

Pastor Robert Rutta

Characteristics / Attributes of God

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Atheists and skeptics challenge us to prove the existence of God, but God refuses to do that. God starts off His Word by simply stating that He is.

Only the fool denies the existence of God.

Psalm 14:1

“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”

Since God does not go to any effort to prove His existence, we won't either. Let's look at some of the characteristics or attributes of God.

1. God is a Person

When we speak of God as a Person, we do not mean that He is human.

We mean that He has self-consciousness, self-determination, character, personality.

He thinks, plans, acts, speaks, hears, communicates.

Thus, God is knowable. He created man in His own image that man might know and fellowship with Him (Gen. 1-2).

From the first pages of the Bible God is revealed as a Person who is knowable by man, a God who communicates with man.

God walks and talks with man in the beginning of man's history in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:16; 3:8).

Since then, God has revealed Himself through the Scriptures.

2. God is Spirit

John 4:24

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

This means that He is invisible.

Colossians 1:15

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

3. God is Eternal

God is without beginning or end.

Genesis 21:33

33 And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.

Psalm 90:2

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Psalm 93:2

2 Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.

Romans 1:20

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

1 Timothy 1:17

17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

His eternality is evident in His name "I AM THAT I AM".

Exodus 3:14

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

God never started God will never cease

He does not live in the element of time

4. God is Omnipotent

Meaning that God is all powerful.

(Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2; Jer. 32:17; Dan. 4:34-35; Mat. 19:26; Lk. 1:37; Rev. 19:6).

Genesis 18:14

14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD?

Jeremiah 32:17

17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

Daniel 4:34-35

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Revelation 19:6

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

5. God is Omnipresent

Meaning that He is present everywhere at the same time.

Psalms 139:7-12

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

The fact that God is everywhere should be a great comfort to the believer and a great fear to the unbeliever.

Though God is everywhere present, He is not in everything in the sense of pantheism.

If He were, man could be justified in bowing before the creation, but God forbids it and calls it a great sin

Exodus 20:3-5

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6. God is Omniscient

Meaning He possesses all wisdom and knowledge.

This attribute follows logically from omnipresence; if He is everywhere then He knows everything.

Nothing is hidden from the Lord.

1 Chronicles 28:9

9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD **searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts:** if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

2 Chronicles 16:9

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Job 42:1-2

1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

Isaiah 40:28

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? **there is no searching of his understanding.**

7. God is immutable or unchanging

God does not change. No change is possible with Him.

He doesn't/can't grow/mature/develop.

He doesn't/can't decrease/deteriorate.

You cannot improve on perfection, and true perfection will never slip to imperfection.

Malachi 3:6

6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

8. God is Totally Perfect

Deuteronomy 32:4

4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Psalm 18:30

30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

Matthew 5:48

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

9. God is Light and in Him is No Darkness at All

1 John 1:5

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

He is not a mixture of good and evil.

He is only good and only light.

In contrast the gods of Hinduism are dualistic. Its gods are healers and destroyers, protectors and annihilators, innocent and seducing, loving and cruel, holy and unholy, righteous and mischievous, solemn and flippant, faithful and unfaithful, gods and devils.

10. God is Love

1 John 4:8

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:16

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

The greatness of His love was shown in its fullness when He gave His own Son to atone for rebellious man's sins. ("God so loved," John 3:16).

11. God is Merciful and Gracious

Deuteronomy 4:31

31 (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

Nehemiah 9:17

17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: **but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness**, and forsookest them not.

Psalm 116:5

5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

Grace refers to unmerited favor. It is the opposite of works (Rom. 11:6).

It is a gift that was purchased by Christ (Eph. 2:8-9).

12. God is Patient and Longsuffering

Psalm 86:15

15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

God's longsuffering is wonderful.

Each believer can testify of God's great patience.

There are so many other characteristics or attributes of God that we could look at but we are limited by time tonight.

We can simply say, "We have an amazing God."