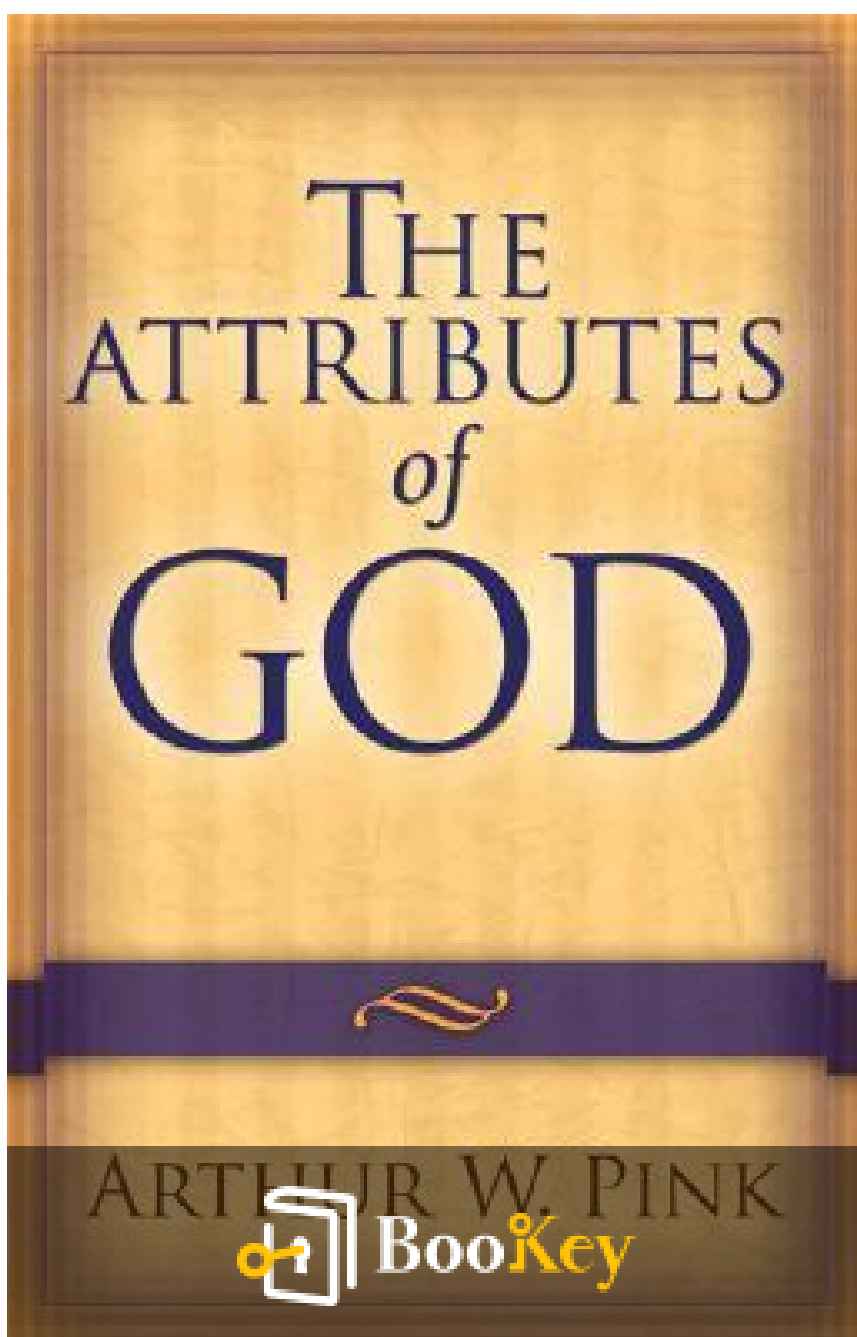


The Attributes Of God PDF (Limited Copy)

Arthur W. Pink



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The Attributes Of God Summary

"Exploring Divine Nature Through Omnipotence and Love."

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About the book

Embark on a transformative journey with "The Attributes Of God" by Arthur W. Pink, a compelling exploration into the nature and character of the Divine. This reflective text acts as a spiritual lighthouse, illuminating the often overlooked yet fundamental aspects of God that shape our understanding and experience of faith. Pink masterfully dissects the kaleidoscope of divine attributes, such as God's sovereignty, love, wisdom, and justice, each chapter steeped in profound Biblical insights. As you navigate through its pages, you're not only invited to deepen your theological comprehension but also to enrich your personal connection with the Deity, drawing inspiration to reflect His qualities in your daily life. "The Attributes Of God" moves beyond mere theological discourse, offering a sanctuary for both the curious seeker and seasoned believer to find refuge in the vastness of God's infinite nature.

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About the author

Arthur W. Pink (1886-1952) was a distinguished Bible teacher and theologian known for his deep commitment to Reformed theology and scriptural interpretation. Born in Nottingham, England, Pink initially pursued a career in the theosophical movement before undergoing a dramatic spiritual transformation, prompting him to embrace Christianity. His writings, characterized by a profound reverence for the sovereignty and holiness of God, reflect a meticulous exploration of biblical doctrine that has shaped evangelical thought. After spending time in Australia and the United States ministering in various churches, Pink eventually devoted himself entirely to writing, penning numerous influential works such as "The Attributes of God," wherein he explores the divine characteristics with exceptional clarity and insight. Despite living much of his later life in relative obscurity on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland, his legacy endures through his impactful literary contributions, earning him a lasting place as a veritable pillar of Reformed Christian literature.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1. The Solitariness of God

In "The Solitariness of God," the complexity and magnificence of God's nature are explored, challenging the reader to contemplate the divine attributes that are often overlooked in modern times. The author emphasizes that while many acknowledge God's greatness and mercy, few have a deep understanding of His true being as revealed in the Scriptures. The essence of the chapter revolves around the uniqueness and self-sufficiency of God—He is solitary in His magnificence and requires nothing from creation to sustain His glory or existence.

The chapter begins with the fundamental assertion from Genesis, "In the beginning, God," illustrating a time when God existed alone, without the universe or any beings. This implies that God's existence and glory are independent of creation. He didn't create out of necessity or lack but as an expression of His sovereign will. The discussion is supported by biblical references that underscore the idea that God's essential glory is unchanged and unaffected by creation, worship, or human actions.

The author further notes that even the work of Jesus Christ, while manifesting God's glory to humanity, didn't add to God's intrinsic being. This highlights the distinction between God's essential and manifestative glory—where the former is inherent and the latter is how His glory is revealed and recognized by creation.



