

The Immutability of God

Defined

God is unchanging. *Semper idem.*

“God is a spirit, whose being, wisdom power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.” - The Westminster Shorter Catechism

“That perfection of God by which He does not change in His being, perfections, purposes, or promises.” – Louis Berkhof

“Consider what thou owest to his immutability. Though thou hast changed a thousand times, he has not changed once; though thou hast shifted thy intentions, and thy will, yet he has not once swerved from his eternal purpose, but still has held thee fast.” - Charles Spurgeon

Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. (Psalm 102:25-27)

Fickle Man / Faithful God

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill? (Numbers 23:19)

Man - Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. (Psalm 146:3)

God - Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Isaiah 26:4)

Man - Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. (Malachi 2:10-11)

God - For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts... (Malachi 3:6-7)

Man - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:6-11)

God - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17)

Unchanging in his purposes

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. (Psalm 33:11)

I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. (Isaiah 46:8-11)

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. (Hebrews 6:17-18)

Does God change his mind?

And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. (Genesis 6:6)

“I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.” (1 Samuel 15:11)

When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, “It is enough; now stay your hand.” (2 Samuel 24:16)

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. (Jonah 3:10)

“Rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? (Joel 2:13-14)

No

The Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.” (1 Samuel 15:29)

If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it. (Jeremiah 18:7-10)

Our trustworthy God

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” ... This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (Exodus 3:14-15)

Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. (Psalm 9:10)

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. (Psalm 119:89)

Human Becomings

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings... (Hebrews 13:7-9)

The world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:17)

If we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. (2 Corinthians 3:18)