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OUR INFINITE AND MAGNIFICENT GOD

By M.B. Hammond Jr.

We often speak of our God as being infinite, but do we have any idea how big infinity really is? Men measure things that they can see, like inch, foot, yard, a mile and even hundreds of miles on maps. The fastest data travel in our computers is limited by the speed of light.

When we start conversing in astronomical terms very great distances are involved, which might seem infinite. The earth is 93,000,000 miles from the sun, and light traveling at 186,000 miles a second takes over eight minutes to reach the earth from the sun. God put man on earth rather than any of the other planets in the solar system because He designed it to provide warmth and an atmosphere with water and all the environmental factors to sustain life. He tilted the axis to provide seasons and helped to generate weather patterns. For example, if you observe carefully when lightning strikes in an electrical storm, the static produced is immediate on AM radio but the thunder may come five or ten seconds later if the strike is one or two miles away from you. Why is this? Light travels at 186,000 miles per second, but sound travels at about 1,000 feet per second.

One of our first astronomical numbers is a light year, which is the distance light travels in one year and is a 586.4 trillion miles, (about 500 million, million, million miles). The Lord asked Job, **Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades?** (No other constellation has as many bright stars as Orion, and the Pleiades, which looks like about 3-6 stars, is actually about 3,000 stars) **Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? Do you know the law of the heavens? Can you set up God's dominion over the earth?** (Job 38:31-32, *NIV*).

The only reason God could control His universe and be infinite is because he can be anywhere and everywhere at anytime, past, present or future. In Acts 6:26-39 Philip was called by an angel from his work in Samaria to go down to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. This Ethiopian was an important man in the

court of Candace queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, when they met, the eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53, which described how Jesus, the Messiah, went as a lamb to the slaughter. The eunuch asked for an explanation and he learned this was about Jesus Christ and asked to be baptized. When it was accomplished, Philip was immediately taken away to Azotus and preached to all the cities on the road to Caesarea. His travel of a few hundreds of miles in two steps had been instantaneous.

What vast power He must have to create this universe just by the power of His breath creating these magnificent heavens with thousands of the heavenly host and this Earth. He is truly infinite, but we cannot reach infinity. He, our God, is so great that He is in contact with everything and is in the universe in an instant. And just as strange to us is how He is not bounded by time, being always able to go back or forward by thousands of years as if this were no great task. The magnificent solar system (planets) are fixed in place, tied with gravitational bonds holding them (planets) in their unique orbits circling the sun (including our planets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn) all going around the sun in ceaseless procession. In Job 26:1-13 God is being described here in His great power: In Job 26:1-13 (NASB) God is being described here in His great power: **Then Job replied (to Bildad's comments in Job 25), What a help you are to the weak! How you have saved the arm without strength! What counsel you have given to one without wisdom! What helpful insight you have abundantly provided! To whom have you uttered words? And whose spirit was expressed through you? The departed spirits (Rephaim) tremble under the waters and their inhabitants. Naked is Sheol before Him and Abaddon (state of destruction) has no covering. He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. He wraps up the waters in His clouds, and the cloud does not burst under them. He obscures the face of the full moon and spreads His cloud over it. He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness. The pillars of heaven tremble and are amazed at His rebuke. He quieted the sea with His power. And by His understanding He shattered Rahab. By His breath the heavens are cleared, His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent.**

The Bible tells us much about God in His own words. He says (Isa. 40: 17-21, NIV): **Before Him all the nations are as nothing To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare Him to? As for an idol, a craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it. A man too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to**

set up an idol that will not topple. Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

When we begin to think of our God as being infinite in all His attributes, our biggest difficulty is understanding how large infinity really is. This is most difficult to describe. God is great but how great is "great"? Satan thought that he could be greater than God: **How you have fallen from heaven, O Morning Star? You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations. You said in your heart, I will ascend; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of the assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain (Mount Zion). I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. But you are brought down to the grave to the depths of the pit. Those that see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: 'Is this the man who shook the earth and made the kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?' All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled under foot, you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people. The offspring of the wicked will never be mentioned again** (Isa. 14:13-20, NIV).

People who compare this with any of the attributes of God do not realize God has said, **To whom will you compare Me or count Me equal? To whom will ye liken Me that we may be compared?** (Isa. 46:5, NIV). And **Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come...** (Isa. 46:9-10, NIV). Our problem is that we see God from a very limited perspective as human beings. We cannot conceive the "infinite" character of God. He presents Himself on two-dimensional pages of the Holy Scripture and describes Himself often in amazing pictures of His magnificence. The magnitude of God is also seen in His attention to the minutest details of His creation. Men have learned about the many very small components of this world. We have learned of protons, neutrons, positrons and electrons as the building blocks of elements that, when joined together, become molecules. Human research had learned that many other subatomic particles are actively part of the building blocks of this creation. But, all that our science has learned was created by God in the beginning, and the more we discover, the more magnificent the work of God becomes to us.

The name of God should be greatly hallowed by men who love their Savior, even their God. To do this we must honor and give glory to our great God, and in doing this we need to appreciate that God is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. We need to know that His glory is measured in the esteem in which He is held by His people all over the world. We know that

ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23, KJV). The glory of God is measured by the esteem in which His people hold Him and the ability of His people to follow what is called "the Law of Christ," like what is shown in Matthew 5-7. We are told to love our enemies, not just our friends and neighbors. These laws are not for today but are for the Kingdom of God. Today, this requires us to study to gain a familiarity with His requests.

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