

THEOLOGY II- Lecture #6

3 Absolutes of Wonder - The nature of God and reality -

These absolutes of wonder are fundamental statements of the truth which God has chosen to reveal about Himself and His creation. Although we cannot prove or go beyond these statements, the logical evidence of nature, logical reasoning, and the revelation of the scriptures all agree to the one fact that these fundamental principles are true. As we understand them we can compartmentalize all the things we can observe into one of these areas- Romans 1:16-20.

Isaiah 6:1-3		Rev. 4:8
Holy	Holy	Holy
UNCREATED	TRIUNE	CREATOR
<u>BEING</u>	<u>TRUTH</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>
"Stuff"	"relationship"	"choices"
<u>ETERNAL</u>	<u>UNITY AND DIVERSITY</u>	<u>SEQUENTIAL</u>
Timeless Being	Diversity	acts in sequence
Changeless	Diversity	flexible
Unchangeable	Unity	faithful
<u>INFINITE</u> - Ps. 145:3	<u>WISDOM*JUSTICE*LOVE</u>	<u>PERSONAL</u>

No physical limits to:

These precepts direct God's actions

Moral limits to:

Power of God

"With God all things are possible"

God's choices of action:

Job 42:2, Ps. 62:11,
Ps. 115:3, Isa. 59:1
Jer. 32:17, 27, Dan 2:20,
Mk. 14:36, Rom. 1:20
Eph. 1:19-20, Eph. 3:20,
Gen. 18:14, 1 Cor. 1:25
Rev. 11:17-
The Almighty:
Gen. 17:1,
Ex. 6:3, Rev. 19:6, 21:22

Matt. 19:26, Job. 37:23

Titus 1:2, cannot lie
Jn. 16:13

2 Tim. 2:18 can't deny Himself-- No contradictions in His moral character obligations.

Jas. 1:13 Can't be tempted by evil

Infinite-- no physical limits

Eternity will not exhaust the limits of God

Ps. 145:3 "Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

Personal

Personality of God

A. God possesses intelligence and intellectual activity

1 Sam. 2:35 "A faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and soul."

Isa. 1:18 "Come let us reason together"

*God is an intelligent and reasonable God

1 Cor. 2:9 "Eye has not seen"

Imagination

Rev. 20:12 The books of judgment opened

Memory

Heb. 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more"

Ps. 92:5 "Thy thoughts are very deep"

B. God experiences emotional reactions depending on men's attitudes and conducts.

Gen. 6:5-6 The risk God took in making us

Zeph. 3:17

*We are so significant to God that He allows us to make our own choices. An ant before the steamroller.

C. God has a free will

*Character comes from choices

Isa. 12:1

Zech. 1:14-16 God declares "I will"

*Not a computer in the sky

*Not an impersonal energy force

CHART

Wisdom X Justice X Love

These Direct God's Actions

Job 37:23-24

A. Power of God

No physical limits
to His power

Moral limits to God's Choice of Action

Titus 1:2 He cannot lie

Jn. 16:13 Spirit of Truth

Jer. 32:17, 27

Rev. 11:17

-- Thy great power

Rev. 19:6

-- The Almighty

Heb. 11:3

Ps. 29

2 Tim. 2:13 Can't deny Himself, No contradictions in His char. Won't deny His moral obligations as moral governor

Jas. 1:17- No variations or shifting shadow

Jas. 1:13 Can't be tempted by evil

*Why isn't God powerful enough to save the world?

Matt. 19:26 "With God all things are possible"

*Any broken relationship will not be God's fault but man's

*Will God ever use His infinite power to manipulate or coerce (overwhelm) a person into serving Him? Why?

Matt. 14:22-31 Peter walks on the water

Dramatize it: Get out and let go; walking- open mouths; remembering it shouldn't happen; God made the laws of matter- He can override them.

Mk. 4:35-41 Dramatize it

Jn. 6:21 The boat was there immediately

Jonah- Got to Ninevah faster in the fish than it took by ship

WONDERS vs. MIRACLES

Wonders describe the fascination of watching God's creation

Miracles are exceptions to the rule.

1. Consistency is a testimony to His stability and faithfulness; Gravity doesn't change; Sun doesn't go out.

2. God does perform miracles at times to manifest His glory; but it's the exception.

Example: A Christian and non Christian fall off of a 100' cliff
Which one will die?

Example: A believer asks for the sun to come up 5 hours later so he can sleep. What would be the consequences?

