

Cornerstone Bible Church

Systematic Theology

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Acknowledgment & Credits:

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LECTURES ON INTRODUCTION TO
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY TAUGHT BY
RAFAEL ALCANTARA IN 2009 DURING THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT IGLESIA BIBLICA DEL
SEÑOR JESUCRISTO. MATERIAL ADDED AND
EXPANDED FOR THIS CLASS

THEOLOGY PROPER

General Contents:

1. The Existence of God
2. The Attributes of God
3. The Trinity
4. Creation
5. Providence

The Attributes of God

The Attributes of God

1. Recommended reading: (classics on this subject)

Thomas Watson – A Body of Divinity –

Stephen Charnock – The Attributes and Existence of God

J.I. Packer – Knowing God -

2. Classification:

a) Can they really be classified?

b) Communicable and Incommunicable

3. Enumeration:

1) The Aseity of God

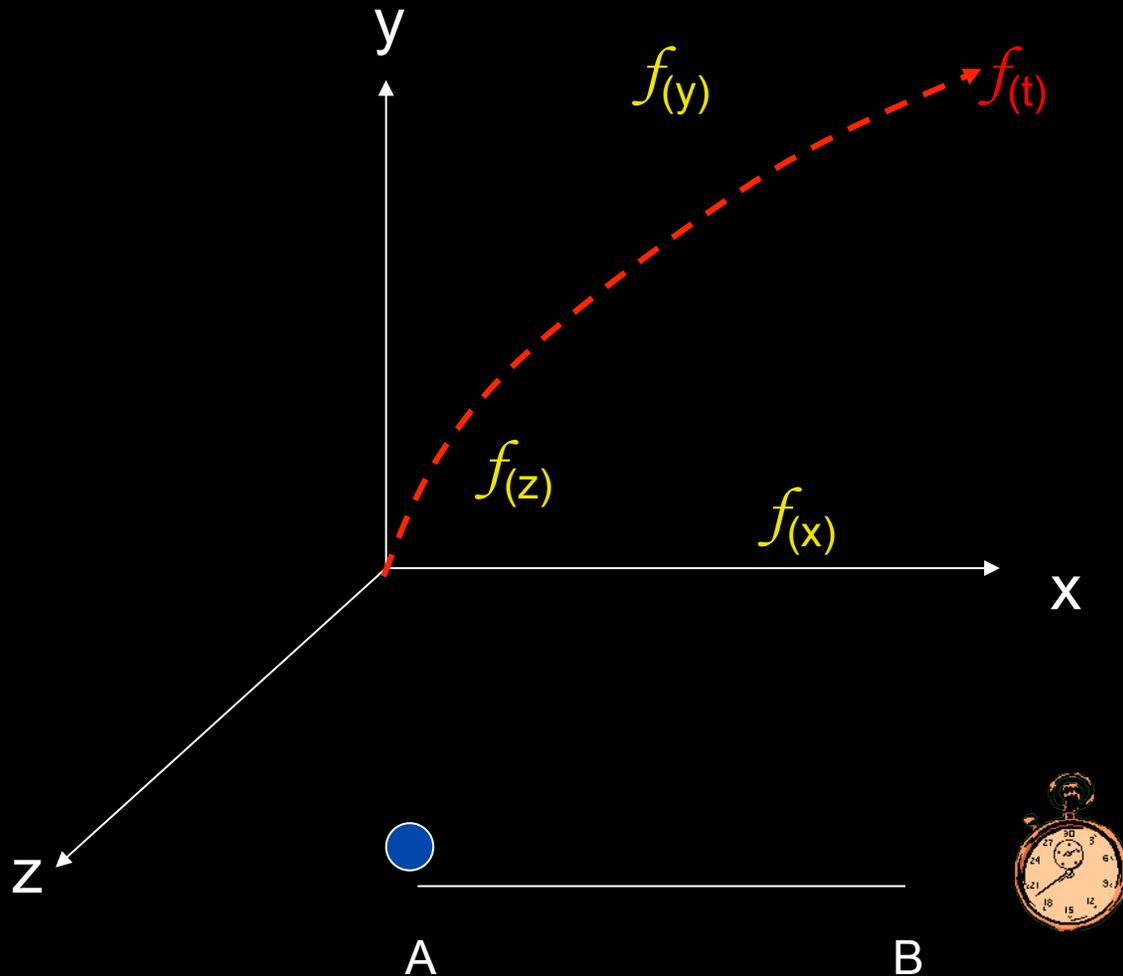
