far as possible from the given being. Everything that has been, is, and that will be exists in the presence of God and all of this is happening at the same moment. There's nothing that exists outside of the bounds of God and everything is contained within His being. The psalmist describes this as follows: "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into Heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell,

behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You” (Psalms 139:7-12). This introduces an interesting question for the scientifically minded, which we’ll take a moment to address here.

Scientists have conducted experiments, trying to determine if it’s possible to time travel. One of those experiments was set up in the following way: an atomic clock was placed on an airplane and another one was located on the ground. These clocks were synchronized to have exactly the same time and the airplane took off. As the speed of the airplane increased, it was discovered that the time of the clock on the plane slowed down compared to the time on the ground. This introduced a suggestion that when you’re traveling very quickly, time slows down for you, and once you reach a certain speed, it would completely stop. To extrapolate from this, we can make a possible assumption that if one exists everywhere at once, time no longer exists for such a being. This being can basically exist in all the time, past, present, and future at the same time. This

concept can be quite easily applied to God, not only from the Biblical point of view, but also from scientific point of view. If God meets the requirements of being a perfect and supreme being, then such a being would exist in all of the different time periods of the world, or, in other words, transcend time. Existence in all places in the same time allows God to be able to do this.

God is Eternal (Everlasting)

As Moses said, “From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (Psalm 90:2) Looking back in time and looking forward into the future, you’ll see God without a beginning or an end. Eternity of God places the short existence of the world into perspective for us. Looking through the prism of eternity, we can see how God can “declare the end from the beginning” (Isaiah 46:10), since all time exists at once for everlasting being. Only everlasting God can provide us with everlasting salvation, and only in Him can we have everlasting security. Only everlasting God can promise us everlasting life and life of abundance. This is something that we, as temporal humans, can just dream of without fully comprehending.

Eternity is something that’s completely beyond our understanding for a couple of different reasons.

First, we're alive for only a short time and then we die. This completely limits the time we're able to understand with our mind. The best we can do is to think in terms of millions or billions of years, and even this is a far cry from eternity. Our minds are simply too limited to understand eternity and be able to explain it in any coherent way. When we look at God and perceive that His existence has been, is being, and will be forever, we're simply unable to comprehend this and give up. Eternal existence of God introduces multitude of questions that can't be completely answered to the satisfaction of the skeptic, but that's to be expected, since our attempts at understanding eternity are, at best, mediocre and crude. Only eternal God can offer eternal salvation, eternal bliss, and eternal life with Him. Only eternal God can satisfy a soul that has eternity placed in it (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Only eternal God can sustain the amazing eternal promises that He has made to His people. This eternity will prove to be the most amazing or the most terrible thing for people who lived here on Earth. Do all in your power to find salvation here because it will be too late to search for it when your life is over.

Moral Attributes:

God is Holy (Separate)

Holiness of God is a concept that's completely foreign to us because we're not holy and being unholy is the default position for us. Since we believe that this is the most important attribute of God, we already addressed it in the previous chapter.

God is Righteous (Just)

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the Earth and the Heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:11-15). God is righteous, and “He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the

peoples in uprightness” (Psalm 9:8). The scariest thing for the unbeliever who will appear at the judgment throne of God will be the pure and incorruptible justice that they’ll encounter there. Some people may protest that they have nothing to fear since they’re moral and just, but they fail to understand the implications of justice that’s fully and perfectly just in every sense of the word. Such justice will demand an answer about our every unjust deed, word, or thought. The justice that will be displayed on that terrible day will be so complete and perfect, that even complete skeptics of God's existence will admit that the process by which the final verdict is reached was without any inkling of dishonesty. There won’t be any appeal to higher authority, since this will be the final and definite verdict for everyone standing before the throne of God.

God is Love

Love of God is probably something that we as humans treasure the most, since it’s something that we all desire, seek, and long for. God not only said that He loves us and left it at that but He also took a definite action to prove His love to us by sending His Son to Earth so that He would die and take away our sin and iniquity. Each morning, you see this love displayed to you through the rising Sun and the fresh air that we

freely breath. The gentle breeze caresses our hair, and the song of the sparrow fills the air. As you look up in the endless blue sky or white mounds of clouds floating above your head, you can perceive beauty that's simply too complex to imagine without the loving hand of the Creator who gave all of this to you for free. Everywhere you go, everywhere you look, every breath you take, you're seeing the unbounded and amazing love of God extended to you. God provided so many things that one would never be able to afford if it weren't free. Love unbounded, love eternal, love perfect, and love complete is offered to humanity, despite the lack of love on your part, despite hate and rejection, in face of anger and spite. God's love is perfect sacrificial love that was willing to take our dark and despicable sin upon itself and accept the just punishment for this sin without a word of condemnation toward humanity. His love is in deed and not in word only. Such love can only be possessed by a perfect and Holy God Himself. He is love and His love is eternal complete and perfect in every way possible.

God is Good

When Jesus was born, the song of triumphant angels declared, "...good will toward men!" (Luke 2:14), and this good will was extended by the good

Lord towards bad humanity. This was done without any merits from the fallen and wicked world, since all the goodness which God possesses is self-caused. It flows from within of who God is as a being. This goodness can be traced through Scriptures from the first chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation. Despite all the hate, animosity, and sin, God “makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45). What other proof can we seek for? God’s goodness to fallen humanity knows no bounds because it’s infinite. People who have open eyes are able to see it daily and with the psalmist proclaim “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8).

God is Truth

Nobody is as true as God. Everything God has done, is doing, or will do, everything God said, is saying, or will say is truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. God has never spoken a lie or done anything that was a lie. There’s no lie within God; everything within Him is pure and unblemished truth. If there was a lie within God, He would no longer be a perfect being. Sure, sometimes, God can withhold information from us or limit our ability to understand certain information, but that, in no way, takes away

from the fact that He's truth. Every single attribute of God is pure truth to a degree that we as humans are unable to understand since we're full of lies. Through the ages, many people have tried to discredit the truth of God's Word through all sorts of methods and schemes, but we see all those attempts at the garbage dump of history, while the truth of God's Word continues to stand unscathed in any way. The Bible is a testimony to the human race that if God's Word, even though contained in fallible human words, withstood the trial and test of time, then, by extension, the being behind those words must be so completely full of truth that the only way to properly describe it would be to say that "I am the truth" (John 14:6).

God is Wisdom

God possesses not only all information that could be known but also wisdom on how to properly use and apply that information. This wisdom is revealed in the creation that we see around us, the Word of God that was left for us, and the work that God does in our Christian walk with Him. It's one thing to know how to create life (something that humanity with all its knowledge, technology, and medical and scientific advances is unable to do), but it's something completely different to create it in such a way that all

parts of this life would work perfectly together in harmony and unity. Wisdom of the Creator is displayed everywhere we look, and it's safe to say that without wisdom it's impossible to put the different parts of the world together like they are. The crown of God's creation, a human being, continues to amaze scientists and doctors to this day, and this will continue as long as the world stands. The intricacies of the mind, the intricacies of the different bodily organs and systems that work together to keep us alive daily is just simply too complex to write off to a mindless evolution, and even the most hardened atheist must recognize this truth. As already mentioned before, the Bible has withstood thousands if not millions of attacks on its credibility, accuracy, and structure, and, even though all of the attackers have long been forgotten, the Bible remains. This wisdom of God is displayed in the things that men frequently deem as foolish, since they fail to grasp its significance with their limited mind.

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