*But it did happen- Josh. 10:13
Isaiah 38:8

*Howard Hill Story--How to Live Like a King's Kid

UNCREATED

TRIUNE

CREATOR

The presence of God

"God is not physically far
from any one of us"

God's Manifestation

II Chron. 2:6, Ps. 139:7-10
Jer. 23:24, Prov. 15:3
Col. 1:17

Acts 17:24-28

Near to the humble:
Ps. 34:18, Ps. 145:18-21
Jas. 4:8, Jn. 9:31

Far from the wicked:
Ps. 73:27, Ps. 119:155
Prov. 15:29, Lk. 5:8

B. The presence of God. If God is infinite then where is God?
Everywhere at once!

Ps. 139:7-10
Jer. 23:24

Prov. 15:3

*God is aware of incredible amounts of information:

Stars and galaxies

Sparrows dying

Hairs on your head

Heb. 4:13 All hearts. Heaven is where thoughts are open like the bank word sign.

Col. 1:17 He upholds all things by the word of His power

2 Chron. 2:6 yet He is outside the creation

Universe- not a multiverse, He is over the whole

*Is God in a sinner, in hell, in the Devil?

Example: As a boy I got separated from my parents at a fair, and even though with people I felt alone because I had no relationship with them.

Isa. 59:1-8

God's manifestation

Ps. 34:18

Ps. 145:18-21

Jas. 4:8

Jn. 9:31

near to the humble,
those who love truth

Ps. 73:27

Ps. 119:55

Prov. 15:29

Lk. 5:8

far from the wicked,
those who refuse to
acknowledge truth

*Biblical salvation is a moral reformation, repentance from evil and choosing to live by truth to form a personal relationship with God based on love and trust.

TRIUNE

God is not physically far
from any one of use

Acts 17:24-28

Example: radio waves are in the air but they need a
tuned receiver to detect them.

HELL--IT HURTS

"It happened with shocking quickness. A student had given his secrets, his trust, his love to his girlfriend. Suddenly, she cut him off with no other explanation than, "I don't think it's working out. . ." He was deeply hurt. He was afraid, wondering if he could ever recapture the emotions he'd lost. Sobered, he thought of different people he could trust with secrets, his inner thoughts and dreams, without risking betrayal. He considered his parents. But they'd misinterpreted him too many times. After tries at being honest with them, he had overheard them using a "yes, but listen to what our crazy kid thinks" example for the amusement of their friends. He knew he could not trust his sisters, for they often turned on him selfishly. He thought of others, more harmless. His feeble grandparents and the shy, ugly kid next door. But how could they return his love? What could he get back from them? He thought of God-- but could one even trust Him? Didn't His own Son, in the moment of his greatest need, cry out, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" He decided he could love no one without becoming frighteningly vulnerable. So he didn't. He lived in a shell. He went through polite roles of student, son, brother, and friend. But he never really exposed himself. It was as though he wore armor. He never reached out or responded to others' needs. At least though, he had himself. He lived this way for years. One night after a deep sleep he awakened and found himself in Hell. It wasn't much different.

We shall draw nearer to God not by trying to avoid the sufferings inherent in all loves, but by accepting them and offering them to him, throwing away all defensive armor.

To love is to be vulnerable.

Spiral of Selfishness

results in isolation

*All men are running from God-- Rom. 1:18 Suppress the truth in wickedness

*HS is hounding men to be honest and repent

Since God is everywhere, why can't man know God through his reasoning?

Man is finite, God is infinite

*Our finite minds can't grasp the infinite-- God the infinite must reach down to us and reveal himself.

"Three holy men went into the Temple to pray and contemplate and reflect, and they were pious and good men of much learning and wisdom. They sat in silence in the shadow of the great columns, near the High Altar and gazed upon the veil that hid the Holy of Holies, and they thought of infinity.

"They let their minds roam over God's endless universes of which the Greeks speak, and of the constellations and the galaxies, and one wheeled beyond another, and another beyond that one, and they extended into eternity, and of eternity there was no end.

"The human minds of those men pursued the universe and the constellations and the galaxies into the farthest of space and time, and roamed on and on, and there was no end and no beginning. And their minds reeled with the thought and could not understand nor comprehend nor enfold it, for surely, their human intellects told them, and their knowledge of reality, there is a beginning, there is a border beyond which there is nothing--and at the thought of nothingness, at the thought of endlessness, and even beyond that the abysses of other endlessnesses, and more universes and constellations and more nothingness and no borders, their minds were stricken, and they shrank, and they were filled with the awful cold horror of the thought of infinitude--for what man can grasp it?

"Now one of the men rose up and drove a dagger into his heart, for he could not endure infinity, for it became of unearthly horror to him. And the second man went mad, and ran roaring and raving into the street. And the third man-- the third man lost all his faith and he returned to his companions and said, 'There is no God.'"

