

THEOLOGY PROPER

GLORY OF GOD

NG 1300

PERFECTIONS



A. Introduction

B. Incommunicable Perfections

1. Self-Existent

2. Omnipresence

3. Immutability

PERFECTIONS

- All His qualities are perfect
- Not a part of God but what God is
- He is more than sum of perfections
- Known only thru revelation
- Describe Father, Son, & HS

NGC1350

GOD'S

IMMUTABILITY

MISCONCEPTIONS

1. God changes plan as needed
2. After Fall salvation initiated
3. Immutability = immobility
4. Open Theism
5. Sovereign plan vs. responsibility

OPEN THEISM

- **Stresses man's & angel's freedom**
- **Decisions contingent on man**
- **God's love takes risk of rejection**
- **Knows only some of future**
- **Responsive to man**
- **Changes as man changes**
- **Prayer changes God's direction**

PROBLEMS

- 1. Diminished God's Perfections**
- 2. Elevates man's actions over God's**
- 3. Makes God dependent on creatures**
- 4. Elevates creatures' will above God's will**
- 5. Diminishes God's decrees & plan**
- 6. Undermines future security**
- 7. Elevates God's love as main purpose**

**Does God revise
His plan?**

**How does prayer
affect God?**



GOD DOES NOT...

Andromeda

Change in His Essence & Purposes

IMMUTABILITY

1. Unchanging in His Essence

**“All that God is He has
always been, & all that He has
been and is He will ever be. ...
To say that God is immutable
is to say that He never differs
from Himself”**

Tozer

“As an infinite & absolute Being, self-existent & absolutely independent, God is exalted above all causes of and even above the possibility of change.”

Hodge

Ps 102:26-27 “Even they will perish,
but Thou dost **endure**; And all of
them will wear out like a garment;
Like clothing Thou wilt change
them, and they will be changed.
“But Thou art the **same**, And Thy
years will not come to an end.

Mal 3:6 “For I, the Lord, **do not**
change; therefore you, O sons of
Jacob, are not consumed.

IMMUTABILITY

- 1. Unchanging in His Essence**
- 2. Unchanging in His Attributes**

**Ps 104:31 Let the glory of the
LORD endure forever; ...**

**Jas 1:17 ... the Father of lights,
with whom there is no
variation, or shifting
shadow.**

IMMUTABILITY

- 1. Unchanging in His Essence**
- 2. Unchanging in His Attributes**
- 3. Unchanging in His Decrees**

**Ps 33:11 The counsel of the
LORD stands forever, The
plans of His heart from
generation to generation.**

IMMUTABILITY

- 1. Unchanging in His Essence**
- 2. Unchanging in His Attributes**
- 3. Unchanging in His Decrees**
- 4. Unchanging in His Purposes**

**Ps 110:4 The Lord has sworn and
will not change His mind, ...**

**Heb 6:17... the unchangeableness
of His purpose, ...**

IMMUTABILITY

- 1. Unchanging in His Essence**
- 2. Unchanging in His Attributes**
- 3. Unchanging in His Decrees**
- 4. Unchanging in His Purposes**
- 5. Never inconsistent**
- 6. Never growing**

**Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the
same yesterday and today,
yes and forever.**

ALL OTHERS

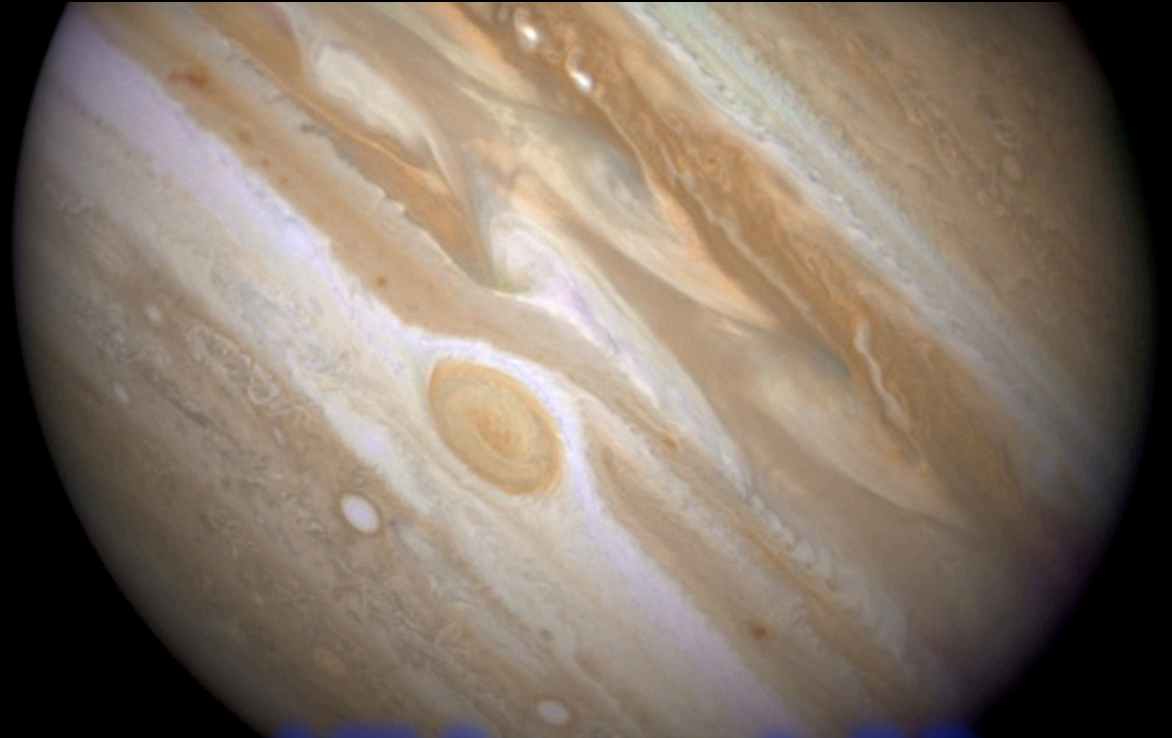
➤ Heavens

➤ Earth

➤ Sinners

➤ Angels

➤ Believers



All is unstable

Only God is Stable

Jupiter &
Ganymede

God Changing???

- Creation
- Repenting



Gen 6:6 The Lord was **sorry that
He had made man on the
earth, and He was **grieved** in
His heart.**

RESOLUTION

- Prioritize clear passages
- Apparent repentance -
Num 23:19, 1Sam15:29



God Changing???

- Creation
- Repenting
- Changing
directions



**Ex 32:14 So the Lord changed His
mind about the harm which He
said He would do to His people.**

RESOLUTION

- Prioritize clear passages
 - Apparent repentance -
Num 23:19, 1Sam15:29
 - Anthropomorphic
changes
 - Conditional
situations -
- Jonah 3:4, 10
- 

Jer 18:7-10 “At **one moment** I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; 8 **if** that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will **relent** concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. 9 “Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; 10 **if** it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I **will think better** of the good with which I had promised to bless it.

God Changing???

- Creation
- Repenting
- Changing directions
- Incarnation - Phil 2:6-7



Phil 2:6-7 who, although He
existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with
God a thing to be grasped,
7 but **emptied Himself,**
taking the form of a bond-
servant, and being made in
the likeness of men.

God Changing???

- **Creation**
- **Repenting**
- **Changing directions**
- **Incarnation - Phil 2:6-7**
- **Change after conversion**



IMPLICATIONS

- **Decrees will never change**
- **Science is possible**
- **Love never reversed**
- **Believer eternally secure**
- **Obedience part of plan**
- **Perseverance needed**

Neptune
& Triton

**We are
eternally
secure in
His plan!!**



PERFECTIONS

A. Introduction

B. Incommunicable Perfections

- 1. Self-Existent**
- 2. Omnipresence**
- 3. Immutability**
- 4. Eternality**

NGC1350

GOD'S

ETERNALITY

“The idea of endlessness is to the kingdom of God what carbon is to the kingdom of nature. As carbon is present almost everywhere, as it is an essential element in all living matter & supports all life with energy, so the concept of everlastingness is necessary to give meaning to any Christian doctrine. Indeed I know of no tenet of the Christian creed that could retain its significance if the idea of eternity were extracted from it.”

(AWT)

The background of the entire image is a deep space photograph. It features the Andromeda Galaxy (M31) as the central subject, appearing as a bright, elongated, and slightly tilted spiral galaxy with a dense core. The galaxy's structure is composed of numerous stars and interstellar dust, creating a complex pattern of light and dark. The surrounding space is filled with countless other stars of varying brightness, some appearing as sharp points of light and others as more diffuse clouds. The overall color palette is dominated by the deep blues and blacks of space, punctuated by the warm yellows and oranges of the galaxy's core and the cool whites of the distant stars.

GOD ...

