Forever*

Hebrews 1:5-8 (5) For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?
(6) And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.
(7) And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.
(8) But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, **is for ever and ever**: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Over and over again the word of God in both the old and new testaments puts forth the fundamental reality that He and His realm are never ending, that they are eternal. Our faith is contingent upon this fundamental truth.

In general, the Greek word ***aion*** *is translated: forever. However its real meaning is "Age". And there are actually two meanings for the word "Age;"*

(1) "Age" can mean a human lifetime, or life itself. So it can be a limited time, for as long as someone is going to live.

(2) "Age" can also mean an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, or an eternity. So it can mean forever and ever. Basically, if the subject is God or Jesus, since they exist in eternity, the meaning of "Age" would be an unbroken age, or an eternity. On the other hand, if the subject is referring to finite human beings, then the meaning of "Age" would be limited to the life-span of a human lifetime. In the Greek New Testament, "Age" almost always refers to the subject of Jesus or God. Since He lives forever, the time that is meant is forever or for an eternity. However in the Old Testament, we have many examples where forever only means the life-time of an individual. You may have encountered someone referring to forever and ever as meaning eternal when in actuality it is a life time. Rightly dividing the truth is crucial to obtain a

correct understanding. Time will certainly end, however God and his realm will not. However there are some that do not understand the nature of eternal and go about insisting in their own way. One insistence is, "religion will cease to exist". But they are scoffers, walking after their own lusts. As for believers, we are expectant followers, turn with me to;
1Peter 1:3-5 (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
(4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that **fadeth not away**, reserved in heaven for you,
(5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
A comment was made during a documentary program that makes one to understand why Paul said; O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: (1 Tim 6:20). *The commit was:* When life is found on another planet, religion is going to crumble and cease to exist. *Man has tried to crumble and cease religion from Genesis until now without success, but how could man achieve success when;* The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork (Psa 19;1). *Extraterrestrial life from the heavens would only add to the glory and righteousness of God in my view. Consider the two that warned Lot of the coming judgment of God. What crumbled was evil, not religion.*
Genesis 19:15-17 (15) And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.
(16) And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought

him forth, and set him without the city.
(17) And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.
These two were not from earth. The question remains, is there life somewhere else in the universe? Other than angels coming to earth, the Bible is silent, however the heavenly host is not from this universe as indicated by 2Cor 12:1-4. And then Isaiah 45:18 *indicates only one planet that is capable of sustaining life, listen to this;* For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: *Were the angels that warned Lot of the impending doom flesh and blood as we know it? For all intents and purposes, flesh and blood originated within the boundaries of earth as God made man of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him (Gen 2:7). However, in the extraterrestrial sense, an angel is a shape shifter that can appear on earth, as in the case of Lot. Turn with me to;*
Hebrews 1:13-14 (13) But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?
(14) Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?
Angels are a fascinating subject, yet one that is rarely discussed in either church pulpits or religious literature. As a result, on occasion most Christians are left with a gaping void in their knowledge concerning angels, and therefore they frequently turn to the media or other poorly informed sources for answers to their questions about these heavenly creatures. In this day and age, one need not look very far to find an overabundance of nonsensical information on these often misunderstood heavenly sentinels. Sadly, most of this information is nothing more than speculation, and thus the

sincere inquirer goes away confused about what the Bible actually says concerning angels. Angels worship and serve God (Isaiah 6:2-3; Revelation 22:8-9), and in ancient times did take on the form of humans as they appeared to Lot. An angel spoke to Hagar to provide instructions from God—(Genesis 16:10-12); an angel told Mary that she would bear the Christ-child. Lets read that extraterrestrial encounter, turn to;

Luke 1:28-33 (28) And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.
(29) And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.
(30) And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
(31) And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
(32) He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
(33) And he shall reign over the house of Jacob **for ever**; and of his kingdom there shall **be no end**.

Angels are God's messengers to reveal unto man things of great importance. And of the claim that religion will crumble in the presence of an extraterrestrial being, Luke 1:33 *says* "of his kingdom there shall be no end." *Indeed when Mary was confronted by the Angel, religion did not cease to exist. In fact a New Covenant was about to be established with Christ as its author and finisher* (Hebrews 1:1-2). *And speaking of Christ, Daniel has this to say of His dominion in the old testament.* And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an **everlasting dominion**, which **shall not pass away**, and his kingdom that which **shall not be destroyed** (Daniel 7:14). *God has revealed in no uncertain*

words that the dominion of His Son is everlasting and His kingdom shall not be destroyed. His Kingdom is the Church, and the Christian religion, the practice of religious beliefs. The prediction that religion will cease is false. However false prophets and their 'science falsely so called' will crumble and cease. The Christian religion will not, how do I know this? Jesus said; Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away (Mark 13:31). *How then could a person put their trust in worldly views? Turn with me to;*

Matthew 16:13-18 **(13)** When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
(14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
(15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
(16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

This poses an interesting dilemma. Seeing the gates of hell shall not prevail against His Church, how long will hell last?