Eastern Twist-- bypass the mind altogether

"When you do not understand, then you will know"

"If a tree falls alone in a forest, does it make a sound?"

"What is the sound of one hand clapping?"

God reveals Himself to us:

Eph. 1:17-19 Prayer

We can walk by revelation

Example: Sunday service, Joy and I shared struggles, the church prayed, and Carmen S. was deeply touched.

Example: John Weaver used example of a white thunderbird in father/son example, a pastor there had just bought one = coveting, the man was convicted.

*Truth must come by revelation

*Word of God is His divine revelation to us but the Spirit must enlighten it to our hearts

*Come to the Bible with a need and He will reveal Himself

*Come to the Bible with apathy and you won't get anything

Manufacturer's Handbook

Final Chart

1. Atheistic World View
A. Rationalist

The rationalist lives totally within the boundaries of the finite world. For him, the infinite does not exist, and the finite, material world is all there is. Therefore, he believes all the truth there is to know can be discovered through his five senses and the use of logic.

The rationalist's two key presuppositions are 1) Reason is the only reliable guide to truth, and 2) the supernatural does not exist.

2. Biblical World View
B. Christian

For the Christian, as for the rationalist, the finite world is real. It creates genuine boundaries around our ability to know first-hand what the Infinite is like, and what absolute truth is.

But the Infinite has invaded the finite world, has taken on a finite form Himself, and has revealed to us certain truths about the Infinite, about God.

While on earth, Jesus Christ validated the source of these revelations through a significant body of objective evidence

C. Summary

WORLD VIEW

RATIONALIST

CHRISTIAN

TRUTH PRIMARILY DETERMINED BY:

Reason and sensory observation of material world

Revelation, as evaluated by the rational mind.

HOW TO FIND THE MISSING DAY

One night, after I had found out that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit had really given me new power to witness, my pastor received a prophecy for me. It said that God would open doors for witnessing that I could not imagine. I was willing enough for that to happen, but I had no idea how it would come about. If I had tried to guess, I'd have missed it a mile.

The beginnings were way back in the sixties, when NASA began to function to carry out the President's directive to land a man on the moon. The program got in gear at Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Maryland, not far from where I live. I was involved from the start, through contractual arrangements with my company.

Over the years, throughout the Mercury/Gemini series of space missions, I visited the tracking station in Bermuda in a consulting capacity. My notebook soon became filled with much interesting data which I frequently shared when speaking to high school and college groups on my favorite subject, "Science, Philosophy, Evolution, and the Bible".

One of the stories I told often had to do with a part of the necessary ahead-of-time statistical preparation for the moon walk. The space scientists were checking the position of the sun, moon, and planets out in space, calculating where they would be 100 and 1,000 years from now. In addition, they were looking into the trajectories of known asteroids and meteors so we wouldn't send astronauts and satellites up only to have them bump into something. Satellite orbits have to be laid out in terms of where the heavenly bodies will be so that the whole thing won't become a head-on traffic collision.

Well, as they ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries, it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red flag, which meant that there was something wrong either with the information fed into the computer or with the results as compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out.

"Nothing's wrong with the computer," the technicians said. "It's operating perfectly. What makes you think something's wrong?"

"Well, the computer shows there's a day missing somewhere in elapsed time," the operators said. They rechecked their data and scratched their Educated Idiot Boxes. There was no answer, no logical explanation. They were at a baffled standstill.

Then one religious fellow on the team said, "You know, one time when I was in Sunday school, they talked about the day the sun stood still." He about got laughed out of the room, because nobody believed him, but they didn't have anything else to try, so they invited him to show them what he was talking about. He got a Bible and turned to the book of Joshua where Joshua was called to battle against all the Kings of the Amorites, kind of a formidable array of enemies. In the account, they found a pretty ridiculous statement for anyone who has an ounce of common sense. They found the Lord saying to Joshua, "Fear them not, for I have delivered them into thine hand. There shall not a man of them stand before thee." The Bible went on to say that the Lord slew Joshua's enemies with a great slaughter, and they began to flee before Israel. And the Lord cast down great stones from heaven, and more of the enemy died from the hailstones than were slain by Joshua's troops. But there were some of the enemy left, and Joshua prayed for the sun and moon to stand still until the Israelites had finished avenging themselves upon their enemies.

"And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, and hasted not to go down about a whole day."

"There," the Christian space man said, "There's your missing day. Go ahead and check it out."

Well, they checked out the computers, went all the way back to the time when Joshua defeated the kings, and found the explanation was close, but not close enough. The elapsed time in Joshua's day was only 23 hours and 20 minutes, not a whole day. There was still a discrepancy of forty minutes to be accounted for. Consulting the Bible record again, they found that it did not say that the sun had stood still for a whole day, but for "about (approximately) a whole day.