Andromeda

**Forever exists
outside time**

ETERNAL

- Everlastingness assumed
- God outside of time
- Free from limitation of time
- God is Creator of time

**“The eternity of God is His
essence as related to duration.
It is duration without
beginning, without end &
without succession.”**

WGT Shedd

**He does not exist during one
period of duration more than
another ...**

**no distinction between past,
present, and future**

Hodge

**Ps 90:2 Before the mountains were
born, Or Thou didst give birth
to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to
everlasting, Thou art God.**

**Ps 93:2 Thy throne is established
from of old; Thou art from
everlasting.**

**1Tim 1:17 Now to the King
eternal, immortal, invisible,
the only God, be honor and
glory forever and ever.**

**Rom 16:26 ..., according to the
commandment of the eternal
God, ...**

ATTRIBUTES

- **Name**
- **Glory**
- **Sovereignty**
- **Righteousness**
- **Lovingkindness**



Jupiter &
Ganymede

HIS WORKS

- Word
- Purposes
- Covenant
- Gospel
- Salvation
- Kingdom



PERFECTIONS

A. Introduction

B. Incommunicable Perfections

- 1. Self-Existent**
- 2. Omnipresence**
- 3. Immutability**
- 4. Eternality**
- 5. Infinity**

NGC1350

GOD'S

INFINITY

INFINITY

- **Free from all limitations**
- **All attributes are infinite**
- **Absolute perfect**

**1Kg 8:27 “But will God indeed dwell
on the earth? Behold, heaven and
the highest heaven **cannot contain
Thee**, how much less this house
which I have built!**

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

Job 11:7-9 “Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the **limits** of the Almighty?

Rom 11:33-34 Oh, the **depth** of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable** are His judgments and **unfathomable** His ways!

RELATED

- **Time**
- **Space**
- **Ability**
- **Knowledge**
- **Authority**
- **Purity**



IMPLICATIONS

- Great gift to us - life
- Perspective - eternal
- Potential - eternal work
- Humility
- Infinite resources

