

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 21, 2021

Theme: The Attributes of God

Topic: Eternal

Main Texts: Psalm 90:1-17

Key verse: Psalm 90:2 – *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: ‘Eternal’ is an impossible word for finite minds to fully comprehend. So, philosophers and theologians have agreed on two viewpoints on the ‘eternal’ attribute of God: First, that God exists independent of time. In this sense, we cannot say that God has lived in the past for a certain number of years or that He will yet live a certain number of years into the future. Second, that God is in time but everlasting - that He existed in the past, exists today and will continue to exist forever. Either way, God has neither beginning nor ending; time is meaningless in trying to define His existence. So, Psalm 90:2 says: *“Before the mountains were born, before you had formed the earth and the world, from eternity past to eternity future you are God”*. (Complete Jewish Bible). Eternal means infinite, unending, perpetual, timeless. God first introduced His eternal attribute to us when Moses asked God *“But what should I say, if they ask me your name? God said to Moses: I am the eternal God. So tell them that the Lord, whose name is “I AM,” has sent you. This is my name forever...”* (Exodus. 3:13-15 CEV) The phrase "I AM" comes from the Hebrew verb "to be" or "to exist" and by this, God was declaring that He is self-existent, unchanging, and eternal.

1. (a) Read Psalm 90:2. How long has God been God? (b) How would you explain the eternal nature of God to someone else? (c) And how does it help you understand Genesis 1:1?

The concept of an eternal God is beyond what any human mind can fully comprehend. At the same time, it is the most beautiful attribute of God. All the great doctrines about God find completeness in His eternal attribute. *‘...Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.’* (Psalms 90:2b). Because God is eternal, everything else about Him - His word, power, purposes, dominion, etc., is eternal. For example: *“The eternal God is your refuge, and his everlasting arms are under you...”* (Deuteronomy 33:27a); *“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.”* (Romans 1:20). *“The Lord will reign forever and ever!”* (Exodus 15:18). It is God’s eternal attribute which makes Him the ‘God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’ It is His eternal attribute which qualifies Him to be God. No wonder the Bible is littered with this idea of eternity. Everywhere you turn, you find it!

2. (a) Read Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 9:6; 26:4; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 3:11. What other dimensions of God’s eternal attribute do these verses reveal? (b) How does God’s eternal attribute ‘complement’ His other attributes like His power, dominion, love, etc.? (c) If God was not eternal, how will that impact our faith?

One of the things which make the eternal attribute of God difficult to comprehend is the fact that man’s life on earth is so brief. Psalm 90:5-6 aptly captures it, *“You sweep people away like dreams that disappear. They are like grass that springs up in the morning. In the morning it blooms and flourishes, but by evening it is dry and withered.”* (NLT). And compared to God, our thousand years are like a mere watch in the night! The irony of this is that we were created in God’s image - to live forever, until sin changed everything. That is why, Paul, speaking about God reconciling man to Himself through Jesus Christ, speaks of it as God’s ‘eternal purpose’ (Ephesians 3:11). And why Jesus would say *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life”* (John 6:47). And as Apostle Paul wrote, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). As believers, it is in the *life hereafter* that our hope lies. 1 Corinthians 15:19 (Christian Standard Bible) says *“If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.”*

3. (a) How do you see God’s eternal attribute anchoring our hope of salvation? (b) Read Psalm 90:12; Daniel 12:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:9. How can you live with eternity in view? (c) How can you use the knowledge derived from today’s study to evangelize?

Prayer: Eternal Father, I cannot understand Your beginning or Your ending. All I know is that You are eternal. Thank you for the hope of an everlasting life with You. As I await the soon coming of Your Son, help me to live with eternity in view. Amen.