

## **God is Eternal** by Stephen Moore

When we say God is eternal we mean that God is timeless, everlasting and that He lives in a state and realm beyond us.

*Read Deuteronomy 33:27, 1Timothy 1:17*

- Health Warning

*Read Ecclesiastes 3:11*

God has given us a limited concept of eternity but as finite creatures we do not possess full knowledge and understanding of eternity.

- God is timeless

Time is “a moment at which, or a stretch of duration in which things happen.” Essentially time is a measurement. Most scientists agree and the evidence points to the conclusion that time had a beginning. The controversy is the cause of the beginning of time as some say it was the result of a big bang and others that it was the result of a divine being.

*Read Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:16*

The Bible teaches that time is a created feature of a created universe and for God to create time implies that He is outside of time and not controlled by time. The Bible teaches that God created all things visible and invisible including the laws of nature such as gravity and of course time.

*Read 2Timothy 1:9*

The Bible mentions the fact that time had a beginning and amazingly explains that before time God planned salvation according to His purpose and grace.

*Read Romans 1:20*

God desires relationship and wants to reveal Himself. Before time God was unknown however by creating time, the universe and us God reveals Himself and shows us what He is like.

- God is everlasting

*Read Psalm 90:2*

God is not only timeless but He is also everlasting. Animal life has a beginning and an end, soul life has a beginning and no end whereas divine life has no beginning and no end. The question is can a timeless everlasting God act in the realm of time?

The Bible teaches that throughout history God has acted in our realm e.g. the worldwide flood in Noah’s day, giving the Law on Mount Sinai to Moses and so on. Some claim that because God has acted in the realm of time proves that He is controlled by time and is therefore not eternal. God’s eternal nature and His ability to act in time are compatible because as the eternal God He is before time, above and as the creator of time He fills every realm and work within every realm.

Not only has God acted on various occasions in our realm of time but the message of the Bible is that God actually entered into our realm of time and visited and lived on this planet in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Read John 8:58, Revelation 1:8*

Jesus claimed to be that eternal God and because He is timeless and everlasting He can see world history including our personal history from beginning to end. We can only see moment from moment but God sees it all. This is known as the foreknowledge of God.

*Read Revelation 1:17-18*

These verses make the statement that Jesus is the Living One. This is a title and a name referring to the fact that He inhabits eternity, and that He is eternal.

Jesus also says, "I was dead" which refers to the fact that God took upon Himself humanity and died as a man on the cross for our sins in our place.

Then Jesus says "I am alive forever and ever" referring to the fact that as the eternal God He rose again to die no more providing us with salvation, justification and victory over death.

- How is God's eternal nature relevant to us?

*Read Isaiah 57:15*

God is described as dwelling in eternity which is a state or being or to simplify it for our understanding – it's like a place. We will all go into the realm of eternity after death and we will spend eternity either with God or separated from God. This fact makes God's eternal nature very relevant.

- Eternal Word / Promises

*Read Romans 10:17, 1Peter 1:23-25*

Our salvation depends upon God's word and because God's word is eternal our salvation is also eternal. Every promise that God makes in His eternal word is an eternal promise which believers can claim for eternity.

- Eternal Saviour

*Read Revelation 13:8*

If we lived before Christ we would rejoice in the fact that God is eternal. Jesus was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world so people could be saved from their sins through faith on the basis of Christ's death even before it actually happened in the realm of time. Jesus is the eternal Saviour.

- Eternal Sacrifice

*Read Hebrews 9:28*

Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins on the cross and because He is eternal and infinite His sacrifice is therefore eternal and infinite. It is powerful enough to last for eternity and it covers all sin throughout all of history.

- Eternal Life / Security

*Read John 10:28-29*

The new life that Jesus offers is eternal life because He is the eternal God. Eternal life is “knowing God and His Son Jesus Christ” and when we receive eternal life by faith we are eternally connected to God and we will go to dwell with Him in eternity. No one can pluck us out of their hands.

- Eternal Pleasures

*Read Psalm 16:11*

When we go to spend eternity with God we will enjoy eternal pleasures at His right hand. We will learn more about God and enjoy His presence forever.

- Eternal Punishment

Read Matthew 25:41+46, 2Thessalonians 1:9

If we reject salvation through Jesus Christ then we will spend eternity separated from God. Some claim that people are annihilated and will not be punished eternally but to claim punishment is not eternal is to deny the fact that God is eternal. The punishment of the unbeliever is eternal because their sin is against an eternal God. In other words the punishment will last as long as God lasts.

- Conclusion

If a person rejects the eternal word, the eternal promises, the eternal Saviour and His eternal sacrifice, then they will not receive eternal life; eternal security and they will not experience the eternal pleasures but instead will experience eternal punishment.