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Grace Evangelical Church
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God – Infinite
I Kings 8:22-30**

An elderly Christian lady lived next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady comes out onto her front porch and shouts "Praise the Lord!".

The atheist yells back, "There is no God".

She does this every morning with the same result. As time goes on, the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. She goes out onto the porch and asks God for help with groceries, then says "Praise the Lord".

The next morning she goes out onto the porch and there's the groceries she asked for, and of course, she shouts "Praise the Lord!!!".

The atheist jumps out from behind a bush and says, "Ha, I bought those groceries - there is no God".

The lady looks at him and smiles, she shouts "Praise the Lord, not only did you provide for me Lord, you made Satan pay for the groceries!!"

God moves sometimes in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

Such is true because the biblical God is not limited to our time bound way of living.

What did King Solomon include in his prayer about the biblical God as he dedicated the new temple just completed?

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house I have built!" (I Kings 8:27).

Isaiah agrees with Solomon's description of the biblical God.

"Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me?" (Isaiah 66:1)

Jeremiah also agrees with Solomon and Isaiah as he records these words about the biblical God in his prophecy, "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" (Jeremiah 23:24c).

In fact, Stephen in Acts 7, at the end of his incredible speech before the Sanhedrin (the 70-72 rulers and elders of the Jews), quoted from Isaiah 66:1 challenging the unbelieving Jewish Sanhedrin about who the biblical God really was. **There was no house that could be built for HIM.**

What are Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Stephen saying about the biblical God when they say that the heavens cannot contain HIM, no house can be built for HIM, and He fills the heavens and the earth?

What are they saying about the biblical God?

The one word that has been used to summarize these descriptions of the biblical God is – INFINITE.

THE BIBLICAL GOD IS INFINITE!!!

What does that mean when we say that the biblical God is infinite?

Then we can ask, "Does the biblical God who is infinite have any relevance to us in our daily lives as we live in this chaotic world?"

Let's approach our consideration of the INFINITE GOD this way.

I. Let's establish some kind of definition of the word infinite.

1. What the word infinite is not.

The word, infinite, is used in our vocabulary applying it to someone's response to a difficult situation.

We might say that a person has infinite patience with a certain individual or in a certain circumstance. The word affixed stressed his ability to hang in there with a person or the situation that was challenging.

Or we might comment that it took an infinite amount of work for that job or assignment to be completed. Again, the individual put forth an immense amount of work over a long period of time to accomplish the task.

The word infinite is also used in the name of a car, which bears the name, Infiniti – ending in spelling with an "i" rather than a "y." It's a sleek automobile supposedly representing infinity in its looks, its comparison to other cars, and its ability, my it is infinity on wheels. The new Infiniti Essence, a luxury coupe, is described as the Magnification of "Inspired Performance." It encompasses more than design and power, more than creativity and authentic..

However when the word infinity is used in these circumstances, they are in the setting of what is human, what man has designed. They are in the realm time, of that which is man's doings. Which means that any use of the word, infinite, or infinity, is limited in its description, and in its context. And we are left thinking that all there is to what the word infinite means is tied to man's achievements.

That is why we need to look at what the word, infinite really means.

2. What the word infinite is, or what it means.

The word infinity in the Latin means boundless.

Other words that have been used to describe infinite are measureless, limitlessness, inexhaustibleness.

Now, I trust that we see that the word infinite takes on an entirely different meaning, for now it can no longer be applied to man who is limited in what he can do. His life is bound by time, and his efforts are measureable, and he can become exhausted in what he does.

Obviously, the word, infinite, can't be applied to us as humans, rather it has to be applied to the biblical God HIMSELF.

II. The word, infinite applied to the biblical God.

Going back to what Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Stephen said in describing God not being able to be contained by the heavens, nor a house being able to be built for Him, we get a much more broader and greater understanding of what the word INFINITE REALLY MEANS.

(1) Boundless applied to the biblical God.

Since the heavens can't contain God, we are talking about the reality that God is boundless. He is without limit. He has resources without any limit. His life within Himself has no limit.

(2) Measureless applied to the biblical God.

Since no house can be built for the Lord to contain Him, He is measureless. God can't be put into the temple which Solomon had built. He has no height, or weight, or size. He is not some kind of extension in space. In God there is not less or more, there is no qualifying thought or word. God is not growing or developing. God is not in the process of becoming. He is who He is, and always will be.

(3) Inexhaustableness applied to the biblical God.

Isaiah put it this way in describing God, "The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired." (Isaiah 40:28).

The Psalmist penned in Psalm 121, "He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

God, then, neither gets tired nor does He need sleep, not even a catnap after lunch.