Biblical passages from both the Old and New Testaments are cited to reinforce the portrayal of God as the supreme, incomprehensible Creator who can neither be fully understood nor likened to anything else. This notion challenges the reader to reconsider common arguments that simplify God to human comprehension, stressing that true knowledge of God comes through spiritual revelation rather than intellectual reasoning.

Thus, the author concludes by emphasizing the spiritual nature of knowing God. Understanding God requires a rebirth through the Spirit, allowing believers to grow in their comprehension of divine mysteries. The chapter encourages Christians to live lives worthy of God, continuously seeking to deepen their knowledge of Him as part of their spiritual journey.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Solitariness of God

Critical Interpretation: In recognizing the solitariness of God, you are invited to reflect on His unique, self-sufficient nature that sets Him apart from any earthly comparison. This understanding can inspire you to cultivate a deeper, more personal relationship with the Divine, acknowledging His glory and magnificence, independent of creation or human activity. By embracing God's unmatched sovereignty, you can gain a renewed sense of humility and purpose, recognizing that every step in your faith journey is part of discovering the profound mysteries of His divine nature. This profound realization can lead you to a more genuine appreciation and worship of God, one that transcends mere intellectual reasoning and reaches into the depths of your spirit.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2. The Decrees of God

Chapter 2: The Decrees of God

The concept of God's decrees is fundamentally about His eternal purpose or determination regarding future events. In theological terms, while we tend to speak of God's decrees in the plural due to our limited human understanding, with the assumption that each occurrence is guided by a specific divine intention, in reality, the Bible uses the singular term. This singular decree stems from a singular, infinite act of God's mind, wherein He knows all future events with certainty and has determined them unwaveringly from eternity, as stated in Acts 15:18: "Known unto God are all His works, from the beginning of the world."

Throughout the Scriptures, God's decrees appear under various expressions. They're referred to as His "eternal purpose" (Ephesians 3:11), "determinate counsel and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23), "will" (Ephesians 1:9), "predestination" (Romans 8:29), and His "good pleasure." These terms highlight the supremely wise and sovereign nature of His will, in contrast to human will, often capricious and arbitrary.

God's decrees encompass all aspects of future existence, without exception. This includes everything from monumental cosmic events to the tiniest

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details, like the life or death of individuals. Importantly, while God's plan includes the allowance of sin, He is not its author; rather, He permits it in alignment with His overarching will but does not directly create it. This demonstrates the overarching scope of God's governance and plan, which affects all creatures and events, dictating the course of human history down to the minutest details.

Furthermore, it's essential to recognize several properties of God's decrees. Firstly, they are eternal, not subject to change based on unforeseen events, as God's understanding is infinite and comprehends all past, present, and future happenings. His eternal knowledge ensures that believers were chosen in Christ before the world began, as noted in Ephesians 1:4.

Secondly, God's decrees are wise, aiming at the most beneficial ends with the most fitting means. The wisdom evident in God's creation offers a glimpse into the wisdom of His decrees, seen in how all things are woven together to fulfill His purpose (Psalm 104:24).

Thirdly, God's decrees are characterized by absolute freedom. They were formed solely by His sovereign will, undirected by any external influence.

Fourthly, they are absolute and unconditional, meaning that their fulfillment doesn't hinge on any external conditions. God not only decrees ends but also ensures the means to achieve those ends. This includes faith for salvation



purposefully endowed by God as part of His plan (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

Yet, alongside this sovereignty, modern understanding attempts to balance God's reputed control with human responsibility. There remains a profound tension rather than a contradiction between divine sovereignty and human freedom—a tension highlighted throughout biblical narratives and theology as a deeply intricate mystery, similar to the dual nature of Christ or the divine inspiration of Scripture.

Critics of divine decrees often argue against them on the grounds of their implications for human freedom, yet the recognition of God's foreknowledge implies a grand design, less about predestinating specific outcomes and more about securing an orchestrated harmony guided by His ultimate plan. Notably, Jonathan Edwards observes that if God knows all things beforehand, His willingness or unwillingness for events to occur equates to a decree.

Finally, assuming the non-existence of divine decrees would logically lead to a world governed by random chance, devoid of divine purpose or assurance. This absence would drive hearts to despair, lacking the peace and comfort found in the trust in God's wise and good determinations. The reassured response of believers, however, is trust in Romans 8:28, acknowledging the work of God in all things for their ultimate good, bolstered by the conviction that "Of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are



all things: to whom be glory forever" (Romans 11:36).

Concept	Description
Definition of God's Decrees	God's decrees are His eternal purpose regarding future events, reflecting a singular, infinite act of divine will.
Biblical References	Terms like "eternal purpose," "determinate counsel," "predestination," and "good pleasure" illustrate the divine sovereign nature of His will.
Inclusive Scope	God's decrees encompass all future events from cosmic occurrences to individual life details, but He permits sin without being its author.
Properties of God's Decrees	Eternal: Unchanging, based on infinite knowledge and comprehension. Wise: Aim at beneficial ends using fitting means. Free: Formed by God's sovereign will without external influence. Absolute: Unconditional, ensuring means to achieve decreed ends.
Sovereignty and Human Responsibility	Illustrates a tension rather than a contradiction between divine control and human choice, as reflected in biblical narratives.
Criticism and Implications	Critics argue it conflicts with human freedom, but divine decrees ensure harmony and divine guidance beyond chance or chaos.
Reassured Belief	Believers' trust in God's good determinations brings comfort, acknowledging God's work in all things for their ultimate good (Romans 8:28).



Critical Thinking

Key Point: God's sovereignty and decrees

Critical Interpretation: The fundamental aspect of God's sovereignty—His ability to decree and have an overarching plan that governs the universe—serves as a profound source of inspiration in our lives. Embracing the belief that God orchestrates all things according to His divine wisdom and purpose can fundamentally transform our perspective on life's uncertainties. When faced with challenges or the seeming randomness of circumstances, remind yourself that every event fits within a larger divine blueprint. It provides a deep reassurance that nothing occurs beyond God's knowledge or care. This realization empowers you to trust and rest in the certainty that your life's path is guided by a benevolent, omniscient, and omnipotent Creator who works all things for your ultimate good, as highlighted in Romans 8:28. Entrusting in God's sovereign control can grant a profound peace and resolve amidst life's ever-changing currents, knowing that "Of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory forever" (Romans 11:36)."

