

The Immensity of God

Scripture Reading: Acts 17.22-24.

Key Verse: "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwells not in temples made with hands;" v24.

By immensity we mean that the nature of God is unlimited regarding space. He is not only the Alpha and Omega, but the zero and infinity and all measurement cannot reach Him. Accordingly there is no where that God is not. In this He is unique therefore there is no where that God is not God. Time and space is the framework of God's creation. The Bible covers it in Genesis 1 and the opening words, "In the beginning God . . ." (not the beginning of God, for there is none, but the origin of what is made).

There is a similarity in Immensity to Omnipresence which has to do with creation, Our topic today has to do with time and space, or the structure which allows creation to exist. To illustrate this difference, think of these notes. The study notes is the form of words which appear on the printed page. But without the paper and ink, the notes could not exist, so without time there would be no ages or days or moments. Without space there would be no place, no coming or going.

God does not occupy space. He does not need space for Himself, for He is not physical, or human like unto us with all our frailties and failings. Note Numbers 23.19 *'God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent. Has he said, and shall he not do it? or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?'* See also 1 Samuel 15.29. Nor does God need space for His environment. Psalm 113:4 *'The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.'* He does not move through space, not even with the speed of light. He transcends it. Anslem, Bishop of Canterbury* is credited with saying, 'Nothing contains thee, but thou containest all things.' Yet even this is not true in as much that it suggests that God is but a greater space. Let us be content

to simply say that time and space is a work of God in framing creation. This leads us to consider:

God is not limited by space, as He is not subject to it. 1 Kings 8.27 *'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. . .'* It may be more simple to remember that *'God is spirit'*. John 4.24. (Not 'a spirit' as the Authorised version translates it. Spirit is an attribute of His nature, not a description of His substance) Do you recall when the disciples were gathered secretly for fear of the Jews when suddenly the resurrected Jesus stood in their midst and said, *'Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and*

bones, as you see me have.' Luke 24:39. He was showing them that He was a man, a risen man, not a ghost or a disembodied human spirit, and to prove it he ate some food before them, some fish and honeycomb, which when he presently vanished from their sight, it vanished with him. Although he was man, he was man as God intended that man should be, and what those redeemed in Christ Jesus will one day be at His coming. He was as man subject to but with mastery over the laws of nature within created structure, the laws of time and space. But God who is spirit is different. John says of Him, *'No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.'* John 1.18. See also 1 John 4:12&20. This thought leads us to:

Space is important to God, Heaven is a place Jesus told His disciples *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare*

a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself. . ." John 14.2&3. The word 'place' here is translated from a word meaning a defined space such as a field or room separate from its surroundings. See also Hebrews 11.10, 11.14 & 13.14 and Revelation 21.10-22.5

Likewise hell is a place, the abode of the ungodly. If heaven is a place so is hell. There are various descriptions of this place given in the Bible. See for example Matthew 5.30, 2 Peter 2.17 and Revelation 20.10

Space is important to God, because as John 1.18 has told us Jesus the Son of God entered our frame work through the virgin birth to make God known and also because Jesus was appointed to a time and a place for His Son to complete the work of reconciliation by His death at Calvary. See 2 Corinthians 5.19. This is necessary because man who walks upon this earth is created an eternal spiritual being. Genesis 2.7.

'Yield room for some little time with God; and rest for a little time in Him. Enter the inner chamber of your mind; shut out all thoughts except that of God, and such as can help you in seeking Him; close your door and seek Him. Speak now my heart! Speak now to God, saying, I seek now your face; your face Lord, will I seek. And come now Lord my God, teach my heart where and how it may seek you, where and how it may find you.' *Anslem (1033-1109) One of the Norman conquerors and later Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bibliography: Strong A H, Systematic Theology 1907 Twentieth Edition 1958

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