

GOD IS ETERNAL

Leader pages on pp. 126-129

THE POINT:
THOSE WHO TRUST THE
ETERNAL GOD WILL LIVE
WITH HIM FOREVER.

PSALM 102:18-28

¹⁸ This will be written for a later generation, and a people who have not yet been created will praise the LORD:

¹⁹ He looked down from his holy heights—the LORD gazed out from heaven to earth—

²⁰ to hear a prisoner’s groaning, to set free those condemned to die,

²¹ so that they might declare the name of the LORD in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem

²² when peoples and kingdoms are assembled to serve the LORD.

²³ He has broken my strength in midcourse; he has shortened my days.

²⁴ I say, “My God, do not take me in the middle of my life! Your years continue through all generations.

²⁵ Long ago you established the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but you will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away.

²⁷ **But you are the same, and your years will never end.**

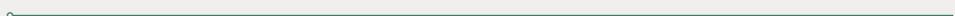
²⁸ Your servants’ children will dwell securely, and their offspring will be established before you.”

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MEMORY VERSE



KEYWORDS



His holy heights (v. 19)—A reference to the throne of God in heaven. Even though the Lord is exalted in heaven, He sees and hears from His children as they cry out to Him.

Serve (v. 22)—The Hebrew word (*abad*) was the word for the work of a slave; often is associated with Levitical service given to the Lord.

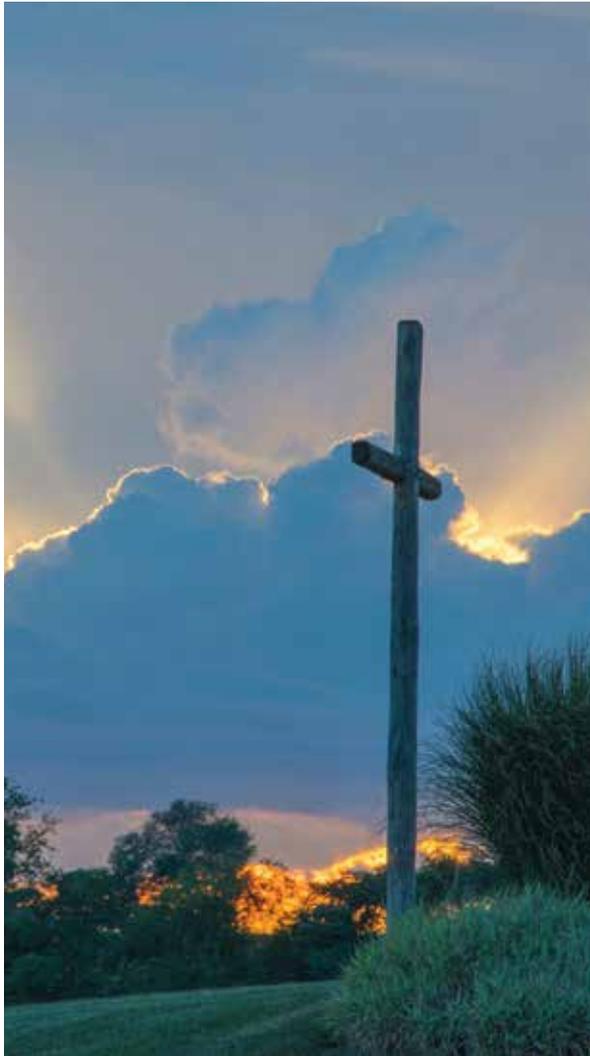
Shortened my days (v. 23)—God’s hand against His servant made him feel as though his life was over, his days shortened.

You will endure (v. 26)—The Hebrew literally says, “You will stand” (*amad*). In light of a world that was passing away and would not endure forever, God stood above time and space.

HOW DOES GOD'S ETERNITY OFFER US HOPE?

In today's world it's hard to grasp the concept of forever. For us, anything longer than two-day Prime delivery seems like forever. That's a far cry from the phrase "... world without end. Amen." we see in Ephesians 3:21 (KJV). For us to think about an eternal God requires a rewiring of our brains—a capacity to imagine a God who can look at the surface of a full-length movie and see the entire story of humanity, rather than the clip that we can see at any given time.