**What are you
accomplishing
that will last
forever?**



PERFECTIONS

A. Introduction

B. Incommunicable Perfections

C. Communicable Perfections

1. Omniscience

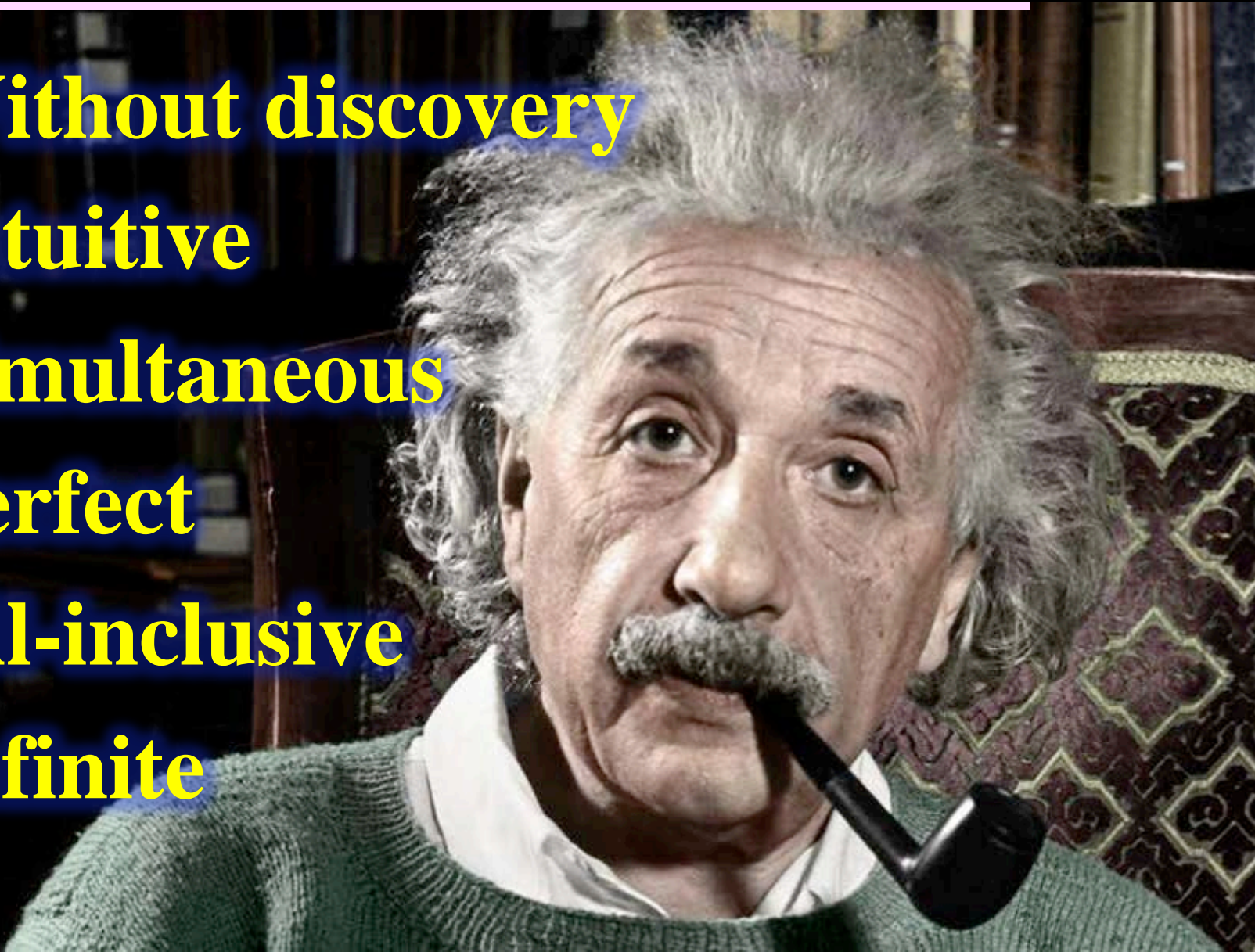
NGC1350

GOD'S

OMNISCIENCE

OMNISCIENCE

1. Without discovery
2. Intuitive
3. Simultaneous
4. Perfect
5. All-inclusive
6. Infinite



**“God knows all actual &
possible things past, present, &
future”**

C. Ryrie

“That perfection of God whereby He, in an entirely unique manner, knows Himself and all things possible and actual in one eternal and most simple act.”

L. Berkhof

Ps 147:4-5 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His **understanding is infinite.**

Ps 92:5 How great are Thy works, O Lord! Thy **thoughts are very deep.**

1Jn 3:20 in whatever our heart
condemns us; for God is greater
than our heart, and **knows all
things.**

Col 2:3 in whom are hidden **all** the
treasures of **wisdom** and
knowledge.

SCOPE

1. Knows Himself - Jn 10:15

2. Knows all about Man

Men & works - Prov 5:21

Thoughts & hearts - Ps 139:16

Burdens & needs - Mt 6:32

Sin - Ps 90:8

3. Future

PERFECTIONS

A. Introduction

B. Incommunicable Perfections

C. Communicable Perfections

1. Omniscience

2. Omnipotence

NGC1350

GOD'S

OMNIPOTENCE

**He has infinite power to do
anything which He wills and
can do anything consistent with
His nature**

“That perfection of His being by which He is the absolute and highest causality and whereby He, thru the mere exercise of His will, can realize what so ever is present in His will or counsel.”

L. Berkhof

Eph 1:19-20 And what is the surpassing greatness of His **power** (δυναμις) toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the **working** (εργεια) of the **strength** (κρατος) of His **might** (ισχυς) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand ...

**Ps 62:11 Once God has spoken;
Twice I have heard this: That
power belongs to God;**

**Ps 135:6 Whatever the Lord
pleases, He **does**, In heaven
and in earth, in the seas and in
all deeps.**

**Jer 32:17 ‘Ah Lord God! Behold,
Thou hast made the heavens
and the earth by Thy great
power and by Thine
outstretched arm! Nothing is
too difficult for Thee,**

**Jer 32:27 “Behold, I am the Lord,
the God of all flesh; is
anything too difficult for Me?”**

Mt 19:26 ... “With men this is impossible, but with God **all things are possible.”**

Lk 1:37 “For nothing will be **impossible with God.”**

DISPLAY

1. Nature -

2Pet 3:10




1:20 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.

OMNIPOTENT POWER

- **Diam = 865,000 mi**
109x earth
- **From earth = 93 million mi**
- **Light takes 8:20 min**
- **Orbits galaxy = 240 million yrs**
- **100 billion suns in Milky Way**
- **100 billion galaxies in universe**

DISPLAY

- 
- A large, bright orange and yellow mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion rises from a dark, rocky ground. The cloud has a thick, billowing base and a large, rounded top. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is dramatic and powerful.
1. Nature - 2Pet 3:10
 2. History - Ps 111:6
 3. Judgment - Rev 20:11-15
 4. Redemption - Ex 13:3, 14
 5. Men

POWER & Men

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Rebellious - | Rev 19:15 |
| 2. Believers - | 2Pet 1:3 |
| 3. Down trodden - | Isa 40:29 |
| 4. Life - | Deut 8:18 |
| 5. Obedience - | Eph 3:20 |
| 6. Warfare - | Eph 6:10 |
| 7. Glorification - | Phil 3:21 |

PERFECTIONS

A. Introduction

B. Incommunicable Perfections

C. Communicable Perfections

1. Omniscience

2. Omnipotence

3. Holiness