

# THE INFINITY OF GOD

## INTRODUCTION

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- Encountering something great and magnificent both humbles and fascinates us...and reminds us how small we are
  - Towering mountains...thundering waterfalls...glimpses into space...the Grand Canyon...deep blue oceans all reduce us to wonder and awe at such majestic sights
  - In a small way, this illustrates what it is like when we come to an awareness of the infinity of God
  - “Infinity” is a word that means “boundless, endless, a state of being without limit...it may refer to a number that cannot be reached or to a series with no end point
  - It can refer to that which goes on *ad infinitum*...i.e. that is without end or limit
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- God’s infinity describes his nature as perfectly transcending all limitations of time, space, and understanding
  - It refers to the fact that God is free from all limitations and as a result possesses a supreme greatness
  - While we are finite, God is infinite in all of his ways...he is a limitless being
  - “With respect to God, infinity does not describe a mathematical quantity in him, such as extension through space or largeness in number; rather it speaks of his qualitative transcendence over all conceivable things... God’s infinity pertains to all his attributes. Considered intrinsically, infinity is unlimited perfection... Considered extrinsically, God’s infinity is his freedom from any and all limitation by the created order.”<sup>1</sup>
- 2 Chronicles 6:18** ~ But will God indeed dwell with mankind on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built.
- Psalms 145:3** ~ Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.
- Psalms 147:5** ~ Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.
- The infinity of God should produce a profound humility in us as we consider how great he is
- Psalms 8:1, 3-4** ~ O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!...3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?
- The infinity of God is also meant to comfort us in our affliction, especially in the face of enemies
- Psalms 36:1-6** ~ Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes. 2 For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it. 3 The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good. 4 He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil. 5 Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. 6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep. O LORD, You preserve man and beast.

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<sup>1</sup> Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, vol. 1, 640.

- The infinity of God also serves as a warning against exchanging the glory of God for finite beings which cannot capture his unsearchable greatness

**Isaiah 40:18** ~ To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

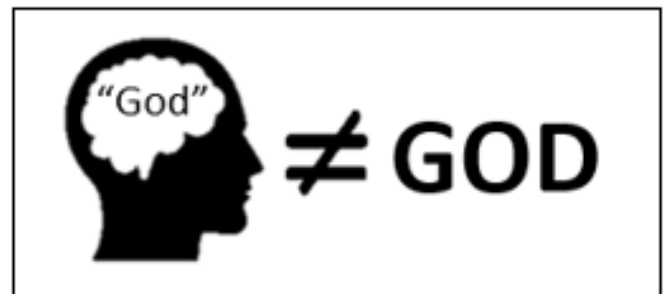
- The infinity of God also is central to the Gospel in that it took the sacrifice of the infinite God-man to redeem us from the fullness of our sin

**Titus 2:13-14** ~ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us **from every lawless deed**, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

## INCOMPREHENSIBILITY: INFINITY WITH RESPECT TO UNDERSTANDING

### What it Means

- The incomprehensibility refers to the fact that the greatness of God results in our never being able to fully and exhaustively understand him
- It is that quality of God which makes him incapable of being fully understood or comprehended by anyone other than himself
- “Our knowledge of God is not identical with his knowledge of himself, but is the finite, analogous knowledge of those created in God’s image.”<sup>2</sup>
- He cannot be understood fully by anyone other than himself...we cannot know him exhaustively
- God’s worth, nature, and being go far beyond anything that we can think or imagine
- The human mind cannot fully wrap itself around the measureless essence of God
- We can describe God but we cannot give an exact and full definition of him
- God is wholly different from us and everything else in creation
- The difference is not just one of degree (as if God were the best in all of creation), but one of essence
- He is a being of his own kind...One who alone defines his own existence and which he shares with no one else
- He is infinite; we are finite...he is absolute; we are dependent...he is ultimate; we are derived
- No comprehension of God by a creature is able to reflect all that God is, reflecting the great “Creator-creature” distinction
- “For all thinking creatures, there is and always will be an immeasurable difference between what can be conceived in the mind and who God is in reality...even when what comes into our minds about God is good and lofty and true, it will never fully reflect who God is in all His majesty.”<sup>3</sup>
- “A medieval legend held that Augustine, walking along a beach one day while contemplating the Trinity, encountered a boy scooping water out of the sea with a little shell. The boy claimed that he was emptying the sea, which the amused theologian said was impossible to do with a shell. Then he realized how much less he could fit God’s infinity into his finite mind.”<sup>4</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 642.

