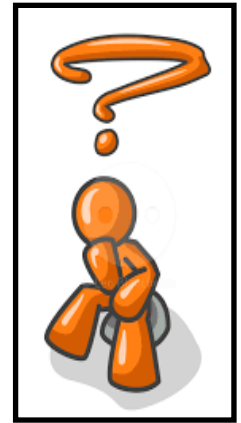


# What About...

## Infinity, as an Attribute of God

By Dave DeWitt

The Old Testament Hebrew words for infinity are עולם (*olam*), which occurs 439 times, and its brother מעולם (pronounced the same – *olam*), which occurs 50 times. Although the translations vary from *eternity* to *ancient times*, the words are usually translated *everlasting* or *forever*. The common New Testament Greek word is αἰώνιος (*aiōnios*), which occurs 71 times. It can mean *agelong*, but it almost always means “an unlimited duration of time” [“Louw and Nida Lexicon”]. Technically, the difference between infinity and eternality is that eternality has to do with time and infinity has to do with anything that is without limitation. So, eternality is a subset of infinity. For example, we say God is both infinite and eternal, but the word eternal only emphasizes His infinity in the area of time. So, it is sufficient to talk about infinity.



**Thesis:** I will here demonstrate that the concept of infinity is undeniable, and it both impels us to conclude the existence of an infinite God, and it tells us some undeniable things about God.

**Romans 1:20** *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

**What Is Infinity?** Infinity is not something really big, huge, long, or humongous. Infinity is endless. It has no beginning and it has no end. Infinity does not grow or get longer or bigger or better. Nothing can be added to infinity. Here are a few examples:

**Does that which cannot be seen, measured, or calculated, exist?** Take the fraction 1/3. Suppose there are three of us with one candy bar, so we decide to divide it up into exactly three equal parts. Can we actually do that? No, mathematically, we can only approximate the size of 1/3. Actually, 1/3 is a decimal point with an infinite number of 3s. 1/3 = .33333333... But the number does not end in 3. The number simply does not end. It is infinite. If one of us gave his third of the candy bar to another of us, that one would have 2/3, which is also mathematically impossible because 2/3 = .6666666666..., and an infinitely long line of 6s that does not end in 6, because it does not end. The Ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes (288-212 B.C.) discovered that if you divide the circumference of any circle by its diameter, you always get the same number, 3.141592653589..., which was later labeled Pi (π). But Pi (π) is an infinitely long number. It does not end in any number because it never ends. So, we must conclude, that which cannot be seen, measured, or calculated, exists.

**How long is a line?** Answer: It is infinitely long. It has no beginning or end. How many points are there in a line? Answer: there are an infinite number of points in a line. Suppose we take a line segment with a beginning and an end. How many points are there in a line segment? Answer: an infinite number of points, as a point is a place on a line not a space on a line.

### Can anything be added to infinity?

In 1655, John Wallis began using the lemniscate (∞) as a symbol for infinity. It has become a standard symbol, so let's do some infinity math. If ∞ is infinity looking forward or in a positive direction and -∞ is infinity looking backward, or in a negative direction, then consider the formulas in the graph. [Formula graph from study.com/academy]

$\infty + \infty = \infty$
$-\infty + -\infty = -\infty$
$\infty \times \infty = \infty$
$-\infty \times -\infty = \infty$
$-\infty \times \infty = -\infty$
$x + \infty = \infty$
$x + (-\infty) = -\infty$
$x - \infty = -\infty$
$x - (-\infty) = \infty$
For $x > 0$ :
$x \times \infty = \infty$
$x \times (-\infty) = -\infty$
For $x < 0$ :
$x \times \infty = -\infty$

Notice: Nothing can be added to infinity. When we attempt to add to infinity, or multiply it in some way, we only get infinity. Infinity cannot grow. It cannot get any bigger or better or change. It is already fully formed. Infinity cannot be seen, measured, or calculated. Some just call infinity an idea. The problem with that is infinity is real. We cannot really observe it, but we can observe the reality of it, in our real three-dimensional world. 1/3, 2/3, Pi (π), and an infinite number of other numbers, actually mathematically exist. So, we must conclude that infinity is real.

**Does everything have a cause?** The issue of infinity also stubbornly arises when we look at our three-dimensional universe. Everything we observe in the universe (let's call it X) has a cause ( $C \rightarrow X$ ). Say X is a squirrel nest, then C is a squirrel. Say X is a computer, then C is a human. Since everything we know of has a cause, it is unreasonable to suppose there is something in the universe that does not have a cause. But if everything has a cause, then whatever causes, might also have a cause ( $C_3 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow C_1 \rightarrow X$ ). But that brings us back to infinity because there is no reasonable way to ever come to an end of those causes. It is called an infinite regress ( $C^\infty \rightarrow \dots C_3 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow C_1 \rightarrow X$ ).

**What about the universe?** But if everything in the universe can be traced to an infinite "number" of causes, what about the universe itself? If we conclude that the universe itself is without a cause (essentially the answer of atheism and pantheism), we are way outside the realm of science because we have to make a conclusion which is not only without observations but contrary to all observations. Even the idea of a "big bang" requires an infinite number of "bangs," with no way to determine where the stuff came from that went "bang." Again, we are forced to say something is  $\infty$ .

**Is the cause for the universe more complex than the universe?** But there is another problem. Our ( $C \rightarrow X$ ) also includes the observation that ( $C > X$ ). The only time ( $C = X$ ) is in procreation. Otherwise, if you find a squirrel nest, you know there exists a squirrel more complex than the nest. That means the cause of the universe must be more complex than the universe. But you and I are also in the universe, and we are beings of personality, morality, and spiritual notions. So, the cause of the universe must be at least a personal, moral, spiritual, real "Being". A "Being" greater than maleness or femalness, not an "it."

Did this Being create the universe infinitely long ago? Not necessarily. But it is necessary to conclude that the Being who caused the universe must have existed infinitely long ago, and have an infinite capacity, because anything less than an infinite Being would require a cause. It is, therefore, reasonable to call such a Being an eternal infinite God. And it is reasonable to conclude that such a God is real, not just an idea, because infinity itself is real. Infinity cannot be seen, measured, or calculated, yet it exists.  $1/3$ ,  $2/3$ , Pi ( $\pi$ ), and the Creator of the universe is real, and infinite.

## An Eternal Infinite God

- **Isaiah 40:28** *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.*
- **Psalm 90:2** *Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*
- **Psalm 147:5** *Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.*
- **Psalm 118:1** *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. [The phrase 'His lovingkindness is everlasting' occurs 41 times, all but 8 are in Psalms]*
- **Ephesians 3:8** *To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,*
- **1 Timothy 6:15-16** *He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion!*
- **Romans 11:33-36** *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever.*
- **Hebrews 13:8** *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
- **Revelation 1:8** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

