

*Who Was, and Is, and Is to Come*  
*Psalm 102:18-28*

God is an eternal being. The statement, “God is eternal” defies human reason. But the important question is, “What does the fact that God is eternal mean for you and me?” **Psalm 102** helps us answer that question.

The Psalmist knows that since God is eternal, He has always been. And if God was there in the beginning, then you can be assured that in every moment of your past, God was there as well.

An amazing example of this took place as Jesus was calling His disciples. When Nathanael met Jesus, Jesus claimed to know about him. Nathanael asks: “*How do you know me?*” Jesus’ answer doesn’t just claim knowledge; it claims prior presence. “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

That God is eternal also means He is present now. The fact that his psalm is a prayer affirms his awareness that God is with him in the present. God’s clear promise in Scripture is that He is “with us”—Emmanuel. His constant presence is assured through His Spirit. Even in our most isolated moments, we are never really alone, for Jesus, by His Holy Spirit, is with us.

But the Psalm’s focus is on how God’s eternal nature affects our future. To the Psalmist, God’s eternal nature means only that his children will live in God’s presence when he is gone. But a better future with our eternal God became clearer in the ministry of Jesus. On the cross, Jesus promised, “This day you will be with me...” With the eternal Jesus, we can live eternally.

The Bible pictures our lives like runners in a 4x400 meter relay. You are simply the steward of the baton for 100 meters. God isn’t with us like a spectator on the sideline. He is present with every stride we take like the track itself. We are running on His eternal stability—on the course He laid out. When we come to the finish line, He will be there, ready to make permanent the eternal life He prepared and planned for us.