

God Eternal

Ancient of Days

***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

"No age can heap its outward years on Thee;
Dear God! Thou art, Thyself, Thine own eternity."
Frederick W. Faber

***"BEHOLD, GOD IS GREAT, AND WE KNOW HIM NOT;
THE NUMBER OF HIS YEARS IS UNSEARCHABLE."***

Job 36:26

"The concept of everlastingness runs like a lofty mountain range throughout the entire Bible..."
"If the Holy Scriptures had no word for absolute everlastingness, it would be necessary for us to coin one to express the concept, for it is assumed, implied, and generally taken for granted everywhere throughout the inspired Scriptures." *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A.W. Tozer

Read Isaiah 46:3-13

Call to mind and ponder the non-communicable attributes of God declared in this passage.
What specific truths bring encouragement to your soul?

"We expect him to make everything beautiful in our time. The problem lies not with his timing but with our perception of it." Jen, page 72

Os Guinness, in his book *"God in the Dark"* calls this perception problem, "keyhole theology".
Here's how he describes it on pages 166-168

"Keyholes can be as misleading as they are useful. The few words overheard may be vital, but what if you don't know the context that explained them? What if there is a mysterious other person in the conversation, sitting just out of sight? Use the very incomplete evidence of the keyhole to jump to a wrong conclusion and you may be further off track than if there is no keyhole at all.

That is the trouble with keyholes. You don't always see enough to come to a right conclusion, but once you've seen a little it's difficult to resist trying. There are times when we see glimpses of God's ways but not enough to allow us to make true conclusions about what he is doing and why. But we cannot resist jumping to conclusions anyway.

Then, being insistent as well as inquisitive; we refuse to suspend judgment, and our wrong conclusions so misrepresent God that we end by doubting him. We always have sure and sufficient reasons for knowing why we can trust God, but we do not always know what God is doing and why. If the Christian's faith is to be itself and let God be God, it must suspend

judgment and say, Father, I do not understand you *in this situation*, but *I understand why I trust you anyway.*"

- Is there a specific situation where you've been impatient with God's timing? Are you doubting His goodness, or judging His character based on the minute details you are able to see through the keyhole?
- Are you craving or demanding that God "make (it) beautiful in our time"? What would it look like to entrust the timing of this situation to your Eternal and faithful God?

**"THE LORD IS FAITHFUL IN ALL HIS WORDS AND KIND IN ALL HIS WORKS. THE LORD IS
RIGHTEOUS IN ALL HIS WAYS AND KIND IN ALL HIS WORKS."**

Psalm 145:13b, 17

**"ALL THE PATHS OF THE LORD ARE STEADFAST LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS,
FOR THOSE WHO KEEP HIS COVENANT AND HIS TESTIMONIES."**

Psalm 25:10

Living in the Present (pages 74-77)

Toppling the Myth of Human Eternality (pages 77-80)

Gratitude (to God) **+** **Trust** (in God)

= Rest and freedom (from):

- Sinful nostalgia
- Regret
- Anxiety
- Sinful anticipation

Pray through one or more of the following passages.

Ask your trustworthy God for grace to trust in Him and wait on His perfect timing regarding specific situations in your life.

Psalm 25:1-5

Psalm 37:3-7

Psalm 40: 1-5

Psalm 62

Proverbs 3:5-7

Isaiah 26:1-4 30:15-18

"We are commanded to be time redeemers..."! page74

Ancient of Days, what steps can I take to:

- "live this day well" ?
- Impact and influence people for eternity?

***And lest we overlook this important truth, Jesus, our Savior, is very much in the picture as we contemplate God's eternalness!

The Holy Scriptures declare from Genesis through Revelation that both God, the Father, and Jesus, His Son, are eternal, with no beginning and no end. Here's just a few examples:

- "Then God said, "Let *us* make man in *our* image, after likeness." Genesis 1:26
- "And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you *before* the world existed." John 17:5
- "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
- "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. *I died*, and behold I am alive forevermore..." Revelation 1:17

Read:

2Timothy 1:8-10

2Peter 3

God, the Father, "before the ages began". gave us "grace and purpose" through our Savior, Christ Jesus. Jesus brought us life and immortality through His Gospel.

Jesus, not wanting any to perish, is patiently waiting to return and bring us, His children, to our eternal home.

"To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

"This day our hearts approve with gladness what our reason can never fully comprehend, even Thine eternity, O Ancient of Days. Art Thou not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, mine Holy One?

We worship Thee, the Father Everlasting, whose years shall have no end; and Thee, the love-begotten Son whose going forth have been ever of old; we also acknowledge and adore Thee, Eternal Spirit, who before the foundation of the world didst live and love in coequal glory with the Father and the Son.

Enlarge and purify the mansions of our souls that they may be fit habitations for Thy Spirit, who dost prefer before all temples the upright heart and pure." Amen