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3. The Knowledge of God

The Knowledge of God

This chapter explores the concept of God's omniscience, affirming that God possesses complete and perfect knowledge of all things—past, present, and future. This notion of divine omniscience suggests that God is fully aware of every detail concerning every being across heaven, earth, and even hell. Nothing is hidden from His sight; His understanding is limitless.

The Psalms and other scriptures describe God's intimate awareness of human actions and thoughts, emphasizing that everyone's deeds and even thoughts are transparent to Him. This attribute of God can inspire both reverence and discomfort. The faithful may derive comfort and assurance from God's perfect knowledge, especially in times of uncertainty, knowing they are understood and guided by an all-knowing deity. Conversely, for those estranged from God, His omnipresence and omniscience may serve as a stark reminder of accountability, as nothing they do is beyond His sight.

The chapter expands on the belief that God's knowledge is coupled with His unalterable will and purpose. The future is certain as God's designs and decrees are sovereign and infallible. This serves as both a reassuring and sobering thought, as it underscores the certainty and reliability of divine



prophecy. Examples include the fulfilled prophecies concerning Israel and the life of Christ, which demonstrate God's comprehensive foresight.

Furthermore, the text clarifies that God's foreknowledge does not cause events to happen; rather, events occur because God has ordained them. The distinction highlights the role of God's will as the primary cause behind all occurrences. An illustration of this is the crucifixion of Jesus, foretold and determined by God's counsel long before it transpired.

Finally, the chapter calls readers to reflect on God's immense wisdom and omniscience, which should both astound and humble them. Recognizing that God perceives all thoughts and actions encourages believers to live with a consciousness of His presence. This awareness could potentially restrain reckless behavior and inspire deeper devotion, because despite knowing every flaw and sin, God still extends His love and grace. Thus, understanding God's all-encompassing knowledge concludes with a call to awe and adoration, for even when God foresaw the shortcomings of believers, He chose to set His love upon them.

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Chapter 4: 4. The Foreknowledge of God

Chapter 4 delves into the complex and oft-debated concept of God's Foreknowledge, highlighting the controversies it has sparked throughout theological history. Similar to other biblical truths, like Christ's deity or the church's organization, God's Foreknowledge has been a battleground for differing interpretations. The author argues that avoiding this topic due to potential strife would be a mistake because understanding and proclaiming biblical truth is an obligation for believers.

The chapter first addresses the widespread misunderstanding surrounding the term "foreknowledge." Many misconceive it as simply knowing events before they occur. The author emphasizes the need for extensive scriptural study to grasp the term's true biblical context. Words like "flesh" and "world" are used as examples of terms often misinterpreted due to assumptions rather than diligent study.

In the biblical context, "foreknowledge" does not refer to God's awareness of future events but to His relational knowledge of people. The text contends that God's Foreknowledge is about recognizing and favoring certain individuals rather than predicting their actions. This concept is backed by scriptural instances where "foreknowledge" is associated with people, not their actions or decisions.



The author refutes the argument that God's election of certain individuals is based on His foreseeing their faith or actions. Instead, the chapter posits that God's sovereign will and eternal decree precede His foreknowledge; God's decisions are independent of any human action or merit. It stresses that acknowledging God's sovereignty means recognizing that salvation is entirely an act of divine grace, with no room for human boasting or merit.

Ultimately, the chapter argues that God has determined all from eternity, and His foreknowledge is grounded in His divine purpose. Believers are chosen in Christ, not because of anything they would have done, but because of God's sovereign pleasure. This understanding underscores that salvation is purely an act of grace, deserving of God's praise alone.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5. The Supremacy of God

Chapter 5: The Supremacy of God presents a profound exploration of God's ultimate authority and sovereignty as depicted in Christian theology. This chapter echoes Martin Luther's critique that many, including scholars like Erasmus, have too human a perception of God, treating Him as if He were fallible and subject to human whims. It argues that in contemporary religious discourse, the notion of God has been diminished, likening Him to a weak figure, constrained by human free will and bested by Satan, rather than the omnipotent deity of scripture.

The chapter references biblical scriptures to emphasize that God's nature and ruling power are vastly superior and distinct from human capacity. The ancient complaint against Israel, "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether as thyself" (Psalm 50:21), is applied to modern Christendom, illustrating how today's interpretations often mistake divine power for human traits. The text reprimands the belief that God's will can be thwarted, and criticizes the reduction of the Atonement to a mere remedy for sin rather than a definitive act of salvation. It concludes that such theological deviations from scriptural truth amount to atheism, as they reject the idea of an absolutely sovereign God.

The chapter further illustrates God's supremacy by contrasting the finite power of creation with the infinite power of the Creator. Using imagery of



God as the Potter and man as the clay, it explains that humans are wholly subject to His will. Even if all creation combined forces against Him, they would not alter His eternal dominion, as depicted in scriptures like Psalm 2:4 ("He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh"). Various biblical accounts—such as the parting of the Red Sea, the sun standing still, and Daniel in the lion's den—are cited to showcase God's control over nature and history.

Additionally, the chapter emphasizes God's sovereignty over human will, countering objections that point to instances of disobedience against His word. It draws a distinction between God's overarching plans and the limited scope of human rebellion. The text highlights God's unthwarted purpose and control, affirming His effectual work in all things (Eph. 1:11) and His direction over human paths (Prov. 16:9).

Overall, the chapter offers reassurance of God's steadfast reign, encouraging believers to trust in His divine orchestration of life's events. It concludes with the comforting reminder that life is neither a product of chance nor fate but ordained by God, urging Christians to find peace and patience in His supreme authority.



Chapter 6 Summary: 6. The Sovereignty of God

Chapter 6: The Sovereignty of God

The concept of God's sovereignty reflects His supreme authority and power over the universe. It describes God as the ultimate ruler, unaffected by external influences, operating independently and executing His will without hindrance. God's sovereignty is celebrated in Scripture, asserting His divine right to enact His pleasure throughout creation (Isaiah 46:10, Daniel 4:35, Ephesians 1:11).

The notion of God's sovereignty is a source of comfort for believers, as noted by the preacher Charles Spurgeon, who emphasized its reassurance during trials. Spurgeon pointed out that this doctrine, which acknowledges God's supremacy over all creation, is cherished by His followers but often rejected by those outside the faith. People accept God's workings in the cosmos but resist acknowledging His authority on the throne, crafting a depiction of God more palatable to their preferences.

