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Eternal in the Old and New Testament. (Scriptures) (2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Eternal in the Old and New Testament. (Scriptures).

Topics.

- An overall summary of all Scriptures using the words eternal.
 - Scriptures that use the words eternal in the Old Testament.
 - Scriptures that use the words eternal in the New Testament.
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INTRODUCTION

The following is an overview of all the Scriptures in the Old and New Testament from the King James Bible that use the word eternal. (The Scriptures this overview is taken from are at the end of this summary). In God's eternal and divine mind and the mind of Christ and the mind of the apostles' eternal life is the most valuable thing in this entire universe for any man or woman to attain to. There is nothing in life of greater worth than eternal life. Jesus considered eternal life to be a greater treasure than anything that exists in this world, so much so that he not only said, it is better to pluck out our eye and cut off our hand or foot, (meaning turn from anything that would cause us to sin and forsake our faith and thereby rob us from eternal life, but he also laid his life down to a most brutal and cruel death so that whoever by faith comes to him would be granted eternal life. To encourage those who trust in Christ the apostle Paul knowing that in this world we are all going to suffer different levels of hardships and troubles said the following two things:

1. Whatever affliction we suffer in this world if we endure it and remain faithful to the Lord it will work in us a far more exceeding reward of glory in the eternal life to come.
2. We should not to look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen because the things which are seen are temporal and passing, while the things which are not seen are eternal.

Jesus teaches that whoever loves their life shall lose it, but whoever hates their life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Loving life: in this context means living to gratify self and doing what self-desires without any thought toward God. It carries the idea of loving the things of this world and being driven and controlled by self, pride, ego and greed to gratify self.

Hating life: is not about having a low self-esteem of ourselves or about thinking we should feel worthless, but about hating the reality that we are all filled at some level with sin (i.e., pride, ego, jealousy, lustful thoughts, anger and envy etc.), because these things not only hinder us from attaining to the perfect standard the law demands, but also limit us from attaining to the Holiness of God.

Those who love their life will lose it, because their pride and love for the things of this world will stop them from accepting Christ while those who hate their life will find it because they are humble and willing to make the sacrifices necessary to accept and follow the Lord.

Those who love their life, refers to those who:

- Are self-centred, prideful and egotistical.
- Have no care for others, but use them for their own gain.
- Love the indulgences, riches, luxuries and pleasures of this world.

- Are so self-righteous and see no need for a Saviour.
- They deny Christ rather than suffer mocking, humiliation, persecution by enemies, family and friends.

Those who hate their life (i.e., hate selfishness, ego, pride and greed etc.) refer to those who:

- Are humble and respectful and compassionate toward others.
- Are fully aware of the corruptions seated in their hearts, minds, thoughts and their actions and see their need for a loving, compassionate and merciful Saviour.
- Help the poor and the less fortunate when they are able.
- Are prepared to suffer mocking, humiliation, persecution by enemies, family and friends rather than deny Christ.

NOTE: this does not mean a Christian has to forsake their family or secular friends for no reason, but it does mean that should their family put them in a position of choosing between Christ or choosing to remain a member of their family (i.e., as a Moslem living in an extreme Moslem country would have to do) they would choose to follow Christ even though it would mean that their family would cast them out. Those who are forced to make such a decision and choose Christ will receive eternal life and glory in the age to come.

Eternal life and death: to contrast eternal life to death the Bible uses words like perish, destruction, eternal damnation and eternal punishment etc. The following are the only two destinations for those who have died:

1. Eternal life in everlasting glory.
2. Eternal destruction, damnation and punishment which all refer to eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction at the second death and the Lake of Fire) (Revelation 20:11-15).

Scripture teaches that the wages of sin is death (mortal and eternal) (this is called the law of sin and death). Since not one of us can live a sin-free life all mankind are sadly held captive and imprisoned to the law of sin and death, but whoever seeks God with an honest and repentant heart can escape the prison bars of the law of sin and death, because God has another law that supersedes the doom and destruction of the law of sin and death that states:

- The free gift of God is eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23).

