

# My Epiphany On Time

Draft Revision 3

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While driving in the car one day, and after that, I had some muses brewing in my head. As they came further and further along, the conclusions listed here began to formulate. I dare say it was a very strong epiphany.

I am, of course, speaking of time. Time, by its very definition, is so elusive to us humans. I think this is simply because we don't bother to think of the definitions clearly or thoroughly. I'm hoping that this little essay of mine will encourage the rest of you to look at what you think of God, time, and its relation to us. I think that by understanding some of the logically valid extensions of the simple definitions of time and God, we'll begin to see some things in a different light than what we have in the past.

I think I'm going to go about this basically how it came about in my head, and see if the rest of the world can follow me.

First, let's think about some of the things that people commonly say and think today.

The first one that comes to mind is the thought that "God is over everything, and thus, he controls everything," and it follows, "if God can control everything, then he can control time, that means he can move through time, he can go to the past and the future, and he must be able to see all things as a huge panoramic picture like he's watching some sort of movie or something."

The second thing that I hear quite often is people saying, "Well, of course God is above time, but...um, yeah, he can't change time, well... yeah, he can, but he doesn't." Alternatively, I hear, "Well, God is above time, and able to be out of time, while we are stuck in time, and choice is merely the illusion or the perceived possibility of direction of some action within the scope of time, whereas there really is no choice when we are out of time, and so God can see all things, but we still have a free will."

Here's how I started to think about this. First, I started to think about what time really is. Time is inherently tied to reality, so I had to start thinking about my conception of reality as well. The first thing that I came to realize is that reality exists only because God exists. In other words, the way we define God is that he is the very source of all reality, and thus, all reality only exists because God exists, and thus, Reality is where God is.

The next thing that began to creep into my head was that time was really the description of something we can't describe about reality. That is, it's "continual" existence. What I mean by this is that Time really is the word we use to explain the linear progression of infinitely many single points of existence within the fabric of reality. It is like a number line. Where there are infinite numbers of dots which each represent a specific point within the line, and yet, the line itself is what we call time. Time is the progression along the line from one end to the other.

There is one problem with this. A line extends to infinity in either direction. So does time. God has always existed, by definition, and thus, reality and therefore time has always existed. It will always exist. If you get my drift, God is reality. This means that if God exists, reality exists, and without God, there is nothing.

Given this, we then have to come to the conclusion that time cannot possibly be extracted from reality, because reality is always with time. Time is merely a property of reality to which we have given a name. It is difficult to actually conceive of time, because time describes something to which we have no

true understanding. Why does one thing progress after another, and why are they not all bunched together into one? How do we actually know they are not all bunched into one?

This brings out an important distinction in the definition of time. This distinction is that time is a word we use to describe our perception of a property of reality. That is, the continued existence of reality appears as a linear progression to us, which is how we define time.

Next in the train of thought is how God ties in with time. We exist in reality, and God is reality, and so we are on the same “plane” if you would say such. As God continues to exist, so we continue. Time is how we describe God's continual existence. So, God cannot “escape” time, because Time is defined by the existence of God, and is a property of the reality which must exist if God exists. What this means is that wherever God is, so there will be a point in time.

Now, this is where things start to become slightly confusing if we are not carefully grounded. Most people think that God is above time. That is, he can move through time however he wants. This gives rise to the belief that God can “see the beginning from the end” in a literal sense. They say that God can literally “shift points in time” and thus exist in one point in time in the future, where we are not yet. I hope you are beginning to see the problem with this.

Part of what causes this little confusion is that they think of time as the clicking of a clock. There is a very big difference here. Time as we often conceive of it, is really the “measurement of time.” That is, the stars and the celestial bodies placed in the heavens by God give us a meter by which we may number and dissect the continued existence of reality. This is NOT what time is. Time is the property of continued existence of reality, not the measurement thereof.

The next inconsistency we have to see is that of God “traveling” through time. Since God IS time indirectly, God's very existence and progression from state to state is what we define as our reality. Thus, God cannot “move non-linearly” through time, because time is defined as the movements of God, which are essentially the linear progressions he makes. If God were to bring a “future” reality to his forefront, we would then exist in this forefront, and it would no longer be future, but would rather be the next point in progress, thus making it non-future, and his travel, thus, no different than any other. This is slightly paradoxical in the way you have to look at it.

If you have ever seen the “Langaleers” you probably have an idea of what I am getting at. Simply put, there exists at any one point, only one reality, and this reality is where God is. The past is not accessible, because there is nothing there. Reality only exists at a single point at a time, and cannot co-exist in multiple points, by it's very definition. Thus, there is also no “future” in the sense that some say. The future does not exist in the same way that our current state in reality exists. A state of reality may be inevitable, and thus, it becomes the destined future of reality, but that state does not exist until the present, and then ceases to exist as a state after the present.

The easiest way to visualize this is to imagine a slider or a marble on a track controlled by gravity. There is a certain tilt in the slider. As time progresses, the marble or slider is going to go down that track. It will not reach a point in the track until it has followed the track, as it cannot be in two places at once, and it can't go “back up” the hill, as it were. However, you know that as things go, you can ensure that the marble will reach a certain point on that track...the future.

I think you will find that this general thought, of God existing in the current reality, and the future not “existing” in the same sense as the current to be quite readily accepted throughout scriptures. Mostly, you will see it in the general attitude of the people, rather than anything explicitly stated. The only verse that I know of coming close to saying something to the contrary is that of the “seeing the beginning from the end” shebam. The problem is that it's easy to see the beginning from the end of the world without having to exist in multiple realities all at the same time. It also makes a whole lot more

sense. I think you will find this to be the general and pretty obvious belief of all those who speak of such things in scripture.

So, in the end, what is being stated here? Essentially, the point is the God exists in reality straight in line with us, or rather, that we live in his reality, consistently moving from one point in time to another. God does not “travel” through time, as it is a contradiction of definitions and of thoughts. This does not say that God is not sovereign or that predestination is out of the loop, but rather, we should begin to re-examine the way we see God implementing those things he predestinates, as well as the way this world works. I think if we look at the world with this new perspective, especially some key scriptures, that things will begin to make a little more sense, and our general interpretation of the scriptures will become easier and clearer. This perspective gives a much more “this is how it is” kind of outlook on the scriptures, and much of the theological webbing in which we can trap ourselves is removed. In the end, I think for this little amount of reasoning, this is an excellent point to reach.