Scripture describes God as performing His will across all realms (Psalm 135:6, Psalm 115:3). His sovereignty manifests in the placement of His creatures, including angels, Adam, and Israel, on conditional footings, illustrating His right to establish the parameters of obedience and

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responsibility. Regardless of their subsequent actions and failures, God's role is depicted not as the author of sin but as the sovereign authority setting the stage for human and angelic responsibility.

The distinction in footing between Adam, Israel, and God's elect further highlights God's sovereignty. Adam and Israel were given conditional responsibilities—laws and covenants to follow, bearing consequences for disobedience, as outlined in Exodus. In contrast, God's elect are placed on an unconditional, immutable footing in the covenant with Christ. Within this framework, Jesus fulfills the conditions required for redemption, ensuring that those He represents are secure in their salvation (Hebrews 10:14).

Thus, while some are accountable for adhering to conditions, God's elect benefit from Christ's fulfillment of all conditions on their behalf. This portrayal of God's sovereignty underscores His freedom to act mercifully or judgmentally as He wills, distinctively showcasing His power in the narratives of His creation. Through this doctrine, readers are encouraged to recognize and accept the seamless relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility, as established by God's sovereign will.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: God's sovereignty provides comfort during trials.

Critical Interpretation: Imagine facing life's challenges, feeling as though chaos reigns and uncertainties cloud your path. In such moments, embracing the understanding of God's sovereignty can transform your perspective. His supreme authority, exercised with wisdom and purpose, assures us that no circumstance is beyond His control. This profound truth offers a comforting embrace, reminding you that the hardships you encounter rest within His grand tapestry of goodness and grace. As you walk through trials, let this assurance anchor your faith—the One who commands the stars and directs the course of history is meticulously orchestrating every detail of your life. Knowing this, you can lean confidently on His sovereign will, trusting that ultimately, it will work for your good and His glory.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7. The Immutability of God

Chapter 7: The Immutability of God

This chapter delves into the profound and often underappreciated concept of God's immutability, an attribute that sets the divine apart from all creation. Immutability refers to the idea that God remains constant, unchanging in His essence, attributes, and determinations, much like a rock in a turbulent ocean (Deut 32:4). This idea affirms God's eternal nature, as one without beginning or end, untouched by time, and is underscored by scriptural references such as “I am the Lord, I change not” (Mal. 3:6) and “with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (Jas. 1:17).

Immutability in Essence:

God's essence is unbounded and infinite, which means He never experiences growth, evolution, or improvement. This perfection implies an absence of potential for enhancement or degradation—His being is eternally perfect. The declaration "I am that I am" (Ex. 3:14) captures His eternality and self-existence, completely independent of temporal fluctuations.

Immutability in Attributes:

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The chapter emphasizes that God's attributes—His power, wisdom, holiness, veracity, love, and mercy—are unchangeable because they are the integral qualities of His being. These attributes do not ebb or flow but are constant, as stated in expressions like "semper idem" (always the same). For instance, His love is "with an everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3), and His word is "forever settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89).

Immutability in Counsel:

God's will is consistent, unaffected by human perceptions or misunderstandings, such as the notion of divine repentance. Scriptures that describe God as "repenting" (e.g., Gen. 6:6) are explained as figurative language to accommodate human comprehension. In essence, His plans remain steadfast: "The counsel of the Lord standeth forever" (Ps. 33:11), indicating reliability in His decrees, which require no revision due to His omniscience and omnipotence.

The chapter further contrasts divine immutability with human mutability. Humans, inherently changeable and unreliable, are encouraged to recognize their dependence on the Creator, who sustains all life (Acts 17:28). Human inconsistency is likened to unstable elements in nature, as seen in the analogy of "wandering stars" (Jude 13) and "unstable as water" (Gen. 49:4).

Comfort and Encouragement:

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For believers, God's constancy provides immense comfort. Unlike fluctuating human relationships, God's unwavering nature assures us that His promises and purposes will prevail. His consistent character forms a foundation of stability upon which we can rely, especially in the uncertainties of life, illustrated by Isa. 54:10's assurance of divine kindness and covenant.

Encouragement to Prayer:

God's immutability is presented as a cornerstone for prayer. Unlike a capricious deity, God's fixed will means He hears prayers aligned with His will (1 John 5:14). This consistency should motivate believers to persist in prayer, confident that God's responses adhere to His purpose and their ultimate good.

Warning to the Wicked:

Conversely, God's unchangeable nature serves as a warning to the ungodly. His eternal justice means that defying His laws and expecting leniency without repentance is misguided. God's holiness and hatred for sin ensure that His declarations of judgment will be fulfilled, as affirmed by Ezek. 8:18.

In summation, the chapter illuminates the dual aspects of divine



immutability—offering comfort in the certainty of God's promises to the faithful and delivering solemn warning to those who oppose His unyielding justice. The immutable nature of God reinforces the unsurpassable gap between Creator and creation, underscoring His essential unchangeability as both a beacon of hope and a strict standard of justice.

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Chapter 8: 8. The Holiness of God

Chapter 8: The Holiness of God

The holiness of God is a fundamental attribute that defines His divine nature, setting Him apart from all creation. The scripture in Revelation 15:4 states, "Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy," emphasizing that God alone is inherently, infinitely, and immutably holy. In biblical terms, He is often referred to as "The Holy One," embodying absolute purity and moral excellence. This holiness contrasts starkly with the world's imperfections and sins. As noted in 1 John 1:5, He is the light with no darkness, highlighting His divine nature as "glorious in holiness" (Exodus 15:11).

The concept of God's holiness signifies His moral and spiritual purity. Unlike human attributes marred by sin, God's qualities are unsullied and perfect. Holiness is more frequently associated with God's name than any other characteristic, underscoring its importance. It is the "beauty" of God, making Him worthy of worship and reverence, as emphasized by Samuel Charnock and other theologians throughout history.

In the heavenly realm, God's holiness is celebrated as seraphim proclaim, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3). This is a testament to



the divine holiness that surpasses all other attributes of God. His holiness is an attribute that enhances and glorifies all His other qualities—His power, wisdom, justice, and truth are all inherently holy. For instance, His justice is a "holy justice," and His power is wielded through a "holy arm" (Psalm 98:1).

God's holiness is evident in His creation and laws. In Genesis 1:31, God called all that He made "very good," a testament to His holy nature. Humanity, created in God's image, was initially upright and sinless. However, the fall of man and angels demonstrates the fragility of created holiness versus God's eternal purity. When God issued His laws, they mirrored His holiness by forbidding every form of sin—both gross acts and subtle intentions, as Romans 7:12 describes the law as "holy, and just, and good."

