

The Eternal God

Intro: When did God come into being? What is His origin? These questions are addressed in the following verses dealing with the Eternal God.

Genesis 21:33

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

Exodus 3:13-14

13 Then Moses said to God,
"Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them,
'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.'
Now they may say to me,
'What is His name?'
What shall I say to them?"

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.'"

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its **context**.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- How God is described in Genesis.
- What God told Moses His name was. Exodus 3:13-14
- Who, Moses was told to tell the Israelites, sent him.

Exodus 3:14

Interpretation:

Genesis 21:33 What does this verse teach about God? _____

Exodus 3:13-14 What does God's name ('I Am Who I Am') mean? _____

What is its significance? _____

Research the Hebrew word 'Yahweh' (Jehovah) which is God's name. What does it mean and why is it significant?

Note:

The word 'everlasting' means 'for ever, always, continuous existence, perpetual, indefinite or unending future, eternity'

Note:

The english word LORD is used to translate the hebrew 'YHWH' , also written as 'Yahweh', 'Yehowah' or 'Jehovah'. The Jews considered God's personal name so sacred that only the priest was allowed to speak it and only on the Day of Atonement when he entered the Holy of Holies. Thus, whenever they came to God's name in the text of Scripture, they replaced it with the hebrew word 'Adonai' which translates to 'Lord' in the english. The english translators have continued that tradition by using LORD in place of YHWH, using the upper case to distinguish it from the hebrew word 'adonai' which is translated as 'Lord'.

The Eternal God (cont)

Psalm 41:13

Blessed be the LORD,
the God of Israel,
From everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and Amen.

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 93:2

Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.

Psalm 102:12

But You, O LORD,
abide forever,
And Your name to all generations.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How God's existence is described in each passage.

Interpretation

What does the phrase 'From everlasting to everlasting' mean? _____

What is the significance of One who exists 'from everlasting to everlasting'?

How would you explain a Being who exists 'from everlasting to everlasting'?

How would God view time in comparison to how we do? _____

Note:

The existence of God is a great mystery. Scripture does not even attempt to explain God's existence but simply assumes it. Hebrews 11:6 says God is pleased with the faith that simply 'believes that He is'.

From our perspective, God always was and always will be. From God's perspective, He simply Is! Thus His Name ... I Am! He is the eternal, everlasting God without beginning or end! It is encouraging that the same word used to describe God as 'everlasting' is also used to describe the new life we inherit through faith in Christ Jesus! But it is sobering that it is also used to describe the punishment of the unbeliever!

Because God is eternal, He views time at once from beginning to end. Picture a circle with a beginning and an end. We live on that circle of time. God is at a point in the center, able to view our entire lives at once! That is why He sees us, not only as we are, but also as we will be!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's existence?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The answer to the question, "When was God created?" , is 'Never!'. God always was, is and will be. A more accurate statement is that 'God Is!' He is not a part of, influenced by or in any way limited by time. As in the circle illustration above, God is separate from time as we know it. If you can imagine your life on that circle, you can only be certain of what has been (what lies behind you) and what is (where you are at present). The future, however, is a mystery for everyone on that circle of time. God, however, sees the entire circle at once. He is able to see our entire lives in an instant, as we were, are and will be. Such is the Eternal God we worship!

God is Eternal
From everlasting to everlasting!