

"The Eternality of God"
(Psalm 102:23-28)

Introduction: We as human beings like to feel secure, and we seek to find that security wherever we can. Children often gain a sense of security in their parents. And children are given to their parents to protect, provide for, and to nurture. To an infant, his or her parent is a strong fortress in which to feel safety when there is something which threatens.

As we grow older and experience some of our own strength and abilities, there seems to be a naivete that comes over us, and we become sufficient unto ourselves. We don't think we need anyone.

But as we become completely mature and come back to our senses, we recognize that we live in a world of uncertainty. Many things threaten us: criminals, loss of money, loss of health, loss of life. Things can change and we can lose everything we trusted in.

In this psalm, the writer is in exile. His world collapsed when the Babylonians came in and took over his country, took his possessions, his freedom, possibly his wife and children. Yet in the midst of all of this, he looks to the One who among all things is constantly unchanging, steadfast, enduring, the One who doesn't change, the One who is eternal, in order to bring stability back into his life.

What I want you to see this evening is,

God is the eternal covenant-keeping God who is able to fulfill His promises to His chosen and their seed.

I. God Is Eternally the Same (vv. 24b, 25, 26a, 27).

A. His Years Span all the Generations And Have No End (vv. 24b, 25, 26a, 27b).

1. He created the heavens and the earth long ago (v. 25).
 - a. The psalmist says He founded them **of old**.
 - (i) We do not know precisely how long ago.
 - (ii) The early earth view seems most attractive.
 - b. He created time, space, and matter.
 - (i) There was only God before the creation.
 - (ii) God created the space.
 - (iii) God created the matter.
 - (iv) God created the time.
2. His existence spans from eternally before that event, to eternally after (v. 24b, 26a, 27b).
 - a. He is eternally existent <Ps. 90:2>.
 - (i) He had to exist before creating anything.
 - (ii) The creation does not change that (v. 26a).
 - b. God has no beginning or end.
 - (i) There was never a time when He did not exist.
 - (ii) When applied to Christ, who is God, the early church said, "There was not when He was not."
 - (iii) There will never come a time when He will cease.

- c. We cannot conceive of this.
 - (i) Since we are time bound, we can only think in terms of time.
 - (ii) Therefore, when we think of God's eternality, we conceive of it as endless duration both ways.

3. God transcends time.

- a. God transcends all created things.
 - (i) God exists apart from His creation.
 - (ii) He is in no way limited by it.
 - (iii) Time is one of His creations.
- b. We are time bound creatures.
 - (i) We all live in a constant succession of events: actions, decisions, thoughts, etc.
 - (ii) We all have a past, present, and future.
- c. But with God there is no time <2 Peter 3:8>.
 - (i) All is eternally present with God <Ex. 3:14>.
 - (ii) There is no succession of any kind in Him.
 - (iii) There is no past, present and future, only constant present.
 - (iv) This is the infinity of God with relation to time.
 - (v) We cannot understand it, but we try to describe it by saying what it is not.

B. *Because He Is Dwells Outside of Time, He Eternally Remains the Same (v. 27a).*

- 1. The years do not effect God, or change His purposes.
 - a. Nothing that God creates can change Him.
 - b. He knew eternally what He would create.
 - c. He knew eternally every detail of His creatures' existence.
 - d. He ordained eternally all that He would cause to transpire.
 - e. He ordained eternally how He would deal with His creatures.
- 2. Therefore, He will complete what He has begun; He will remain true to His promises.
 - a. Nothing catches God by surprise.
 - b. Nothing can cause one iota of change in Him.
 - c. His purposes will be carried out to their perfect completion.

II. *Because He Is the Eternal God, He Is Able Keep His Covenant Promises (vv. 23-24a, 26, 28).*

- A. *He Will Bring About the Restoration of all Things As He Promised (vv. 26).*
 - 1. He created the heavens and the earth, so also He will create the new heavens and new earth.
 - 2. The present heavens and earth will wear out like a garment.
 - a. The creation is not unchanging as God is.
 - b. The creation will grow old and wear out <Is. 51:6>.
 - c. In science, this is called the *Second Law* of

Thermodynamics.

