

HE FLIPPED IT!

Matthew 21:7-13 - They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. ⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ **And when He had come into Jerusalem, ALL THE CITY WAS MOVED**, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." ¹² Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and **OVERTURNED THE TABLES** of the money changers and the seats of those **WHO SOLD DOVES**. ¹³ And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

Introduction:

The word "theology" derives from two Greek words: "the study of God." **Theology** comes from the word **theos** which is Greek for "God" and **ology** which is from the Greek word **logos** meaning **"word"**. In its literal form, the term theology means "words about God." Webster's dictionary defines theology as "The science of God or religion; the science which treats of the existence, character, and attributes of God, His laws and government, the doctrines we are to believe, and the duties we are to practice. . . the science of Christian faith and life."

C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*, **"Theology is like a map. Merely learning and thinking about the Christian doctrines, if you stop there, is less real and less exciting...Doctrines are not God: they are only a kind of map. A map that is based on the experiences of hundreds of people who really were in touch with God...And if you want to get any further you must use the map."**

The ultimate goal of theology isn't knowledge, but WORSHIP!

If our learning and knowledge of God does not lead to the joyful praise of God, we have failed.

We LEARN only that we might LAUD

The Apostle Paul even warns us in 1 Corinthians 8:1 – Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. Even theology standing alone leads to spiritual arrogance. This is why the early believers strongly warned that...

Theology without doxology is idolatry

They held tightly to the belief that the only theology worth studying is a theology that can be sung!

So early on as the School of Theology was scripting its curriculum for our study about who God is they came to a very quick realization that there needed to be some basic identifying characteristics of this God that we serve. In theological circles these characteristics are known as **THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**. There are too many for me to share today, but indulge me as I show you a few...

- 1. SELF-EXISTENT:** God has no cause; He does not depend on anything for his continued existence.
 - I AM WHO I AM (Ex. 3:14; see John 8:58)
 - Life in Himself (John 5:26)
 - First and Last, Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End; as the Beginning, God has no cause (Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12; Rev. 1:8, 17; 2:8; 3:14; 21:6; 22:13)
 - No God before or after Yahweh (Isa. 43:10)
- 2. TRANSCENDENT:** God is entirely distinct from the universe, as the carpenter is distinct from the bench; excluding pantheism (God in all) and animism (everything is a god).
 - Separate from the world (Isa. 66:1-2; Acts 17:24)
 - Contrasted with the world (Psa. 102:25-27; I John 2:15-17)
 - Implied by doctrine of creation (Gen. 1:1; Isa. 42:5)
- 3. INCOMPREHENSIBLE:** God is incomprehensible, not in the sense that the concept of God is unintelligible, but in the sense that God cannot be fully and directly known by finite creatures, because of His uniqueness and His infinitude.

- None like God (Ex. 8:10; 9:14; 15:11; 2 Sam. 7:22; 1 Chr. 17:20; Psa. 86:8; 1 Kgs. 8:23; Isa. 40:18, 25; 44:7; 56:5, 9; Jer. 10:6-7; Micah 7:18)
 - Analogical language necessary to describe God (Ezek. 1:26-28; Rev. 1:13-16)
 - God cannot be comprehended as He really is (1 Cor. 8:2-3)
 - God can only be known as the Son reveals Him (John 1:18; Matt. 11:25-27)
4. **IMMUTABLE**: God is perfect in that He never changes nor can He change with respect to His being, attributes, purpose, or promises; excluding process theology, Mormon doctrine of eternal progression.
- Unchangeable (Psa. 102:26-27; Isa. 51:6; Mal. 3:6; Rom. 1:23; Heb. 1:11-12; James 1:17; Heb. 13:8)
 - God's relations with changing men spoken of as God changing (Ex. 32:9-14; Psa. 18:25-27)
5. **ETERNAL**: God is perfect in that He transcends all time and temporal limitations and is thus infinite with respect to time.
- Duration through endless ages (Ps. 90:2; 93:2; 102:12; Eph. 3:21)
 - Unlimited by time (Psa. 90:4; 2 Pet. 3:8)
 - Creator of the ages (i.e., of time itself; Heb. 1:2; 11:3)
 - Implied by doctrines of transcendence, self-existence, and immutability
6. **IMMANENT**: Though transcendent, God is present with and in the world; excluding deism (God is out there but not here).
- God is near, so He can be known (Deut. 4:7; Jer. 23:23; Acts 17:27)
7. **OMNISCIENT**: God is perfect in that He knows all things, including events before they happen.
- Perfect in knowledge, Job 37:16
 - Knows the heart (1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Chr. 28:9, 17; Psa. 139:1-4; Jer. 17:10a)
 - Knows all events to come (Isa. 41:22-23; 42:9; 44:7)
8. **OMNIPOTENT**: God is perfect in that He can do all things consistent with the perfection of His being. God cannot do the self-contradictory (e.g., make a rock He cannot lift), nor can He do that which is contrary to His perfect nature (e.g., He cannot change, He cannot lie, etc.).
- Nothing too difficult (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17, 27; Zech. 8:6; Matt. 3:9)
 - All things possible (Job 42:2; Psa. 115:3; Matt. 19:26; Mark 10:27; Luke 1:37; 18:27; Eph. 1:11)
 - God cannot lie, be tempted, deny Himself, etc. (2 Tim. 2:13; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; James 1:13)

