

### III.1. Lambs to Rams: The Godhead: Father, Son & Holy Spirit

#### Their Eternal Nature

Eternal: From H6923; the *front*, of place (absolutely the *fore part*, relatively the *East*) or time (*antiquity*); often used adverbially (*before, anciently, eastward*): - aforetime, ancient (time), before, east (end, part, side, -ward), eternal, X ever (-lasting), forward, old, past.

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting (*Heb.5769- concealed, that is, the vanishing point; generally time out of mind [past or future], that is, [practically] eternity*) to everlasting, Thou art God.

Eternal, according to Webster, is “without beginning or end; everlasting”. But how does the human mind comprehend such a timeframe even though God “has put eternity into man’s heart” (*Ecc 3:11; ESV*)? The mind can almost understand the concept of time unending into the future but to fathom the thought of it having always previously existed is mindboggling. Some might suggest that time doesn’t exist in Heaven but since time is eternal we can conclude that it only began to be measured in the physical realm when the world was created in six literal 24 hour periods (*Gen 1*). In the song “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder” it mentions “where time shall be no more”. We need to ask ourselves, “Why then does the Revelation mention that the lost ‘will be tormented day and night forever and ever’”? (*Rev 20:10*); “day and night” are measurements of time and both the punishment of Hell and the joy of Heaven will run concurrent. Eternal, then, describes the nature of God’s existence.

A question that often comes to mind is “If the Godhead is eternal, why did Deity create all things physical around six thousand years ago and not millions or even billions of years before that?” (*See IV.6. Christ’s Lineage and the Age of the*

*Earth)* Once reaching eternity that question might become insignificant in the presence of the Almighty since, if the world does last millions or billions of years (*ignoring entropy*), it would become moot.

But there are those, even in the church (*theistic evolutionists*), who believe in the ‘day/age theory’ where each of the six days of creation are actually six ‘ages’ (*eons*) and on the seventh day God rested for an ‘age’. (*See IV.1. Creation Week: Days or Ages*) Such is easily disputed when one understands the word for ‘day’ in the Hebrew actually means (*Heb.3117*) “to be hot; a *day* (as *warm* hours), whether literally (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figuratively (a space of time defined by an associated term). The ‘associated term’ here is found in the phrase “and the evening and the morning were the first day” (*Gen 1:5*). Therefore a ‘day’ is equivalent to a twenty-four hour period and such has remained constant since the earth was created.

But how does God work within a twenty four hour period since, according to Peter, “one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day” (*3:8*). This phrase is hyperbolically (*deliberate and obvious exaggeration used for effect- Encarta Dictionary*) speaking how God is not constrained by time. James states that our lives are “even as a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (*4:14*). Solomon wrote that God “hath set the world (*Heb.5769- eternity*)” within man’s intellect (*Ecc 3:11*). According to Albert Barnes:

“God has placed in the inborn constitution of man the capability of conceiving eternity, the struggle to apprehend the everlasting, the longing after an eternal life.”

Only mankind has been given this gift from birth since God is spirit (*Jn 4:24*) and we were made in His image (*Gen 1:26-27; 9:6*). Therefore we are spiritual beings and once we shed our mortal tents (*2 Cor 5:1-4; 2 Pet 1:13-14*) we will, at the

resurrection, be “raised in incorruption” (*1 Cor 15:42*) to either be with our eternal God in Heaven or to be “cast into the lake of fire” (*Rev 20:15*).

### Eternal verses Immortal

Immortality: Gk.110- *deathlessness*.

Since we have already defined eternal according to Webster as having no beginning or end, we now focus on ‘immortality’ as something that has a physical/spiritual beginning but whose inner person (*i.e., the soul*), once created in man’s case, will never die. Deity is not created since the Godhead has no beginning. Man, however, did not exist prior to conception (*contrary to Mormonism which teaches otherwise-mormonbeliefs.org*), at which point we take on God’s nature. Jesus, as eternal in nature, took on flesh and thus immortality due to His resurrection (*1 Tim 6:16; Ps 2:7*). He was the first to become ‘immortal’ once the “body [that] was prepared for [Him]” (*Heb 10:5*) resurrected. As “the only begotten of the Father” (*Jn 1:14*) He is now understood as the “first begotten of the dead” (*Rev 1:5*) since others will follow on the last day.

### Eternal Relationship

*Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.*

In this statement, Jesus acknowledged the relationship He had with the Father even before they created the worlds in Genesis 1. (*See also Job 38:4-7*) Jesus told His detractors of His existence before Abraham.

*Joh 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad. 57 Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham? 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say*

unto you, Before Abraham was, I am (*Gk.1510- I exist*).

### Holy Spirit is Deity

Act 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not **lied** unto men, but **unto God**. (*Emp. added*)

If “we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery... which God ordained before the world unto our glory” and such things “God hath revealed unto us by His Spirit” then that would make Holy Spirit eternal since He had to be there from before the beginning for “the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (*1 Cor 2:7-10*). From Genesis 1:2 we understand that Holy Spirit was even involved in the creation. (*Read Gen 1:26-27.*) He has the same authority that the Father and Son have or Jesus would not have included such in the Great Commission (*Mat 28:19*).

Because of the eternal nature of the Godhead and the fact that Deity as Creator existed before the creation, we can have confidence in the kingdom (*church*) that will outlast all other kingdoms (*Dan 2:44*).

Deu 33:27 The eternal God *is thy* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms: and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy *them*.

### III.1. Questions

1. ‘Eternal’ according to Webster is: a) with beginning but without end; b) with end but without beginning; c) without beginning or end.
2. How long ago was the earth created? a) about 6,000 years ago; b) over a billion years ago; c) millions of years ago.
3. True or false: A ‘theistic evolutionist’ is someone who believes the world was created in six eons. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
4. True or false: Peter spoke literally by the statement “one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day”? a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
5. To be immortal is: a) to have a spiritual beginning without an end; b) to have a physical beginning with a soul that will never die; c) neither.
6. True or false: Jesus became immortal once the body that was prepared for Him resurrected. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
7. What did Jesus say to His detractors that angered them in John 8? a) He existed before Abraham; b) He was their Creator; c) since they rejected Him, He was going to preach to the Gentiles.
8. What was Peter implying about Holy Spirit in Acts 5:3-4?  
a) Holy Spirit came from God; b) Holy Spirit is God; c)

Holy Spirit did not participate in the creation.