- d. Everything is tending towards uniformity.
3. Like a garment He will change them.
 - a. When His purpose for the present heavens and earth is completed, He will change them <Isaiah 65:17>.
 - b. This is the cosmic renovation.
 - (i) Not a new creation ***ex-nihilo***.
 - (ii) But a cosmic purification by fire.
 - (iii) Everything will melt with fervent heat.
 - (iv) And in the midst of this purifying inferno will come forth the new heavens and new earth.
- B. So Also He Will Not Forsake His People nor Their Seed As He Promised (vv. 23-24a, 28).**
1. The psalmist laments that the Lord's hand is heavy upon Him (v. 23-24a).
 - a. The Lord had swept His people into exile because of their unfaithfulness to the covenant stipulations.
 - (i) They had broken the covenant.
 - (ii) The curse sanctions had fallen upon them.
 - (iii) They were exiled to Babylon.
 - b. The faithless and faithful both suffered.
 - (i) The faithless brought on God's wrath.
 - (ii) But all suffered because of covenantal solidarity.
 - c. Because of this, the psalmist lamented the Lord's chastening hand.
 - (i) No chastening is pleasurable.
 - (ii) It is wrath to the ungodly.
 - (iii) It is discipline to the godly.
 2. But he realizes that even this is due to God's unchanging faithfulness to honor His covenant.
 - a. When they kept the covenant, God was faithful to bless them.
 - b. But when they broke the covenant, God was faithful to bring the covenant curse upon them.
 - c. The same is true of the new covenant <2 Tim. 2:11-13>.
 3. And because God is eternally the same, He will always honor His covenant to be the God of the psalmist and his seed after him (v.28).
 - a. God determined by His own unchangeable character to make a covenant with Abraham.
 - (i) To be a God to him and to his seed <Gen. 17:7>.
 - (ii) He would raise up for Abraham a seed and would be their God throughout all successive generations.
 - b. Even if Abraham's natural seed failed, yet God had His spiritual seed, a remnant which would not.
 - c. The psalmist takes comfort in the fact that God's faithfulness would ensure this <Isaiah 66:22>.
 4. And because this same God is the God of the New Covenant,

- you and your seed will be established as well.
- a. It is the spiritual seed who are the true sons of Abraham <Rom. 9:6-8>.
 - (i) The true seed are not the natural sons.
 - (ii) Rather, they are the sons of the promise, the spiritual seed.

 - b. You are Abraham's seed if you are trusting Christ <Gal. 3:7-9>.
 - (i) Christ is the promised seed to Abraham <Gal. 3:16>.
 - (ii) He is the One who fulfilled perfectly all the requirements of the covenant.
 - (iii) He is the One who receives all the promises.
 - (iv) And in Him, all of them are your's as well.
 - (v) If you are in Christ, you are also Abraham's seed, sons according to promise.

 - c. And God has promised to be a God to you and to your seed, forever.
 - (i) If God has taken you into covenant with Himself, then He is a God to you and your seed.
 - (ii) God has promised that He will establish your seed.
 - (iii) This does not refer to all of your children, for some become covenant breakers.
 - (iv) Rather it refers to you children who do not turn aside from the faith of your parents.
 - (v) God has promised to be your God and He will be, because He lives forever, and His purposes toward you do not change.
 - (vi) But you must be faithful to His covenant, you must daily exercise faith and repentance.
 - (vii) If you disobey God and will have nothing to do with Him or His covenant, then He remains faithful to punish disobedience.
 - (viii) And if you persevere in your rebellion against God, you show that you were never His.
 - (ix) On the day of judgment, the eternal God will be faithful to cast you away eternally into perdition's flames.
 - (x) And you will suffer in agony forever, because you would not have Christ for your Lord.
 - (xi) And this applies to all of you who are sons and daughters of the covenant.
 - (xii) Your fate will be the same as the unbeliever, but worse, because you knew more and had greater access to God's means of grace.
 - (xiii) So love this God, trust this God, and never turn back from serving Him, and He will bless you.
 - (xiv) But if you turn away, know that He is faithful as well in His judgments. Amen.