<sup>3</sup> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.gracechurch.org/mens/motw-2022-09-14-no-one-like-him-handout.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Beeke and Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, 643.

- “Learn to admire where you cannot fathom,” for “we can no more search out his infinite perfections, than a man upon the top of the highest mountain can...take a star in his hand.”<sup>5</sup>

## **What it Doesn't Mean<sup>6</sup>**

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### ***It Does Not Mean that He is Irrational***

- The incomprehensibility of God does not mean that his being contradicts reason or that what he communicates about himself is absurd
- There is nothing irrational or ludicrous about God...he is gloriously perfect

### ***It Does Not Mean that He is Unknowable***

- It does not mean that he cannot even be partly known by his creatures
- To know someone does not require absolute comprehension

### ***It Does Not Mean that He Cannot be Known Truly***

- It does not mean that, because what we know of God is limited, it will be misinformation or misleading
- In his kindness, God has revealed to us knowledge about himself that can be known as fully as he intended for us to know
- Although not fully, we can know him in a way that is faithful and pleasing to him

### ***It Does Not Mean that Creatures are Not Responsible***

- Despite his incomprehensibility, we are still responsible for our thoughts about him
- We will be held accountable for our beliefs in him
- What he has revealed to us about himself is clear and will serve as the standards by which our beliefs will be judged

## **Scriptural Support**

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- Scripture boldly declares that infinite God cannot be fully comprehended by finite man
- As a result, we should not expect to fully fathom God for, if we did, then he would not be God

**Nehemiah 9:5** ~ Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah, said, “Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever! O may Your glorious name be blessed And exalted above all blessing and praise!

**Job 5:9** ~ Who does great and unsearchable things, Wonders without number.

**Job 9:10** ~ Who does great things, unfathomable, And wondrous works without number.

**Job 11:7-9** ~ Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty? 8 They are high as the heavens, what can you do? Deeper than Sheol, what can you know? 9 Its measure is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

**Job 36:26** ~ Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable.

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas Boston, *A Body of Divinity*, 54.

<sup>6</sup> Adapted from <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.gracechurch.org/mens/motw-2022-09-14-no-one-like-him-handout.pdf>

**Psalm 40:5** ~ Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count.

**Psalm 92:5** ~ How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep.

**Psalm 139:6** ~ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.

### **Isaiah 40:12-26**

**Isaiah 55:8-9** ~ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

**Ephesians 3:8** ~ To me, the least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ

**Ephesians 3:17-19** ~ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

**Ephesians 3:20-21** ~ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

- “We are speaking of God. Is it any wonder if you do not comprehend? For if you comprehend, it is not God you comprehend. Let it be a pious confession of ignorance rather than a rash profession of knowledge. To attain some slight knowledge of God is a great blessing; to comprehend him, however, is totally impossible.”<sup>7</sup>
- “Neither in creation nor in re-creation does God reveal himself exhaustively. He cannot fully impart himself to creatures. For that to be possible they themselves would have to be divine. There is, therefore, no exhaustive knowledge of God...Scripture and the church emphatically assert the unsearchable majesty and sovereign highness of God. There is no knowledge of God as he is in himself. We are human and he is the Lord our God. There is no name that fully expresses his being, no definition that captures him. He infinitely transcends our picture of him, our ideas of him, our language concerning him. He is not comparable to any creature...He can be apprehended; he cannot be comprehended.”<sup>8</sup>

## **How it Applies to Us<sup>9</sup>**

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### **1. We must not be deterred from studying God**

- If God is incomprehensible (which he is), then we should not be surprised when we encounter doctrines in his Word which we find difficult to fathom...and mysterious realities which we are unable to fully reconcile in our mind

**Job 26:14** ~ Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; And how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?

