

God is Universally Present

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Selected Scripture

One of the most daunting mental truths about God is His omnipresence. This attribute speaks to the reality that He is everywhere present, every moment, with the fullness of His entire being.

Men (women too!) have tried to escape the presence of God. Jonah is the most graphic example. In **Jonah 1:3**, *But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.* After being thrown over board Jonah found himself in the belly of a great fish and notice, **Jonah 2:1–2**, *Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.*

Not only can we not escape the Lord's presence, we may find refuge and strength in Him in times of trouble. **Psalm 46:1**, *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

I. God is Everywhere

- A. Omni – “all” or God is all-present or omnipresent.
 - 1. God’s immense being is present everywhere; filling all places
 - 2. He is wholly present everywhere simultaneously. The immensity of outer space indicates the immensity of our God! Yet God is more immense, He is infinite!
- B. David speaks of God’s omnipresence in **Psalm 139:7**, *Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?*
 - 1. David announces there is no escape from the presence of God.
 - 2. **Psalm 139:8–10**, *If I ascend to heaven, [due north; metaphorically up] you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, [the grave, or south metaphorically, Jonah 2:2] you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.*
- C. **Ephesians 4:6**, *One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* **Acts 17:28**, *For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.”*

II. God is Exalted in the Heavens

- A. The Lord dwells in the heights of the heavens
 - 1. **Psalm 2:4**, *He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.*
 - 2. **Psalm 11:4**, *The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven;*
- B. God towers over His creation (**Psalm 97:9**, *For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.)* (**Psalm 103:19**, *The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.)* **Psalm 123:1**, *To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!*)
 - 1. **Ecclesiastes 5:2**, *Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.*
 - 2. **Isaiah 57:15**, *For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.*
 - 3. **Isaiah 66:1**, *Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?*
 - 4. **Matthew 5:34**, *But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,*
 - 5. When we pray
 - a) **Matthew 6:9**, *Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
 - b) **Matthew 23:22**, *And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.*
 - c) **Revelation 4:1–2**, *After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will*

show you what must take place after this." 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

III. God Is Beyond Our World

- A. **Job 9:8**, *Who alone stretched out the heavens..."*
- B. **Psalm 104:2**, *Covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.*
- C. **Job 37:18**, (Elihu asked Job) *Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a cast metal mirror?*
- D. God asked Job, **Job 38:31–32**, "*Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? 32 Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?*
- E. **Job 38:37**, *Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,*

IV. God Is Immediate

- A. God is present everywhere on our planet. He is equally present in heaven on the earth.
 - 1. Solomon - **1 Kings 8:27**, "*But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!*
 - 2. Rahab - **Joshua 2:11**, *And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*
 - 3. Moses - **Deuteronomy 4:39**, *Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.*
- B. God equally occupies heaven and earth with His full presence at all times
 - 1. David - **Psalm 23:4**, *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*
 - 2. **Jeremiah 23:23–24**, "*Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? 24 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.*
 - 3. **Matthew 28:20**, *Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

V. God Is Inward

- A. Pictured in the True Vine, **John 15:1–5**, "*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*
- B. Pictured in the Body as a Temple. **1 Corinthians 6:19–20**, *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

VI. God Is Below

- A. Who carries out punishment on sinners.
 - 1. It is not other sinners
 - 2. It is not Satan.
 - 3. It is not some "vacuum" of judgment.
- B. God ordains punishment of unrepentant sinners.
 - 1. **Revelation 14:10**, *He also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*
 - 2. Balanced by **2 Thessalonians 1:9**, *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence [countenance, face] of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*
 - a) The Lord will turn His face from unrepentant sinners
 - b) The lost will not experience His face (blessing) in hell.
 - (1) **Numbers 6:24–26**, *The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*