This means that the law of sin and death has no power to condemn to eternal death those who belong to the family of the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason the law of sin and death has no power over them is because God does not count those who are in Christ righteous by their own righteousness, but by Christ's righteousness so that by faith and God's grace all who belong to the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ are set free from the judgment and condemnation of the law.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE WICKED

At the end of the book of Revelation we are told that the wicked are thrown into a Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15) which is a perfect symbol of eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction). Eternal damnation and punishment refer to eternal death it is called eternal punishment because they are eternally dead (i.e., non-existent). The reason why the wicked are spoken of as being cast into a Lake of Fire is because fire destroys everything in its path until it is utterly consumed and gone forever, thus

fire is the perfect symbol to contrast the glory, beauty and wonder of eternal life against the destruction and darkness of eternal death. To receive eternal life a person must by faith repent before God and surrender their heart, mind, life and love to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Despite the fallen corrupted body, we have all inherited from our earthly father Adam and the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within our hearts, minds and thoughts they must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for their righteousness, and trust in God's love, grace and mercy to save them to eternal life. Jesus did not suffer a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that we could attain in our own fallen and corrupted body to the perfect standard of God's Holiness, but because we couldn't.

Jesus himself said:

- This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

The Bible tells us that God has given Christ the power to give eternal life to as many as come to him and that it is Jesus who has the words of eternal life. This shows us that eternal life is not about having a vast intellectual knowledge of the Scriptures, but about having faith in Christ and trusting in him to save us to eternal life. The central purpose of the Scriptures is to testify of the Lord Jesus Christ and to lead a sinner to repentance so that they see their need of a Saviour and from this awareness open their hearts to accept the love and saving grace of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Here is the beauty, wonder and splendour of the Christians life, when their earthly house is dissolved, they have a building of God a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens according to the eternal purpose which God who cannot lie planned and promised in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ before the world began. Before the foundations of the world God planned, purposed and promised:

1. That Christ God's own Son would by his own blood become the means of eternal salvation to whoever has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. That those who love the Lord and faithfully follow him would be justified by grace and be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

NOTE: when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and He cannot lie.

The apostle Paul wrote: "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2).

Every brother and sister of the Lord Jesus Christ should be overwhelmingly humbled and at the same time enormously excited knowing that the one and only immortal invisible Almighty Holy God of all grace has called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus' and should rejoice in the knowledge that after we have suffered a short while in this fallen and sinful world we will be made perfect at the resurrection to eternal life and everlasting glory because of our faith in God's most loved Son and God's abundant grace. Here is the glory of God's wisdom; that eternal life which was with God the Father from the beginning was manifested in the mortal body of the Lord Jesus Christ at his resurrection.

When Christ appeared to the apostles after his death and resurrection in his glorified body, they not only ate with him, but also touched his immortal body. In these awe-inspiring and breathtaking moments, they saw in Christ that eternal life that was with God from the beginning. The testimony of God is that He has given to us this eternal life that was with Him from the beginning and this eternal life is in his Son so that whoever by faith has the Son has eternal life.

The apostle Peter valued eternal life so highly that he wrote:

- The tested genuineness of our faith is more precious than gold that perishes when it is tested by fire, because if our *faith* endures it will not only result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ, but also led to *everlasting life* and *eternal glory* (1 Pet. 1:6-7).

Consider for a moment: if our world's top scientist and medical practitioners could invent a pill that would give people eternal life the billionaires of this world would write out a cheque no-matter what the cost to buy them for all their family and friends, and almost all the world would sell everything they had to purchase one of these pills. This is the high value Peter and the apostles placed on the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and eternal life. To Peter and the faithful brothers and sisters who supported him there was nothing in this world more valuable for any man or woman to possess than God's gift of eternal life. How sad it is that in some modern churches today this high value of eternal life has been lost and replaced by a Gospel that focuses on a blessed, prosperous and successful life now in this mortal and corrupt temporal world and messages that appeal to self, ego and pride. Especially when one considers what it cost God the Father and the high price his Son paid to purchase this gift of eternal life for all who would humbly accept by faith the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Following are all the Scriptures in the Old and New Testament of the King James Bible that use the word eternal and that the above summary was taken from.

ETERNAL LIFE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

These are the only two verses in the Old Testament in the King James Bible that use the word eternal.

DEUTERONOMY

- **Deuteronomy 33:27:** The *eternal God* is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

ISAIAH

- **Isaiah 60:15:** Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an *eternal excellency*, a joy of many generations.

Eternal: from Strong's Concordance can mean forever, perpetual, never to cease and unending or a long duration of time. It can mean that which always has been and always will be and without beginning and without end and depending on the context can refer to a universal period of time or a long or short period of time, an unbroken age or an indefinite period of time.