But there is the scripture in Genesis 2:3 that tells us, that after God created the world in 6 days, HE rested on the seventh day. The word rested means that God ceased or desisted from His work. It doesn't mean that He became weary and tired from creating the world and all that is in it.

He is Spirit – a person.

He is eternal – a person who has no beginning or end.

He is infinite – boundless, measureless, inexhaustible in His person.

The biblical God is the eternal infinite person.

Does this biblical eternal infinite personal God exist apart from humanity –living in His own world?

Of course not. For this is what the biblical record is all about.

The infinite eternal God created the world and all that is therein. The infinite God becomes directly involved in finite man and the time creation HE brought into existence.

III. The infinite God becomes involved in finite man and His finite creation.

1. Solomon's Day (959 B.C.).

(1) Solomon knew that the infinite God would dwell among His finite people.

A lot of time in biblical history has passed before Solomon came on the scene and became king of the kingdom of Israel. The son of King David, Solomon was given the privilege to build that first temple in which the nation of Israel would worship the true and living eternal and infinite God.

Solomon's temple was a beautiful piece of work to say the least. The structure was not real large – 90-105 ft long, 30-35 ft wide, and 45-52 ft high. The description of the temple is given in I Kings 6. It replaced the tabernacle that was the place of worship for Israel up to this time.

Here is a picture that someone has made of what Solomon's temple probably looked like (1st slide here).

Why do I show you this picture of Solomon's temple, the first temple built in honor of the true living eternal, infinite and personal God?

Note what God told Solomon in I Kings 6:13 before Solomon built the Lord a house, His temple.

"I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

In I Kings 8: 10-12, we find that when the ark of the covenant was brought into the temple now completed, and the priests returned from the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud. I have surely built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever."

The glory of the Lord also filled the tabernacle when it was completed a number of years earlier in the time of Moses as recorded in Exodus 40:34.

What did this all mean for Solomon and the people of Israel?

Keep in mind what Solomon said later in his prayer to the Lord regarding who God was. He told the Lord that the heavens could not contain the LORD much less the house which he built for the LORD.

What did Solomon recognize here? (show the 2nd picture of Solomon's temple).

Solomon recognized that the infinite eternal personal God had chosen to become involved in the lives of His finite people. God would come in His presence and live among them as He came to the temple that Solomon had built, as He had done previously in the tabernacle, that transportable tent of worship.

Then

(2) Solomon knew that the infinite God would continue to minister to His finite people.

Why did Solomon have such confidence?

1. Solomon had confidence because the only true and living infinite Jehovah God, Elohim had made Himself known to Solomon & Solomon knew personally the infinite Jehovah God, Elohim, through faith in Him (I Kings 8:23 a).

Look what Solomon says here, "O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath."

When God asked Solomon, right after he became king over Israel, what he wanted Him to give Solomon, Solomon humble before the Lord, acknowledged what a great task it was to lead such a great nation, and asked God for an understanding heart to judge God's people to discern between good and evil.

Instead of asking God for riches and power, he asked God for wisdom and discernment in leading the people. God answered his prayer and blessed him materially as well.

Finite Solomon knew personally the infinite God revealed to Him, and He desired to do His will. His confidence was in God's infinite eternal Person.

Secondly,

2. Solomon had his confidence in the infinite promise of God's infinite Word (I Kings 8:23b). Note the word covenant. That word referred directly to the Davidic Covenant that God had made with David in II Samuel 7, (which covenant was a prophecy of the Christ who would come), and stretching all the way back to the Abrahamic Covenant in Abraham's day (2000 B.C.)

Finite Solomon was basing his confidence on the infinite promise of God's infinite Word.

Thirdly,

3. Solomon had confidence in the infinite lovingkindness, the infinite hesed, the infinite steadfast love of the infinite God for His finite people (I Kings 8:23c).

Solomon knew that God would continue to love His people being faithful to His infinite Word. In spite of their disobedience, God would remain faithful because of His infinite lovingkindness.

4. Solomon had confidence in the infinite forgiveness of the infinite God for His finite people (I Kings 8:31- 53 – note particularly I Kings 8:38-40).

Solomon knew that people would disobey the Lord, but he asked in humility that the infinite God would forgive those who returned to Him in repentance.

5. Solomon had confidence in the infinite God's blessings on finite people who obeyed HIM (I Kings 8:23d; 57-58).

Solomon knew that the infinite God wanted faithfulness from His finite people. Note what He prayed.

"To your servants who walk before You with all their heart (8:23d).

"that He (the infinite LORD our God) may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances which He commanded our fathers" (8:58).

There's no doubt that finite Solomon knew personally in the Old Testament law system the true and living eternal infinite personal God. His heart was obeying HIM.

