

## THE ETERNITY OF GOD

Heavenly Father, we come to you with humble hearts knowing, if for nothing else, you are God and we are not. We marvel at your greatness, your attributes, and your gifts of grace and mercy. We pray now that we develop a stronger understanding of who you are so that we may grow closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Some of the attributes of God seem to coincide with one another. We began with His self-existence, then went into His self-sufficiency and now we venture into His eternity. What a difficult thing for the human mind to grasp. We see practically everything through the perspective of time. We wear watches with seconds, minutes, and hours. Use calendars with days of the week, holidays, months. We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, TGIF, you name it, we use time and numbers to measure everything. Pythagoras (6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.), who studied the fate, immortality and transmigration of the soul also believed that the universe could be explained in numbers that were used to develop time. In Genesis 1:1 we read the words "In the beginning..." and because this was written to us by Moses through the inspiration of God it had to be put into terms that we could understand, so from a human perspective, Pythagoras wasn't too far off. As fallible beings with a beginning and an end we need something to gauge events by. As we go throughout our days, we base everything on time but our Father has no days or time. Augustine had this to say about the eternity of God "God spoke the universe into existence, but the words were not uttered in time. It is not as if God spoke and one syllable followed another for then there would have to be time and change in God but God is timeless and changeless – eternal". There is no past, present, or future for God because He is outside of time.

Eternity/everlasting is non temporal and can be difficult for us to grasp. Eternity does not mean that He existed for all time, it means that God exists outside of time altogether. The time that we are familiar with was created by Him. Moses said it well in the Psalms when he said "Before the mountains were brought forth, or even You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (90:2). From eternity to eternity is the only way for us to comprehend the existence of God. Moses goes on to say, "For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night" (90:4). If we are to assume that one thousand years will take place from this moment until the Savior comes that time has already come and gone in the eyes of God. It has already happened for Him just like the previous thousand years. When we read of events in scripture it is merely for our benefit because we need time in order to comprehend and relate to matters, time and matters that were created by our Creator. Psalm 102:25-27 reads "Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands, they will perish but you

will endure, yes they will all grow old like a garment, like a cloak you will change them and they will be changed but You are the same and Your years will have no end” The wording of that psalm is strictly for the benefit of our mind because His years do not exist and His presence transcends the beginning or end of mountains or heavens.

Because it can be difficult to grasp, this concept can also be used to misinterpret the idea of an everlasting punishment. If we deny the idea of no beginning to time, then we can deny the idea of no end to time thus eliminating eternal damnation and in turn eliminating punishment post fleshly demise. Pythagoras was a pre-Socratic philosopher who believed that numbers were the foundation of everything. What is fascinating is that Yahweh is not bound by numbers and has no foundation thus making the beginning or ending of time irrelevant to Him. For us, the acceptance of or denial of an everlasting punishment is irrelevant because it exists whether we believe it or not. Not only did God create us, He also created the angels, the throne, Heaven as we perceive it, and Hell, as we perceive it. Satan was created as an angel to worship the glory of God, and Hell was created by God to be his dwelling after his rebellion, but once upon a “time”, none of that existed and there was just God. What we must keep in mind, is that damnation was created by our Father, to contain Satan, his minions, and those who choose not to obey His will, and whether we agree with it or not is irrelevant. Besides that, it is also as eternal as Yahweh and a denial of such is nothing more than a denial of the eternity of moral retribution.

We must understand that the acceptance everlastingness is essential for any Christian doctrine. We cannot have a full respect for the Father, His dwelling or the prospect of retribution hereafter without it. Unlike us, God has no past and no future as John tells us in Revelation 1:4, He is and was so when time is referred to in scripture (or anywhere else for that matter), it refers to us not Him. As we measure everything by a succession of events as I referred to in the beginning of this lesson, for Him everything that will happen has already happened as He sees the beginning and end within a glimpse. Even if there were not specific references to His everlastingness scripture points in that direction at every turn. So the next time that you open your Bible (hopefully today) look to see what scripture you come across that point you towards His everlastingness.

### QUESTION SECTION:

1. Isaiah chapter 44 makes mention of God's everlasting attribute. Which verse can this be found? \_\_\_\_\_
2. 2Timothy chapter one says grace was given to us in \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_ (NKJ)
3. Ecclesiastes chapter three says that God has put something in our hearts. What is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who can we assume wrote the Ecclesiastes? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In Hebrews chapter 13 the writer refers to the eternal nature of Christ. Which verse can this be found and which Psalm is quoted immediately prior to this?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In Revelation chapter 1, John mentions the eternal attributes of the Father and the Son. Which verse can this be found and what island is he on when he writes this book?  
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Rev.1:4-5; Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood...

