

Psalm 102:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Analysis

But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. This concluding verse of the creation section provides the ultimate contrast between temporal creation and eternal Creator. "But thou art the same" (v'attah-hu, אַתָּה־הָוָא) is emphatic and profound. The phrase literally means "But you are He"—emphasizing God's unchanging identity. Hu (הָוָא) functions as a divine name in Isaiah's prophecy: "I am he" (Isaiah 41:4, 43:10, 13, 25; 46:4; 48:12).

God's immutability is foundational to biblical theology. Unlike creation which undergoes constant change and eventual decay, God remains absolutely consistent in being, character, purposes, and promises. He experiences no development, improvement, deterioration, or evolution. What God was in eternity past, He is now and will be forever—perfectly holy, just, merciful, faithful, and wise.

"Thy years shall have no end" (u'shnoteka lo yitamu, לֹא יִתְمַתֵּן) uses tamam (תִּתְמַתֵּן), meaning to be complete, finished, or exhausted. God's years never reach completion because they're infinite. The language of "years" applies human temporal categories to God accommodatingly, but the negation ("no end") transcends those categories—God exists beyond time's limitations.

This verse provides ultimate security for believers. Because God doesn't change, His covenant promises remain valid (Malachi 3:6). Because His years have no end, His kingdom endures forever. Human life may be brief, nations may rise and fall, creation itself may perish, but union with the eternal God grants participation in His unending life.

Historical Context

The doctrine of divine immutability distinguishes biblical theism from pagan conceptions. Ancient Near Eastern deities were often portrayed as capricious, changing moods, forming alliances, suffering defeats, and evolving. In contrast, Yahweh declares, 'I am the LORD, I change not' (Malachi 3:6), and 'with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning' (James 1:17).

Immutability doesn't mean God is static or unresponsive. Rather, His unchanging character guarantees consistent responses to differing human conditions—He always opposes pride and always shows grace to the humble (James 4:6). His purposes don't shift with cultural trends or political pressures. What He promised to Abraham He fulfills to Abraham's descendants.

Hebrews 1:10-12's quotation of Psalm 102:25-27 and application to Christ reveals the Son's deity and eternality. Jesus Christ is 'the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8). His incarnation involved taking on human nature, not changing divine nature. The eternal Word became flesh (John 1:14) without ceasing to be eternal Word.

This doctrine provides the foundation for confident faith. If God changed—if He could become less loving, just, or faithful—believers would have no security. But because He remains 'the same,' His promises are 'yea and amen' (2 Corinthians 1:20), and nothing can separate believers from His love (Romans 8:38-39).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's immutability ('thou art the same') provide assurance when everything else in life seems uncertain or changing?
2. What is the relationship between God's transcendence of time ('thy years shall have no end') and His involvement in temporal history?
3. How might belief in God's unchangeableness be misunderstood to mean He doesn't respond to prayer or interact dynamically with His creatures?

Interlinear Text

ה א א אַתָּה 1 שְׁנָוֹת יְמִינָה! ל א לֹא
H859 H1931 But thou art the same and thy years H8141 H3808 shall have no end
H8552

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:8 (Parallel theme): Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Malachi 3:6 (Parallel theme): For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Revelation 1:8 (Parallel theme): I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

John 8:58 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Psalms 90:4 (Parallel theme): For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Job 36:26 (Parallel theme): Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.

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