

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God

Lesson 20 - The Attributes of God: Immensity and Omnipresence

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture taken from the New King James Version.

Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Immensity and Omnipresence

- God is perfectly present with Himself, transcending all limitations of space, and yet present with every point of space with all that He is. - MacArthur, pg. 173
- Transcendence means that God is greater than and independent of the creation. Immensity refers to the fact that God transcends and fills all space. Omnipresence indicates that God is present with every point of space in His entire being. - ibid
- God does not have size or special dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being, yet God acts differently in different places. - Grudem, pg. 173

Immensity and Omnipresence

- God is the Creator and possessor of all things (Gen. 14:19, 22; Deut. 10:14; Col. 1:16; Rev. 10:6).
- Deut. 10:14 Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it.
- Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- Heaven and Earth cannot contain Him (1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chron. 2:6; Isa. 66:1; Acts 7:48-49).
- Isa. 66:1 Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? 2 For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist,” Says the Lord.

Immensity and Omnipresence

- God fills the heaven and earth, so nothing is hidden from His presence, and He is both close and far off (Psa. 139:7-10; Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28).
- Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.
- God manifests Himself variously in various places:
- He dwells on His throne in heaven (Deut. 26:15; 2 Sam. 22:7; Psa. 11:4; 33:13; 115:3, 16; Isa. 63:15; Matt. 5:34; 6:9; John 14:2; Eph. 1:20).

Immensity and Omnipresence

- God manifests Himself variously in various places:
- He descends from heaven (Gen. 3:8; 11:5; 12:7; 15:1; 18:1; Exodus 3:7-8; 19:9; Deut. 33:2).
- He dwells in the midst of His people (Exodus 20:24; 25:8; 40:34-35; Deut. 12:11; 1 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 6:2; 1 Kings 8:10-11).
- He is far (relationally) from the wicked (Psa. 11:5; 50:16-21; 145:20).
- He is close (relationally) to the righteous (Psa. 11:7; 51:19; Isa. 57:15).
- Christ is the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9).
- God indwells the Church (John 14:23; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19).

Immensity and Omnipresence

- God transcends space since it is a part of creation and He inhabits eternity, not being bound by any one point in space.
- God is not separate from creation, but upholds all of it by His presence.
- It may be better to say that God is *with* time and space rather than being *in* time and space.
- Jeremiah 23:“Am I a God near at hand,” says the Lord, “And not a God afar off? 24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?” says the Lord; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.
- Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and have our being...
- Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...