

Eternal God

If I say, "God is eternal," you have every right to consider how that might make a difference for you. What is the "cash value" of that attribute of God?

Steven Charnock, a puritan from the 1600's, wrote extensively on who God is. Here is how he begins the section on the eternity of God:

God is a perpetual refuge and security to his people. His providence is not confined to one generation; it is not one age only that tastes of his bounty and compassion.

His eye has never yet slept, nor has he suffered the little ship of his church to be swallowed up, though it hath been tossed upon the waves. He has always been a haven to preserve us, and a house to secure us. He has always had compassion to pity us, and power to protect us. He has had a face to shine, when the world had only an angry countenance to frown.

In all generations he is a dwelling-place to secure his people here, or entertain them above. His providence is not wearied, nor his care fainting; he has never slacked in his will to relieve us, "for he has been our refuge." Nor can He ever lack the power to support us, "for he is a God from everlasting to everlasting." The church has never lacked a pilot to steer her, or a rock to shelter her, that same rock dashing in pieces the waves which threaten her.

Everlasting God

Psalm 90

(NOTE: This reading of Psalm 90 is meant to be underscored. The PDF entitled TO EVER GENERATION includes the song, plus a musical "bed" of four measures to be repeated for as long as needed to read the part of Psalm 90 indicated. Then the musical refrain is to be sung, followed by another reading underscored. Following the final reading, the congregation should sing the refrain one more time in the key of E)

CONGREGATION:

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men." For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning - though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

**You have been a shelter Lord
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION
A sanctuary from the storm
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION LORD**

CONGREGATION:

We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. The length of our days is seventy years - or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

**You have been a shelter Lord
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION
A sanctuary from the storm
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION LORD**

CONGREGATION:

Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

**You have been a shelter Lord
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION
A sanctuary from the storm
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION LORD**

CONGREGATION:

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands.

**You have been a shelter Lord
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION
A sanctuary from the storm
TO EVERY GENERATION
TO EVERY GENERATION LORD**

Unchanging God

Charnock says that "the greater our dangers, the more we should call to mind God's former kindness. We are not only thankful to acknowledge the mercies bestowed upon our persons, or in our age, but those of former times. Mercies, as well as generations, proceed out of the loins of those that have gone before. All mankind are but one Adam; the whole church but one body."

Since God is eternal, his acts in the past are to impact who we are now, and be an engine to drive our own faith.

"We need to remember former benefits, as we come to beg for new. He renders himself doubly unworthy of the mercies he wants, who does not gratefully acknowledge the mercies he has already received. And these are not just how God has delivered us, but anyone and everyone who has called on his name.

Whenever Israel stood in need of delivery, both they and God recalled the Red Sea as a reminder that anything is possible with God. And as they pondered, their faith was strengthened.

His Love Endures

Prayer From The Congregation for God to Act

His Power Will Prevail

OFFERING
Prayer For The Future

SERMON