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## God is Eternal

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## GOD IS ETERNAL

God is eternal:

Simply defined, this means God is absolutely free from the tyranny of time. In Him there is no past or future, but one always and never-ending present. He is neither conditioned nor confined by time.

We see things only as they occur, if we see them at all. Man may be pictured as peeking through a small knothole in a huge fence, watching the parade of life go by. He can only see that tiny section of the parade that passes immediately before his eyes. This section he calls the present. That part of the parade already gone by is the past, while the final part of the parade he calls the future. But the eternal God stands on top of the fence and sees easily the entire panorama. He views the beginning (the past to us), the middle (our present), and looks upon the coming parade (the future to us).

- Passages describing this attribute:

### A. In the Old Testament

*"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, and will say, 'Destroy!'" (Deut. 33:27).*

*"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (Psa. 90:2).*

*"My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass. But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations" (Psa. 102:11, 12).*

*"Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world" (Prov. 8:25, 26).*

*"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones'" (Isa. 57:15).*

### B. In the New Testament

*"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.' Then the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM'" (Jn. 8:56-58).*

*"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (1 Tim. 1:17).*

*"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb. 9:14)*

*"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you" (1 Peter 5:10).*

- Of all the attributes of God, His eternality is without doubt, one of the most difficult for the human mind to wrap itself around! To illustrate:

A. You are handed a piece of chalk and asked to draw an everlasting line on an everlasting chalk board.

Question: Could you do this? Well you could certainly begin, but would never be able to finish. But what if the assignment involved drawing an eternal line? In this case, you would not only be unable to finish the task, but could not even begin it! This is why the psalmist had to use two everlastings in referring to God:

*“From everlasting, to everlasting, thou art God” (Psa. 90:2).*

B. We are told that the sun is one million times larger than our earth and that there are stars in the vast span of space that are a million times bigger than the sun!

- Now try to imagine a massive solid rock as massive as that gigantic star. Finally, think of a tiny bird visiting that rock each one million years and carries away a single grain of sand. The next million years it does the same. Now when the small creature has removed the last grain of matter, eternity would have just begun!

A. God is not in time, but rather time is in God:

Time itself is not timeless, for it too had a beginning and was created by God as were all other things.

B. Even though time had a beginning, it seems it will have no end:

This is suggested by the following passages:

*“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:7).*

*“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Rev. 22:1-2).*

C. Even though God is above time, He nevertheless works in time:

He has planned His activities before time existed, but then accomplishes them in time.

D. These activities, planned in eternity past but carried out in time involved both the Son of God and the saints of God.

1. The Son of God

a. His (physical) birth

*“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (Gal. 4:4).*

b. His death

*“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Peter 1:19-20).*

*“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8).*

c. His earthly reign

*“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).*

2. The saints of God

a. Our salvation

*“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Eph. 1:4).*

b. Our sanctification

*“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29).*

c. Our service

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).*

• Finally, consider the words of Simon Peter:

*“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8).*

In light of this passage in 2 Peter 3, the story is told of a carnal but clever believer who approached God in the following way:

*“Dear Lord, is it not true that a thousand years are in thy sight as but a day, and a million dollars as but one cent?”*

*“Yes, my child,” the Lord answered.*

*“Then, dear Lord, I would ask from Thee but one thing, could You grant thy servant a mere penny?”*

With a smile the Lord responded, *“Tomorrow my child, tomorrow!”*