



THE ATTRIBUTES OF

GOD

Question

What is an attribute?

The Attributes of God

An attribute is a property intrinsic to its subject by whom the subject is distinguished or defined. God is more than the sum of His attributes.

When one has an understanding of God from General (Creation) or Special revelation (The Bible), the knowledge that one learns is still less than our full understanding of God.

Attributes of God

Incommunicable Attribute

An incommunicable attribute is a characteristic or quality that cannot be shared with another person. For example, God is omniscient. Man is not. God is eternal. Man is not. Certain characteristics of His being are not given to His creation.

Attributes of God

Communicable Attribute

A communicable attribute is a characteristic or quality that can be shared with another person and can be reflected in us through the Holy Spirit. God is holy and expects us to be holy.

Attributes of God

Incommunicable Attribute

An incommunicable attribute is a characteristic or quality that cannot be shared or transferred to another person. For example, God is omniscient. Man is not. God cannot communicate certain characteristics of His being to the creatures He has made.

Communicable Attribute

A communicable attribute is an attribute that can be shared or transferred from one person to another. For example, God is love and loves man. Man can also love. In this sense both God and man know and experience Love, albeit on a creaturely level.

Why God cannot make another of Himself

- If God creates anything, it is by definition a creature, lacking the essential attributes of eternality, and immutability.

Importance of God's Attributes-Your Worldview

- **A high view of God leads to holy living and a desire to know and please Him.**
- **A low view of God leads to a distorted view of God**

- **God Makes Himself known by displaying His attributes.**
- **God Glorifies Himself by making Himself known.**

God Makes Himself Known By Displaying His Attributes

“Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, LORD, are God.” (2 Kings 19:19)

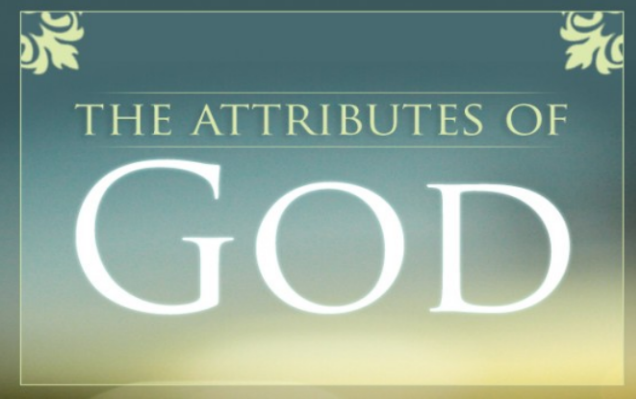
For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
(Rom. 1:20)

“that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, so that you may fear the Lord your God forever.” (Joshua 4:24)

God Glorifies Himself by Making Himself Known

“Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, LORD, are the only God.” (Is. 37:20)

**“No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”
(Jer. 31:34)**



**Some of God's
Incommunicable
Attributes : Sovereignty
Omniscience
Omnipotence
Omnipresence**

Definition of Sovereignty

God is the Supreme Being. “He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. He is Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him.”



A.W. Pink

A.W. Pink, The Attributes of God (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1975), 32.

“No doctrine in the whole Word of God has more importance to understand than the truth of the absolute sovereignty of God.”



C. H. Spurgeon

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Exploring the Mind and Heart of the Prince of Preachers: Five-Thousand Illustrations Selected from the Works of Charles Haddon Spurgeon* (Oswego, IL: Fox River Press, 2005), 199.

What does Sovereignty mean in relation to God?

- **Sovereignty means God rules over His creation (Ps. 33:6-22; 1 Chron. 29:11-12).**

1 Chron. 29:11-12

“Lord, you are great and powerful. You have glory, victory, and honor. Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you. The kingdom belongs to you, Lord; you are the ruler over everything. Riches and honor come from you. You rule everything. You have the power and strength to make anyone great and strong.”

What does Sovereignty mean in relation to God?

- Sovereignty means God rules over His creation (Ps. 33:6-22; 1 Chron. 29:11-12).**
- Sovereignty means that God's power cannot be thwarted, stopped, or dismissed.**