Revelation 20:10-14 (10) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented **day and night for ever and ever**.
(11) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
(12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of

those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
(13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
(14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
There will be no end to this condition. It is going to remain forever. However there is a way of escape, but that decision must be acknowledged today while one is in this present world. Christians are on a pilgrimage as were those of faith in the past. We are looking for something eternal, turn to;
Hebrews 11:13-16 (13) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
(14) For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.
(15) And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.
(16) But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.
This is the heart-touching testimony of the great "heroes of faith" of Hebrews 11. The experiences of all these godly men and women of the past are outlined as an example for us as we pass through the years of our own "pilgrimage" on the earth.
Wherefore seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us.. run with patience the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1). *We must never allow our faith to crumble and fall by the wayside regardless of false predictions that religion will "cease to exist". Christian's must not be like one individual who said he and other scientists did not get involved with or allow religion into their lives as it would only*

be a drag on their ability to interpret scientific data. However, misinterpreting scientific data is nothing new. Interpretation of scientific inquires made outside Biblical standards have been misinterpreted by unscrupulous scientist in an effort to forward their own agenda or by outright fraud. Dr. Richard Lewontin in a speech to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2008 said, we are missing the fossil record of human cognition, so we make up stories. *Paul warns of science falsely so called. Empirical science on the other hand is an exceptionable and honorable form of inquiry, and should apply to both evolutionary and creation sciences equally. But evolutionary scientist object as we shall see shortly. Most cosmological models presume that when astronomers look at the objects most distant from earth, they are actually looking back in time. They aren't quite sure how galaxies first formed by natural processes, but they assume that "early" galaxies would look quite different from present-day galaxies. Thus, they were shocked to find fully matured galaxies so-ooo far away from soo"long ago." Their reaction was;* "Not only did we find them, it looks for all intents and purposes like they had already formed completely and evolved into the large concentrations of galaxies that we see in clusters today." *There was just not one mature galaxy, but 60 were found where there ought to be just disorganized gases according to Big Bang cosmology. The idea is often presented that the creation view of the Universe is not "scientific" because a supernatural Creator cannot be tested using present scientific instruments and procedures. Presumably, because God cannot be "controlled" in an experiment, and because He is a supernatural, non-physical Being, then any information that involves such a God cannot be deemed "scientific." It is interesting to note, however, that in some fields, not only is it impossible to directly control the variables, but the phenomena themselves may not be directly observable. A research design known as indirect*

experimentation is often utilized in such fields. Explanations can be tested even if the phenomena being studied are too far away, too small, or too far back in time to be observed directly. Evolutionist Eugine Scott said; "Indeed, no paleontologist has ever observed one species evolving into another, but as we have seen, a theory can be scientific even if its phenomena are not directly observable." *The scientific community will accept indirect observation for evolutionary sciences, but deny indirect observation for creation sciences. Well, I do not think that should come as a surprise, turn with me to;*

Hebrews 11:1-3 (1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen**.
(2) For by it the elders obtained a good report.
(3) Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

What if these worlds should contain life? That would only add to the glory of God in my opinion. But we may never know. It would take four light-years to reach the nearest star to earth. That's traveling 186,000 miles per second for four years. That's a terrific distance, but not for the Lord, turn to;

1Peter 1:22-25 (22) Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:
(23) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
(24) For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:
(25) But the word of the Lord **endureth for ever**. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

To those familiar with Jesus' statement recorded in Matthew

25:46, it would seem that the question of whether or not the wicked will one day be punished forever in hell, is rather easy to answer. After explaining to His disciples how the righteous will be separated from the wicked at the Judgment (Matthew 25:31-45), Jesus concluded by telling them that the wicked "shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life" (25:4-6). *For Christians, this verse settles the issue: the wicked will suffer unending punishment. The righteous, on the other hand, will enjoy the bliss of an unending life with God in heaven. Recognizing the Church will ascend up to God and the fact that "eternal" means "unending", the theory that* "religion will cease to exist" *will itself crumble and vanish away. Christians accept this fact, however there is more to our faith, turn to;*

Romans 8:35-39 (35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
(36) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
(37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
(38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
(39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Brethren, I am persuaded that science "falsely so called" shall not separate us from the love of God. It's true that Christians feel the negative impact of falsehoods. Christianity may seem foolish and out of touch. However there is a day coming when all shall take a different approach. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God (Romans 14:11). *That is "politically incorrect." But God is not, turn to;*

2Peter 3:9-11 (9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
(10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up**.
(11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
True religion is a belief in and reverence for the supernatural power regarded as creator and governor of the universe. However it is more than this, it is without excuse. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and submission to baptism the effect of faith; who have first believed the testimony of God, by faith repented of their sins, confessed Jesus is the Son of God, and are baptized into His death for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. It will not crumble and cease, but you must be a doer, not a hearer only. The gospel invitation is always open, do you have faith? If so then come repenting, confessing Jesus Christ and be baptized for remission of sins, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
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Dictionary.com,
Apologetics Press--"So We Make Up Stories" About Human Evolution
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