

THE PORTRAIT OF GOD: 2004 National Conference

Message #7

Before the Beginning: The Aseity of God

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Unlike creation, God is self-existent, uncaused, and independent. In this lecture, Dr. Sproul will examine the doctrine of God's Aseity, and explain why it is vital to a proper understanding of who God is as Creator and Redeemer.

What is his introductory question?

How ARE you?

What is his introductory statement?

I AM fine.

Behind this word is the concept of BEING. Verbal form of existence. We speak of ranks or scale of being.

Rocks >> Plants >> Birds and Animals >> Human Beings >> Angelic Beings

People think that God is just a higher level of existence on this scale. Such is faulty thinking. Strictly speaking we are not BEINGS like God is a Being.

Age Old Philosophical Question... What is the unifying essence of all things?

Some claimed nothing IS... but everything is in the process of BECOMING... Or

What we could POTENTIALLY BE. What is not this is ACTUALITY... here.

Genesis 1:1 Most fundamental assertion of Biblical Christianity. Chief target of all who oppose the TRUTH. 1. It HAD a beginning. (not self-existence).

If ever was nothing... what would there be now? Everything cannot "explode" into being. Schaefer says to posit this becoming something from nothing... have both feet firmly planted on nothing. Possible Solution? Time... millions and billions of year. Nothing can become something? NOPE.

SCREAMS Existence of God... Life in Himself... existence in Himself. God is PURE BEING! No learning curve. God is the Superlative. PERFECT BEING! Cannot qualify... or be so degrees. No Lack, no weakness, nothing missing. To Contemplate God in this way... is humbling and doxological. Necessary Being?

If anything exists... something has to have been given its existence by God... who has BEING in Himself. God is One alone... has been from everlasting to everlasting... and we owe Him the Glory of the perfection of His being.