- However, these infinite depths of God’s ways should not discourage our study of him; rather, they should fuel our desire to know him more since they energize our theological understanding of him with awe

**Hosea 6:3** ~ So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.”

<sup>7</sup> Augustine, sermon on John 1

<sup>8</sup> Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 2:36, 47.

<sup>9</sup> Adapted from <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.gracechurch.org/mens/motw-2022-09-14-no-one-like-him-handout.pdf>

## 2. We must humbly recognize our creaturely limits

- One of the most glaring implications of God’s incomprehensibility is the recognition that God is great and we are not
- It must leave us humbled, in silence, hurrying to bow before the Lord whose greatness and majesty overload our senses as we attempt to comprehend him fully
- Even when we don’t understand God’s ways, we must joyfully and humbly submit to them, trusting that he knows what is best for us
- Job learned this lesson when he attempted to question God about his justice and purposes
- In response to Job’s many questions, God responded to Job but didn’t answer any of his actual questions because Job could never understand them anyway

**Job 38:1-4** ~ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, 2 “Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me! 4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

**Job 40:1-2, 6-9** ~ Then the LORD said to Job, 2 “Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it...” 6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm and said, 7 “Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me. 8 Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified? 9 Or do you have an arm like God, And can you thunder with a voice like His?”

- The immense incomprehensibility of God taught him to put his hand over his mouth and to humbly submit to God’s good and sovereign purposes and to repent of foolish complaints against him

**Job 40:3-5** ~ Then Job answered the LORD and said, 4 “Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. 5 Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more.”

**Job 42:1-6** ~ Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2 “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 3 ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ “Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.” 4 ‘Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.’ 5 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; 6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.”

- “The doctrine of divine incomprehensibility prevents us from the ever-present danger of treating God with familiarity. In difficult times, we—like Job—easily become cynical and bitter, acting as if we have the right to assess God on His job of being ‘God.’ Conversely, during times of blessing, we become confident in ourselves and our grasp of reality, treating God as a ‘buddy’ and thinking of Him as in it for us. It is precisely here where we need the doctrine of God’s incomprehensibility. Nothing cultivates true humility in a man like this doctrine. And the one who has been humbled by this reality is the one with whom God is pleased.”

## 3. We must not go beyond what God has revealed but must submit our minds entirely to his Word

- We must always beware of speculation about who God is
- “If the enemy of our souls cannot extinguish our desire to know God, he will certainly tempt us to look for that knowledge in the wrong places. Wandering into areas not set forth in God’s word is an affront to God. Forming mental pictures or definitions of God apart from a direct connection to His word is idolatry.”
- We must be content with the knowledge God has given us about himself in his Word and must not go beyond it

**Deuteronomy 29:29** ~ The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

- In that verse, Moses clearly distinguishes between the knowledge we can possess (“the things revealed belong to us”) and the knowledge that only God possesses (“the secret things belong to the Lord”)
- The problem with man is that we are often not content with the knowledge God has given us and often crave the knowledge he hasn’t given us, which is not only impossible but is an affront to God
- If we hope to know him accurately, we must allow the Scriptures alone to inform us about his ways
- Only the Spirit of God can search the deep things of God, and God has revealed them to us in the words inspired by the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10** ~ but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”  
10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

#### 4. We must respond in wonder and worship

- Whenever we see this perfection of God emphasized in Scripture, we see the response of profound worship

**Exodus 34:5-8** ~ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. 6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” 8 Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