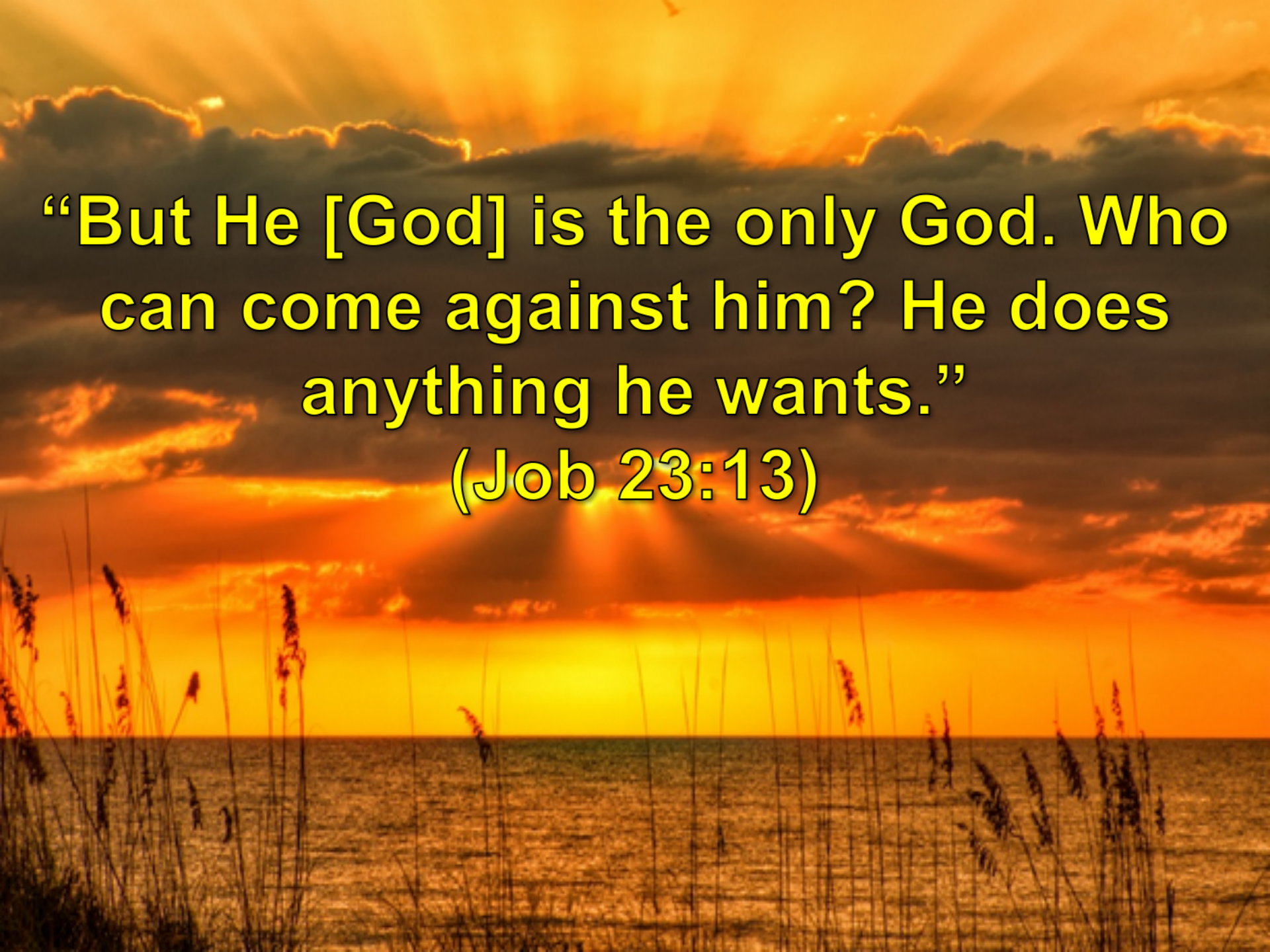
What does Sovereignty mean in relation to God?

- Sovereignty means God rules over His creation (Ps. 33:6-22; 1 Chron. 29:11-12).**
- Sovereignty means that God's power cannot be thwarted by His enemies (Dan. 4).**
- Sovereignty means that God can do whatever He desires (Job 23:13).**

Rom. 9:11–24

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.”

So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?” On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

The background of the image is a vibrant sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds that are illuminated from below by the sun, creating a dramatic play of light and shadow. The sun itself is a bright, glowing orb positioned just above the horizon line, which is a calm body of water. In the foreground, several tall, thin stalks of grass or reeds are visible, their silhouettes dark against the bright, orange-hued sky and water. The overall color palette is dominated by warm tones of orange, yellow, and deep red, with the dark silhouettes of the clouds and grass providing contrast.

**“But He [God] is the only God. Who
can come against him? He does
anything he wants.”
(Job 23:13)**

Why is God's Sovereignty important to us?

- Because we can trust that God's purposes for our lives will be accomplished (Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:19)**

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- Because we can trust that God's purposes for our lives will be accomplished (Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:19)
- Because we can trust that even in adversity, God has his glory and my greater good as His priority (Rom. 8:28-31)

“We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

(Rom. 8:28-31)



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God's Omniscience

God's Omniscience

- **Omni-** all or to have all
- **Science-** Knowledge

God's Omniscience

God is omniscient. God has knowledge of all things actual and potential. Nothing escapes His notice, nothing can be hidden from Him and nothing is forgotten by God. He even knows the outcome of decisions we chose not to make, had we chosen to make them. Because God is omniscient, it is impossible for God to be surprised by our actions.

(1 Sam. 23:10-11; Ps. 147:5, 139:2-4,6; Prov. 19:21; Ezek. 11:5; Dan. 2:22; Heb. 4:13; 1 Jn. 3:19-20)

**“LORD, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I stand up;
You understand my thoughts from far away. You
observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of
all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You
know all about it, LORD.”
(Ps. 139:1-4)**

**“Then the Spirit of the LORD came on me, and He
told me, ‘You are to say: This is what the LORD
says: That is what you are thinking, house of
Israel; and I know the thoughts that arise in your
mind’.”
(Ezk. 11:5)**

**“Many plans are in a man’s heart, but
the LORD’s decree will prevail.”
(Prov. 19:21)**

**“We will know by this that we are of the
truth, and will assure our heart before
Him in whatever our heart condemns us;
for God is greater than our heart and
knows all things.”
(1 John 3:19-20)**

God Knows All Possibilities

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."
John 4:10



God knows all things

“Can anyone teach God knowledge, since He judges those on high?” (Job 21:22)

“Do you know the balance of the clouds, those wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge” (Job 37:16).

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3).

“Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; his understanding is infinite” (Psalm 147:5).

Joseph's example with his brothers

**“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”
(Gen. 50:20)**

God knows all things

**“Remember what I accomplished in antiquity!
Truly I am God, I have no peer; I am God, and
there is none like me, who announces the end
from the beginning and reveals beforehand what
has not yet occurred, who says, ‘My plan will be
realized, I will accomplish what I desire,’”**

(Is. 46:9–10)

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