

## The Attributes of God

July 24<sup>th</sup> 2007

Imagine an alien walked into this room and asked you to describe yourself. What would you say?

Okay let's just assume you didn't get attacked, abducted, eaten, mutilated, en-slaved, harvested like a plant (like the robots did in the Matrix), made to take them to your leader, infected with a deadly alien virus that turned you into its host, or scared out of your wits. This is one of those "nice" alien like E.T., what would you say to explain who and what you are to the alien?

### Exodus Chapter 3: Moses And the Burning Bush

7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you <sup>[a]</sup> will worship God on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am . <sup>[b]</sup> This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'

<b>Attributes</b>	
Part 1a	Part 1b
Eternal	Immutable
Faithfulness	Impartial
Foreknows	Incomprehensible
Good	Infinite
Holy	Jealous
	Justice
	Longsuffering
	Love
	Mercy
Part 2a	Part 2b
Omnipotent	Righteous
Omnipresent	Self-existent
Omniscient	Self-sufficient
	Sovereign
	Transcendent
	Truth
	Wise
	Wrath

## **Eternal**

God existed before He created anything. Time dwells within God. He causes, affects, and controls it, but time has no hold on Him. Everything about God is "always"

Psalm 102.12

But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever;  
your renown endures through all generations.

God's nature is without beginning and without end, free from all succession of time. God dwells in eternity. Eternity is not just "extended time" but rather is existence above and apart from time. God contains in Himself the cause of time! Time has no control over God and He does not have to work within the strictures of time unless He so pleases. Being eternal, He is free to bestow eternity on His creation in His good pleasure. All of God's attributes bask in His eternity. Since eternity neither wears out nor runs out, neither do His attributes.

1. Is there a difference between being immortal and being eternal? If there is what is it?
2. Why is it so hard for us to understand what eternity looks like?

## **Faithfulness**

Webster defines faithfulness as firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty

Psalm 90

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

#### (1) THE FAITHFUL ONE

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war (Revelation 19:1)

#### (2) THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17)

#### (3) THE APOSTLE

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. (Hebrews 3:1; 3:2)

#### (4) THE WITNESS

Jesus Christ, the faithful WITNESS, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood (See note Revelation 1:5)

The Amen, the faithful & true WITNESS, the Beginning of the creation of God (See note Revelation 3:14)

3. Think back to a time in your life when you doubted God's faithfulness. Now list the ways He has since proven Himself faithful, the things He has done which He promised in His Word He would do.
4. How will you remember his faithfulness to you in the past? Do you have a "Rushmore reminder" These stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever. --Joshua 4:7

## **Good**

God is the source of all good, and He and He alone, defines what is good and holy.

Most of us often mistakenly equate the goodness of God with the “rightness” of our circumstances. We’re like the little girl who, when she got what she wanted, exclaimed, “God must really like me!” Or conversely, when things aren't going our way, we say, “Why is God punishing me like this?” But our circumstances are not an accurate reflection of God’s goodness. Whether life is good or bad, God’s goodness, rooted in His character, is the same

5. Why is God being good so important to us?
6. What are some examples of God's goodness to all people?

## **Holiness**

Holiness means purity, but “purity” doesn’t describe it well enough. Purity merely means that it is unmixed, with nothing else in it. But that isn’t enough. We talk of moral excellency, but that isn’t adequate. To be adequately grasped, the holiness of God must be described negatively and positively.

Negatively: Holiness is that perfection in God that totally separates Him from all that is evil and defiling and common. As we call gold pure when it is free from any dross or impurities, or a garment clean when free from any spot, so the nature and actions of God are free from any impurity or evil of any kind whatsoever.

Positively: Holiness refers to the absolute integrity and purity of the nature of God. It means He is always absolutely pure and so distinct from all others. God is pure light (1 John 1:5).

7. Why does God want us to be holy?
8. If the alien asked you to describe God, what would you say?