

The unfolding of your words gives light.

Timeless

The Eternality of God

The Hebrew title ascribed to the creator is *El Olam*: the *God of eternity*. God never had a beginning and He will never cease to be God. When we say that God is *infinite* (another study in itself), we describe Him as boundless in many ways like space, knowledge and power. He is also boundless in time. Another way to describe the eternity of God is *temporal infinity*.

The reason we have difficulty grasping the concept of eternity is that we are trapped inside the boundaries of time. We are linear thinkers and find it hard to imagine that God is not also bound by the limits of the time, space and matter in creation. Try explaining the ocean to someone who has never seen the outside of a building. At best their knowledge will be theoretic.

God has chosen to tell us about eternity even though we have a hard time grasping it. One confirmation of this difficult reality is His history of revealing future events to men. Praise does not belong to the prophets. It belongs to the God who not only describes tomorrow but is already waiting at tomorrow. Prophets can only speak what God already sees. Because God is eternal, Samuel told Saul exactly what would happen as he headed toward his home. Daniel described world kingdoms long before they ever rose. David described the sin offering of Jesus over a thousand years before His birth.

What the eternity of God means:

- God lived before the material creation.
- God will continue to live when the material creation ends.
- God dwells outside of time and is therefore not limited by it.
- God lives in an eternal now.

Definition:

God has no beginning, end or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time. –Wayne Grudem

Theologians class this attribute as one of God's *incommunicable* attributes: one that men do not share. Here is how this attribute stands in contrast to man's character:

- This does not mean that our souls existed before the foundation of the world. The eternity of God is His alone and cannot be shared by men (what some theologians call an *incommunicable* attribute).
- This does not mean that we will eventually stop measuring time. Thinking of the prospect of leaving time and entering eternity does not mean we will take on all the attributes that make God God. Our capacity to measure eternity in days, years and millennia will likely make heavenly worship that much more awesome because we will see clearly how much bigger is our God than we are.

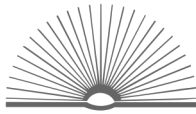
Biblical statements that reveal the eternity of God:

The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms; and He drove out the enemy from before you, and said, "Destroy!" Deuteronomy 33:27

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen. Psalm 41:13

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. Psalm 90:1-2

Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. Psalm 93:2



The unfolding of your words gives light.

Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end. Psalm 102:25-27

Your name, O LORD, is everlasting, Your remembrance, O LORD, throughout all generations. Psalm 135:13

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations. Psalm 145:13

Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord, *we have* an everlasting Rock. Isaiah 26:4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. John 1:1-3

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." John 8:58

But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 2 Peter 3:8

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us. 1 John 1:1-2

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8

And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come." Revelation 4:8

Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. Revelation 21:6

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Revelation 22:13

How this takes you to the cross: Realizing that God is eternal gives Him more than a passive knowledge of the future. His very presence outside of time explains how the salvation of His people is secured from foreknowledge to glorification. Paul's letter to the Romans uncovers this gem:

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. Romans 8:28-30

Why this makes a difference in your life:

Because God is eternal...

1. Your fear, worry and anxiety can fade when you remember that God has already arrived at tomorrow. He is never in a hurry. He has already arrived at the moment you fear. He is not subject to impatience or worry.
2. Your light afflictions are momentary compared to what is to come. Your attitude toward hard times can be joyful when you embrace God's perfect timing. You are not only dependent on His timing, you are not qualified to alter it.
3. Your view of a purpose bigger than payday can change the quality of your daily work. You should number your days. Knowledge that God dwells in eternity assures you that you will eventually enter something much bigger than the time that confines you now.



The unfolding of your words gives light.

©Rice Lake Baptist Church, 104 East Barker Street, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, 54868 – <http://www.ricelakebaptist.org> – 715.234.1966

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and that you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.