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**God and Time  
By** [**Compelling Truth - An Outreach of Got Questions**](http://www.compellingtruth.org/about.html)

The Bible describes God's relationship to time in several places. [Psalm 90:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+90.4&t=NKJV) says, "For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night." [2 Peter 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.8&t=NKJV) says, "…with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." [Isaiah 57:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+57.15&t=NKJV) says that God "inhabits eternity."

When we say things like "God is timeless" or "God has no beginning or end," we are trying to explain God in terms of a dimension by which He is not constrained. God created time.

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God does not have this limitation. He does not live within the semi-linear timeline of our universe. He experiences every moment of time all at once. It is similar to the creator of an animated film. While the film is running, the characters experience life one cel (the sheet on which animations are drawn) at a time as it flickers past the light. But the animator lives in a dimension where all the cels exist at once, and he can view them all at will.

(Editor's note: Another similarity might be DVDs created for each and every person showing one's life from birth to eternity. The creator can run the DVD backwards, forward, pause, etc.)

Understanding this gives us a better understanding of God's power in our lives. He was able to create the world in six days because days do not confine Him or His work ([Genesis 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1&t=NKJV)). He was able to choose who to save before the ages began ([2 Timothy 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+1.9&t=NKJV)) because He created the ages. And He is able to select good works for us to do ahead of time ([Ephesians 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.10&t=NKJV)) because He can see everything that will ever happen in human history and exactly how we can be the most effective to use that history to bring people to Him. When He says He has a "plan" for us ([Jeremiah 29:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+29.11&t=NKJV)) that plan is based on His perfect knowledge of all of history, present, and future. When we don't trust His plan, it is the ultimate foolishness – like ignoring the advice of a perfect GPS because we think we know a better route.

God's timelessness is part of His perfection. He has no need of growth or development or any of the other benefits linear time gives us. He also has no temporal beginning or end. He has neither our need for time nor our time-related limitations, which is just another example of why we can trust Him with our short temporal lives.

(An appreciated commentary by **Charles Strong** of [Bible One](http://www.bibleone.net/), one of my five mentors: When one reviews the nature and attributes of God [e.g., omniscience, omnipotence, etc.], one soon realizes that God exists everywhere [omnipresence], in the past, present, and future. Granted, beings with such limitations as we have are unable to truly understand and appreciate this concept; but then, we aren’t divine. The fact is, God has always experienced what we are experiencing now. I believe a key passage/verse is [Isaiah 57:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+57.15&t=NKJV), which states that God “inhabits eternity,” and eternity has no limits, before, now, or hereafter. To be sure, and as you said, “everything that happens on earth has already happened in God’s time.” God can simply NOT be surprised!

Also an appreciated commentary by another of my five mentors, **Carol Miller** of [Key of Three - My Life Ministries by Mark and Carol Miller](http://www.mylifeministries.org/keyofthree/): Marsha probably remembered to mention it to you, but if you want to study sovereignty of God and free will of man, study [Romans 9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+9&t=NKJV) and [Romans 10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10&t=NKJV) back to back. Just read along with [**e-Sword by Rick Myers**](http://www.e-sword.net/) or [Blue Letter Bible](http://www.blueletterbible.org/) with some of their good commentaries. The classic book [The Sovereignty of God by Arthur Pink](http://www.reformed.org/books/pink/) is awesome. But it leaves us needing to have another book on The Free Will of Man, in my opinion, because some people can never get the two into a reasonable balance.

At times that subject is prominent in a chapter I am teaching, and I have that "railroad track" illustration that the Lord gave me to use many years ago when I taught it in Community Bible Study.

It is a railroad track consisting of two rails as the two truths that run parallel. At an up-close exposure, the two rails of the track look quite definitely stationed equidistantly apart from each other, each very firm, and they run side by side out into the distance, or future. But when one looks at the two rails of the track as they come together out in the distance at the horizon, they are as one and are indistinguishable. That's how God sees them. He exists in infinity and eternity and can see how they come together. The railroad ties keep the rails apart at equidistance. They are the many excerpts and parts of God's Word that speak of first one of those two concepts and then the other. They are set firmly in between the two rails and they keep the two from coming together and colliding along the course of our lifetime. The train is our life, and it must run on two tracks at once with the weight equally distributed in order to keep balanced and not turn over. If we try to run on the track of free will of man only, we will be caught up in the flesh and in striving and will become discouraged and give up, because it all depends on us and making the right choices or decisions. If we try to run on sovereignty of God alone, we will devolve into inertia and will feel like something of a robot, and we will miss the leap of faith and all the excitement that comes from stepping out on what we believe to be God's indicated direction through the Spirit. We have to understand and walk in both of those essential doctrines. Then we can have peace that God is completely in control, but He is allowing us to partner with Him in this exciting adventure of faith. He is growing us to think as He thinks and move as He would move. When we come to the end of our journey, we will see that He led us all the way. He kept us from death when we were dying or from slipping into hell, because He always knew we would choose Him and really walk with Him if He saved us. He knows the end from the beginning. He helps us discover it, one railroad tie at a time, and travel straight into His arena where we will see it all just the way He always did. [This idea is original with me. God gave it to me.])

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[Compelling Truth – God and Time](http://www.compellingtruth.org/print/God-and-time-PF.html#ixzz3RqD3ZqPA)