Yet, the book of Ecclesiastes says that God has "put eternity in [our] hearts" (Eccl. 3:11). That means that on some level the Lord has given us the capacity to grasp the infinite.



During this unit we've talked about God's character. His holiness. His justice. His omnipotence. His love. But what if, after every one of these, you attached a temporal modifier:

God is holy . . . *for now*.

He's all powerful . . . *for now*.

He loves you . . . *for now*.

That would negate God even being God. The eternity of God is what grounds every other attribute of God. These aren't just temporary promises. They are for **all time**.

Extolled in Every Generation // Psalm 102:18-22

The superscription of Psalm 102 doesn't give the name of the author, but it does give him a state of mind. This psalm is "a prayer of a suffering person who is weak and pours out his lament before the LORD." So even before we get into the text itself, we are already given a powerful truth: throughout history, God hears the cries of the afflicted.

Even when our prayers come across as complaints, He doesn't reject them. The fact that this psalm even made it into the Bible is a testimony to God's eternal love and compassion toward all those who are in distress and seek after Him.

Verse 18 begins with a remarkable statement: what the psalmist wrote was meant for "a later generation." This wasn't intended just for the people of his time; it was a message intended for those yet to come. By recording these words, the psalmist aimed to ensure that future generations would remember God's faithfulness and mercy.

In verse 19, the psalmist described God looking down from His "holy heights." This imagery conveys God's intimate involvement in the lives of His creation. He isn't distant; rather, He is aware of our struggles and needs.

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The psalmist noted that God listened to “a prisoner’s groaning” in verse 20. He was even willing to set free those who are condemned to die! Whether they were guilty of the crimes they committed was irrelevant to God. Think about the thief on the cross (Luke 23:40-43). He acknowledged his wrongdoing to the other thief, then turned to Jesus and asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom. From that moment, the thief was set free.

God cares deeply for those who suffer, whether from personal struggles, the consequences of sin, oppression, or spiritual bondage. In every generation—whether we are destitute, imprisoned, knocked down, overwhelmed with circumstances, battling illness, facing unemployment, dealing with family conflicts, or struggling to make ends meet—God is ready to hear our cries and respond with grace and compassion.

When God intervenes in our lives, the rescued will declare the name of the Lord. This means that experiencing God’s salvation leads us to share our stories with others. Our testimonies of God’s faithfulness not only affirm our trust but also encourage those around us to seek Him.

The psalmist emphasized the communal aspect of faith, showing that individual experiences bring people together in worship and gratitude. It reminds us that we are not just rescued to praise God, but to serve Him. The psalmist envisioned “peoples and kingdoms . . . assembled to serve the LORD” (v. 22), highlighting that serving God together has a greater impact than serving alone.

The core message of Psalm 102:18-22 is a reassuring reminder: God rescues those who call on Him. Throughout history, people cry out to God in their need, and He faithfully responds. This promise resonates with us today, inviting all of us to reach out to God, knowing He hears and acts.

HOW DOES THIS PSALM SPEAK TO GOD’S WORK IN FUTURE GENERATIONS?

Encounters Us In Every Generation //

Psalm 102:23-25

After all these assurances that God rescues those who call on Him, verse 23 seems out of place. Something happened to the psalmist in the prime of his life that broke his strength and shortened his days. Talk about a midlife crisis! Interestingly, the word for “answered” and “broken” are the same word in Hebrew (*anah*). So, in verse 2, he begged God to answer (*anah*) him when he called. Now, in verse 23, we find him complaining that the Lord had broken (*anah*) his strength.



DIGGING DEEPER ETERNAL PROMISE

The writer of Psalm 102 expressed through prayer, his confidence in the Lord by speaking of God’s eternity in contrast with His creation. Generations later, this same confidence was held by the writer of Hebrews. He spoke of the surpassing greatness and supremacy of Jesus Christ by quoting Psalm 102:25-27 in Hebrews 1:10-12. He identified Jesus Christ as the Eternal One, the Creator and Sustainer of the world. This affirms the deity and eternity of Jesus Christ. It is also a reminder that the promise of eternal life to believers is fulfilled in Him. The psalmist ended his petition by praying that future generations of believers will receive the same promise of eternal life. May we have a heart like the psalmist and be concerned with future generations receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ.

How will you pass on the promise of faith in the eternal God to the next generation?



