

The Self-existence of God

Self-existence. God's self-existence means "He has the ground of His existence in Himself....God is independent in His Being, but also...He is independent in everything else; in His virtues, decrees, works, and.... causes everything to depend on Him."¹⁰ Exodus 3:14 emphasizes His self existence in His identification, "I AM WHO I AM." The verb *to be* emphasizes He has continual existence in Himself. John 5:26 further stresses that the Father has life in Himself. An unborn child is dependent on its mother for life; animals are dependent on their surroundings for life; trees and plants are dependent on sun and rain for life; every living thing is dependent on someone or something else but God is independent and existent in Himself (Dan. 5:23; Acts 17:28).¹

- Unlike everything else in our world, including ourselves, **God has no origin, no cause, and no source.** In answer to the question, "Where did God come from?" we can only reply, "He came from nowhere—He simply has always been."
- **Ex 3:14** - And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. In other words God answered, "You ask who I am; I simply am. There is no way to define Myself."
- **The created human mind** cannot comprehend something that does not originate somewhere or begin somewhere.
- **God is not dependent on anything** or in need of anything. He did not create man because He needed man in any way.
- **Man is a created being**, completely dependent upon God, as is everything that exists. Yet only man is created in **God's own image.**
Job 12:10 - In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.
- **The animals know** what man rejects—that all our ability and sustenance comes from God.
Ps 104:21 - The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.
Ps 145:16 - Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.
- **Christ did not begin in Bethlehem!**
John 1:1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life;

¹⁰ 10. Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1941), p. 58.

¹Enns, P. P. (1997, c1989). *The Moody handbook of theology* (188). Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press.

and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Col 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And **he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

John 8:56-59 - Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am.** Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Mark 14:61-64 - But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? **And Jesus said, I am:** and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

- **Man rebels** against the will and dominion of God and asserts his choice to choose his own way.

Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- **Man's acknowledgement** of his rebellion against God and submission to Him removes "self" from the throne and gives God His rightful place of authority as God.

God's *independence* or self-existence indicates that he is not dependent upon anything outside himself. He is self-sufficient in his existence, in his decrees, and in all his works. God has "life in himself" (Jn 5:26) and "he himself gives life and breath and everything" (Acts 17:25). To Israel, he revealed himself as the "I AM" (Ex 3:14), and he made Israel a covenant people for his own possession. God continues to work out his will in the world, and even though he uses various means, his independence remains intact. Thus, he enters into fellowship with his covenant people, and he publishes the gospel through human agents.²

²Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). *Tyndale Bible dictionary*. Tyndale reference library (537). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.