9. **OMNIPRESENT**: God is perfect in that He transcends all space and spatial limitations, and is thus infinite with respect to space, with His whole Being filling every part of the universe and being present everywhere (not diffused through the universe, but present at each point in His fullness).

- The universe cannot contain God (1 Kings 8:27; Isa. 66:1; Acts 7:48-49)
- Present everywhere (Psa. 139:7-10; Acts 17:28; of Christ, Matt. 18:20; 28:20)
- Fills all things (Jer. 23:23-24; of Christ, Eph. 1:23; 4:10; Col. 3:11)
- Implied by doctrine of transcendence

Now what is interesting is even though we believe in the omnipresence of God, meaning that God is everywhere at the same time and that there is not anywhere that God isn't. We also understand that just because God is in a place it does not mean that people know that He is there. In fact, I would like to submit to you that most people don't even recognize that God is present in any given moment. They fumble through life without even knowing that he's there. However, if you have served the Lord for any time at all, you understand that there are moments when God's presence becomes tangible in an atmosphere or upon an individual. At that moment God becomes undeniable because of the experience.

Even though God's presence has always been upon this planet, His presence has not always been manifest to everyone. All through the scripture. We can trace moments and times when God would make his presence tangibly known to individuals. For the time purposes.

This brings me back to some of his attributes, one of which I did not mention...

INCORPOREALITY - This simply means that because God is Spirit, He possesses no body parts as we know them. When he would manifest himself to people in the Old Testament, he would take on some form to display his power. This is what makes Jesus so wonderful. Jesus is God in the flesh. He said if you want to see the Father, all you must do is look at me. The Spirit of God took on flesh and dwelt amongst us. And we beheld His glory. In other words, His presence became manifest to all.

Now let me dive into my text. Jesus has just ridden triumphantly into Jerusalem. And for the first time, the Bible says that the **city was moved** when he came in. This word moved is where we get the word **seismos or seismic**. It describes a shaking.

Jesus had been to Jerusalem many times by this point. Our first record of his attendance there was when he was 12 years old as his family went to Jerusalem for the feast days. Although they acknowledged his brilliance, his power did not shake the city. Undoubtedly, Jesus had been in Jerusalem many other times during his lifetime to celebrate the feast days. **At no time did his presence become so manifest that it shook the entire city.**

- I must stop a moment and preach right here...
- **Yes, it is true that God is here in the Upper Cumberland...but we will never be satisfied with just a knowledge of His Omnipresence...we are hungry to see the manifestation of His Glory.**
- Even the world has that knowledge...so much so that only a fool says in his heart there is no God...
- We came to announce the arrival of a King that intends to shake the city...

Someone shout - **SHAKE IT!**

(would be cool if you could make this word shake somehow on the screen)

- Until sin loses its grip
- Until broken families are healed
- Until sickness is obliterated
- Until disunity is uprooted
- Until addiction lets the addict go
- Until poverty gives way to prosperity
- Until pride is turned into humility
- Until sexual confusion is replaced by God given identity
- Until our schools' systems are impacted
- Until young people are hit by the power of God and can't stand up anymore
- Until every person is Baptized in fire
- Until the lost are saved

- Until every backslidden prodigal runs back into the loving arms of the father
- Until the power of God is talked about around every table
- Until religion loses its grip

Notice, when he came in and the city shook what his first assignment was. **HE WENT STRAIGHT INTO HIS HOUSE!**

- You can quit asking God to judge the world, the sinner, your enemy...

JUDGMENT BEGINS AT THE HOUSE OF GOD

- God is going to get his house right first!
- You are worried about the pride movement, but God is going to deal with the religious pride in his people.
- You are worried about drag queens masquerading in our parks, but God is going to deal with church people who look holy on the outside but are full of vipers on the inside.
- You are worried about politician, but God has had his feel with the preachers who won't stand for righteousness.

When he goes into His house... **HE FLIPPED THE TABLES** of the money changers...

They were selling **DOVES!**

We have made a business out of the church trying to sell people doves when his house was meant to be a place where they encountered the Dove.

I believe that God has had his fill of so-called religion in His name and he's about to FLIP IT.

Conclusion: When he got them out of the way it says that miracles started happening!