The truth is that this is not contradictory at all. Sometimes God must break us of our own strength in order to answer us when we call. In our own strength, we can forget our need for God. Whatever happened to the psalmist in the midcourse of His life brought him to the point where his only hope was for the Lord to rescue him.

However, right in the middle of his lament, the psalmist shifted his focus. Here, he invoked God's unchanging nature: "Your years continue through all generations" (v. 24). What a beautiful reminder that while our lives are fragile and fleeting, God remains steadfast and eternal. His reign is not limited by time as we experience it.

Verse 24's emphasis on "all generations" is a reminder that while our moments are temporary, God's reign and His promises endure beyond our own lifetime. Throughout history, people have experienced the ebb and flow of life—the joys, trials, and uncertainties. Yet, God remains the unwavering foundation we can lean on.

Even in our struggles, God is in control. He reigns over all circumstances, regardless of how chaotic or uncertain our lives may seem. The psalmist reminds us that God's existence and authority go far beyond our human experience. His strength and stability are constants in a world filled with change.

In verse 25, the psalmist beautifully articulated the foundational truth that God is the Eternal

Creator: "Long ago you established the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands." This statement declares God's sovereignty and acknowledges His creative power. It invites us to consider the greatness of creation itself as a testament to God's enduring presence. It serves as reassurance that the same God who created the vast universe is still intimately involved in our lives today.

Think of the many stories throughout history of God's people facing challenges, loss, and despair, yet still testifying to how they turned to God and found solace and hope in His constancy. God doesn't change; He "is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

As we navigate the ups and downs of life, we can take comfort in knowing that God is sovereign and eternal. Whether one is a professing Christian or simply exploring deep questions about life and faith, the enduring nature of God offers a profound sense of hope and reassurance.

HOW DO CREATION AND HISTORY REFLECT THE ETERNAL NATURE OF GOD?

Endures Through Every Generation // Psalm 102:26-28

The psalmist declares, "They [the earth and the heavens] will perish, but you will endure" (v. 26). It's an acknowledgment of the fact that everything in our physical world is temporary. No matter how everlasting the natural world may seem, it will eventually wear out like an old pair of pants. This is an important warning for anyone who would choose to worship the "created instead of the Creator" (Rom. 1:25).

But there is also tremendous hope in this truth for anyone struggling through difficult circumstances right now. Just as heaven and earth will pass away, so will our challenges and hardships. Just like the seasons change, the difficulties we endure are not permanent. In contrast, God remains unchanged, steadfast, and eternal.

Verses 28 emphasizes the security of God's children and their offspring. Those who serve God have a lasting heritage. This inheritance isn't

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just about physical possessions; it encompasses spiritual security and the promise of eternal life.

The idea of future generations knowing God is important. The invitation to know that the love and grace of God aren't just for individual believers but are meant to be shared within families and communities carries weight. The notion that "their offspring will be established before you" (v. 28) speaks to the hope that as we experience God's love, we can share that love with others.

Our connection to God doesn't end when this life does. There's an assurance that extends beyond the boundaries of time into eternity. It suggests that our faith and devotion to God can have implications for future generations.

God's unchanging character is the foundation you stand upon. Struggles are temporary, but your relationship with God can last forever. Whether you're wrestling with doubts or striving to establish a legacy, this psalm invites us to lean into the promise that God will endure, and through Him, we have lasting hope and security.

WHERE CAN WE FIND STABILITY IN A CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND DETERIORATING WORLD?

DID YOU KNOW?

God is immutable. People who argue that God doesn't exist usually ask, "If God made everything, who made God?" His immutability is directly linked to his eternity. God exists without beginning or end and is not bound by time (Rev. 1:8). Some philosophers argue that the universe's existence requires a first cause. God is creator of the universe; thus, He is the cause of its existence (Gen. 1:1). God's eternity is foundational to the Christian faith. Because of His eternity, believers can trust that:

1. God will never cease to exist (Rev. 10:6).
2. Believers will live with God eternally (John 17:3).
3. God will always be with us (Matt. 28:20).
4. God is the source of security and rest for His people (Deut. 33:27).

Biblical Truth: "I am the Alpha and Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).

How will understanding God's eternal nature impact your faith in times of uncertainty?

LIVE IT

How should the concept of eternity influence our decisions and priorities in daily life?