**Psalms 145:3** ~ Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.

**Psalms 147:5** ~ Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

**Romans 11:33-36** ~ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

**1 Timothy 6:15-16** ~ which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

- We respond in worship to the incomprehensibility of God because what kind of God would be worthy of our greatest adoration if he could fit within our feeble minds?
- It is because God is incomprehensible that he is worthy of our highest praise
- Furthermore, this perfection moves us to astonishment when we consider that this incomprehensible God became a man in order to reveal himself to us in flesh and to redeem us

## ETERNALITY: INFINITY WITH RESPECT TO TIME

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### What it Means

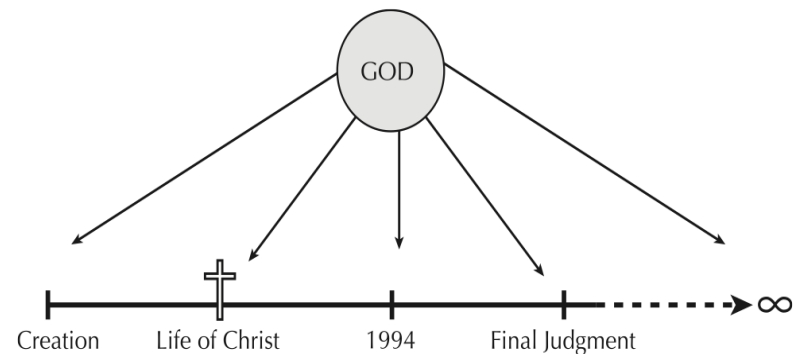
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- To say that God is eternal means that he is not limited by time and has no beginning or end
- He created time and stands outside of it...such that eternity is the duration of his essence
- He has no succession in his duration and he dwells in one indivisible point in eternity
- He possesses the whole of his existence in one indivisible present, with no distinction between the present, past, and future...all things are equally and always present to him

- “God perfectly transcends all limitations of time, so that he is without beginning, without ending, and without succession of moments in the experience of his being and in his consciousness of all other reality. In other words, in his experience of himself and all reality outside himself, God is not limited by the moments of time.”<sup>10</sup>
- “God has no beginning in time, no end in time, and no succession of moments through time.”<sup>11</sup>
- “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.”<sup>12</sup>
- “God never says, ‘I wish I had done things differently.’ Unlike us, he is not frustrated by an unrepeatable past or an unknown future, because he is beyond time. Time is a source of frustration to us. It races past us too quickly. We try to grab hold of it, but it eludes our grasp. We blink, and our children have grown and life is half over. ‘Where has the time gone?’ we ask... We are made for eternity but trapped in time. The eternal God knows nothing of this unease.”<sup>13</sup>

### *God Sees Time as an Eternal Present*

- All of past history is viewed by God with absolute clarity and perfect knowledge
- All of the time since creation is to God as if it just happened...and it will remain in his mind perfectly millions of years into the future
- For God, any extremely long period of time is as if it just happened...and any short period of time seems to God to last forever...because it never ceases to be present in his consciousness
- The Scriptures speak of “God’s relationship to time in a way that we do not and cannot experience: God’s experience of time is not just a patient endurance through eons of endless duration, but he has a *qualitatively different* experience of time than we do.”<sup>14</sup>



THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOD TO TIME

Figure 11.1

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**Psalm 90:4** ~ For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.

**2 Peter 3:8** ~ 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.

- Even future events are fully known by him as he has ordained them

**Isaiah 46:9-10** ~ Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’

- Thus, somehow God stands above time and is able to see it all as present in his consciousness

<sup>10</sup> John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*, 171.

<sup>11</sup> Beeke and Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, 663.

<sup>12</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 168.

<sup>13</sup> Terry Johnson, *The Identity and Attributes of God*, 68-69.

<sup>14</sup> Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 170 (emphasis original).

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 171.

