

Knowledge of the Holy - Chapter 8
God's Infinitude

1. Why do people seek to have a God they can understand?

(Consider John 3:19; Romans 1:18-23) _____

2. What is "infinitude" and why is this characteristic of God so hard for a human to grasp?

(Consider Psalm 139:6; 145:3; 147:5; Isaiah 40:28) _____

3. Can the word "infinite" be properly applied to anything other than God? Why or why not?

(Consider Psalm 40:5; Jeremiah 10:6-7) _____

4. Can God be measured in anyway? Why or why not?

(Consider Job 9:10; 26:14; 37:23; Psalm 40:5; Romans 11:33-36) _____

5. Are there attributes of God that we do not know and cannot know? Explain

(Consider Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 55:8) _____

6. In what ways is the infinitude of God a blessing to the believer in each of these areas?

TIME (Consider: Daniel 2:44; Psalm 145:1-2; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 22:5)_____

LIFE (Consider: John 5:24-26; 10:27-30)_____

MERCY (Consider: Exodus 34:7-8; Psalm 145:8-9; 1 Peter 1:3-5)_____

LOVE (Consider: Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 5:8)_____

7. What is the name of the attribute in relationship to God's infinitude in each of the following:

TIME_____

SPACE_____

KNOWLEDGE_____

POWER_____

ABILITY_____

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1. Why do people seek to have a God they can understand?

(Consider John 3:19; Romans 1:18-23)

John 3:19 (NASB95) *"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.*

Romans 1:18–23 (NASB95) *18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

People are uncomfortable with what they do not understand - and even more so with what they cannot control. While people want a God that will take care of them and do what they cannot do, neither do they want a God that they cannot appease by their own means and methods. They do not want to be surprised, overwhelmed, astonished by what is incomprehensible - a factor of man's pride

2. What is "infinitude" and why is this characteristic of God so hard for a human to grasp??

(Consider Psalm 139:6; 145:3; 147:5; Isaiah 40:28)

Psalm 139:6 (NASB95) *⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

Psalm 145:3 (NASB95) *³ Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.*

Psalm 147:5 (NASB95) *⁵ Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.*

Isaiah 40:28 (NASB95) *²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.*

Infinitude means "limitless" (pg 50) - without bounds. Man cannot grasp this because man is limited. "We are trying to envision a mode of being altogether foreign to us, and wholly unlike anything we have known in our familiar world of matter, space and time" (Pg 50)

3. Can the word "infinite" be properly applied to anything other than God? Why or why not?

(Consider Psalm 40:5; Jeremiah 10:6-7)

Psalm 40:5 (NASB95) *⁵ Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count.*

Jeremiah 10:6–7 (NASB95) *⁶ There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might. 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.*

No. Only God is infinite and so its application to anything else, even as an exaggeration as an equivalent of “great” “much” etc., is actually non-sensical. Related terms such as measureless, unlimited and boundless are used regularly to convey the idea of great, much, abundant - but only God and what is related to Him is actually measureless, unlimited and boundless in their true sense. (Page 51)

4. Can God be measured in anyway? Why or why not?

(Consider Job 9:10; 26:14; 37:23; Psalm 40:5; Romans 11:33-36)

Job 9:10 (NASB95) ¹⁰ *Who does great things, unfathomable, And wondrous works without number.*

Job 26:14 (NASB95) ¹⁴ *“Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; And how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?”*

Job 37:23 (NASB95) ²³ *“The Almighty—we cannot find Him; He is exalted in power And He will not do violence to justice and abundant righteousness.*

Psalm 40:5 (NASB95) ⁵ *Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count.*

Romans 11:33–36 (NASB95) ³³ *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!* ³⁴ *For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?* ³⁵ *Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?* ³⁶ *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*

God cannot be measured for there are no degrees in God (pg 51). He is above, outside and beyond all His works (transcendent). He is without growth, addition or development (immutable). (Page 51). Concepts of measurement are applied to that which is material or emanates from what is material, but God is not material.

5. Are their attributes of God that we do not know and cannot know? Explain

(Consider Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 55:8)

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NASB95) ²⁹ *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.*

Isaiah 55:8 (NASB95) ⁸ *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.*

Yes. - Like in the illustration of “Flat world” there is no means by which we can know about what is outside the dimensions of our existence - we may be able to describe the evidence of another dimension if it intersects with our own - but we cannot even do that if there is no intersection. It is the pride of man that demands that God and concepts of Him fit within what man can comprehend - such a god would be a limited being and therefore not God. It must be enough for us creatures to know what God has chosen to reveal about Himself

6. In what ways is the infinitude of God a blessing to the believer in each of these areas?

TIME: (Consider: Daniel 2:44; Psalm 145:1-2; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 22:5)

Daniel 2:44 (NASB95) ⁴⁴ *“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom*

which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

Psalm 145:1–2 (NASB95) ¹ *I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.*

Hebrews 7:25 (NASB95) ²⁵ *Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

Revelation 22:5 (NASB95) ⁵ *And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.*

What is eternal is not bounded by time - we are given eternal life in Him - so our existence is no longer bound by time - the compelling need to rush before it is too late is quelled. (Page 52-53). “There is simply not time enough to think, to become, to perform what the constitution of our natures indicates we are capable of. . . For those out of Christ, time is a devouring beast; before the sons of the new creation time crouches and purrs and licks their hands. The foe of the old human race becomes the friend of the new . . .”

LIFE: (Consider: John 5:24-26; 10:27-30)

John 5:24–26 (NASB95) ²⁴ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. ²⁵ “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;*

John 10:27–30 (NASB95) ²⁷ *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ “I and the Father are one.”*

The life of any creature is bound by time and so it must come to an end. Life begins at a point in time and will end at a point in time. As amazing as the long lives of those listed in Genesis 5 are to us - the sad truth is that every man still died. That life is also limited in its abilities to experience. All our senses are also limited as is our comprehension. In the infinitude of God, these things are not as limited (though I expect they will still have limits, just not the present ones) - so that we might know and experience God more fully and that knowledge and experience will not end .

MERCY: (Consider: Exodus 34:7-8; Psalm 145:8-9; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

Exodus 34:7–8 (NASB95) ⁷ *who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” ⁸ Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.*

Psalm 145:8–9 (NASB95) ⁸ *The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. ⁹ The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.*

1 Peter 1:3–5 (NASB95) ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Our tendency is to judge mercy by how much we would tolerate before we would react in judgment - the blessing of God's mercy is that it is infinite. That does not mean that He will not judge, but it does mean that His judgment comes because of His holiness, righteousness, justice and not from a lack of mercy. We can come to Him with confidence in seeking mercy and grace from Him.

LOVE: (Consider: Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 5:8)

Jeremiah 31:3 (NASB95) ³ *The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.*

Romans 5:8 (NASB95) ⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

His love is measureless and boundless for it is a facet of God's very nature and it was demonstrated most clearly in Jesus' death on the cross (Romans 5:8) while I was still a sinner. If God's love was limited, I would have to face the fact that it might not extend to me - but His own declaration is that He loved the whole world.

6. What is the name of the attribute in relationship to God's infinitude in each of the following:

TIME : *Eternal*

SPACE: *Omnipresent*

KNOWLEDGE: *Omniscient*

POWER: *Omnipotent*

ABILITY: *Sovereign*