

## **Week 2: The Attributes of God (Part 1)**

**Objective:** Understand and appreciate the incommunicable attributes of God.

### **Scripture Readings:**

- **Isaiah 40:12-31 (ESV)**

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. 18 To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; 23 who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. 25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

- **Psalms 90:1-2 (ESV)**

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

- **1 Timothy 1:17 (ESV)**

17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Key Topics:

1. **Introduction to God's Attributes**
  2. **Difference between Communicable and Incommunicable Attributes**
  3. **Incommunicable Attributes**
    - **Aseity (Self-Existence)**
    - **Immutability (Unchangeableness)**
    - **Infinity (Eternality and Omnipresence)**
    - **Simplicity (Unity)**
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## Introduction to God's Attributes

Understanding the attributes of God is essential to deepen our relationship with Him and to appreciate His nature. God's attributes are qualities or characteristics that define who He is. These attributes can be divided into two categories: communicable and incommunicable attributes.

## Difference Between Communicable and Incommunicable Attributes

- **Communicable Attributes** are those that God shares with humanity to some extent. Examples include love, mercy, and justice. Humans can exhibit these attributes in a limited way.
- **Incommunicable Attributes** are those unique to God. They highlight aspects of God's nature that are beyond human experience or replication. These attributes underscore the vast difference between God and His creation.

## Incommunicable Attributes

1. **Aseity (Self-Existence)**
  - **Definition:** God's aseity means that He exists in and of Himself, independent of anything else. He is the uncaused cause, having life in Himself and deriving His existence from no other source.

- **Scripture:** "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." (Psalm 90:2)
  - **Impact:** This attribute assures us that God is completely self-sufficient and sovereign. His existence does not depend on anything outside Himself, giving Him ultimate authority and power.
2. **Immutability (Unchangeableness)**
- **Definition:** God's immutability means that He does not change. His nature, purposes, and promises remain constant and unwavering over time.
  - **Scripture:** "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." (Malachi 3:6)
  - **Impact:** This attribute provides comfort and assurance that God is reliable and trustworthy. His promises and character remain steadfast, regardless of the changing circumstances in our lives.
3. **Infinity (Eternity and Omnipresence)**
- **Definition:** God's infinity encompasses His eternity (existence outside of time) and His omnipresence (presence everywhere at all times).
  - **Scripture:** "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 40:28)
  - **Impact:** Understanding God's eternity and omnipresence helps us comprehend His vastness and the scope of His presence. We can find peace knowing that God is always with us and is not constrained by time.
4. **Simplicity (Unity)**
- **Definition:** God's simplicity means that He is not composed of parts. His attributes are not separate from His essence; rather, they are identical to His essence. God is wholly and entirely all of His attributes.
  - **Scripture:** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4)
  - **Impact:** Recognizing the unity of God's attributes ensures that we do not compartmentalize His nature. It emphasizes that God is consistently loving, just, holy, and merciful in all His actions.

## Discussion Questions:

1. **What does it mean for God to be self-existent and unchanging?**
  - Reflect on how God's aseity and immutability provide a foundation for His sovereignty and reliability.
  - Discuss how these attributes differentiate God from His creation.
2. **How does God's eternity and omnipresence impact our understanding of His nature?**
  - Consider the implications of God existing outside of time and being present everywhere.
  - Discuss how these attributes affect our relationship with God and our trust in His providence.
3. **Why is it important to recognize the unity of God's attributes?**

- Reflect on how the simplicity of God ensures that His attributes are not in conflict.
- Discuss how this understanding affects our theology and worship.

### **Activities:**

1. **Bible Verse Memorization:**

- Select verses related to God's attributes for memorization, such as Psalm 90:2, Malachi 3:6, and Isaiah 40:28.

2. **Group Discussion:**

- Facilitate a discussion on how understanding these incommunicable attributes of God affects our faith and trust in Him.
- Encourage participants to share personal experiences of how these attributes have provided comfort and assurance in their lives.

### **Homework:**

1. **Reflection and Writing:**

- Reflect on how the incommunicable attributes of God provide comfort and assurance in your life. Write a short essay or journal entry detailing your thoughts and experiences.

2. **Reading Assignment:**

- Read Chapter 2 of "Knowing God" by J.I. Packer to gain further insight into the nature and significance of knowing God.