The ultimate manifestation of God's holiness is seen at the Cross, where the atonement showcases His disdain for sin and His infinite justice. The sacrifice of His sinless Son underscores the severity with which God views sin, reflecting His holiness even as Jesus experienced divine wrath. The Psalmist's cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" resembles the acknowledgment of God's unyielding holiness amid human suffering.

Because God detests sin, there is a necessity for justice and punishment for sin. Throughout Scripture, God's actions—whether banishing Adam and Eve



from Eden or punishing Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)—illustrate His intolerance of sin. This unyielding purity affirms the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, which portray a God fundamentally different from man-made deities, who are often flawed and indulgent.

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9. The Power of God

Chapter 9: The Power of God

Understanding God necessitates recognizing Him as both all-wise and all-powerful. God's ability to execute His will is integral to His nature; without power, even His mercy and promises would be ineffective. God's power, like His essence, is infinite and unrestrained. This concept is echoed in Psalm 62:11 and emphasized by God's singular command that brought the universe into being. When God speaks, His word is eternal and absolute, underscoring His divine authority and unmatched power.

The Bible illustrates God's might through various acts, such as cleansing a leper with a word or raising Lazarus from the dead. His power is exclusive and innate, independent of creation. God is self-sustained, not reliant on anything or anyone. Charles H. Spurgeon describes this as God being the originator of all power.

Scripture offers challenges to human understanding of God's omnipotence, as seen in Job 38:4-6, which highlights human insignificance in the face of divine creation. God's power, often referred to metaphorically as His "right hand," is integral to His identity and inseparable from His nature.



Habakkuk 3:4 illustrates that even the most formidable natural phenomena only hint at God's power, revealing more about His restraint than His full capacity. God's presence is described as controlling the raging elements like the wind, signifying His command over the universe with ease.

God's creative power is showcased in making heaven and earth from nothing. Unlike human craftsmanship requiring tools and materials, God commands existence into being with a mere word. The vast universe, adorned with beauty and order, testifies to His unparalleled creative authority.

Preservation of creation further exemplifies His sustaining power. Every entity, including humans, depends on God's provision, as seen in Job 8:11 and Psalm 36:6. Nature itself, such as the sea obeying its limits, reflects God's sovereign control, which maintains balance and order in the world.

In governance, God's power restrains evil, including satanic forces that seek to destroy. Human sinfulness is also checked by God's hand, preventing chaos and maintaining moral order. Without God's restraint, human depravity would have catastrophic consequences.

God's power is evident in judgments, as shown in historical events like the Flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. His justice is unavoidable; in Romans 9:22, God's will and power are illustrated in the

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judgment of reprobate souls, highlighting the necessity of acknowledging His authority.

Thus, understanding God's power invites response: reverence, trust, and worship. For believers, the acknowledgment of God's might reassures confidence in His ability to answer prayers, meet needs, and provide deliverance. Scripture encourages believers to recognize, adore, and rely on God's all-encompassing power, reflecting on His capacity to transcend any human limitation.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10. The Faithfulness of God

Chapter 10, "The Faithfulness of God," addresses the pervasive issue of unfaithfulness in modern society, contrasting it with God's unwavering fidelity. In today's world, unfaithfulness is rampant across various domains—be it in business, where promises are often broken, or in marriages, where infidelity is common. Even religious leaders sometimes fail to uphold their vows. The chapter highlights that no one is immune to such unfaithfulness, including believers who may falter in their commitment to Christ. Amidst this, the reliability of God stands in stark contrast as a beacon of hope.

God's faithfulness is an intrinsic part of His divine nature, emphasized repeatedly in the scriptures. Passages from Deuteronomy, Psalms, and Isaiah affirm that God's promises are steadfast and He is committed to His word. Throughout history, His fidelity is made evident—from His covenant with Noah, ensuring the cycles of nature would continue, to fulfilling promises given to Abraham and later realizing the prophecy of Jesus' birth through a virgin. These historical acts reinforce the trustworthiness of God, offering assurance and stability to believers—"Great is Thy faithfulness."

The chapter also emphasizes the challenging aspect of maintaining faith during difficult times when God's faithfulness seems hard to perceive. In such times, believers are encouraged to trust in God's higher wisdom and



ultimate plan, even when current circumstances are fraught with doubt and distress. Referring to biblical encouragements like Isaiah 50:10, believers are reminded to lean on God amidst darkness, knowing that His faithfulness endures beyond temporary hardships.

God's faithfulness extends beyond preservation to discipline and correction. The text explains that God's chastisements are a sign of His love and faithfulness, not a lack of it, aligning with the notion that divine discipline is intended for spiritual growth and betterment. Scripture offers numerous examples of God's discipline as a means to guide His followers toward righteousness, emphasizing that afflictions are part of His divine purpose and care.

Furthermore, God's faithfulness ensures the ultimate glorification of His people. Believers are assured of being preserved blameless due to God's unwavering purpose—His call leads to ultimate glorification. The chapter reassures readers that faith in God's constancy helps mitigate worries, encourages gratitude over complaining during trials, and fosters a deepening trust in divine providence.

In conclusion, the chapter underscores the deep-seated assurance found in God's faithfulness. It serves as a call to trust in His promises, rest in His wisdom during trials, and cultivate a hopeful, confident life grounded in the certainty of God's eternal promise and faithfulness.



Chapter 11 Summary: 11. The Goodness of God

Chapter 11, titled "The Goodness of God," delves into the perfection inherent in God's nature, emphasizing that God's goodness is absolute, inherent, and eternal. This chapter begins by asserting that God is the epitome of goodness, with no need for enhancement or augmentation. Unlike creatures, whose goodness is derived and limited, God's goodness is essential and boundless, comparable to an infinite ocean.

The text elaborates that the very essence of God's nature is 'goodness,' and nothing created by Him can be deemed otherwise. This assertion is supported by the biblical declaration in Genesis: "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good." The inherent goodness of God is particularly evident in creation, as illustrated through the intricacies of the human body, designed with benevolence for its functions, and in the natural world, where every creature is provided for by God's bounty.

