

The Eternity and Omnipresence of God

God in Time / God Eternal

The eternity of God is that God exists out of time and transcends time yet rules over time and acts in time. He is timeless.

There are two views when it comes to the eternity of God. 1) God is timeless and transcends time (eternal). 2) God is within time but has no beginning or end (sempiternal). What are some arguments for each position?

But you, O LORD, are **enthroned forever**; you are remembered **throughout all generations**.
(Psalm 102:12)

[21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus **throughout all generations, forever and ever**. Amen.
(Ephesians 3:21)

[17] To the **King [eternal] of the ages**, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory **forever and ever**. Amen.
(1 Timothy 1:17)

[16] The LORD is king **forever and ever**; the nations perish from his land.
(Psalm 10:16)

[12] Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, [13] consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation [14] that this is God, **our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever**.
(Psalm 48:12-14)

[9] And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, **who lives forever and ever**, [10] the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him **who lives forever and ever**. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

[11] “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”
(Revelation 4:9-11)

[28] Have you not known? Have you not heard? **The LORD is the everlasting God**, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
(Isaiah 40:28)

[26] Behold, God is great, and we know him not; **the number of his years is unsearchable**.
(Job 36:26)

[25] Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. [26] They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, [27] but you are the same, **and your years have no end**.
(Psalm 102:25-27)

[8] “**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)

[13] **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**

(Revelation 22:13)

Because God transcends time, his perspective is very different. He sees long periods of time as being very short or as being present. All of history past, present, future is vivid to God as though it is present.

[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.** [3] You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" [4] **For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

(Psalm 90:2-4)

[8] But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, **that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** [9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

(2 Peter 3:8-9)

Ultimately, we'll never fully understand how God exists in time. We can use all the logic and scriptural evidence to argue one way or another, but remember, we are finite creatures trying to understand our infinite Creator!

Another important point to note: God told his people to call him Yahweh which means "he is" or "he exists." That's crazy! God just is. God just exists. God is just present.

[13] Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" [14] God said to Moses, **"I AM WHO I AM."** And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" [15] God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' **This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.**

(Exodus 3:13-15)

[57] So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" [58] Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**"

(John 8:57-58)

God in Space / Omnipresence

God is in all places at once spatially and transcendentally. He is uncontainable.

[27] "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, **heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!**

(1 Kings 8:27)

[48] Yet **the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands**, as the prophet says,

[49] **"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.** What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?"

(Acts 7:48-49)

[24] The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, **does not live in temples made by man,**

(Acts 17:24)

God is not everywhere in parts (1 part here, 1 part there), but he is both everywhere and immanent and fully present and personal in all places.

[27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet **he is actually not far from each one of us**, [28] for “**In him we live and move and have our being**”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.”
(Acts 17:27-28 ESV)

[23] “**Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away?** [24] **Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?** declares the LORD. **Do I not fill heaven and earth?** declares the LORD.
(Jeremiah 23:23-24)

[7] Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? [8] **If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**
(Psalm 139:7-8)

[3] **The eyes of the LORD are in every place**, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
(Proverbs 15:3)

We need to be careful NOT to view the eternity of God as God existing as a part of creation (Pantheism). He is the artist and creation is his artwork. They are separate. We must also beware NOT to view God as a distant God who just winds the clock, steps out of the picture, and let creation run its own course. God is fully sovereign and intimate in his

What about God-incarnate existing in the humanity of Jesus? What about the Holy Spirit indwelling believers? What about the passages that God draws near to those who seek him and departs from the wicked?

[3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**”
(Revelation 21:3)

[9] You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. [10] But **if Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11] If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **his Spirit who dwells in you**.
(Romans 8:9-11)

[23] Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, **and we will come to him and make our home with him.**”
(John 14:23)

[2] but your iniquities have made a **separation between you and your God**, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
(Isaiah 59:2)

[29] **The LORD is far from the wicked**, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.
(Proverbs 15:29)

[8] Draw near to God, **and he will draw near to you**. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
(James 4:8)