

## **MADE FOR ETERNITY**

Ecclesiastes 3 is the only chapter of the first six that does not mention “Chasing after the Wind.” This chapter is famous for the “time fixed by God” passage (Eccl.3:1-8).

The Hebrew word *olam* (eternity or everlasting) is contrasted with the word *eth* (time fixed by God). “Thus, in Eccl.3:11, we read that God has bound man to time and yet given him the capacity to live “above time” (ie, to remember yesterday, plan for tomorrow, and consider abstract principles).” (Expository Dict. Of biblical words, Vines, pg.72)

*Olam* could be translated (duration) but traditionally it has been translated eternity in Eccl.3:11 because of the context of Eccl.3:11-14. The divine activities of Eccl.3:11-14 is the primary reason it is translated eternity where it is contrasted with time (*eth*).

Eccl.3:11 is the only verse that I know that states that God set eternity in the hearts of mankind. “He made everything beautiful in its **time (eth)**. He has also set (nathan/ kal pf) **eternity (ha olam)** in the hearts of men. Yet they cannot fathom (matsa/ kal impf) what God has done (asah/ kal pf) from the beginning to end.”

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men’s hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” (Amplified Bible, Eccl.3:11)

**Solomon’s point:** “Since we were made for eternity, the things of time cannot fully and permanently satisfy.” (NIV, Eccl.3:11; Matt.6:25-34)

“**But** seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; **and** all these things shall be added to you. **Therefore**, do not be anxious for tomorrow for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matt.5:33-34)

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of God setting eternity in the hearts of mankind.</b>
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### **1. The Hebrew word (*olam*) translated eternity or everlasting is based on the essence of God.**

Omnipotence	(Heb.1:3)	Sovereignty	(Dan.4:35; Job 38:4-6)
Omnipresence	(Jer. 23:24)	Righteousness	(Ps.145:17; Rom.3:22)\
Omniscience	(1 John 3:20)	<b>Eternal life</b>	<b>(1 Tim.1:17)</b>
Immutable	(Heb.13:8)	Love	(1 John 4:8)
Veracity	(James 1:2)	Holiness	(Isa.6:3)

“Praise be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting (*olam*).” (1 Chron.16:36)

“Remember the former things, those of long ago (*olam*); I am God, and there is no other: I am God, and there is none like Me.” (Isa.46:9)

### **2. God set eternity in the hearts of all mankind because all of mankind is made in the “image according to the likeness of God.” (Gen.1:27; Ps.8:4-8; Acts 17:24-31; 1 Cor.11:7; Col.3:10; James 3:9)**

The fact that God set eternity in the hearts of mankind means the human soul has destiny after physical death. This is a major factor in the theology of soteriology (study of God’s salvation). “Truly, truly, I say to you, he

who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)

**3. Because God set eternity in the hearts of men, the soul has eternal destiny after physical death.**

The saved has eternal life after physical death. For the saved of the OT, the eternal destiny was Abraham’s bosom to await the resurrection of Christ (Luke 16:22). After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the eternal destiny of the saved of NT is heaven with Jesus Christ to await the First Resurrection (1 Cor.15:20-27; 2 Cor.5:1, 6-8; Rev.20:5-7).

The unsaved has eternal death after physical death. For the unsaved of both the OT and NT, the eternal destiny is the Place of Torment (Luke 16:23-24, 31) to await the GWT and Lake of fire (Rev.20:11-15).

**4. Because eternity is set in the hearts of men by God, the unsaved person’s eternal destiny is eternal death called the Second Death and the Lake of Fire (Rev.2:11; 20:14-15).**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom.6:23)

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men. Because all sinned.” (Rom.5:12)

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

**5. Because eternity is set in the hearts of all men, the saved person’s eternal destiny is eternal life because of faith in the grace gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Eph.2:8-9).**

“Whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:15-16)

“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:40; 1 Tim.1:15-17)

**“And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.” (John 10:28)**

“And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:11-13) (John 17:3; Titus 3:7)**