

Q:

How long is eternity?

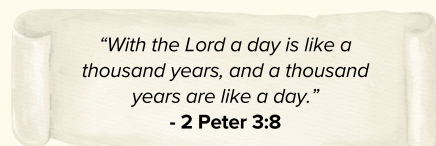
Seems simple - to reach forever just start counting (1...2...3...) and never stop.

We all know how painfully long ten minutes seems when waiting on someone.

But what about forever?

How do we measure timelessness?

And, what do we measure it against?



Maybe there's no need to worry about eternity. Perhaps it's pure fiction. The end is just...the end.

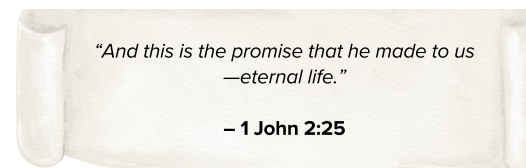
But if eternity does exist, and we are part of it, it sounds like we're in for a long, long time.

However, the more important question might be...what will we DO for an eternity?

We resist confronting eternity because our finite minds cannot comprehend a concept as overwhelming as infinity. Our modern minds get quickly twisted around the hands of time.

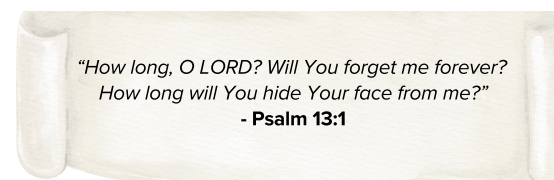
I mean, life is confounding enough without the need to wrestle with the concept of endlessness.

Might as well ask: How far is blue?



Eternity was the key catalyst for me to begin studying the Bible more deeply. I couldn't get my head around "forever and ever and ever".

The enormity of it all was just too oppressive to absorb. For much of my life, I chose to avoid the subject altogether.



WORD ON THE WORD:

In the Bible, the Hebrew word "olam" (pronounced: oh-LAHM) means "the hidden time, not visible to the observer." The Greek word used is "aionios" which means the "the life of the coming age" – a different quality of life, not yet visible. Both languages use a baseline word for duration then amplify it by doubling it or adding a modifier to verify the concept of eternity as infinite.

In the Old Testament, the word "olam" appears over 420 times. This recurrence hints at the vital importance of knowing eternity as infinite, but also unimaginable.

And this vast foreverness is amplified by the wisdom of the ancients who declared our life as nothing but a vapor - a puff of smoke that rises and is gone.

Q:

How long is eternity?

*"What is your life? You are a mist
that appears for a little while and
then vanishes."
— James 4:14*

Roman Senator and Christian martyr, Boethius, wrote an essay from prison prior to his execution proclaiming: *"Eternity is the complete, all-at-once, and perfect possession of boundless life"*.

*"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on
what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary,
but what is unseen is eternal."
- 2 Corinthians 4:18*

Unlike man who has a beginning, God alone is eternal, both forward and back.
Yet we too have no end.

To ensure we grasp this potential while never knowing the completeness of His works,
God planted a seed within each of our hearts.

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He
has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no
one can fathom what God has done from
beginning to end."
- Ecclesiastes 3:11*

In the realm of the infinite, all will be provided and we will know no death, no fear, no envy, no pride, no sin, and no unmet need except one - we shall always yearn to know and grow without ceasing.

We will forever seek what is infinitely great about God.

We will pursue the unending source of God's grace. God's glory. God's wisdom.

And, God's love.

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope
and love. But the greatest of these is love."
- 1 Corinthians 13:13*

And so humbly we ask, how much love is possible?

Infinite.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His
love endures forever."
— Psalm 136:1*



■ THE ORIGIN OF **LIFE** WAS THE **LIGHT** OF GOD.

■ **Life** IS BUT A BRIEF PRELUDE TO **Eternity**.

■ REMEMBER...

"YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN; YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO YOURSELF. GOD MADE YOU. HE IS YOUR CREATOR."
- ADAM CLARKE

■ THE ANSWERS ARE IN THE QUESTIONS.

■ ALL IS VANITY UNTIL WE COME TO FEAR **GOD**.

"**Eternity**"

↳ the one word sermon.

by ARTHUR STACE

"BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN, EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM."
- 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

"AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH."
- HEBREWS 12:1-3

"THERE SHALL COME - SCOFFERS - PERSONS WHO SHALL ENDEAVOR TO TURN ALL RELIGION INTO RIDICULE."
- ADAM CLARKE

the
SCOFFERS

"... THE SCOFFERS, HAVING NO SOLID ARGUMENT TO PRODUCE AGAINST REVELATION, ENDEAVOR TO MAKE A SCARAMOUCH OF SOME PARTS; AND THEN AFFECT TO LAUGH AT IT, AND GET SUPERFICIAL THINKERS TO LAUGH WITH THEM."

def: **SCARAMOUCH** -

- a buffoon in motley dress

(A CLOWN)



VS.

NO HIGH LIFE

"IT IS EASY TO FEEL CHRISTIAN IN THE MOMENT OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION; IT IS EASY TO FEEL CLOSE TO GOD WHEN THE WORLD IS SHUT OUT. BUT THAT IS NOT RELIGION - THAT IS ESCAPISM.

REAL RELIGION IS TO RISE FROM OUR KNEES BEFORE GOD TO MEET MEN AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE HUMAN SITUATION."

- William Barclay

ESCAPISM

Q. WHY DID JESUS SEPARATE PETER, JAMES + JOHN TO JOIN HIM ON THE HIGH MOUNTAIN TO TALK WITH MOSES + ELIJAH AND BE TRANSFIGURED?
↳ DOESN'T THIS SUGGEST SOME HIERARCHY AMONGST THE DISCIPLES?