That is Solomon's Day.

What about our day? How does the infinite God apply to us as finite people some 3000 years later.

2. Our day.

The infinite God in His revelation to us in His Word is progressive. That means that the infinite God has not changed, but He has given us more revelation, more information of Himself to us.

The writer of Hebrews made this plain, "God who spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

1. The infinite God became flesh in His infinite Son – Jesus Christ.

(1) Jesus' person.

John tells us that the Word, Jesus Christ, became flesh and tabernacled, tented among us (John 1:14).

Jesus is now the living tabernacle, the living temple. He was the infinite God in flesh.

(2) Jesus' work.

When Jesus died on the cross the veil in the temple was rent from top to bottom. This signified that the Old Worship System of the tabernacle and temple were now no longer necessary (it was obsolete) for a new way to God was being opened up through the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was the final and eternal, yes, infinite sacrifice for the payment of our breaking God's law which is death.

Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Savior of the world, is the fulfiller of Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement (which begins at sunset today through tomorrow at sunset). By offering Himself once for all, as the eternal sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the entire world, Jesus won redemption for all who believe in Him as personal Savior (Hebrews 9, particularly 9:12). Christ is the believer's Yom Kippur. He has opened for us a new a living way to God through His eternal sacrifice for us, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father on High to be our Savior, Intercessor, and coming Savior and King.

The writer of Hebrews put it this way:

"Therefore brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place (the very presence of God – His throne of grace), by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is His flesh, and since we have a great priest (Jesus Christ) over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith

let us hold fast to our confession of our hope without wavering . . .

let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together

Today, then, Jesus is our living temple through which we come to God. He is the infinite mediator between the infinite God and finite men. He is the One promised to David of old. He is truly the infinite Savior of the world – He came through the seed of David and the seed of Solomon.

Which means . . .

2. We, as finite people can know personally the infinite God.

(1) Infinite Life -Through faith in Christ we who are finite receive His infinite LIFE!!

"If we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved – (have forgiveness of sin and eternal life). For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 10:9-10; cf John 3:16).

So the one who admits to the Lord that He has sinned against Him, and asks Christ into his or her life for His forgiveness and eternal life receives the greatest gift God has for any person –

His very life – infinite life – the very life – the very nature of the infinite God HIMSELF.

How about that. Regardless, if its' a new reality or you have heard it before. The infinite Christ gives the believer His infinite LIFE.

Life that is boundless, unlimited, measureless, life that never becomes exhausted.

Now God no longer lives in the temple of Solomon or any other temple that was rebuilt and built down through the history of Israel. Now God lives in each believer His Church (I John 4:15; Colossians 1:27; I Corinthians 6:19-20). (show the two slide - Solomon's temple, and then the slide of Grace Church).

But we who know the infinite God personally through faith in Jesus Christ have the

(2) Infinite Word with the infinite promises of God.

Solomon had the infinite covenant of God and the Mosaic Law. But we have the completed Word of God.

Yes, and God's written word lives and abides forever, pens Peter in I Peter 1:25 (Peter is also quoting from Isaiah 40:6).

The written word of God is boundless, measureless, and inexhaustible, because it's author, God the Holy Spirit is boundless, measureless and inexhaustible.

It crosses racial and religious backgrounds. It goes into prisons, and to those in the persecuted church. It is infinite in its power and life changing message for those who accept the Lord as personal Savior.

The infinite word of God speaks to our spirits which possess the infinite life of God. His infinite Spirit brings it alive in our minds, our emotions and our wills. That's why the infinite Word of God brings encouragement to us when we are discouraged, to give us wisdom when we aren't quite sure which way to go. It gives us the daily assurance that we always belong to the Lord regardless of what is going on in our lives (John 5:11-13).

The infinite God also brings us in His infinite Word an infinite HOPE.

God's Infinite HOPE in the midst of challenges does not disappoint.

God's infinite HOPE when we watch the United Nations in action, where one man wants to destroy God's people Israel. Remember that God told us through Isaiah that the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as specks of dust on the scales (Isaiah 40:15). A lot of drops and specks this past week at the UN.

God's infinite HOPE that our loved ones who know the Savior are with Him, and we will join them some day for an infinity time. God's infinite HOPE that Jesus could return today for all believers in HIM. WOW!

What an infinite God we know personally, as Solomon did, but not in **the full revelation that we have today in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

But there is more. Infiinite LIFE – Infinite Word of God, there is. . .

(3) Infinite Love.

Romans 5:5 tells us that the love of God, the agape love – Calvary love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:38-39 – Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is Christ Jesus our Lord. God's Love is boundless, measureless, inexhaustible. The infinite God has infinite LOVE.

