

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Prayer meeting/Bible study

Date 22nd February 2023 Ps/Hymns Ps 124, Ps 90, Read Psalm 90:1-4, 465, Deuteronomy 33:26-29 Text Deuteronomy 33:26

Series – The Doctrine of God series Title The Eternality Of God. God Is Eternal

As we continue our study in the doctrine of God, we now come to the truth, God is eternal, also known as the eternality of God.

I direct your focus to the opening statement of **Deuteronomy 33:27** “**The eternal God...**”

Shorter Catechism Q.4, What is God? Answer: “God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.”

The Eternality of God means God is eternal in His love, justice, mercy, grace, goodness, truth, and faithfulness.

This truth that God is eternal, is taught in **Genesis 21:33** “**And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.**”

(Ps 48:14 “For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death. Psalm 102:12 “But thou, O LORD, shall endure for ever; “

Isa 57:15 “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy.”

1 Tim 1:17 “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.)

All these verses teach, that the very nature of God is eternal.

Furthermore, eternality is ascribed to each person within the Godhead, also known as the Trinity.

God the father is eternal Isa 40:28 “*the everlasting God,*” God the Son is eternal, Micha 5:2 “...whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Then God the Holy Spirit is called in Heb 9v14 “*the eternal spirit.*”

God’s eternality means God is before time.

God was, when nothing else was.

Ps 90:2 “*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*”

God is free from time and all the limitations of time.

The eternality of God is something that the limited or infinite mind of man cannot fully grasp or fully comprehend.

We work by time, dates, years.

Spurgeon wrote that “*Man’s thoughts are for a time, and his ways but for a season; God is eternal: when He thinks, His thoughts abide for ever, and when He acts His ways are everlasting.*”

We think in terms of past present and future.

However, the eternal God, views all time as the eternal present.

This is why we make the point, God is never in a hurry, God is never in a rush, He is never late or behind, because He views time as the eternal present.

As the eternal God of heaven looks at time, He does not see past present and future as we see them.

With God yesterday today and forever, are the eternal present.

This means with God **there is no succession, no progress or advancing**. The eternality God does not view His plans as a gradual process, bit by bit.

With God, there is no succession or growth of being, there is no succession of knowledge and no succession of events or action.

Now we view the actions and events in our life, as gradual, developing over time, but not with God, He views all events as instantaneous, with one eternal view.

Allow me to use the illustration of the processions, protests or parades around London, to help with this thought of the eternality of God.

When each section of the parade marches around the city, If you were to stand at Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, or, Downing Street, or any street on route, then each section of the parade would pass you, and as that section passes, then another section of the parade would pass.

Through the whole time your view of that parade would be succession, developing, gradual, each part of the parade would pass, adding more and more.

But during the parade, you only see what passes your view, you cannot see the start or the finish of the parade **at the same time**.

Your knowledge and view of the parade is limited, restricted and bound.

When attending Queen Elizabeth's funeral procession, I stood and watched from the Mall, just I could see what was in front, I could see when troops, procession left Horses guard. My view and knowledge the events, was limited to my area.

However, if you were able to fly high in the sky in a helicopter over the city you would see the whole parade route with one view. You could see every part of that parade at a single moment. You could see the start from the end. Where it is going and come from.

We would say your knowledge of that parade is no longer successive, meaning gradual, developing keeping adding to, - but instead your knowledge and view of the parade would now be instantaneous, in one moment of time you can view every part of that procession as one.

Your view of the event would not be bound, or restricted.

Therefore, with the eternality of God all that He has eternally planed and purposed there is no succession.

He sees the beginning from the end.

When it comes to our life, God does not view the events in our life as gradual, developing, rather He sees every event in our life as one.

Therefore, God is eternal, He is uncontained, unbounded by any power. He is before all things, therefore, all other things depend upon Him for their existence. He depends upon none.

This was the truth Moses wanted to stamp into the minds of God's people. **God is the Eternal God.**

Moses prepares the Lord's people for the trials that they will face as they move forward at God's command.

Moses focuses upon the truth that God is eternal.

We will take Moses words and look at four ways how the eternality of God applies to our lives.

It will be seen the eternal God is above, around, beneath and before His people.

I FIRST, THE ETERNAL GOD IS ABOVE HIS PEOPLE.

In verse 26 Moses closing words refers to God who rides upon the heavens and dwells in His excellency on the sky in order to help His people.

The language used gives the thought that the eternal God is above His people and in that sense He watches them from above. **Ps 115:3** “***But our God is in the heavens:*** The heavens are His.

Therefore, He is above His people, not only as Creator, and Sovereign, but also in terms of care, and watchfulness of all that effects or comes upon them.

He looks upon His people from above. His redeemed are never out of His view. He sees our coming in and going out.

In this earthly life there are, adverse forces, perplexing circumstances, many trials, deep sorrows, severe illness, which afflict the people of God.

These circumstances are often overwhelming; and challenging, possessing the power to pull the Christian down into discouragement and even despair.

In **2 Cor 4:8**, Paul sums up every trial when he says “...***we are troubled on every side.***”

The eternal God knows every trouble His people face on earth. **Ps 46:1** assures He is a very present help in a time of trouble. **Ps 121:1** “***our help cometh from the LORD who made heaven and earth...***”

Upon earth we have battles to face, an ever-active enemy, who walketh about seeking whom He may devour.

Therefore, we rejoice the eternal God, who is our God and Saviour, is above His people, and rides to our help.