2) The Eternity of God

3) The Immutability of God

4) The Omnipresence of God

5) The Unity of God

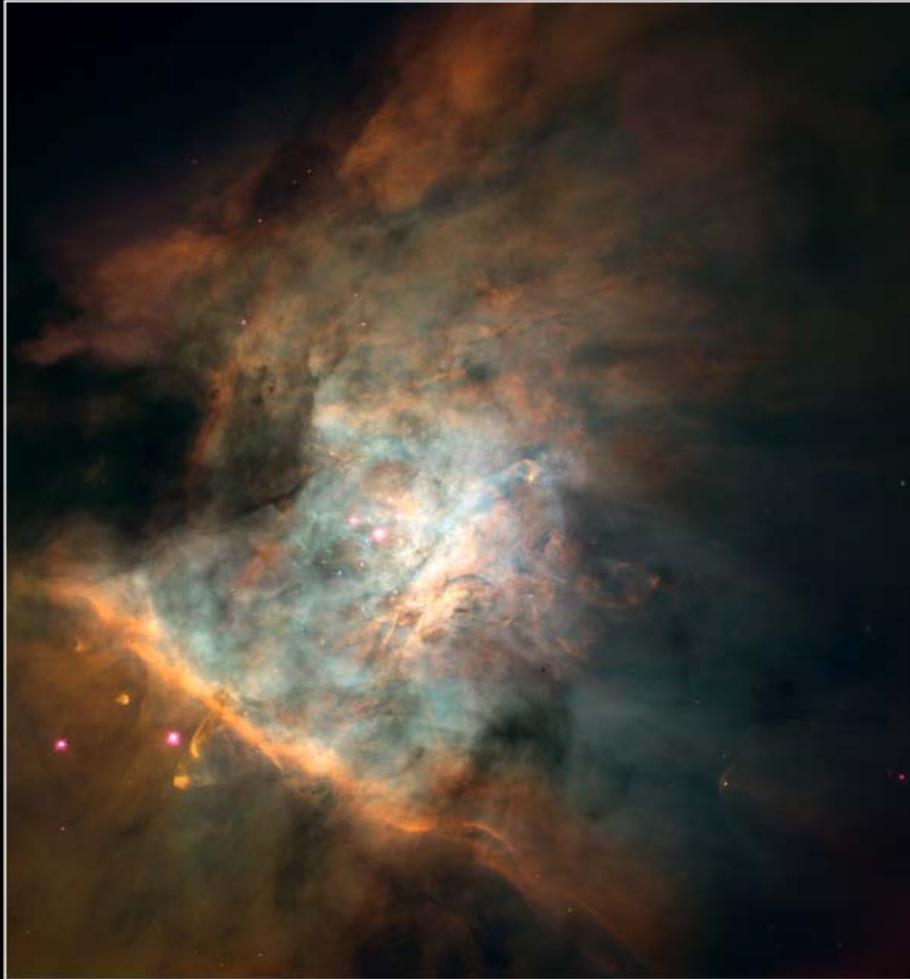
4. The Omnipresence of God



We conceive things in function of three dimensions

If we add the function of time, then we perceive motion and change in our three dimensional conception of the world

4. The Omnipresence of God



Orion Nebula Mosaic

HST · WFPC2

PRC95-45a · ST ScI OPO · November 20, 1995
C. R. O'Dell and S. K. Wong (Rice University), NASA

... but how can we conceive anything beyond the space-time horizon?

Isaiah 66:1 Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD.

The center the Orion nebula
2.5 light years across...

14,754,834,684,965 Miles

14.7 Cuatrillion miles

4. The Omnipresence of God

“God does not have size or spatial dimensions and He is present in every place of space with all of His being; however, God acts differently in different places.”