So they were still in trouble. Forty minutes become extremely significant when they are multiplied many times over in orbits. Then the religious fellow remembered somewhere else in the Bible where it said the sun went backward. Naturally, the other space men told him he was out of his mind, but once again, they had no real choice in the matter, so they went back to the Bible and read in II Kings, the twentieth chapter, how Hezekiah on his deathbed was visited by the prophet Isaiah, who told him that he was not going to die, but that God would heal him so he would be well enough to go to the temple in three days. Furthermore, God promised to give him fifteen more years of life on earth. That was such good news that Hezekiah couldn't believe it! He asked for a sign as proof that God's word was true.

"Do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees?" Isaiah asked him.

"No," Hezekiah said, "It's too easy for the sun to go ahead ten degrees. It does that all the time. It goes ahead every day. But how about letting the shadow return *backward* ten degrees? That'll be a new thing, and then I can believe.

And so Isaiah spoke to the Lord, and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees backward. Ten degrees is exactly forty minutes.

Twenty-three hours and twenty minutes accounted for in Joshua's day, plus forty minutes accounted for in Hezekiah's day-- there was the whole twenty-four hours, the missing day that the space scientists had to make allowance for in the logbook.

I had given this account a number of times in schools and in meetings where I had been invited to speak, using it as just one example of how science is proving that the preposterous things in the Bible are true. And one day it came to the attention of a woman, Mary Kathryn Bryan, who had a column in a newspaper in Spencer, Indiana. She received a written copy of my remarks about the missing day from some unidentified source. Someone had probably prepared it after hearing a tape of one of my talks or had taken notes at a lecture and written them up. No one knows where the written account originated, but that doesn't matter anyway. It was an accurate report, and Miss Bryan was intrigued by it. Unknown to me at the time, she ran it in her column.

Well, I didn't know anything about her newspaper in advance, but I soon found out. Various news services picked up the story and it appeared in *hundreds* of places. My mailbox began to overflow with letters from people who wanted to know more about the missing day. The letters came from just about every country in the world-- and they still come.

It was impossible for me to write a personal reply to each one, so I prepared a form letter explaining that the missing day is well-documented in the early writings of many ancient civilizations. For further details, I referred them to a book called Joshua's Long Day, written by a Yale University professor Dr. C. A. Totten, way back in 1890. In the letter, I gave a brief testimony of what my life had been like before and after I met Jesus, and I encouraged my correspondents to try Him for themselves. With the letter, I enclosed a review of Totten's book and a tract entitled, *Did the Sun Stand Still?*

Some of the people, I've never heard from again. Some have written--or telephoned-- to tell me I'm a liar, and I've had an opportunity to practice forgiveness. Numerous others have let me know that they have been saved as the Holy Spirit ministered to them through His word of truth. Hallelujah! That's what my pastor's prophecy was about. God *had* opened doors for witnessing that I could not have imagined.

Somewhat later, I received a call from the secretary of a pagan periodical in the midwest asking how a mythical God could do such things. When I answered her with my testimony of a Living Savior, she hung up the phone with a loud bang. Later, someone sent me a clipping from the publication for which she works, saying I had admitted the whole thing was a hoax. Shortly thereafter, numerous religious magazines, some of them Christian, began repeating the false "retraction" and apologizing for their original participation in the rerun of the article. Not one of them ever checked with me as to the truth or error of the article as originally published.

For the record-- the report is true, the retraction false. Conversions that have resulted from the Holy Spirit working through the original article, the letter, and the tract, have demonstrated the truth of the word of God-- "By their fruits ye shall know them." God doesn't save people through false reports.

The whole sequence of events has demonstrated to me how prone even Christians are to believe a lie instead of the truth, how ready they are to fall into Satan's trap. But God's word is true though all men be liars.

And my inability to furnish documentation of the "Missing Day" incident in no way detracts from its authenticity. "God said it-- I believe it-- that settles it." But even though I choose to not believe it, God still said it, and that really *does* settle it.

Quite understandably, NASA has been hard put to reply to the deluge of letters they have received on the subject, copies of which many inquirers have

sent to me. One NASA letter disclaims all knowledge of me. Another gives my home address for further information, while still another acknowledges my affiliation with their program. It must be rather a strain trying to please all the religious, political, scientific, and ethnic groups to which they are exposed. Pray for them!

