

God is...

“The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’”

Introduction

The more scientists learn about the solar system, the more we see God’s hand.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, Benjamin Zuckerman, a professor of astronomy at the University of California at Los Angeles, says that one factor contributing to Earth’s ability to sustain life is the size of the largest planet in our solar system: Jupiter. Jupiter, the next neighbor to Earth after Mars, is a giant gaseous planet, with a mass that is 318 times greater than that of Earth and thus a much greater gravitational force.

It is that gravitational force that benefits Planet Earth. When massive objects that could do great harm to our planet hurl through our solar system, Jupiter acts as a sort of vacuum cleaner, sucking comets and asteroids into itself or causing them to veer away from Earth. Without Jupiter, says Zuckerman, Earth would be a sitting duck.

Zuckerman says massive gaseous planets like Jupiter are rare in the universe.

Once again we see God’s design in creation. Having a planet like Jupiter nearby may be rare, but it is no coincidence. Jupiter was strategically placed in our solar system by the God of the universe. In His perfect wisdom He knew that Planet Earth would need a bodyguard in the solar system.

There are some traits that are true about God that are also true about human beings. God shares some of His own character traits with us because He created us in His image. God is love; He experiences and expresses love. We are created in God’s image, therefore, we can experience and express love. God is perfectly wise; He is the beginning of all wisdom. We are created in God’s

image, therefore, we too develop and benefit from wisdom. Now, we can’t love or possess wisdom on the same level as God. Still, He shares those attributes with us. Those are called communicable attributes.

God also possesses attributes that He does not share with anyone or anything. In other words, there are things that are true about God that are not true of anyone or anything else. One such attribute is found in Revelation 4.

Revelation 4 provides a glimpse into the throne room of heaven. John, the aged apostle, takes us there as he describes a heavenly vision that he had while he was exiled on the Island of Patmos. As we peer into the royal room we see saints seated around God’s throne. As we gaze into this holy hall we see a breathtaking sight of seraphim circling the throne, worshiping the One seated on the throne.

The song of worship sung by the seraphim is one that really catches our attention. As they fly around the throne they sing, *“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”* (v. 8) John describes the One who sits on the throne as the One *“who lives forever and ever”*. (v. 9-10)

The seraphim exalt God as being the One *“...who was...”* This is an interesting description. It is not to say that God once was someplace and now He is there no more. It is not to say that someone placed God or dropped God off someplace in the past and He was there for a time. Instead, it says He is the One *“who was”*. He always was. No one caused Him to *“was”* in the past. He never ceased to *“was”*. He simply *“was”* completely on His on without any assistance from anyone! He was!

The seraphim exalt God as being the One *“...who is...”* This is also an interesting description. It is not to say that God *“is”* and someone created Him. I am here today because Ricky met Darlene and through the God-designed biological processes I was conceived and here I am. I haven’t always been, but I’m *“is”*

today. Not so with God. No one caused Him to “is”. He “is” on His own without the aid of anyone or anything. He just “is”!

The seraphim exalt God as being the One “...*who is to come!*” This is another interesting description. It is not to say that God will be in the future by the power of someone or something else. No one will cause Him to be; He will just be. Now that’s not true for you and me. Our future depends on the sovereign will of God. James, the half-brother of Jesus writes, “*Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’*” (James 4:13-15)

The seraphim are teaching us something about God in their worship of God. They are teaching us that God is...eternal! Now, if God is indeed eternal then God must also be...

Self-existent

God has no origins and is, consequently, answerable to no one. In Exodus 3 Moses met God while he was tending his father-in-law’s sheep in Midian. God spoke to Moses through the burning bush that day and told him to go back to Egypt, confront the wicked Pharaoh, and lead the Israelites out of slavery. Moses wanted to know who he should tell the people it was that had sent him. God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” It is the Hebrew name for God that is used 6,823 times in the Old Testament. It is pronounced “Yahweh” and it means “the self-existent One”.

God exists and is active all on His own and in His own power. No one holds him accountable because he doesn’t have to give an account of Himself! No one evaluates Him because He is of infinite value in and of himself!

Self-sufficient

God has no needs; therefore He depends on no one. God does not need worshippers. Some have suggested that God created human beings because he needed someone to worship Him and give Him glory. First of all, He is not that vain. Second of all, He has need of nothing. He is the “Father of glory” and has enough glory in Himself without our feeble attempts to worship Him. He created us and allows us to worship Him “*according to the good pleasure of His will*” (Eph. 1:5)

God does not need helpers. Sometimes when new people visit the church someone will say to me, “I hope they join our church. They would be a real asset.” Listen, God does bless people with gifts and talents to use in serving Him. And I am thankful for the people he has assembled here to help us do the work of ministry. We are all in some way an asset to this local church. But please don’t ever think that anyone has anything to offer God that He can’t get along just fine without. He is self-sufficient! He has no need for my help or yours. He is going to accomplish His perfect will either with or without us. He will not miss out if I stubbornly choose not to participate. It is a privilege for me to worship and serve Him and I am the one who will be sorry if I don’t.

God does not need defenders. Now, we ought to speak up on behalf of the Lord when we have an opportunity. When someone attempts to dishonor or discredit Him we ought not remain silent in fear. We ought to declare our faith in a Christ-like way with boldness. However, when I fail at defending Him that does not mean that He is deficient. He is self-sufficient! That means God is fully capable of defending His own character. He is not sitting in a corner someplace, sulking over the insults and disbelief of ignorant and arrogant human beings. He sits majestically His throne and He is not moved by the misplaced affections of human beings. He is still God whether anyone believes it or not! He really doesn’t need me to defend Him but I need Him to be my Defender!

Eternal

God is, has always been, always will be, and he is ever the same in His eternal being. There are some glorious consequences to God's eternity. First of all, He can be trusted to remain as He reveals Himself to be. He is unchangeable in His attributes. God has revealed Himself as a God of love. That love will never change. God has revealed himself as holy. He is eternally holy and has never been more holy than He is right now and will never be more holy than He is right now.

God is unchangeable in his will. God's will is perfect. A change in circumstance does not change His will. The Scriptures reveal in Exodus 20 that it is not God's will for people to worship other people or things. His will is for people to worship only Him. That has not changed and never will change! In John 6 the Scriptures reveal that it is the will of God for people to believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. That has not changed and never will change!

James 1:17 says, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* God is eternal and because of this we can trust Him.

Conclusion

Moses was one of God's choice servants. He walked with God in a way that no one else ever has. Thankfully he left us some thoughts about what he learned about God.

Moses said of God, *“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”* (Psalm 90:2)

Moses also said of God, *“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”* (Deuteronomy 33:27)

Are you leaning on those everlasting arms? Are you safe and secure in the arms of the eternal God? He stands with those

everlasting arms opened wide, waiting for you to come into His embrace. Will you come to Him today?