The eternal nature of God is central to Christian belief. The Bible provides many references affirming God's existence from everlasting to everlasting (Ps. 90:2). His eternity is also reflected in His promise of eternal life for believers. God is eternal, and those who trust in the eternal God will live with Him forever. Here are some action steps to reinforce this truth in your life this week:

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- **Think.** Reflect on your relationship with God. Take time to pray and express your thoughts and concerns. Remember that He is eternal and cares about your struggles. Trusting Him means knowing you're never alone.
- **Testify.** Share your faith stories with friends or family. Talk about how you've experienced God's presence in difficult times. Encouraging others to trust in the eternal God can inspire them to seek a relationship with Him.
- **Trust.** Surrender your today and tomorrow to the sovereign God who is, was and is to come. Trust Him with every detail of every day of your life.

DAILY READINGS

1. SEEN, HEARD, AND RESCUED! // PSALM 102:18-22

The Eternal God who reigns from on high is not a distant deity but an intimately involved Father who sees every struggle, hears every cry, answers every prayer, and rescues His beloved children. From His heavenly throne, nothing escapes His notice—He sees our tears before they fall and knows our needs before we voice them. This divine attentiveness reveals God's heart as compassionate and responsive, always ready to intervene on behalf of those who worship Him. When we grasp this truth, we understand ourselves as cherished children under the watchful care of an all-powerful Father who delights in our worship and fellowship. This knowledge transforms our prayer life from desperate pleading to confident communion, drawing us closer to the

God sees, hears, and acts with perfect love and timing.

2. INVOLVED // PSALM 102:23-25

The Eternal God who created the heavens and earth remains involved across every generation—the same God who walked with Enoch, delivered Israel, and sent His Son continues as our present help today. His throne has never been vacant, His power never diminished, His availability never limited throughout history. This unchanging nature reveals God as both the majestic Creator of galaxies and our intimate helper in daily struggles. When we grasp that the God who spoke stars into existence also hears our whispered prayers, we discover ourselves as deeply valued by the One who transcends time yet enters our moments of need.

We are not forgotten in the vastness of creation but personally known by our eternal God.

3. ENDURING // PSALM 102:26-28

God's throne has never wavered, His power never diminished, His character never changed

throughout history. This unchanging nature reveals God as our solid foundation in an ever-shifting world. When we understand that the Creator of galaxies knows us intimately, we discover ourselves as cherished participants in His eternal story. Our lives gain profound meaning knowing we belong to the God who was, and is, and is to come.

God's love has endured through countless generations and will continue forever.

4. HOLY // ISAIAH 6:3

Our God is set apart in His perfect holiness, yet He is simultaneously the God of boundless love who reveals Himself intimately to those who love Him. His justice flows from His holy nature, ensuring that all wrongs will be made right, while His all-powerful might accomplishes what seems impossible. This divine combination reveals a God who is both transcendent and personal—holy enough to dwell in unapproachable light, yet loving enough to draw near to broken hearts. When we understand God's holiness, we see ourselves as recipients of undeserved grace, humbled by His purity yet welcomed into His presence through Christ. This truth transforms our worship from casual familiarity to reverent intimacy,

Draw close to the One who is mighty, merciful and holy.

5. FAITHFUL // 2 TIMOTHY 2:13

The God who keeps every promise is the same One who breathes life into dead places and restores what was lost or broken. He never changes, never fails, never abandons His word or His people. This unchanging nature reveals God as our unshakable foundation and our source of renewal. When we grasp His promise-keeping character, we discover ourselves as beneficiaries of His eternal covenant, participants in His ongoing story of redemption. Understanding that the life-giving God is eternally faithful transforms our trust from wishful hoping to confident expectation, deepening our relationship with the One whose yes and amen never waver across time.

Great is the faithfulness of the Lord!



Seize the Day

BY MARK CROSTON

I first remember hearing the phrase seize the day, *Carpe Diem*, in 1989 as it was featured in the movie *Dead Poet's Society*. Robin Williams played an English teacher who challenged his students to read Robert Frost's poem "Carpe Diem" and to make the most of their lives.¹

The complete phrase is actually *carpe diem quam minimum credula postero*. The full English translation says, "Seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow." It came from the Roman poet Horace's *Odes*, written around 23 BC.² The thought of seizing the day, though, did not originate with Robin Williams, Robert Frost, or Horace. We can find it sprinkled throughout the Word of God.

