

# The Everlasting God with the Eternal Plan

Genesis 21:22-34

Isaiah 9:1-6; John 17:1-5



13 November 2022

## Pressing Forward into 2022

### What have we learnt in the previous weeks?

- Abraham's promises prophesied, confirmed, and fulfilled
- God's attributes of being a Promise-keeper, Law-Giver, Holy, and Judge

### The Everlasting God (Genesis 21:22-34)

- God revealed to Abimelech the king of Gerar that He would bless Abraham this promise is confirmed - Genesis 12:1-3
- God revealed Himself also to Abraham as the Everlasting God. Mentioned for the first time in the bible - Genesis 21:33
- God's counsel (Genesis to Revelation) records man's relationship with the Everlasting God.
- Referred to as ***El Olam***, the Everlasting God
  - David - "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! - Psalm 106:48, Psalms 90:2
  - Isaiah - "The high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, the Holy One..." - Isaiah 57:15
  - Paul - "Glory and honor to God forever and ever. He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; He alone is God" - 1 Timothy 1:17
- God is everlasting also means that He is **absolute**, abiding, infinite, endless, timeless, immortal, perpetual, constant, limitless, unending God...etc.

### The Everlasting God is Absolute

- God being absolute means:
  - He never had a beginning and end. "Who made God?" - Nobody made God. God simply is and always was. No beginning nor end. If He did not come into Being, He cannot go out of Being -Exodus 3:14, John 8:58

- There is no reality before him. There is no reality outside of him unless He wills it and makes it. He is all that was, eternally. No space, no universe, no emptiness. Only God, absolutely there, absolutely all - Romans 11:36; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12
- God is utterly independent and all are dependent on Him. He depends on nothing to bring Him into being or support Him and everything that is not God depends totally on God. All that is not God is secondary and dependent - Col 1:17; Heb 1:3
- God's absolute being means all the universe is by comparison to God as nothing. All that we see, all that we are amazed by in the world and in the galaxies, is, compared to God, as nothing - Isaiah 40:17
- God is constant. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He cannot be improved. He is who He is. There is no development in God. No progress. Absolute perfection cannot be improved - Psalm 102:27-28; Isaiah 44:6
- God is the absolute standard of truth, goodness, and beauty. There is no law book to which He looks to know what is right. He is the standard of what is right, what is true, what is beautiful - Exodus 34:6
- God does whatever He pleases, and it is always right, always beautiful, and always in accord with truth. There are no constraints on Him - Psalms 115:3, Psalms 135:6

## The Everlasting Plan

- He is the Everlasting God with the Everlasting/Eternal plan - Ephesians 3:9-10

*"From all eternity God purposed to gather to Himself a special people from every nation, tribe, peoples, and tongue, re-created in His image, purchased by the blood of His own Son, that would treasure, glorify, praise, worship and enjoy Him for His infinite worth and beauty for all eternity for His own glory and their good and pleasure"*

John 4:22-23; 1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14; Isaiah 43:7, 21; Ephesians 1:5-12; 3:21; 5:19-20; Psalm 102:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation 7:9-12; 14:7; 19:10; 22:9; Psalm 36:7-9; 16:11; Psalm 37:4; Philippians 4:4; 43:4; 1 Peter 1:8 Psalm 5:7; 22:27; 27:4; 29:2; 45:11; 66:4; 86:9; 95:6, 9; 99:5, 9; 138:2

- The Everlasting plan encompasses:
  - **His Word** - His word endures forever, The Heavens and earth will pass but His word will remain - Luke 21:33, 1 Peter 1:25
  - **His Time** - Out of time, God transcends time. Eternity cannot be measured, yet the Everlasting God inhabits eternity, continually fulfilling His Word. Just as eternity is the unchanging present, without beginning or end. As such, He gives to man without measure, holding back nothing - Psalm 31:15, Hebrews 9:27
  - **His Love** - "...But with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer" - Isaiah 54:8, Jeremiah 31:3, Psalms 100:5
  - **His Protection** - "The eternal God is your refuge, and His everlasting arms are under you. He thrusts out the enemy before you; it is He who cries, 'Destroy'" - Deuteronomy 33:27
  - **His Understanding** - "Have you never heard or understood? Don't you know that the Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all earth? He never grows faint or weary. No one can measure the depths of His understanding" - Isaiah 40:28
  - **His Kingdom** - For those who choose to follow Jesus, a glorious eternity awaits. For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - 2 Peter 1:11, Luke 1:31-33
  - **His Forgiveness** - As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us - Psalms 103:12
  - **His Ways and His Thoughts** - God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours because His ways and thoughts are always part of a bigger plan, As an infinite Being with infinite wisdom, God knows and understands things we cannot comprehend. Therefore may we submit ourselves under His mighty hand - Isaiah 55:8-9
  - **His Covenant** - God would establish an everlasting covenant with His people - Genesis 17:7

## **Christ Jesus our Everlasting Father accomplishes the Eternal plan** (Isaiah 9:6)

- Isaiah speaks of God as "the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy" (Isa. 57:15). And here in Isaiah 9:6 He uses the same type of language to refer to Messiah's character, Jesus Christ, that He is fatherly, in His treatment of us." - Hebrews 2:17

- Jesus Christ acknowledges that I and the Father are one . . . know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. - John 10:30, 38
- Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? - John 14:9-10
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever - Hebrews 13:8
- The promise of the Everlasting life is through Jesus Christ - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life - John 5:24
- It is only through Jesus Christ that the Everlasting Covenant will be realised - Galatians 3:29
- God accomplishes His plan through Christ Jesus our Lord accomplishes the Eternal plan - Hebrews 13:20

### **Acceptable Responses**

- Do you Know the Everlasting God? - John 17:3
- Do you Believe the Everlasting God? - John 3:36
- Do you Obey the Everlasting God? - 2 John 1:6
- Do you Enjoy the Everlasting God? - 1 Thessalonians 5:16, Philipians 4:4, Psalms 16:11, Deuteronomy 5:47-48, Malachi 2:1-2
- Do you have an Intimate relationship with the Everlasting God? - Psalms 1:1-2

### **Where We are Going in 2022**

- Next week - Abraham's Faith Confirmed