

A similar thought is found in Ephesians 3:21. The use of expressions such as "the first and the last" and the "Alpha and Omega" serve to convey the same idea (Isa. 44:6; Rev. 1 :8; 21:6; 22:13).

God is timeless. He does not grow or develop. There are no variations in his nature at different points within his existence. The interests, knowledge, activities, and even personalities of humans change from childhood to youth to adulthood to old age. With God there is no such change, however. He has always been what he is....

The fact that God is not bound by time does not mean that he is not conscious of the succession of points of time. He knows what is now occurring in human experience. He is aware that events occur in a particular order. Yet he is equally aware of all points of that order simultaneously. This transcendence over time has been likened to a person who sits on a steeple while he watches a parade. He sees all parts of the parade at the different points on the route rather than only what is going past him at the moment He is aware of what is passing each point of the route. So God is aware of what is happening, has happened, and will happen at each point in time. Yet at any given point within time he is also conscious of the distinction between what is now occurring, what has been, and what will be.

There is a successive order to the acts of God and there is a logical order to his decisions, yet there is no temporal order to his willing. His deliberation and willing take no time. He has from all eternity determined what he is now doing. Thus his actions are not in any sense reactions to developments. He does not get taken by surprise or have to formulate contingency plans.

-- Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, Volume 1 (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983), pp. 274-275.

- (2) Time is either nonexistent or existent for God in Himself, but its sequence and duration in the created universe are existent, and are subject to God's will.

In this view God can make the arrow of time point forward or backward; and can stretch a day to endure for a thousand years, or reduce a thousand years to the duration of one day. Thus both sequence and duration are subject to God's will.

Thus God could arrange things so that sunlight, which takes 8 1/3 minutes to reach our eyes, could show us, not what the sun looked like 8 1/3 minutes ago, but how it will look 8 1/3 minutes from now!