

Trinity Bible Church  
 Lesson 3  
 March 31, 2010

## Angelic Conflict

### Section I: Getting Started.

#### 1. Introduction and Approach.

### Section II: Who is Involved?

#### 2. God and His Essence.

#### I. His Relative Attributes are related to time, space, matter and creatures and are not subject to any of His creation. 1 Cor 15:27

##### 1. Attributes related to Time:

- a. God has always existed and will always exist. Thus, He is eternal. John 1:1; Heb 1:10-12
- b. Time is God's invention and therefore He is not subject to it. Gen 1:5; Psa 90:2; Psa 102:27; 1 Cor 2:7
- c. Time has succession and duration. Time is part of the measuring system used to sequence events, to compare the durations of events and the intervals between them, and to quantify the motions of objects. Time has been a major subject of religion, philosophy, and science, but defining it in a non-controversial manner applicable to all fields of study has consistently eluded the greatest scholars.<sup>2</sup>

##### 2. Attributes related to Space:

- a. This attribute considers His Immensity which describes God in relationship to Space. He exceeds it to an infinite degree.
- b. As the Creator of space He is not subject to it. Psa 148:1-5; Rom 8:20-21
- c. He is both Imminent (in space) and Transcendent (out of space) at the same time. He exceeds the Universe to an infinite degree. Job 26:13; Psa 19:1-6; Psa 102:25-27; Isa 45:12
- d. Omnipresence describes Space in relationship to God. Ps 139:7-10
- e. He is in Space with the same Intensity at all points and even out of space. Jer 23:23-24; Acts 17:27

##### 3. Attributes related to Matter and Creatures:

- a. He is personally present everywhere but is free to be localized, even to take on human form. John 1:14
- b. He is all wise, which means He knows the actual as well as the possible. This wisdom is not subject to development. Psa 147:4; Psa 33:13-15; Matt 6:8; Prov 8:22-30
- d. He is all powerful. Psa 33:6

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<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia.

- 1). He can do anything that He wills to do, but He chooses to not do some things. Eph 1:21; 3:20
- 2). The prime example is that He does not overrule volitional choices made by His creatures. John 3:16; Isa 14:12-14
- 3). His power is under His complete control as evidenced by the creation of delicate things and life. This is known as "gentle."
- e. He is not subject to time, therefore the future concerning Matter and Creatures is just as clear as the past. Isa 46:10
  - 1). He foreknows every decision but is not the Primary Cause of it.
  - 2). He can influence it via His Word, as Satan has been permitted to do with evil.
  - 3). God has chosen to not make mankind decide, and Satan lacks the power. John 3:16 Cf 1 John 4:4b
- f. He is the Absolute Ruler over His creation. Rev 19:16
  - 1). He establishes principles and policies that His creation is to follow. Gen 2:17; 6:1-4
  - 2). Yet He leaves it up to His volitional creation as to whether or not to follow them. Gen 3:1-7
  - 3). His non-volitional creation unquestioningly obey His commands. Gen 7 Cf Jonah
- g. He relates to volitional creatures:
  - 1). He is absolutely truthful to His creation. John 7:28
  - 2). He is totally faithful to His creation in everything. 2 Tim 2:13
  - 3). His infinite Love for His subjects is manifested in Grace, through Mercy. Psa 145:8-10; Psa 86:15. Luke 6:36
  - 4). He has chosen to deal with His subjects in grace. Eph 2:8-9; Psa 111:1-4
  - 5). His creation is called to realize His Righteousness and Justice, for His Character demands Righteousness from His creatures. Lev 11:45; Isa 6:2,6

**J. Ten Characteristics of Divine Essence. The first bracket ( ) will denote the verses that refer to God the Father; the second < >, the verses for the Son; and the third [ ], the Holy Spirit.**

1. Sovereignty.
  - a. God is SOVEREIGN, meaning that He is King and acts accordingly. (Dan 4:17; 1 Tim 1:17; Psa 47:2, 7), <Rev 19:16; John 5:21>, [Zech 4:6; 1 Pet 4:14; 1 Cor 12:11].
  - b. Sovereignty means, "the exercise of supreme authority within a limited sphere." God, free from external control, is the supreme authority over all creation. He is the Creator, not the created (Rom 1:20, 25).
  - c. God has the authority to establish His own plan, His own laws, and His own judgments. In short, He has the authority to act as He chooses to act, although His purposes may be hard to understand.