God's goodness also extends to our daily pleasures. Although humanity could thrive on sustenance without variety, God designed food with diverse flavors and the earth with variegated beauty, demonstrating His kindness. Furthermore, despite humanity's transgressions, God blended justice with mercy, revealing a balance where "mercy rejoiceth against judgment." Despite our inherent flaws and the presence of sorrow in the world, the chapter argues that the overall goodness experienced by creatures outweighs



the suffering.

The chapter also addresses the issue of suffering and sin, asserting that human beings cannot rationally question the goodness of God based on the existence of suffering. It is highlighted that God's punishment of sinners is a rightful aspect of His goodness, especially in upholding divine justice against those who reject His blessings and disrespect His authority. Moreover, God's greatest expression of goodness was sending His Son for humanity's redemption, an ultimate act of divine benevolence, allowing humans to be regarded as His children.

Acknowledging God's goodness is seen as an essential response, though often neglected due to the constancy and abundance of His benevolence. The chapter concludes that believers should find solace in God's goodness, which is a reliable foundation for trust and hope, even when faced with life's challenges or the failings of others. The enduring message is that God's nature does not change; He remains a stronghold in times of trouble, deserving of unwavering gratitude and trust.

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Chapter 12: 12. The Patience of God

Chapter 12: The Patience of God

The attribute of God's patience, though less discussed than His wisdom, power, or holiness, is a profound aspect of the Divine character deserving admiration and reverence. Despite its relatively infrequent mention in concordances, God's longsuffering permeates the Scriptures, shining forth as a crucial aspect of His nature, reflecting His compassionate endurance and restraint.

One reason for the limited commentary on Divine patience might be its close relationship with God's goodness and mercy, particularly the latter. In Scripture, God's patience is often alongside His grace and mercy, showing that while it is not identical to these attributes, it is a distinct excellence. The patience of God serves as a display of His mercy, with an emphasis on enduring sins and withholding immediate punishment.

Stephen Charnock, a Puritan theologian, distinguishes patience from goodness and mercy. He describes it as God's self-mastery, the mildness accompanying supreme goodness, where God exercises restraint, not out of any lack of ability to act, but out of His immense power and control. This patience is witnessed in passages like Nahum 1:3, illustrating that God's



great power is shown through His slowness to anger. This attribute is evidence of God's inherent control over His actions.

God's patience is perhaps best illustrated in His interactions with sinful humanity. At Kadesh-Barnea, when Israel provoked God, He withheld immediate judgment due to His longsuffering nature. Similarly, Romans 9:22 speaks of God enduring with much patience the vessels of wrath, displaying His capacity for self-control.

God's patience is also reflected in His title as "the God of patience" (Romans 15:5). This denotes not only His nature but serves as a model for believers to emulate. Believers are encouraged to put on attributes like kindness, meekness, and longsuffering, as shown in Colossians 3:12. In Ephesians 5:2, the call to emulate God's patience is echoed, urging believers to respond with grace and patience rather than vindictiveness.

Throughout history, God's patience has been demonstrated in various contexts. During the time of Noah, instead of immediate destruction, God waited around 120 years, displaying His longsuffering as Noah preached righteousness. With Israel, despite their recurrent idolatry and rebellion, God exercised patience, first in the wilderness for 40 years, and later through extended periods of disobedience, raising deliverers instead of annihilation. Even after the ultimate act of rebellion in the crucifixion of Jesus, God waited 40 more years before judgment came through the Romans.



Today, God's patience remains evident as the world continues in sin and defiance. Despite widespread disobedience, He withholds immediate judgment, showcasing His restrained wrath. This patience extends to individuals who have experienced personal rebellion against God. Even after

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13. The Grace of God

Chapter 13: The Grace of God

This chapter delves into the concept of divine grace as a distinct and crucial attribute of God's character, primarily bestowed upon the elect - those selected by God for salvation. Unlike His mercy, which is extended to all creation, God's grace is reserved for His chosen people, acting as the wellspring of goodwill, love, and salvation toward them. Abraham Booth, in his work "The Reign of Grace," describes it as God's eternal and absolute favor, given freely and undeservedly to the guilty and unworthy.

Grace, as explained in the New Testament writings, particularly by apostle Paul, stands in stark opposition to works and worthiness. In Romans 11:6, Paul underscores that grace ceases to be grace if it can be earned or merited through works. Grace is about God bestowing blessings without requiring compensation or merit, making it completely unmerited and unsought. Paul emphasizes that salvation comes through grace by faith, highlighting its nature as a free gift from God, not the result of human deeds.

The chapter identifies three core characteristics of divine grace: its eternity, freedom, and sovereignty. Grace was planned before time began, is given freely without being purchased, and is sovereignly dispensed by



God according to His own will. The sovereignty of grace means God chooses to whom He grants it, independent of human actions or desires. This selective nature of grace can provoke resistance in humans, who may struggle with the idea that it cannot be earned or that it might choose some while leaving others behind.

Historical biblical characters illustrate the astonishing power and reach of grace: Manasseh, a king noted for extreme wickedness, was transformed by God's grace into a believer; Saul, a vehement persecutor of Christians, became the apostle Paul; and the Corinthians, notorious for their vices, were washed, sanctified, and justified. These examples exemplify how the grace of God redeems even those who seem irredeemable, demonstrating its incomparable richness.

Through Jesus Christ, the grace of God was fully revealed and offered to humankind. While grace existed before Christ's incarnation, its full expression was obtained through His life and crucifixion. The Gospel, as the proclamation of God's grace, challenges human pride by declaring that salvation can only be achieved through unmerited grace, leaving no room for boasting or self-righteousness.

In the divine economy, the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the conduit of grace, termed the "Spirit of grace." While God the Father is the source, and Christ the channel, the Holy Spirit applies the power of the

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Gospel within individuals' souls, effecting spiritual transformation. In sum, grace represents a divine provision for fallen humanity, incapable of saving itself, and entirely reliant on God's generous intervention to experience His redemptive love.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14. The Mercy of God

Chapter Summary: The Mercy of God

The chapter, "The Mercy of God," delves into the divine attribute of mercy as an essential aspect of God's character, emphasizing its vastness and eternal presence. Referencing Psalm 136:1, the text underscores the importance of giving thanks to God for His enduring mercy, as it is a significant part of His goodness. God's mercy is described as great, plentiful, tender, and abundant, extending "from everlasting to everlasting" on those who fear Him.

The distinction between God's mercy and grace is explained. While God's grace is His free and sovereign favor, particularly evident in His interactions with the unfallen angels through election and preservation, mercy is oriented towards addressing the misery and needs of fallen creatures, presupposing their sinfulness.

