

C. The Unique (Incommunicable) Characteristics of God

1. God's self-existence

a. The meaning of self-existence

Self-existence means that God exists from Himself, not from anything outside of Himself. It means that He has the ground of existence in Himself. The term "aseity" expresses this idea.

This characteristic is also spoken of as God's independence, as compared with the dependence of all created things. God alone is existence; all created things derive their existence from Him and depend for their existence on Him. He alone has life in Himself.

This quality is also spoken of as necessary existence. This does not mean that God is logically necessary. It is not possible to construct a valid argument which would prove that, even apart from the created universe, God must exist. There are no prior conditions outside of God which demand His existence; rather, God necessarily exists entirely in and from Himself.

b. Biblical teaching concerning God's self-existence

Exodus 3:13-14 -- "Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, "What is His name?" What shall I say to them?' And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you.'" "

God is the great I AM, the existing One. All other things come into existence; and some of them pass out of existence. God alone is the One who simply exists. All other things have existence; He alone is existence. He is the I AM.

Acts 17:24-25, 28 -- "The God who made the world and things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things.... for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'"

Colossians 1:17 -- "And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." All created things depend on God for their existence.

Romans 11:35-36 -- "Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

Revelation 4:11 - "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."