- He does stand in some relation to time but not in the way of temporal things since temporal things have temporal succession
- God does have duration (the continuance or endurance through time) but not succession

### *God Sees Events in Time and Acts in Time*

- While God stands outside of time, he also acts within it to accomplish his purposes according to his sovereign plan and timing

**Galatians 4:4-5** ~ But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

**Acts 17:30-31** ~ Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

- “How could both be true of God: that one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day? The biblical writers are not giving a mathematical formula for the relation of God to time, but rather are teaching that God is independent of the motion of time.”<sup>16</sup>
- God is the Lord who created time and who rules over it and uses it for his own purposes and glory
- He is sovereign over time, not subject to it...time is God’s servant

### *God’s Other Attributes are Intimately Connected to His Eternity*

- God’s eternity implies his omniscience because his knowledge cannot be added to because all knowledge is equally present in him
- God never learns new things or forgets things, for that would mean a change in his perfect knowledge
- He knows all things past, present, and future...and he knows them all fully
- God eternity also implies his immutability (i.e. unchangeableness) because it is the essence of God to be both eternal and unchanging
- Time does not change God in that it has no effect on his being, perfections, purposes, or promises

**Hebrews 1:12** ~ AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.”

**Hebrews 13:8** ~ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- Furthermore, God’s foreknowledge is connected to his eternity in that he does not need to look ahead into the future to predict what will happen because time is no obstacle for him

## **Scriptural Support**

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### *His Essence is Eternal*

**Genesis 21:33** ~ Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

**Exodus 3:14** ~ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

<sup>16</sup> Beeke and Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, 662.



**Job 36:26** ~ Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable.

**Psalm 90:2** ~ Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

**Psalm 102:12, 27** ~ But You, O LORD, abide forever, And Your name to all generations...27 “But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

**Isaiah 40:28** ~ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

**Isaiah 44:6** ~ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.

**Isaiah 57:15** ~ For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

**Daniel 7:9** ~ I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire.

**Ephesians 3:21** ~ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

**1 Timothy 1:17** ~ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**1 Timothy 6:16** ~ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

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

### *His Characteristics and Ways are Eternal*

**Exodus 15:18** ~ The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

**Psalm 33:11** ~ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

**Psalm 104:31** ~ Let the glory of the LORD endure forever; Let the LORD be glad in His works;

**Psalm 119:142** ~ Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

**Psalm 136** ~ his lovingkindness is everlasting...his lovingkindness is everlasting

**Daniel 4:34** ~ But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

**Daniel 7:14** ~ And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

**Ephesians 3:11** ~ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

**1 Peter 5:10** ~ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

### **How It Applies to Us**

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**1. We must live for what is enduring and eternal rather than what it is transitory and temporal**

- It is eternity that makes life worth living because our souls were made for the eternal God and our happiness is found solely in him

**Matthew 6:19-20** ~ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal

**Colossians 3:1-2** ~ Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

- “The fact of eternity is what makes sense of the Christian life. Eternity is what gives *weight* to sin (it would otherwise be inconsequential), gives *value* to salvation and the means of attaining to it, gives *necessity* to faith and the diligent pursuit of holiness, makes *folly* of ungodliness, makes *vanity* of worldly pursuits, and gives *worth* to God’s favour.”<sup>17</sup>

## 2. It should awaken the lost to the everlasting terror of hell

- Judgment for sin will come from the eternal God...and the torments of hell will last forever

**Matthew 25:46** ~ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

**Mark 9:43** ~ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,

## 3. We can find comfort for our souls in the eternal God

- The ancient and eternal God is a hiding place and an ever-present help for his people
- When we are faced with troubles and trials all around and our strength fails us, we can lean on him and find rest for our weary hearts

**Deuteronomy 33:27** ~ 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!’

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

- When we are tempted to think that God has forgotten us, we must remember that he is the everlasting God

## 4. The eternity of God promises everlasting joy to his people

- This life is filled with temporary and fleeting pleasures, but we are promised spiritual joy that endures throughout eternity
- In other words, there is a vast difference between worldly happiness and spiritual joy

**John 4:14** ~ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

**Revelation 22:1-2** ~ Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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<sup>17</sup> Johnson, *The Identity and Attributes of God*, 71 (emphasis original).