It is interesting to notice that the King James Bible mostly uses everlasting rather than forever whereas the New King James Bible uses forever rather than everlasting and the King James Bible generally uses the word everlasting while the English Standard Bible uses the word eternal for the same verses clearly showing that everlasting, forever and eternal all carry the same meaning.

Following are all the Scriptures in the New Testament of the King James Bible that use the word eternal and that the above summary was taken from.

- **Matthew 18:8:** if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the *eternal fire*.
- **Matthew 19:16:** a man came to Jesus, saying, what good deed must I do to have *eternal life*?
- **Matthew 25:46:** these will go away into everlasting punishment but the righteous into *eternal life*.

MARK

- **Mark 3:29:** whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of *eternal damnation*.
- **Mark 10:17:** a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, *what must I do to inherit eternal life*?"

MARK

- **Mark 10:29-30:** Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the *age to come eternal life*.

LUKE

- **Luke 10:25:** a lawyer put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, *what shall I do to inherit eternal life*?"
- **Luke 18:18:** a certain ruler stood up and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to *inherit eternal life*?"

JOHN

- **John 3:15-16:** That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but *have eternal life*.
¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have *everlasting life*.
- **John 4:36:** he that reapeth receiveth wages, and *gathereth fruit unto life eternal* that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.
- **John 5:39:** You search the scriptures; for in them ye *think ye have eternal life* and they are they which testify of me.
- **John 6:54:** Whoso eateth my flesh, and *drinketh my blood, hath eternal life* and I will raise him up.
- **John 6:68:** Simon Peter answered, Lord, to whom shall we go? *thou hast the words of eternal life*.

- **John 10:28:** I *give unto them eternal life* and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.
- **John 12:25:** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto *life eternal*.
- **John 17:2-3:** As God hast given Christ power over all flesh, that *he should give eternal life* to as many as God hast given him. ³And *this is life eternal* that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom God hast sent.

ACTS

- **Acts 13:48:** when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to *eternal life* believed.

ROMANS

- **Romans 1:20:** the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even *his eternal power and Godhead* so that they (unbelievers) are without excuse.
- **Romans 2:7:** To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory, honour and immortality, *eternal life*.
- **Romans 5:21:** That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto *eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord*.
- **Romans 6:23:** the wages of sin is death; but *the gift of God is eternal life* through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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2 CORINTHIANS

- **2 Corinthians 4:17-18:** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and *eternal weight of glory*. ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the *things that are unseen are eternal*.
- **2 Corinthians 5:1:** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, *eternal in the heavens*.

EPHESIANS

- **Ephesians 3:11:** According to the *eternal purpose* which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 TIMOTHY

- **1 Timothy 1:17:** Now unto the *King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God* be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- **1 Timothy 6:12:** Fight the good fight of faith, *lay hold on eternal life* whereunto thou art also called.
- **1 Timothy 6:19:** Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may *lay hold on eternal life*.
- **2 Timothy 2:10:** Therefore I (Paul) endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the *salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory*.

- **Titus 1:2:** in hope of *eternal life* which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.
- **Titus 3:7:** being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to *the hope of eternal life*.

HEBREWS

- **Hebrews 5:9:** being made perfect, he became the author of *eternal salvation* unto all them that obey him.
- **Hebrews 6:1-2:** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ²Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of *eternal judgment*.
- **Hebrews 9:12:** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained *eternal redemption* for us.
- **Hebrews 9:14:** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through *the eternal Spirit* offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve God?
- **Hebrews 9:15:** for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive *the promise of eternal inheritance*.
- **1 Peter 5:10:** the God of all grace, who hath called us unto *his eternal glory by Christ Jesus* after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1 JOHN

- **1 John 1:2:** the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that *eternal life* which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.
- **1 John 2:25:** this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even eternal life*.
- **1 John 3:15:** Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath *eternal life* abiding in him.
- **1 John 5:11:** this is the record, that *God hath given to us eternal life* and this life is in his Son.
- **1 John 5:13:** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that *ye have eternal life* and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- **1 John 5:20:** we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is *the true God, and eternal life*.

JUDE

- **Jude 1:7:** Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the *vengeance of eternal fire*.
- **Jude 1:21:** Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto *eternal life*.

For a detailed view of each of the above Scriptures see the title:

- Eternal and Everlasting in the Old and New Testament.
- In Eternal Life (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

Bible House of Grace