The text categorizes God's mercy into three types: general mercy, which applies to all creatures; special mercy, which supports humanity irrespective of their sin; and sovereign mercy, reserved for those destined for salvation, delivered through a covenant relationship. The mercies given to the wicked are temporal, meant only for this life, whereas sovereign mercy promises



eternal blessings.

The chapter confronts the misconception that God's eternal mercy means universal forgiveness, asserting instead that God's mercy operates alongside His justice—wickedness will face due punishment. The notion of presumptuously relying on divine mercy while persisting in sin is critiqued, highlighting the necessity of genuine repentance for redemption.

Ultimately, the chapter celebrates the spiritual mercies bestowed upon the elect, underscoring that God's mercy transcends human comprehension. It affirms that believers are "vessels of mercy," blessed with spiritual quickening, salvation, and an eternal inheritance. This rich mercy fuels believers' wonder, love, and gratitude towards God. The chapter concludes with a poetic reflection on the overwhelming and immeasurable nature of God's mercies towards His saints.

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Chapter 15 Summary: 15. The Love of God

Chapter Summary: The Love of God

In understanding the nature of God as described in Scripture, three key aspects are illuminated: God as spirit, light, and love. The concept of God as "spirit" (John 4:24) highlights His incorporeality and omnipresence, as a physical form would confine His presence to a singular location. The attribute of God as "light" (1 John 1:5) reflects His holiness and purity, contrasting with darkness, which represents sin and evil. Most profoundly, God as "love" (1 John 4:8) signifies that love is not merely an attribute but the very essence of His being.

The chapter explores common misconceptions about Divine love, particularly the tendency to view it as a human-like amiable weakness. This misrepresentation ignores the profound richness of God's love as outlined in Scripture. True understanding requires reflection on how God's love operates, transcending human logic and conditions, and drawing our hearts closer in reciprocal love.

1. Uninfluenced Love: God's love is spontaneous and uncaused, independent of any inherent merit in the objects of His love. This is evident from biblical references like Deuteronomy 7:7-8, where God's love for His



people is based solely on His sovereign will, not on their actions or characteristics. The principle that "we love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19) underscores the unconditional nature of Divine love, free from external influence or merit.

2. Eternal Love: Since God Himself is eternal, so too is His love. As Jeremiah 31:3 states, He has loved His people with an "everlasting love," rooted in eternity past. This concept surpasses human understanding but offers peace and assurance, as the eternal nature of God's love means it has no beginning and no end, echoing the sentiment in Ephesians 1:4-5.

3. Sovereign Love: God exercises sovereignty in His love, choosing whom to love based on His pleasure rather than any external criteria. Romans 9:19 exemplifies this with the preference shown to Jacob over Esau, highlighting that God's love is not bound by human notions of fairness or equality.

4. Infinite Love: The omnipotent nature of God extends to His love, which is limitless and beyond human comprehension. Ephesians 2:4 describes God's "great love," a term reflecting its immeasurable quality akin to the boundless compassion expressed in John 3:16.

5. Immutable Love: God's love is unchanging, unaffected by circumstances or time. James 1:17 and John 13:1 affirm that Divine love



remains steadfast regardless of human actions, symbolized by God's unwavering love for Jacob despite his flaws.

6. Holy Love: Divine love adheres to God's holiness, never compromising righteousness. God's love operates through principle, not sentiment, evidenced by His discipline towards those He loves (Hebrews 12:6), ensuring that it remains pure and just.

7. Gracious Love: God's love is intrinsically linked to His grace, evident in the sacrificial gift of His Son (John 3:16). Christ's incarnation and crucifixion demonstrate love's ultimate expression, driven by God's goodwill and leading to profound spiritual blessings rather than temporal wealth.

In essence, the love of God is a profound, multi-faceted truth that encompasses His unconditional, eternal, sovereign, infinite, immutable, holy, and gracious nature. This understanding offers Christians a foundation for trust and perseverance, encouraging a deep appreciation for spiritual gifts over earthly assurances, ultimately leading to an unwavering assurance of Divine love amidst life's trials.

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Chapter 16: 16. The Wrath of God

Chapter 16, titled "The Wrath of God," addresses a commonly misunderstood aspect of the Divine nature: God's wrath. Many Christians today tend to shy away from contemplating God's wrath, viewing it as incompatible with His goodness. However, the chapter asserts that God's wrath is a fundamental part of His divine perfection, just as much as His love, faithfulness, or mercy.

The chapter argues that God's wrath is not a flaw in His character, but rather a necessary response to sin, stemming from His holiness. Scripture does not hide the reality of God's wrath; rather, it emphasizes it, often more than His love and tenderness. This wrath is not a reaction born from malice, but a reflection of God's pure displeasure and indignation towards unrighteousness. It's His holiness actively resisting sin and rebellion against His sovereign authority.

Scriptural references and historical events such as the Flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the curse from the Fall underscore the revelation of Divine wrath. Further, God's wrath was most profoundly revealed through the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, highlighting God's detestation of sin and the extent of His justice and righteousness.

