

God's Ways and His Eternity

Nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day (II Peter 3:8). We understand that our God is not limited to a space of time; He is eternal and lives in eternity. A thousand years in God's sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night (Psalm 90: 4), a Psalm of Moses. And comparing our limited time on earth he said, The days of our years are three-score years and ten (seventy years) – or even if by reason of strength, four score years (eighty years); yet is their pride only labor and sorrow, for it is soon gone and we fly away (Psalm 90:10). In this limited space of time offered to us should we not pray like Moses, Teach to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12)? Our life here is so transitory that it is compared to grass and all its glory like [the] flower of grass; the grass withers, and the flower drops off (1Peter 1:24), which is here today and gone tomorrow. But we plan our life as if we were to live here forever, forgetting the reality of the short span of time delegated to us. In the parable of the fool, rich man when he selfishly planned his life, disregarding the uncertainty of its short span, God had this to tell him: You fool! This very night they will demand your soul of you; and all the things that you have prepared, whose will they be (Luke 12:16-20)?

Peter defined God's time as one day as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day; and Moses defined it as a thousand years in God's sight are but yesterday, or as a watch in the night. How can a man comprehend eternity in God's time and space and have enough faith to pray for some urgent need and expect it to be answered in our limited space in time? To Abraham, God promised a son from whom He would make a nation; but it didn't happen in the follow year, neither the next year. It took several years for that promise to be fulfilled. Meanwhile, Sarah, his wife, became impatient and encouraged him to give her a child through her Egyptian maid. He was then eighty-six years old when Ismael was born. He was a hundred years, and his wife ninety years old, fourteen years after Ismael had been born to Abraham when He fulfilled His promise to him with the birth of Isaac.

Abraham is considered a man of faith, even though he gave ears to his wife and had a son outside God's purpose, as we know it. The result of his mistake is expressed in the Middle East and the consequences on the whole world. Not that God had lost control of the circumstances; but when man gets ahead of God, things don't benefit for the good. Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah and was childless for twenty years. He prayed much to the Lord for his wife because she was unable to bear children; and the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife became pregnant (Gen. 23:20-21). So it was not until he was sixty years old that the Lord had given them two sons, and out of one He was going to fulfill His promise to Abraham. The important thing here is not the time when the promise would be fulfilled, but that the promise was fulfilled in God's time. Our God is never late, as we think when prayers are not answered fast enough for us. Like Abraham and Isaac who lived in the frame of faith, and persevered in faith, we too must live in faith, to see His promises fulfilled and our prayers answered. He is sovereign and all knowing; He is the Creator of time and everything is orderly in His time. The Lord said, In an acceptable and favorable time I have heard and answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you (Isaiah 49:8a). Peter warned us that scoffers will

come in the last days with scoffing [people who] walk after their own fleshly desires and say, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued exactly they did from the beginning of creation. But the Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance (II Peter 3:3-4,9).

Peter and all the disciples are gone and the promise that YAHSHUA gave them of His returning didn't happen in their time. God's plan of salvation goes beyond their frame of time, (almost two thousand years) to the whole world reaching also to the gentiles until all have heard the Gospel. Peter said that the Lord is not tardy in fulfilling His promise, but He is patient, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. An example of this is the promise of God's own Son to deliver us from the consequences of sin. But it was not fulfilled until four thousand years later, "When the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to the law to purchase the freedom of those who were subject to the Law that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us" (Gal. 4:4-5); all happened in God's perfect time. The sons of Jacob dwelt in Egypt four hundred thirty years before they were freed to go to the Promised Land, as God had promised to Abraham.

Our God fills this earth; He has no beginning and no end; He is the Alpha and the Omega; He is the Creator and the finisher of all created; all things exist for His purpose, even time. He is faithful to His promises, as Joshua said at the end of his life, Know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God promised concerning you; all have come to pass for you; not one thing of them has failed (Joshua 23: 14). He is the Rock; His work is perfect for all His ways are law and justice. A God of faithfulness without breach or deviation, just and right is He (Deut. 32:4). He not only freed Israel from the hands of slavery, but He guided, protected and provided for them on their way to the Promise Land. His timing is perfect to accomplish His purpose. We do not understand the space of time He takes to fulfill His promises, because we are simply finite in our time and space on this earth and limited in our thinking. God's infinite love, mercy, faithfulness, kindness are endless toward the sons of men. Who can measure and who can understand infinity? No one; and no one can understand God's infinite existence and ways. He said, My thoughts are not your thoughts; neither are your ways My ways; for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and snow come down from the heavens, and return not there again, but water the earth and make it bring forth and sprout, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it (Isa. 55:8-11).

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable are His judgments! And how untraceable are His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord and who has understood His thoughts, or who has been His counselor? Or who has first given God anything that he might be paid back or that he could claim a recompense? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever! Amen (Romans 11:33-36).