

The Bulwark

MARCH 26, 2023

WHAT WAS BEFORE "TIME"?

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) Human beings have a difficult time grasping the concept of what was before the beginning. We are linear in our thought process. There is a starting point then a progression forward. Or dare one think, what preceded the starting point? As already noted in Genesis 1:1, God was prior to *"the beginning"*. In Psalms 90:2, the following is found, *"Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting. Thou art God."* God is eternal, backward and forward. Having no beginning and having no end (see also Psalms 41:13)



"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable." (Isaiah 40:28)

Inasmuch as God set time in motion, it is clear God "predates" time. Which in the mind of some spawns another question, that being what was God doing with His "time" prior to creation? Jesus, as He prayed to the Father as found in John 17:24, sheds some light. *"Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they*

may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world." Evident in the prayer is the usage of *"We"* and *"Us"* which ties back to Genesis 1:26, *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...'"* (see also Hebrews 1:8-12)

Deity, prior to creation was joined together in a relationship based upon love. John, in his first epistle simply stated, *"...for God is love."*(4:8) When Jesus was baptized by John, the baptizer, the Father's voice boomed from heaven, *"This is My beloved Son..."* at the same time the Spirit descended as a dove. Foundational love upon which the whole scheme of redemption would be based. Out of love, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit worked in concert together to bring about the salvation of mankind.

Consider what is seen in the first chapter of Ephesians, beginning in verse three and continuing to verse ten. In those verses there is so much to unpack, not the least of which is, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..."* (vs 3-4a) The motivation

behind the plan of redemption is found in the last two words of verse four, *"In love"*

The outpouring of God's love for mankind is clearly evident in the fifth chapter of Romans. *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us."* (v. 8) God's love is truly eternal, even as God is eternal. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift"*

The psalmist who penned the 136th psalm succinctly captures the eternal nature of God. In nearly every one of the twenty-eight verses that make up the psalm, *"lovingkindness"* serves as the central thought. Before time was, God's love was. (wbe)

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