

# God Essentials

G R E G H A S W E L L

## IS GOD CONSTANT?

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### THE CAESIUM ATOMIC TIME STANDARD

Atomic physicists measure the microwave signal that electrons in atoms emit when they change energy levels. Since 1967, the International System of Units (SI) has defined the second as the duration of 9,192,631,770 cycles of radiation corresponding to the transition between two energy levels of the caesium-133 atom

In April this year the National Institute of Standards and Technology started using NIST-F2, its new atomic clock. Considered the worlds most accurate time standard it is estimated to not lose or gain more than a second every 300 million years.

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In its brief definition of God, the Westminster Catechism says that He is infinite, eternal and **unchangeable in His Being**.

In theological terms God is considered to be **immutable**. This means that He is perpetually the same: subject to no change in His being, attributes, or determinations.

In plain English it means God is **perfect**, so He **cannot change** for the better or for the worse. He does not need anything.

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### SIMILE'S ABOUT GOD'S CONSTANCY

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### IS GOD CONSTANT? LIKE A ROCK

4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Deuteronomy 32:4

God is compared to a rock which remains immovable, when the entire ocean surrounding it is continually in a fluctuating state. The scriptures present all creatures as subject to change, but God is immutable.

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### IS GOD CONSTANT? LIKE UNBROKEN LIGHT

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, **who does not change** like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

God is compared to an unbroken stream of light in which there is no variance or shadow. Because God has no beginning and no ending, He can know no change. He is eternally the same

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## HOW IS GOD CONSTANT?

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### GOD IS CONSTANT IN DURATION AND LIFE (ETERNAL)

33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Eternal God.

Genesis 21:33

**God is eternal.** God is eternal and exists outside of the constraints of time. As his nature is eternal, then any necessity of his nature is an eternal necessity, and any purpose he forms, whether of necessity, or voluntarily, must be eternal volition.

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### GOD IS CONSTANT IN WHO HE IS (HIS ESSENCE)

6 “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

Malachi 3:6

God is immutable in His essence. His nature and being are infinite, and subject to no mutations. There never was a time when He was not; there never will come a time when He shall cease to be. God has neither evolved, grown, nor improved. All that He is today, He has always been, and ever will be.

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### GOD IS CONSTANT IN HIS ATTRIBUTES (HIS NATURE)

- Justice - Gen 18:25 Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?
- Mercy - Ex. 34:7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving sin.
- Truth - Num 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie,
- Holiness - Job 34:10 Far be it from God to do evil,
- Knowledge - Isa 40:14 Who was it that taught him knowledge
- Love - Jer. 31:3 “I have loved you with an everlasting love”
- Veracity - Ps 119:89 Your word, Lord, is eternal; . . . firm in the heavens.

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### GOD IS CONSTANT IN HIS PLANS (HIS WILL)

11 But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, **the purposes of his heart through all generations.**

Psalm 33:11

**God is immutable in His will.** God's purpose never alters. Sometimes people change their mind or plans because they lacked foresight or the power to execute them. As God is both omniscient and omnipotent there is never any need for Him to revise His decrees.

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### WHAT DOES HIS CONSTANCY MEAN TO US?

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## IS GOD CONSTANT?

### WHAT DOES GOD'S CONSTANCY MEAN?

10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet **my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,**" says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Isaiah 54:10

His purpose is fixed, His will stable, His word is sure, His power is unabated, His wisdom undiminished, His holiness unsullied. He is the rock on which we can fix our lives. The permanence of God's character guarantees the fulfillment of His promises and gives us security.

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13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for **he cannot disown himself.**

2 Timothy 2:13

Since God cannot change, His love and promises will always be consistent. His salvation is eternal, His faithfulness, love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness are forever and unalterable. The immutability of God means He is completely trustworthy and is an enduring invitation to complete trust.

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9 "To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. 10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you..

Isaiah 54:9-10

Through the gospel, God's constancy is a delightful truth. Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ.

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