

GOD OMNIPRESENT

God is infinite – in time (eternal) and space (omnipresent)

- God is not limited by physical space
- there is no “over there” for God, only “right here”

Job 11:7-9

⁷ Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? ⁸ It is higher than heaven – what can you do? Deeper than Sheol – what can you know? ⁹ Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

Acts 7:48-49

⁴⁸ Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, ⁴⁹ “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?”

God is present in all creation – upholding and sustaining

Hebrews 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Colossians 1:17

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Acts 17:28

In him we live and move and have our being.

The comfort and terror of God’s omnipresence

Psalm 139:7-10

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

God’s special presence with his people

Psalm 27

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ You have said, “Seek my face.”

My heart says to you,

“Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

⁹ Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation!

Isaiah 59:2

Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

God will be present in heaven and hell

Revelation 21:3

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Revelation 6:15-17

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

God Omnipresent – Notes

God is infinite – in time (eternal) and space (omnipresent)

- infinite – unlimited | finite – limited
- God is *eternal* – all time is equally accessible
 - no past or future | all time is vividly present
- God is *omnipresent* – all space is equally accessible
 - no “other there” | no such thing as “there”
 - all space is equally “right here” for God
- God’s presence is not like a gas
 - diffuse and stretched out
 - completely present in all his fullness in each space | “repletively present”

Job 11:7-9 ⁷ Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?
⁸ It is higher than heaven – what can you do? Deeper than Sheol – what can you know?
⁹ Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

Vastness of physical space shows us the greatness of God

- unimaginable vastness of cosmos – hundreds of billions of galaxies

Acts 7:48-49 ⁴⁸ Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,
⁴⁹ “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?”

In ancient world – deity subject to limitations of time and space

- part of logic of polytheism – each region and each sphere of life had its own deity
- God cannot be confined to a temple
- remember story of Jonah fleeing to Tarshish

God is present in all creation – upholding and sustaining

- modern imagery of God as divine watchmaker | passively watches world
- rather, God actively present in every moment and holds up creation | without him, we cease

Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Acts 17:28 In him we live and move and have our being.

The comfort and terror of God's omnipresence

Psalm 139:7-10 ⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

David reflects on the inescapable reality of God's presence

- ascend to heaven – highest heights
- down in sheol – in bowels of earth
- wings of the morning – far east
- uttermost parts of sea – far west

This is both *a terror* and *a comfort* to us

- God's omnipresence is *a terror*
 - people do evil things under cloak of darkness | at night, behind closed doors, in secret
 - secrecy breeds evil | but in presence of loved ones, we become our best selves
 - God's presence with us is an inducement to holy living
- God's presence is *deepest comfort*
 - in midst of tragedy or disaster, we often ask, "where is God?"
 - but God is present always | Matthew 28 – "I am with you always, to end of the age"
 - Judah at night cries out in terror | "Judah, I'm here, I'm not leaving you"
 - studies: when experiencing pain, if hold hand of someone you love, calming
 - Hebrews 13:5 – "I will never leave you nor forsake you"

God is present in a special way with his people

- if God is present everywhere, isn't God present with all people in same way? No.
- remember the Garden | God walked with Adam and Eve
- God's presence of love and fellowship

Psalm 27

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that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

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⁹ Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

Face of God

- Hebrew doesn't have abstract words | metaphors
- metaphor for presence of God is his face
- when you see someone's face, you see their thoughts, their emotions
- if you can't face, you don't have access to what they are thinking
- speak face-to-face is sign of intimacy of relationship

We experience the presence of God in special way when we walk with him

- like a father with his child in a room, God is with us – as we seek him

Isaiah 59:2

Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

But likewise, our sins and disobedience separates us from God

- we feel distant from God | God is not with us
- when violate relationship, you lose relationship
- in our sins, we run from God | and God turns his face away

God will be present in heaven (in joy with his people) and hell (in wrath against evildoers)

Revelation 21:3

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

To be in presence of God, to see his face is our greatest hope

- we will enjoy his nearness and intimacy forever and ever
- illus: date with our kids | kids love special one-on-one time with mom
- we will be with our Heavenly Father – his delight and love and pride in us

We think of hell as the absence of God

- that's correct in a certain sense | Jesus describes hell as the "outer darkness"
- Matthew 25 – many will say, "Lord, Lord!" | Jesus – "away from me, for never knew you"

Hell is absence of God's love, but presence of his anger at evil

- God will be present in hell, but his presence will be a terror and a horror

Revelation 6:15-17

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God will eternally be present with his people rejoicing AND present in hell in wrath

- simultaneously, forever and ever

Our minds cannot grasp this

- because we can do only one thing at one time
- we can either rejoice and be filled with gladness | imagine a family reunion or party
- or we can be filled with wrath and indignation at some great evil | witness of crime, injustice

How can this be?

- the holiness and goodness of God will be a delight to his people
- but a horror and a terror to those who love the darkness