2. **Righteousness.**
  - a. God is absolute **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, meaning that He is perfect in every way. (John 17:25; 1 John 1:5), <1 John 2:1; Luke 1:35; Heb 7:26>, [Isa 32:15-18; Psa 143:10; Neh 9:20].
  - b. He is the standard of righteousness in every regard. He is morally complete, setting the standard we are to imitate (Eph 5:1).
3. **Justice.**
  - a. God is **JUST**. He is totally and completely fair. (Isa 45:21; Job 37:23), <John 5:22, 30; Rev 19:11>, [Isa 4:4; 28:6]. God's justice is a response to the demands of His righteousness. God is not a "respector of persons" (Rom 2:11) and thus shows no partiality. Where sin (which is a violation of His law) occurs (Rom 5:13), His Justice must be satisfied.
  - b. Man is not able to satisfy the righteousness of God, and therefore needs a Messiah who can "propitiate" the Justice of God. The Lord Jesus Christ on the cross accomplished this "propitiation" when He died to pay for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:1-2).
4. **Love.**
  - a. God is **LOVE**, meaning that perfect and unconditional love is found in Him. (1 John 4:8-10; Titus 3:4; John 17:24-26), <John 15:9>, [Gal 5:22].
  - b. This characteristic of God is the basis for sending Jesus Christ to redeem mankind (John 3:16). Love is what kept the Lord on the cross to pay for our sins <Luke 23:34>; and it is the first element in the "fruit" of the Holy Spirit [Gal 5:22].
  - c. Love means doing what is right and best for others, even if there are unpleasant feelings. Christians are to partake of God's love and spread it to others so that all might come to know God (John 13:34-35).
5. **Eternal Life.**
  - a. God is **ETERNAL LIFE**. He always has been and always will be. (Isa 57:15), <John 8:54; 1 John 5:11-12; Mic 5:2; Rev 1:8,17>, [Heb 9:14].
  - b. Eternal life has no beginning or end (John 1:1; Heb 1:12). Christians actually enter into God's eternal life and thus we possess everlasting life, which has a beginning point, but no end. God's Eternal Life teaches that He is not ever subject to death. John 3:16,36; 5:24; 10:10; 14:6; 20:31; 1 John 5:11-12
6. **Omnipotent—All Powerful.**
  - a. God is **OMNIPOTENT**, meaning that He has the power to do anything. (Mark 14:36; 1 Pet 1:5), <Matt 28:18; Rev 19:6>, [2 Tim 1:7; Rom 15:13].
  - b. An example of His Omnipotence is found in the creation of the heavens and earth (Gen 1:1). We are told that the "word of His mouth" created the heavens and His "breath" all their hosts (Psa 33:6).
7. **Omnipresent—At All Places.**
  - a. God is **OMNIPRESENT**, meaning that He is everywhere at the same time with the same intensity. (Prov 15:3; 2 Chr 2:6),

- <Matt 18:20; 28:20>, [Psa 139:7-16]. This does not mean that God is everything (Pantheism), but that He is everywhere. It displays to us the personal nature of God.
- b. We also see from this characteristic that God is not in isolated places at different intensities (Psa 139:7-17). He does not give less attention to some than He does others.
  - c. Because He is Omnipresent, He is able to manifest Himself at more than one place at the same time.
8. **Omniscient—All Knowing.**
- a. God is **OMNISCIENT**. He knows everything: past, present and future. (Psa 139:1-6; Heb 4:13), <John 2:24, 25; 18:4; Matt 9:4>, [1 Cor 2:10-11; Isa 11:2].
  - b. He knows the outcome of all things; not only the actualities, but also all the possibilities. He knows all of the effects, throughout all of time that each decision will bring. His eternal plan has considered all of these factors (Rom 8:28-30).
9. **Immutable—Unchanging.**
- a. God is **IMMUTABLE**, meaning that the aspects of His Essence never change. (Jas 1:17; Heb 6:17; Mal 3:6), <Heb 13:8>, [1 Cor 12:4; Eph 1:13].
  - b. This characteristic is beneficial to mankind since God will always keep His promises. He will not change His mind. He promised eternal life to those who trust in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we know that He will not change this gospel (John 3:16). If God failed to keep His promises, then He would be a liar, thus unrighteous (Heb 6:17-18).
  - c. Everything else in the universe is changing. God is the only constant. This is why hope in Him can be an “anchor” for our souls (Heb 6:19).
  - d. Because He has no source, He is unchanging. Job 1:12
10. **Truthful.**
- a. God is absolute **TRUTH**. (Deut 32:4; John 7:28; 17:3), <John 14:6; 1 John 5:20>, [1 John 5:7, 8; 4:6; John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13].
  - b. This characteristic tells us that everything God utters is totally believable (Num 23:19). It is in fact impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2).
  - c. The Truth is that God manifested Himself in the person of Jesus Christ <John 14:6>. Throughout history truth has been sought simply in a concept, statement or principle. This is why anything that mankind deems to be truth, must be compared with the words of Jesus Christ <1 Tim 6:3>.
- K. God will not compromise His Essence. Satan's major focal point in history would therefore be to try and get Him to compromise His Essence one time in human history. One flaw does away with Perfection.