

# Incomparable God

# Paul: did all things well

Except one: bragging about himself

- 2 Co.12
  - Third person. 2-3
  - In body? ...out? 2-3
  - Third heaven. 2
- 2 Co.12:4, Paradise
  - Heard words
  - Under two restraints

(1)CANNOT be expressed; inexpressible.  
(2)MUST NOT be expressed [not permitted].

Paul does not name himself as subject...  
know his state ... describe Paradise

# I. God Is Incomparable

# Incomparable In Power

## (omnipotence)

- Gn.18:14, Sarah
  - Two strikes: barren; old
  - Mother of great nation (sand / stars)

God is not limited by old age . . .

# Incomparable In Power

- Gn.18:14, Sarah
- Nu.11:...23, impossible?
  - 31-33, opportunity to witness His power
    - Moses witnessed Red Sea's retreat
    - Moses wrote Gn.18
      - Nu.13-14

God is not limited by lack of resources

# Incomparable In Power

- Gn.18:14, Sarah
- Nu.11:...23, impossible?
- Jer.32:17...24-25, 27-28...
  - 34-44, unlimited power

God is not limited by powerful nations

# Incomparable In Power

- Gn.18:14, Sarah
- Nu.11:...23, impossible?
- Jer.32:17...24-25, 27...
- Dan.3:15, '*who is the God...?*'
  - Mt.19:26, with God all things are possible
  - Jn.2:1-11, wills water to wine
  - 2 Co.6:18, almighty, omnipotent

God is not limited by human weakness

# Incomparable In Power

- Gn.18:14, Sarah
- Nu.11:...23, impossible?
- Jer.32:17...24-25, 27...
- Dan.3:15, 'who is the God...?'
- BUT God cannot do some things –
  - Deny Himself, 2 Tim.2:13
  - Lie, Tit.1:2
  - Be tempted, Ja.1:13

Incomparable In power

# Incomparable in knowledge / wisdom (Omniscience)

- Job 38-42
  - No relief from suffering
  - No explanation
  - God's absolute knowledge comforts
- Ps.139:1-6
- Jn.2:23-25
- Ro.11:33-36

Incomparable In power

## Incomparable in knowledge / wisdom

- Ro.11:33-36
  - **Depth**: inexhaustible supply
  - **Unsearchable**: impossible to understand; unfathomable [Ac.27:28]
  - **Past finding out**: incomprehensible, inscrutable
    - Ep.3:8, 10

God is not limited by ignorance

Incomparable In power  
Incomparable in knowledge / wisdom

## Incomparable in love

- Eph.3:18-19 –
  - Purpose is not how to love Christ more, but to understand His love for them
  - 18: Wide enough to save whole world
  - Long enough for eternal life
  - High enough to reach heaven
  - Deep enough to deliver from sin
- Paul knew: 1 Tim.1:15

Incomparable In power  
Incomparable in knowledge / wisdom

## Incomparable in love

- Eph.3:18-19 –
  - Purpose is not how to love Christ more, but to understand His love for them
  - 18: width, length, height, depth
  - 19: comprehend the incomprehensible?
- Paradox
  - His love surpasses knowledge
    - Jn.3:16; Mt.26-27

I. God Is Incomparable

## II. So What?

(How should these facts affect me?)

# Humility

- Isa.6

‘A mountain shames a molehill...  
until both are humbled by the stars.’

# Submission

- Lk.1:31-38
  - Virgin birth: Son of Highest, 31-33
  - How will it happen: Spirit, 34-35
  - Proof: Elizabeth (old, barren), 36
  - Explanation: nothing too hard... 37
  - Response: let it be... 38

God is not limited by laws of nature

# Love

- Lk.10:25-28...
  1. Greatest commandment
  2. Highest combination
  3. Maximum commitment

# Faith

- Acts 26:8, *why think it incredible...?*
  1. **Result:** Jesus first, 23
  2. **Reaction (Festus):** Paul is mad, 24
  3. **Reply:** Agrippa knows facts, 25-26
  4. **Resolve:** Agrippa knows OT, 27-29
  5. **Ruling:** Paul is innocent, 30-32

# Prayer, Thanksgiving

- Ep.3:20
  - Able to do
    - Above
      - Abundantly above
        - » Exceedingly abundantly above
          - All that we ask
            - All that we think

Paul has asked for much (19-20);  
God is able to grant far more.

# Zeal

- Tit.2:14 . . . 3:1
- Serve...worship...evangelize

King to son:  
You are not the son of a peasant,  
but of a king. Behave like it.

# Conclusion

Phil.4:13 – illustrated in 2 Co.12

- Thorn: God knows best (cf. Job)
  - Billions of years in heaven: thorn??
  - Paul's exemplary attitude encourages others in spiritual growth...in spite of thorns
- 'The house praises the carpenter.'

# Conclusion

‘The veil which conceals the mysteries and glories of heaven God has not permitted to be raised. It is enough that we know that in that world the saints shall be made perfectly happy and perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God forever’ – J. W. Shepherd