

I. First Vatican Council affirms:

A. "The holy, Catholic, apostolic Roman Church believes and professes that

B. "there is one true, living God,

C. "the Creator and Lord of heaven & earth.

D. "He is almighty, eternal, beyond measure, incomprehensible,

E. "and infinite in intellect, will, and in every perfection.

F. "Since He is one unique spiritual substance, entirely simple & unchangeable,

G. "He must be declared really and essentially distinct from the world,

H. "perfectly happy in Himself and by his very nature,

I. "and inexpressibly exalted over all things that exist or can be conceived other than Himself."

II. John A. Hardon SJ :

"Reflecting on the nature of God, theology has variously identified what may be called metaphysical essence, i.e., what is God. It is commonly said to be his self-subsistence. God is Being Itself. In God, essence and existence coincide. He is the Being who cannot

not exist. God alone must be,  
All other beings exist only because  
of the will of God."

- III. Philosophically, God gets described as
- A. omnipotent
  - B. omniscient
  - C. omnipresent
  - D. incomprehensible
  - E. impassable
  - F. immeasurable
  - G. simple
  - H. holy
  - I. immutable
  - J. Goodness, Truth, Beauty
  - K. transcendent
  - L. immanent

- 4. "merciful and gracious in slow to anger, abounding in kindness - v.8
- 3. "righteous deeds... justice to the oppressed - v.6
- 2. "fills your days = good things" - v.5
- 1. "pardons all your sins, heals all your ills" - v.3

C. Psalm 103

- 5. "Whom did He consult... who... taught path of judgment... showed way of understanding"
- 4. "cupped in this hand... marked off the heavens carrying them in His bosom in his arms He gathers His lambs..."
- 3. "shepherd... feeds his flock..."
- 2. "rules by His strong arm"
- 1. "come with power"

B. Is. 40:9 -

- 3. "I am God; there is no other" - monotheistic religion
- 2. "Alone translated as 'One' - unity"

IV. God in Poetry - TS Eliot example A. Deut 6:4 and Is. 45:22

- 1. "God is alone - only He is God"
- 2. "Alone translated as 'One' - unity"

5. "As the heavens tower over the earth, so God's love towers over the faithful." - v. 11

6. "As a father has compassion on ~~the~~ his children, so the Lord has compassion on the faithful" - v. 13

7. "the Lord's kindness is forever" - v. 17

#### D. Psalm 139

1. "you know me" - v. 1-2

2. "before a word is on my tongue" - v. 3

3. "where can I hide from your spirit" v. 7

4. "darkness & light are one" - v. 12

5. "precious to me are your designs... eternal like you" - v. 17-18

6. omniscient, omnipresent (time & space) eternal

#### E. Psalm 93

1. "robed in majesty... girded in might" - v. 1

2. "powerful in the heavens" - v. 4

3. "holiness belongs to your house" - vs.

#### F. Psalm 90

1. "from eternity to eternity you are God" - v. 2

#### G. Psalm 81

1. "came out of land of Egypt" - v. 6

2. "I relieved ..." - v. 7

3. "brought you out of the land of Egypt" - v. 11

4. redeemer - goael

H. Psalm 33

1. "Lord's word is true ... all his works are trustworthy" - v. 4

2. "loves justice and right" - v. 5

3. "fills the earth with goodness" - v. 5

4. "plan of the Lord stands forever" - v. 11

5. "the one who fashioned the hearts of them all knows all their works" v. 15

I. Prefigures Jesus - Psalm 146: 7-8

J. I John

1. God is Light - ~~v. 5~~ 1:5

2. God is Love - 4:8

K. Exodus 3: 11-14 - the name of God

1. tetragrammaton

2. I am = reality

3. I = oneness

4. unique

5. I = person / Father

6. I am = eternal (not past or future)

7. am = present

8. mystery: "I am who I am" or "I will be what I will be"



9. for vs and with vs

## I. Creation account: Gen 1 & 2

A. God as creator

B. harmony of created world:

1. original holiness - relationship with God

2. original justice - relationship with others

3. stewards - relationship in world

C. created in image & likeness

D. sin lost

1. original holiness → fearful, withdrawn

2. original justice → dominate, accuse

3. relationship in world → sweat, pain

E. man sins - consequences follow

God has last word

\* dominate  
is part of  
sin not  
design