That's why God never gives up on us as we go through our challenges and difficulties of life. He is committed to us forever, and He wants us to bank on His presence in our difficulties in life. He tells us to keep trusting Him. He is there with us. God always loves us regardless of what is going on in our lives, and our attitudes and actions at times.

(4) Infinite forgiveness.

Solomon knew about the forgiveness of God as asked God to forgive His people when they disobeyed the Lord.

Today our forgiveness in through Jesus Christ and His finished work on Calvary for our salvation, but then in our daily walk with the Lord when we disobey, we sin against the Lord. Because of God's great love for us, He continues to forgive us when we go astray and need to come to Him for forgiveness (I John 1:9).

He is more willing to forgive us than we sometimes are willing to come to Him and ask His forgiveness. God never condemns us nor does He point a finger at us and say, "Look what you have done."

We are also to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. How many times. Jesus taught 70 times 7. When we hear that we need to keep in mind how many times God has had to forgive us as we have come to Him confessing that we have done wrong.

God also wants those outside of Christ to know that He loves them. Christ said that He didn't come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

The infinite God provides us as believers in the infinite Christ, His infinite LIFE. His infinite WORD, His infinite LOVE, His infinite FORGIVENESS, and then following what Solomon received in His day

(5) Infinite blessings.

Solomon knew that if he obeyed God's law God would continue to guide and direct him and the nation of Israel. The nation would be a light to the other nations next to Israel. If he did not obey God, and Israel did not obey God, he knew that God's judgment would come. If Solomon and Israel obeyed God they would be blessed, if they didn't they would not be blessed.

We today who are experiencing the infinite life, word, love, and forgiveness of the infinite God are in a different relationship than Solomon.

Everything God does for us is in and through His infinite Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. As Ephesians 1:3 tells us, we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, and that is the key, "in Christ."

Those blessings are described in Ephesians 3:8 as the unsearchable, the untrackable riches of Jesus Christ.

Interesting that the word, untrackable, means unable to get to the end of, or measureless, boundless, inexhaustible, yes, the infinite riches of Jesus Christ.

Those infinite riches of Jesus Christ include His infinite LIFE, WORD, LOVE, FORGIVENESS, and BLESSING, (of many other areas) the infinite God has for us.

We are blessed infinitely in the infinite Christ so our lives can count infinitely for Him. Since we are infinitely blessed, we are to give evidence that we belong to the infinite God. We are live worthy of the infinite God's call on our lives (Ephesians 4:1), and be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1). We don't live under the system that Solomon did of do in order to blest. The believer today is blessed and therefore serves the Lord.

What infinite God is looking for from us in all of this is **faithfulness** to His infinite person and His infinite Word on a daily basis. Whether the task is small or big, whether it's a personal relationship, or a relationship between husband and wife, or the relationship of the family, or the church family, the infinite God wants us to be faithful to Him, His Word, and to one another.

Why is faithfulness the bottom line in the infinite God making Himself known to us in the infinite Jesus Christ?

The answer is found in the life of Solomon, who had a personal relationship with the infinite God. My he had a heart for the infinite God to do His will in his personal life and for the nation of Israel.

But Solomon did not end well in his life. He got his focus off the infinite God, started letting his guard down, and ended up going after foreign women and eventually his kingdom was divided.

So to prevent such casualties, the infinite God, to keep us from following Solomon footsteps, tells us through His infinite Son, Jesus Christ, to daily put to death in the power of the infinite Holy Spirit that the old nature within that wants to be selfish and not obey God (take up one's cross). Then in the positive, keep sensitive to the indwelling infinite Holy Spirit to do God's will, do the right as indicated in the infinite Word of God.

Here's the question to each of us today, myself included.

Is the infinite God being allowed in my life to daily do His infinite work in my life by His infinite Spirit so that I am keeping faithful to Him in my mind, emotion, and will?

Is it evident that the infinite God is daily at work in my life?

If not, we need to confess our sin whatever it is. If you are in fellowship with the Lord, enjoying the infinite God's presence in your life, and seeking to be faithful to Him, give Him thanks and praise for He alone is worthy.

May the infinite God be glorified in our lives each day as we live in the power of the infinite Holy Spirit so that we finish well.

I understand that the Greeks had a race in their Olympic games that was unique.

The winner was not the runner who finished first.

It was the runner who finished with his torch still lit.

My we so live our lives (so run) for our infinite Lord that we will finish our lives on this planet for Him with the flame of our torches still lit for Him.

Paul summed it up as came to the end of his life in serving the infinite God,

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course. I have keep the faith" (II Timothy 4:7).

May that be true of us of as we end each day, until the infinite Lord calls us home to His heavenly reward for us for our faithfulness to HIM!

