

# GOD ALONE IS ETERNAL & IMMORTAL

Bible Verses from the NRSV, collected by Rev. Steven King

**God is the only eternal/immortal Spirit. That is what makes God unique.**

**1 Timothy 6:15-16 (God alone has immortality)**

He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

**Revelation 1:8 (God is the eternal Alpha and Omega; he is not one among many)**

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**1 Timothy 1:17 (immortality belongs only to God)**

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Immortality is the basic difference between human beings and the one eternal God. God is immortal, human beings are not.**

**Psalms 90 (the psalmist compares God's eternal nature, with our finite nature)**

*Verse 2:* Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

*Verse 10:* The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

**Acts 10:25-26 (human beings are mortals, only God is immortal)**

On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal."

**Acts 12:21-23 (King Herod was punished by God for claiming to be immortal)**

On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. The people kept shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!" And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

**Romans 1:22-23 (fools compare the immortal God to mortal creatures like us)**

Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

**Human beings were created by God with one finite, limited life-time.**

**Acts 17:24-25 (life itself is not part of our human nature, it is given by God)**

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

**Genesis 3:22-23 (God did not create Adam with eternal life; he kept it from him)**

Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden,

**Hebrews 9:27-28 (humans do not have a life before this one; we have only one death)**

And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

**In the very beginning, only God existed — he alone is eternal and immortal. Human beings did not exist prior to their creation in this world.**

**John 1:1-3 (no one but God existed in the beginning, before creation)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

**John 1:14-15 (if John was an eternal soul, how could Jesus have existed before him?)**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'"

*(Remember, chronologically, John was born before Jesus; John is referring to Jesus as the eternal Son of God who existed before creation.)*

**Psalms 139:16 (God knew us in the womb; before our days existed)**

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

**John 8:58 (Jesus existed before Abraham existed, therefore Abraham was not eternal)**

Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

**Job 38:2-5 (God mocks Job, since Job did not exist at the foundation of the world)**

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements — surely you know!"

**John 3:12-13 (we did not have a pre-existent life, Jesus was the only one who did)**

Jesus said: "If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

**Colossians 1:15-18 (If Jesus existed before all things — that includes us!)**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

**If human beings were immortal and by nature had an eternal soul,\* Jesus would not have needed to die to give us eternal life — we would already have it.**

**Psalms 49:7-9 (human beings do not have an eternal existence)**

Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it. For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice, that one should live on forever.

**John 5:39-40 (The Bible does not teach we are immortal; only Jesus gives eternal life)**

Jesus said: "You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

**John 3:14-16 (eternal life is something God gives in Jesus; we do not already have it)**

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

\* the terms "immortal soul" and/or "eternal soul" do not appear in the Bible even once!