The chapter also points out that frequent meditation on God's wrath can

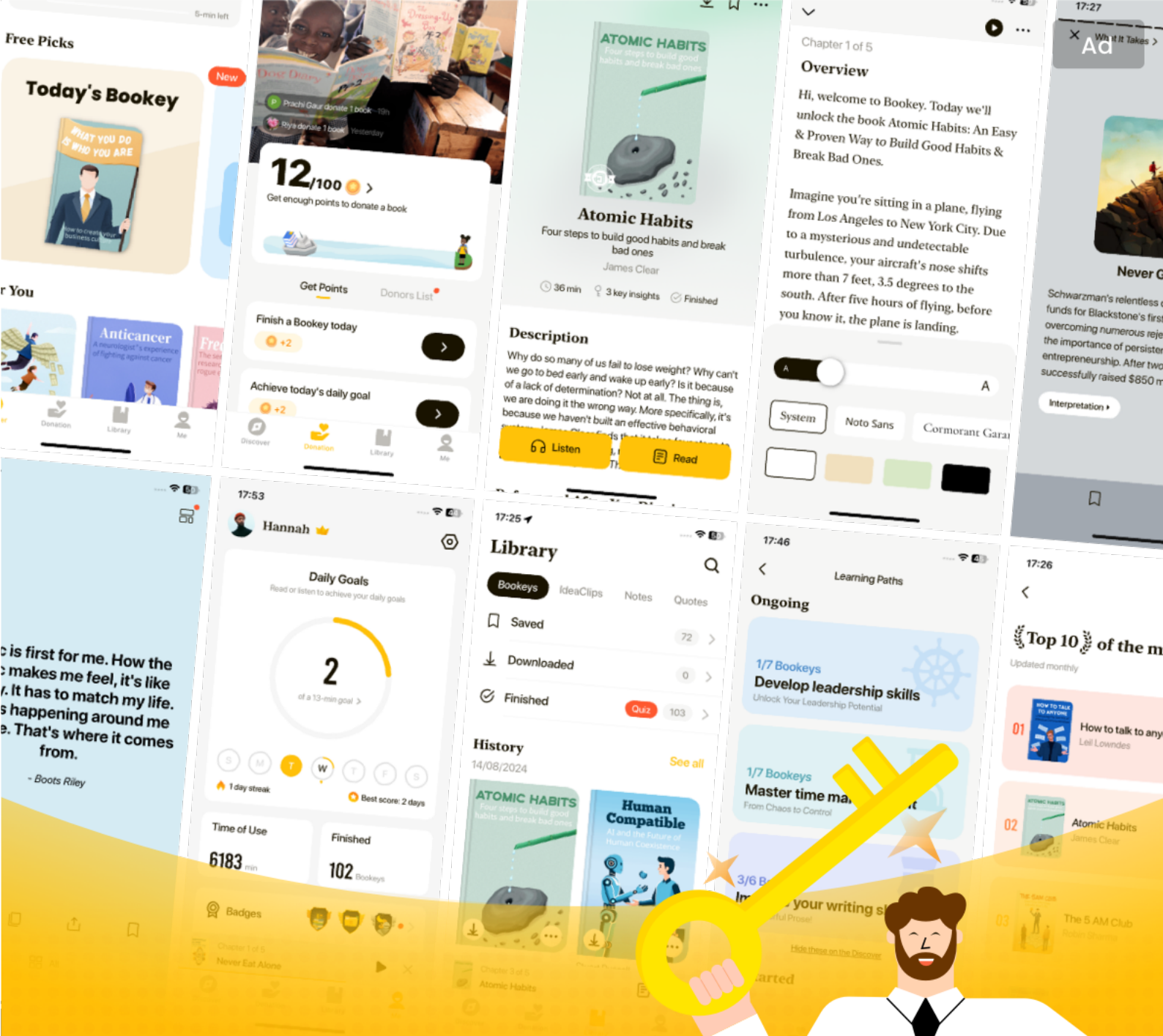


impress upon believers the seriousness of sin, cultivate a healthy fear of God, and inspire gratitude for salvation from imminent wrath. It suggests that how one responds to contemplating God's wrath reveals much about their spiritual state and their true reverence for God.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17. The Contemplation of God

Chapter 17: The Contemplation of God

The chapter delves into the contemplation of God's divine nature, building upon the discussion of God's attributes from previous chapters. Starting with the acknowledgment of God's incomprehensible nature, the chapter references Zophar's words from the Book of Job, pondering whether God's greatness can ever fully be understood. This introspection emphasizes God's attributes — eternity, immateriality, omnipresence, and almightiness — that overwhelm human comprehension. However, this overwhelming nature is not a deterrent for pursuing a deeper understanding of God. Rather, readers are encouraged to earnestly seek knowledge of God through scripture, as this pursuit is compared to the expansive science of Christ and the Trinity, which broadens the intellect and uplifts the soul.

The chapter cites C. H. Spurgeon, noting that studying the divine is the utmost intellectual and spiritual endeavor for Christians. This contemplation, while vast and often humbling, demonstrates the inherent limitations of human understanding when faced with the divine's infinity. The text further references Moses' interaction with God, where God proclaims His name, representing His attributes, a reminder of our limited but essential understanding of His glory.

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The text addresses the idea that the knowledge of God on earth is incomplete compared to the promised complete understanding in heaven. However, it cautions against assuming that the glorified state in heaven would equate to divine omniscience. The chapter stresses that God's essence remains incomprehensible due to the finite nature of human beings. Nonetheless, the spiritual growth and understanding of God's nature in eternity will result in perfect bliss commensurate with the capacity for knowledge, despite remaining unbounded like an endless horizon.

Additionally, God's all-sufficiency is discussed, emphasizing His independence and completeness within Himself, needing nothing external for fulfillment. His creation of the universe and humanity was an act of communicative love, not necessity, to share life and happiness. God's sovereignty and omnipotence are underscored through biblical references, affirming that He exercises dominion over creation with justness and righteousness. Yet, this sovereignty highlights the relationship between God and humanity, where the former's decisions are not constrained by human desires.

This contemplation of God culminates in understanding that true contentment is found in God alone, as echoed through scriptural references. God's supreme sovereignty and moral perfection offer hope and reassurance to believers, despite life's uncertainties. Ultimately, the contemplation of



God reveals a continual journey of growth in understanding His divine essence, which serves as a source of eternal hope and joy for believers.

Foreword and Preface Summary

In the foreword, Arthur W. Pink states that the chapters originally appeared in a monthly magazine dedicated to elucidating scripture and providing spiritual sustenance. The foreword also acknowledges a benefactor whose generosity enabled the booklet's publication.

The preface underscores the essential nature of developing a spiritual and saving knowledge of God, critiquing the superficial acquaintance with God prevalent in humanity. It declares the need for aligning one's life with divine precepts to derive true transformative knowledge of God. Through earnest solicitation for divine intervention, readers are invited to allow God's truth to underpin their living according to God's will, resulting in an enlightened and invigorated faith.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Knowledge of God on Earth is Incomplete

Critical Interpretation: This contemplation of God's boundless essence offers a profound lesson for your life. By acknowledging the limitations of human understanding compared to the infinite nature of God's attributes, you are inspired to embrace a journey of continuous learning and spiritual growth. Although your current comprehension might seem limited, this chapter urges you to persist in seeking a deeper connection with the divine through scripture and reflection, as it beckons you towards an unending journey of enlightenment. The promise of an ever-expanding understanding in eternity serves as a beacon of hope and fulfillment, motivating you to cherish the quest for knowledge and presence with God as an eternal endeavor. Such a perspective can cultivate contentment and resilience in the face of life's uncertainties, reinforcing the truth that complete understanding, while elusive now, will one day be attained perfectly with God, enriching your soul's capacity for joy.

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