Seize The Day God Made

Psalm 118:24 boldly declares, "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Every day, good or bad, is initiated by God and fully under His authority. God did not stop creating after Genesis 2. He put into His creation the power to keep on creating. So, each new day is a created gift of the Almighty, one we have never seen before and will never see again.

Seize the Day God Has Planned

Life is not just a random series of accidents. James 4:13 and 15 inform us that God is involved with His creation and not just sitting idly by wondering what will happen next.

James writes, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.’ . . . Instead, you should say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’” Yes, God is not just the prime mover unmoved, but God has each day planned. While not forcing us to do everything according to His will, He orchestrates the circumstances around each day to fulfill His eternal purposes. That’s right: “. . . all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

Seize the Day That’s Available

We take light for granted. The sun shines in the day, and we have electrical lights that brightly illuminate the night. Today things run 24/7, but that was not the case in Biblical times. Most activities happened between sunrise and sunset. Only dim lamps glowed at night. That is why Jesus said, “We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4).

We must snatch the time that is available. I’m sure you’ve heard someone say they wish there were more than twenty-four hours in a day. Well, there aren’t. We must get done whatever needs to be done in the available day.

Seize the Day That’s Timely

Every day is not the right day. There is a calendar day and a day of opportunity. It is always possible to do the right thing at the wrong time. Even something as simple as “A word spoken at the right time is like gold apples in silver settings” (Prov. 25:11). Timeliness is vital. Arrive at the airport on the wrong day and miss the flight. Profess Christ on the day after the Second Coming and miss heaven. This is why Solomon instructs us that “There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven” (Eccl. 3:1).

Seize the Day We Have

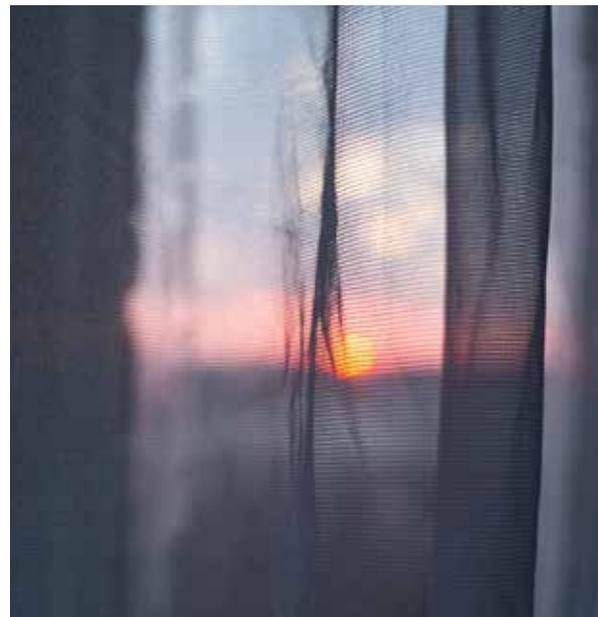
Remember the full statement says, “Seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow.” Tomorrow is not guaranteed. It could be fantastic or a disaster. Our health, wealth, and

relationships could all change by then. Jesus could come back tonight, and those of us who are saved will be gone. In addition to all this, today is already full of its own opportunities and struggles. This is why Jesus admonishes us in Matthew 6:34 to seize the day we have: “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Do you have a ship out there? Don’t wait for it to come in—go get it. Do you have a dream? Go complete it. Do you have a goal out there? Go achieve it. The day we have is a day of decision and action. “As it is said: ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion’” (Heb. 3:15). “I do not know how long ‘twill be, nor what the future holds for me, but this I know: if Jesus leads me, I shall get home someday.”³

Seize the Day!

1. Robert Frost, Carpe Diem, accessed September 10, 2025, <https://www.robertfrost.org/carpe-diem.jsp>.
2. “Carpe Diem,” Encyclopaedia Britannica, accessed September 10, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/carpe-diem>
3. Charles Albert Tindley, “Beams of Heaven as I Go” (1905), in Hymnary.org, accessed September 19, 2025, https://hymnary.org/text/beams_of_heaven_as_i_go.



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