- Wayne Grudem -

In the same way in which God cannot be measured chronologically in time, because He is eternal, He cannot be limited by space because He created space

Certain as it is, that God is everywhere present, there is no point of space where he is not, or **where he is not as wholly and entirely present as in heaven itself.** “The heavens cannot contain him.” Charles Simeon

4. The Omnipresence of God

a) God is present everywhere.

Jer 23:23-24 23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? 24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places, So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

Sal 139:7-10 7 Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Thy hand will lead me, And Thy right hand will lay hold of me.

4. The Omnipresence of God

b) God does not have spatial dimensions

This is the reason why He can be with all of His being in every place of space, at the same time, because the Bible teaches that no space can contain God.

(1Ki 8:27; Is 66:1-2; Acts 7:48)

It is not that God is larger than space, but that God is a-dimensional, He doesn't have size as it has been stated in the definition.

It is not either that God can be confused with His creation as pantheism teaches, because He is separate and distinct from His Creation

4. The Omnipresence of God

b) God does not have spatial dimensions.

“The Biblical perspective is rather that God is present in all of His creation, but that He is distinct from it. How is this possible? The analogy of a wet sponge is not perfect but useful. Water is everywhere in the sponge, but it is completely different in substance from the sponge.”

- Grudem -

Conversely, the atoms of H₂O are different throughout the sponge and this is where the illustration breaks down because the wonder of Omnipresence is that all God is present in all places and at the same time.

4. The Omnipresence of God

c) **God acts differently in different places.**

He is present in some places to bless and in other places like hell, He is present to curse (**Am 9:1-4**).

Amos 9:2 "Though they dig into Sheol, From there shall My hand take them; And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down. 3 "And though they hide on the summit of Carmel, I will search them out and take them from there; And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea, From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them. 4 "And though they go into captivity before their enemies, From there I will command the sword that it slay them, And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good."

4. The Omnipresence of God

c) **God acts differently in different places.**

“...Hell is where God alone reigns. It is not an independent, self-contained demonic kingdom. God who “has power to cast into hell” Lk 12:5, rules it and has prepared its fires (Mt 25:41). He is present in hell, for the damned are tormented “in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the lamb” Rev 14:10. What an awful and mysterious statement!” - Edward Donnelly – Heaven and Hell -

4. The Omnipresence of God

d) **What about the “special presence” of God in worship?**

Some people object the language we use when affirming for example that God’s special presence occurs when the church gathers for worship, but this language does not mean that God is more present in one place than in another, but rather that He is giving more blessings in one place, and showing the knowledge of some of His attributes and presence in a particular way. This is typically what Scripture emphasizes when it speaks about God’s special presence in a given place

Mt 18:20, 2 Co 3:16, I Tim 1:15-16

4. The Omnipresence of God

(R.A. Torrey)

I. God is everywhere. He is in all parts of the universe and near each individual. In Him each individual lives and moves and has his being.

II. God is Not Everywhere in the Same Sense

John 14:28—“Ye have heard how I said to you, I go away and come again to you. If you loved me, you would rejoice, because I said, *I go to the Father...*”

John 20:17—“Jesus said to her, touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, *I ascend to my Father*, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.”

Eph. 1:20, Rev. 21:2, 3, 10, 22, 23, Rev. 22:1, 3

4. The Omnipresence of God

III. God is in some places in a way that He is not in other places. (Is. 66:1—There is a fullness and manifestation of His presence in some places that there is not in others. “Heaven” is the place where at the present time, the presence and glory of God is especially and visibly manifested

- God the Father is especially manifested in heaven
- God the Son has been especially manifested on earth
- God the Holy Spirit is manifested everywhere

(a) In nature (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:30); (b) In all believers (John 14:16, 17; Rom. 8:9); (c) With unbelievers (John 16:7–11).

Through the Spirit, the Father and the Son dwell in the believer (John 14:17, 19, 20, 23.) (See also Matt. 28:19, 20.)

Torrey, R. A. (1898). *What the Bible teaches ...*

END