

"...He will be called:
Wonderful Counselor
Everlasting Father Mighty God
Prince of Peace!"

Isaiah 9:6

Never Ending, Never Beginning

If I had an ounce of artistic ability, I would pen the name "Everlasting Father" in the form of a circle with no indication of a beginning or an ending. That would be the perfect picture as painted in Scripture for this name of Jesus: Ever-Lasting...never ending, never beginning.

ABOUT THEM:

Everything looked bleak and melancholy for Israel. Everything except God. He promised he would never leave them. He promised they were his chosen people. That had to be good for something, right?

Although they were the chosen people of God, they chose not to be faithful to him. In doing so, they took themselves away from the protection and provision of all the promises God had given them. Spiritually speaking, they were living in the land of the shadow of death...life for them felt hopeless in many ways.

Yet, the prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope. He let Israel know a light was about to shine in their dark world. Although the light was future, it was as good as done; they could enjoy the benefits of the light that was to come. If they changed their minds and turned their hearts toward the **Everlasting Father**, their lives would make a drastic change! To live in the hope of the future affords each of us the rights and privileges that God has promised, and he provides them right now!

ABOUT YOU:

- Do you sometimes feel vulnerable to attack from all sides?

- Where do your thoughts take root when life allows a surprise ambush?

If you are in need of a Defender, let me introduce you to **Everlasting Father**!

ABOUT HIM:

Being so tied to time, eternity is not easy for us to truly understand. God, being spiritual, must be viewed on spiritual terms, not on finite human terms. It isn't that God holds time in his hands. God transcends time. He is far above time.

Time is for this world, providing structure, evolving life. We humans need structured time in order to function in a healthy manner. How loving of our Creator to set us up for success in this life! In God's dealings with us as individuals, time is a factor in his relationship with us. We have a beginning and an ending to our earthly lives.

But **Everlasting Father**, in his eternal perspective, has no limits of time. He views human lives in eternity, not in years. Complicated, I know. But he's God, and his intention toward us is always love, so let's just go with it. Let's just trust him in the truth of who he is.



He always was (past), always is (present), and always will be (future). I like the security in that existence!

Here's another challenging perspective: Jesus the Son is Jesus the Father. Goodness!! Was Isaiah confused when he worded this prophecy? Not hardly, and the people understood the message as well as the meaning.

This use of the term father is figurative, similar to our description of an ancestor, like George Washington as the "father of our nation". It carries the meaning of one who has infused his own spirit into others, indicating a kinship, an affinity. This kind of father would be the source, the creator or the inventor of a mode of life.

Read these passages in your Bible about Jesus being our **Everlasting Father**:

- 2 Timothy 1:9-10 — God saves people by His grace, through Jesus Christ.
- Colossians 1:15-17 — Christ existed before anything else; he created everything.
- 1 John 1:1-2 — Jesus gives eternal life.

Does this paint a clearer picture of Jesus as **Everlasting Father**? As Creator, he is the originator of our physical lives. As Savior, he is the originator of our eternal lives. In our relationship with him, Jesus exhibits fatherly characteristics, deserves our reverence for him as our superior. He loves us with an eternal love, relating with us as counselor, nurturer, protector, provider.

Jesus is everything we need in a heavenly father.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU AND ME?

Viewing ourselves in spiritual terms takes on a different perspective than when we view ourselves in this life only. If we are made in the image of God as scripture states,

and if God is eternal as scripture states, then we, being in his image, have an eternal existence as well.

Speaking of how we are designed, our true selves are made up of three parts:

- Body - physical, our outer selves
- Mind - mental, our thinking selves
- Spirit - emotional, our inner-feeling selves

The body influences the mind, the mind affects the spirit, and the spirit determines our eternity. It is in our spirits that we are the image of God. Our bodies and minds will come to an end, but our spirits remain forever. Scripture teaches the one who enjoys friendship with Jesus will live eternally with Jesus. The one who rejects friendship with Jesus will live eternally without Jesus. Our eternal perspective is pretty important, wouldn't you say?

Have you set up any systems or developed intentional habits to help you focus on life from an eternal perspective? What would it look like for you to see life like your **Everlasting Father** views life?

EXPERT TIP:

In order for our spiritual lives to be supported by **Everlasting Father**:

1. Strip off every weight that slows us down - what faulty thinking patterns trip you up?
2. Do life like Jesus - he ran the race of life with endurance, all the way to the finish line. How do you pace your life-race?

HOW TO?

"We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured...Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." (Hebrews 12:1,2 NLT)

Getting Personal

Where are your eyes focused? On what's right in front of you, or on your future with Everlasting Father? When the life in your body is all said and done, what will have been most important: the here-and-now or eternity? What thinking patterns trip up your eternal perspective? What personal systems or habits can you form to keep an eternal perspective that matches your Everlasting Father?

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:

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| • Ecclesiastes 3:11 | • Romans 6:23 | • Isaiah 43:10-13 | • 2 Timothy 1:9-10 |
| • Hebrews 5:8-9 | • Isaiah 57:15 | • Psalm 9:7; 29:10-11 | • Hebrews 7:23-27 |