***006 Theology Proper II: Attributes of God That Result from Essence and Divine Capabilities***

1. Attributes of God That Result from Essence:
   1. Aseity, or freedom.
      1. God does not depend in any way on the physical universe or its inhabitants. He is completely separate from the universe as its creator.
      2. Acts 17:25 25 Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.
      3. Aseity is a part of God’s own name: He is the I AM, the self-existing one.
   2. Sovereignty: The sovereignty of God is His rightful authority over all creation; and His right to exercise that authority.
      1. As to the length of God’s rule, it extends from eternity past and into eternity future, and encompasses all eras of human history:
         1. Psalm 10:16, 16 The Lord is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land.
         2. Psalm 29:10, 10 The Lord sat as King at the flood; Yes, the Lord sits as King forever.
         3. Jeremiah 10:10, 10 But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation.
         4. Lamentations 5:19, 19 You, O Lord, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.
      2. As to the scope of God’s rule: No matter where things exist, everything is within the sovereign will and control of God.
         1. Psalm 103:19, 19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.
         2. Jeremiah 10:7, 7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.
      3. As to the interaction with human free agents:
         1. God allows humanity a limited freedom to act as volitional agents.
         2. As a result, God may express His perfect desire and not receive it due to His willingness to permit human free will.
         3. Examples:
            1. God did not want the man or the woman to eat from the tree, yet they did: Genesis 2:15-17, 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”
            2. God desires all men to be saved, yet some are not:

John 5:34, 34 “But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

1 Timothy 2:3-4, 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

* + 1. No act of evil is ever out of divine control in His ability to abolish, moderate, transform, or compensate.
       1. That is to say, though God allows evil:
          1. He may at any time abolish it, and ultimately He will;
          2. He may at any time curtail or moderate evil, diminishing its power;
          3. He may at any time, work good out of evil toward those who love Him;
          4. He may at any time compensate the perpetrators of evil and their victims, and ultimately and finally He will.
    2. But when God decides, His will is supreme.
       1. Job 23:12-14, 12 “I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. 13 “But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does. 14 “For He performs what is appointed for me, And many such decrees are with Him.
       2. Isaiah 43:11-13, 11 “I, even I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me. 12 “It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses,” declares the Lord, “And I am God. 13 “Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?”
  1. Immutability: God never changes for any reason. He is perfect and all-powerful, and has no need of it.
     1. Malachi 3:6, 6 “For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.
     2. James 1:17, 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
  2. Majesty, The quality of greatness by comparison. This denotes a vast difference in quality.
     1. Exodus 15:11, Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?”
     2. Psalm 8:1, LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!”

1. The Three Omni’s, or the Capabilities of God:
   1. The capabilities of God are the expression of His infinite essence in what God knows, understands, and does.
   2. These capabilities are restricted by the range of His holy character. Psalm 89:14, “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.”
   3. Omnipresence, that is, He is able to be in every place at all times, perceiving all things:
      1. Outward:
         1. Psalm 139:7-10, “7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.”
         2. Proverbs 15:3, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.”
         3. He perceives all concerning all creatures, even in the animal kingdom, Psalm 50:11, “I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine.”
      2. Inward:
         1. 1 Samuel 16:7, “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”“
         2. Psalm 94:11, “The LORD knows the thoughts of man, That they are a *mere* breath.”
   4. Omniscience, God understands all things in His infinite wisdom.
      1. God understands all things in their macro- and micro-complexities. Romans 11:33, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”
      2. He knows all of creation, even to the outer reaches of the universe, Psalm 147:4-5, “He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. 5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.”
      3. He understands the micro-complexities of atomic physics.
      4. He understands the inner workings of biological complexities.
      5. He understands the intricacies of human behavior and psychology. 1 John 4:20, “...for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.”
      6. He knows the future, Acts 2:23, “...this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.”
   5. Omnipotence, God is all-powerful:
      1. Omnipotence and creation:
         1. Job 9:8-10, “8 Who alone stretches out the heavens And tramples down the waves of the sea; 9 Who makes the Bear, Orion and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south; 10 Who does great things, unfathomable, And wondrous works without number.”
         2. Psalm 19:1-2, “1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David. The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.”
      2. Omnipotence and resurrection: Ephesians 1:19-21, “...19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”