

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

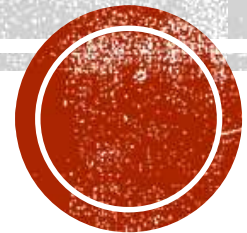
A STUDY OF THE MAJOR DOCTRINES OF SCRIPTURE.

Topic 2 – The Doctrine of God

Lesson 19 – The Attributes of God: Eternity

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ETERNITY

- God perfectly transcends all limitations of time, so that He is without beginning, without ending, and without succession of moments in the experience of His being and in His consciousness of all other reality. - MacArthur, pg. 170
- God does see events in time and acts in time. – Grudem, pg. 168
- Time has no effect upon God. He transcends time as it is a created thing.
- God is distinct from time but not separate from it. He is immanent (present in every moment), controlling every moment for His purposes and glory.
- God never learns new things or forgets things, so the passing of time does not add to or detract from His knowledge. He knows all things past, present, and future.



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- In the beginning, God created...Genesis 1:1
- God existed before the beginning.
- God began the beginning and in doing so created time, therefore never being subject to it.
- God exists in an eternal present, always with the first and the last of time.
- God is not confined or conditioned by limits or lengths of time.
- God is.



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- He is the first and last at once. Isaiah 41:4; Rev. 1:8
- He existed before creation. Gen. 1:1; John 1:1; 17:5, 24
- He will endure forever. Psa. 102:26-27
- He is God from everlasting to everlasting. Psa. 90:2; 93:2
- The number of His years cannot be discovered. Job 36:26
- One thousand years in His sight are as a day due to His immediate experience of all time. Psa. 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8
- He is God eternal. Isaiah 40:28



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- He inhabits eternity. Isaiah 57:15
- He lives forever. Deut. 32:40; Rev. 10:6; 15:7
- He is incorruptible and immortal. Rom. 1:23; 1 Tim. 6:16
- He was, and is, and is to come all at once. Exodus 3:14; Rev. 1:4, 8
- His purpose is eternal. Eph. 3:11
- He is King eternal. 1 Tim. 1:17
- He existed and acted “before the ages began.” 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:2



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- 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.
- Rev. 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
- John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”
- John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- 1 Cor. 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.
- Col. 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.



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- God acts in time according to His eternal purposes.
- Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
- Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
- Through the prophets, God predicted what He would do in time and then He did it.



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- Argument from God's omniscience – God is all knowing, and since His perfections are His essence, in His experience of His essence in itself, there is no past, present, or future. His experience of succession does not control, confine, or condition His existence.
- Argument from God's omnipresence – God transcends all limitations of space. He exists outside physical space and yet exists within every point of space. Therefore He must exist outside the moments of time, or else He is confined to being present within space as it exists in only one moment of time.



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- **Argument from God's immutability** – Since God's essence cannot change, He must not be conditioned by changing time. If God exists only in each moment, He must begin to exist in each succeeding moment, a conclusion that contradicts His immutability.
- **Argument from God's independence** – God's essence depends upon nothing for its existence, but rather is the fount of all existence, he cannot be dependent on the moments of time for His existence. If God only exists moment to moment then He is dependent on the existence of each moment.
- **Argument from God's omnipotence** – Since God has active power over all things, he must exercise power in the future and the past in order to be omnipotent. If He exists only in the current moment, He does not actually have power over the past or future moments, but they have power over Him.



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- If God exists only from moment to moment, His existence actually ends in one moment and begins in the next. He also has no control over the change of moments but rather is conditioned by their changing. Furthermore, He does not transcend space and time since He is confined to the current moment and to acting in space only as it exists in the current moment. Finally, although He may still govern current events to move inflexibly toward the final consummation of His plan, He does not in the present actually control events in the future, since the future moments have not yet arrived. Thus, given the various considerations above, it is necessary to view God as existing both inside and outside time. – MacArthur, pg. 172-173