At the start of my controversial role in this incident, when accusations of "liar"-- "hoax" -- "phony" -- began to come my way, I tended to become defensive and a little put out at God. After all, He had placed me in this embarrassing position of being without defense or excuse. Once or twice, in fact, I was right on the verge of throwing a massive pity party-- martyr pills and all! How could they *dare* doubt my veracity, honesty, and integrity!

Then the Lord seemed to speak, *Hill, what good reputation are you worried about?*

"Forgive me Lord," I said. "Without You I am a complete phony instead of a partial one. But Lord, Your reputation is at stake," I continued.

To which He replied, *Hasn't it always been? And that's where you come in as My witness. You have to tell it as it is, and depend on My Holy Spirit as the only convicting, saving power in the universe.*

So my entire reliance is on God as my witness that it is all true as reported. King's kids are reporters, not explainers. Hallelujah!

And King's kids can live like King's kids as long as they choose His way, and stand by it. God will always honor the word of our testimony with fruit. What is the fruit of Christians? Baby Christians! And we are empowered to tell it like it is.

TO: *All who have requested more "Missing Day" Details.* (Joshua 10:13; II Kings 20:11)

Please excuse this form letter reply to your request for more details about the Missing Day. Nearly 5000 letters and calls make it impossible to write each of you a personal letter. I did not write the article in question but have spoken on numerous occasions on the Harmony of the Bible and Science and assume it was adapted from one of these presentations. The *Evening World* of Spencer, Indiana, first published it, and permission to reprint should be obtained from them. Since the incident first came to my attention. . . I have misplaced details regarding names and places but will be glad to forward them to you when they turn up. In the meantime, I can only say that had I not considered the information to be reliable, I would not have used it in the first place.

The early writings of many ancient civilizations contain documentation of a "long day" a "day of twice natural length", etc. Such statements appear in historical lore of the Aztecs, Peruvians, Chinese, Babylonians, etc. The eminent scientist, Professor C. A. Totten of Yale University, through his discovery of a day missing in solar time, substantiated by astronomical processes the details as set forth in the Biblical account. From the detailed procedure given in his book *Joshua's Long Day* (available from Destiny Publishers, Merrimac, Mass., 01860), anyone skilled in the art should be able to write his own computer program.

While it is gratifying to see the perfect harmony between the Bible and the world of science, a Christian does not need to prove God in terms of His physical universe; his understanding should be founded on the solid foundation of "Thus saith the Lord." Prior to my meeting God personally through His Son Jesus Christ about sixteen years ago, my life was dreary, empty boredom, and religion was a dry, lifeless, pious absurdity as I went from one group to another with no change in the deadly monotony of the dried-out "churchianity" of frustrated seekers after Reality. Successful on the outside, within me I had an awful anxious uncertainty, an empty uneasiness that no amount of activity or attainment could satisfy. Being the product of an extremely stupid educational system which teaches only how to make a living but leaves out altogether any training in how to live, I was poorly equipped to cope with the grim reality of life, the basis of which is cold and irrational without a Personal God. After nearly a half century of searching for completeness and fulfillment, I met a man who had discovered that God has a first Name and that Name is Jesus, and that if I would invite Him to do so, He would move in and take up residence within me. I did and He did, and now the former emptiness and restless anxiety have been replaced with an inner peace and security that even the most violent outer turmoil cannot disturb, and His abiding Presence is continuous Reality. I became born again by the Spirit of God and received Eternal Life from His own Son. All that tormenting burden of inner guilt and remorse were completely washed away as by a mighty river, and I now have that wonderful peace that only comes through being right with God. Shortly after I met Jesus Christ as my Savior, He baptized me in His Holy Spirit, and life is now a continuous adventure in this new dimension where the Gifts of the Spirit produce amazing results in my everyday affairs, as promised in First Corinthians 12:14.

Of the many interesting things I have learned about religious folks since your letters began pouring in several months ago, the most amazing is the readiness of some Christians to be negatively influenced by scoffers. A few derisive remarks

from a pagan scoffer appear to send many of you scurrying for theological cover! It ought to be just the reverse, if we are walking in the power of God's Spirit. We are warned that in these last days the world will be full of scoffers but our faith should be solidly anchored to the Word of God, the unshakable foundation of all born-again people of God. My God is very much alive and readily available to all who will call upon Him for answers to life. Try the Baltimore Experiment for sixty days by simply asking Jesus Christ each morning to take charge of your life and affairs for just this one day. Then, as evidence that you are trusting the New Manager to handle all the details, acknowledge and thank Him for *all* that happens, regardless of appearances. Everyone I have known who has tried this has been highly pleased with results. Dare to place your trust in God, and He promises to satisfy the desires of your heart.

God bless you,

Harold E. Hill