II SECOND, THE ETERNAL GOD IS AROUND HIS PEOPLE.

Moses said in **verse 27** *the eternal God is thy refuge.*

The word '**refuge**'. Refers to **a shelter, a hiding place, a 'dwelling place'**. God is the dwelling place of His people.

When we think of a refuge, or dwelling place we think of home, a place to find shelter in a time of rain or storm.

In London we often see people flee to the tubes or bus stations, when rain is heavy. They look for refuge, a shelter in a time of storm, a place to dwell.

God is a refuge who surround us. Here is a wonderful and blessed thought, the eternal God Himself is said to be our '**dwelling place**'.

In **Psalm 90:1** the same words are translated that way as 'dwelling place' and is attributed to Jehovah.

Likewise, **Psalm 90** was also written by Moses after the journey through the wilderness to the Land of Promise.

The children of Israel during the wilderness journeys to the promised land lived in tents around the tabernacle. These were movable and their locations were ever changing.

Their circumstances differed, if it was not food they needed it was water. However, during their journey the presence of the Lord lead them as symbolised by the cloud.

Num 9:36-38 *"And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: ³⁷ But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*

They were always sheltered by God both by day and by night.

Believers, are as **Eph 2:19** states “*of the household of God...*” then in life the eternal God is our refuge, our dwelling place, He is eternally around us, sheltering us in the day and night time of life’s roller coaster experience, with all its ups, downs, twists, turns, and backward loops.

He is our refuge from trouble last week and even today. His strength and defence are everlasting.

There is never a time when our eternal God will not be our refuge. **Ps 62:8** “*Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.*”

When it comes to death our eternal God is still our refuge. He will not leave us alone. He will not abandon us.

When it is our time to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for He will be with us, as our comfort and our shelter.

He is our refuge from eternal wrath, because of His Son Jesus Christ, condescending into this world from above, to suffer the death of the cross, as Paul assures believers in **Romans 5:9** “... **being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**”

III THIRD, THE ETERNAL GOD IS BENEATH HIS PEOPLE.

notice **verse 27** Moses proceeds to state – “...**and underneath are the everlasting arms.**”

If you Consider the word **underneath** it means **there is something below or under giving support, a solid foundation** and since its connected to the expression **everlasting arms** then, **the eternal God of heaven, eternally supports His people.**

When one is supported upheld, they rest upon it.

Therefore, believers, rest or lean upon the everlasting arms of the eternal God as they are underneath.

Remember God is a spirit, and so He does not have arms, but this language is used for our benefit, because we understand, arms hold, and support.

The expression “**the everlasting arms**” means that **God surrounds, supports His people eternally.**

The arms of the eternal God underneath His people lift them up when downcast, or in weakness or to carry through in order to go forward in fulfilment of His eternal purpose in their lives.

God’s everlasting arms must carry out God’s eternal purposes. Not one of His promises can fall to the ground.

Oh how quick we are to have fainting fits, doubting the care of our eternal God.

But we must leave unknown future in the everlasting arms of our eternal God.

While we don’t know what the future holds, yet we know who holds the future. Whatever tomorrow holds, always keep before you the eternal God holds tomorrow in His everlasting arms.

His everlasting arms beneath means we can never slip through or go any lower. What a comfort in life as we think about death.

Charles Spurgeon relates a lesson he learned from a funeral. **A dear friend in Christ offered prayer in which there was a sentence which struck me, “O Lord,” he said, “You have laid our friend low, but we thank You that he cannot go any lower, for underneath him are the everlasting arms...and in due time thou wilt bring him up again in those everlasting arms, raised in the likeness of his Lord.”** That is true of all believers.

Therefore, the everlasting arms guarantees the eternal safety of all those who trust in Him as their eternal refuge.

Because God is eternal, **John 3:16** forgiveness of sin, peace with God in heaven is eternal.

Oh! what a fear for all who do not to have an everlasting Comfort to depend upon, their end will be everlasting punishment.

Because God is eternal, then **Matt 25:46** shows punishment in hell is eternal.

IV FOURTH, THE ETERNAL GOD IS BEFORE HIS PEOPLE.

Verse 27 “*and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*”

Moses assured Israel that conflict lay ahead in the Land of Promise as seen later in the books of **Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings and Chronicles**.

Battles would be fought, enemies defeated and territory taken.

Moses spoke to Joshua and the people, about entering the promised land, in **Deuteronomy 31:6** “...**And the Lord, He it is that doth go before thee...**” He leads His people forward into victory.

The Lord promised that He would drive out the enemy from before His people. The Lord removed the Canaanites out of the land of Canaan, to make room for Israel. He dispossessed the enemy; robbed them of their power and thereby made room for His people.

Now, as stated we do not know what lies ahead, what snares are laid for us, when assaults will come our way, or the mountains that seem to block any way through.

But we do know we will meet them in life.

However, the eternal God has gone before us. He leads on us.

There is no enemy, mountain, or assault that I will face that God has not gone before to give victory.

The problem lies in me not claiming the victory and giving in to easy.

Remember we are on the side that has already won. **John 16:33**

In Christ, God's people overcome. In **Rom 8:35 & 37** God's people are more than conquerors through Christ,

His eternality can never be defeated or brought to an end. **1 John 4:4** "...greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

(Ps 124:2 *"if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:*

verses 6-8 *"Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. ⁷ Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. ⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth."*

Paul said **Romans 8:31** *"If God be for us, who can be against us*

Oh believer, the eternal God our God, is above, around, beneath and before His people.

what a mighty God we serve.