

3 - The God Who Is: The Self-Sufficiency of God

*And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said,
"Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*
~ Exodus 3:14 ~

I. Exposition: The Fire that Needs No Fuel

A. Exodus 3:1-14

B. God's Being and Attributes

“YHWH was the name that described His essence par excellence. God was the Existent One...Even if you add a hundred such qualities, you have not gone outside the boundaries of His being. Having said them all, you have added nothing; having said none of them, you have subtracted nothing.”

II. Explanation: The God who Has No Source

A. Some Passages of Scripture

1. **Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning, God...
2. **Isaiah 43:10** - "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.
3. **Matthew 16:16** - Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
4. **John 5:26** - For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,
5. **Romans 11:36** - For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.
6. **Hebrews 11:6** - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B. Some Terms

1. **Aseity** (Latin *a se*, from self)
2. **Independence**
3. **Self-Sufficiency**

C. Not the Source of His Own Being

D. True of Each Person of the Trinity

III. Implications: The Duty of Man as Creature

A. The Creator-Creature Distinction

“Independence, eternity, immensity, all-sufficiency and immutability are therefore the forms under which we recognize the distinctions which separate God by an impassable

chasm from every work of His hands. These are the badges of Divinity—that glory which He will not and cannot give to another. Without these, He would only be a man or an angel on a larger scale. These, too, constitute the veil which hangs over the mystery of His being—a veil which, according to the inscription upon the temple of Isis, no mortal will ever be able to remove. We can only stand afar off and gaze at the ineffable glory. We can adore where we cannot understand.” [Thornwell, Vol 1, 190]

B. The Creator-Creature Relation

1. God Is

a. Absolute

b. Necessary

2. Man is

a. Dependent

b. Unnecessary

C. The Creature's Obligation to His Creator

1. Attribution

2. Worship

3. Humility