

TIME & THE UNIVERSE

A BIBLICAL VIEW



**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TIME, THE ORIGINS
OF THE UNIVERSE, ANGELS, DINOSAURS, MAN'S
CREATION AND RELATED THINGS**

by NEAL FOX

About the cover:

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

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by Neal Fox

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“Exploring Deep Concepts & Mysteries of the Bible”

“The Future Times: Biblical Prophecies About the Remainder of History & Beyond”

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INTRODUCTION:

TIME & THE UNIVERSE

One might expect a book about the Biblical viewpoint of time and the universe to start with “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” But the story starts long, long, before that. Before there could even be a beginning, and before there was such a thing as a universe, and before there was even time itself, there was God. Just God, in Trinity, apart from time and location. No angels, no mankind, no universe, no time; only God. God is timeless, and does not need time since He has always lived in an “eternal now” apart from time. In fact, God cannot be subject to time and still be God. A central tenet of this book is that time has not existed forever into the past. God created time, therefore it had a beginning, and God is in control of this created thing. However God did not create time until there were creatures who needed it because He never needed time, and still does not need it for Himself.

Other books have been written about time and the universe, but they generally ignore the existence of God. As a result they invent an illusion which makes time the creator instead of God. Time becomes their substitute for God and therefore time is a de facto god worshiped by people with enormous faith, but faith in an impossible illusion. The net result is a godless view of a universe where time simply existed forever and the universe and all in it were created by time, including soulless people who are simply advanced animals. Their theory, simply stated, is that given enough time anything is possible. Such a theory is both illogical and impossible requiring far more faith than believing in God as the true Creator. Their flawed theory ignores the issue that time itself needed to be created by God, along with the universe and two types of creatures with souls. Without God, there would be no time, and without time there would be nothing which could create a godless universe. And there would be no order to it, and also no beauty.

On the other hand, the Biblical view of time and the locations created by God is a true and fantastic story which contains two completely different universes, two restorations of the universes, two sets of sentient beings (those with souls), and multiple Ages of time during which God has different purposes and conditions in store for the souled occupants of the two universes God will have created, one present, and one future. This book will therefore explore how God has divided time into Ages for His purposes.

When God determined to create creatures with souls, those creatures required time, and they also required location. Time allows such creatures to have continuation and live sequentially inside an orderly process, to know their life and actions have meaning because there will be a tomorrow, to learn from the past to have a better future, to have memory of what has been done in the past and take those memories forward in time, to invent and improve because there is a future where such improvements would matter. Taken together, time and the universe enable souled beings to understand where they fit into life regarding sequence of continuation, location, position, and status in the timeline of history, and they also allow them to relate to each other and to God. Without time, souled beings would have no orientation or motivation since they could not even exist, or if at all, only for a fleeting moment, having no past and no future to look forward to. There would be no such thing as progress, improvement, or learning, and therefore no reason to do anything at all since there would be no "tomorrow" or even a next moment and therefore nothing at all would matter. Such creatures could not even survive since survival requires continuation, which requires time. And even if they could survive for a fleeting moment their life would have no higher level meaning or purpose apart from time. They could not even worship God since that requires enough time to first understand and appreciate God, and then express appreciation toward Him. Therefore, before God created souled creatures, He graciously created time. And along with time He created location in the form of a universe and other places which will soon be discussed. These two creations of time and location preceded the creation of the first souled creatures.

Time is a gift from God to His creatures, along with location in a universe. Time and the universe and even heaven were all created together since God did not require time or location, therefore He did not require a heaven to live in when He existed alone in Trinity in His eternal now. Heaven was created along with the original universe as a location for souled beings to locate and orient to God, not for God to live in. God cannot be confined to any location, including heaven. He is not limited by or subject to either time or location. He created both, and therefore both are subject to Him, not vice versa. The Creator did not make Himself a slave to His creation. However, once God had created time He freely and graciously obligated Himself to provide His souled creatures with certain things inside time and in various locations. Therefore God can willingly obligate Himself to act within time, but He does so because He chooses and desires to act in the interests of His created beings because of His love. But He is not otherwise limited by or subject to either time or location including a heaven or a universe. Time depends on God for continuation, which is the fundamental aspect of time, and once time was created it continues forever since souled creatures will live forever – every single one of them. And location is paired with time as another creation necessary for souled creatures, since they must always have both time and a location in order to exist.

This book will use the term “location” in the sense of places created by God for souled creatures to occupy, primarily the universe and heaven, but also several others we will explore. Locations have already changed, and over time some will continue to be added or renovated by God as His plan for souled beings unfolds. Without God, time and location could not and would not exist, and neither existed before God created them.

Some of this information may seem unbelievable, but the Bible reveals many things to us about these subjects and the rest can be deduced by comparing various portions of the Bible. For instance, how could an eternal omniscient God as described in the Bible be subject to time? He cannot be, otherwise He would not know the future. He would be reliant on time to reveal the future just as we mortals are, and that does not describe the God of the Bible. He would not be able to definitively know the future unless He existed outside of time as its creator. And how could both time and God go back eternally into the past? They cannot, otherwise time would be God's equal in the sense of having no beginning. Therefore time cannot be as “ancient” as God. Thus the central basic tenets of this book are: 1) God created time, and 2) God created all locations. The remainder of this book will explain these basic tenets in detail, as this is merely an introduction.

God has provided information in the Bible whereby the more a person understands, the more they are able to understand. Deeper truths depend on understanding more basic truths, and then combining basic truths together into more complex truths. Trying to look for a specific verse here or there is not how God has revealed the deeper mysteries of His wisdom and truth. As with most things in the Bible, God has told us what we need to know, but not everything we want to know. But the Bible has revealed significant information about all of the subjects cited above concerning time, creations, creatures, restorations, and universes, and there is plenty we can know about them. Unraveling these issues is the purpose of this book. Between the things we know explicitly from the Bible there are many other things which can be deciphered to some degree or another, therefore careful and educated interpolation can be useful when it is grounded in enough information from the Bible itself to figure out what lies between. This book will deal with the known, then will use careful interpolation to fill in the gaps where possible and appropriate. However, useless speculation is of no value when trying to ascertain the truth of God’s Word, so it will be avoided. And when theoretical information is occasionally presented for discussion purposes due to inadequate support for a conclusion, the Reader will be kept informed regarding which is which so that you may decide. The truth from God's Word is the important issue, and that is the focus of this book as related to time, the universe, heaven and the other locations God has created or will create in the future.

If a Reader wants to better understand the underlying issue of building truth upon truth, and how the Bible reveals deeper truths, these are explained in detail in another of my books “Exploring Deep Concepts & Mysteries of the Bible” which is available free online if interested. But we will stick to the main subjects of time and location here in this book.

At this point it is useful to insert a timeline of time. Yes, time itself has a timeline. This will help us orient to God's overarching plan for time and how He has arranged time to accommodate His will for the two types of souled creatures He created, namely angels and man.

CHAPTER 1

THE TIMELINE OF TIME

The following is an outline of time and the creations contained within time, including all the locations God will use during the course of history. All information is in summary form in this timeline, therefore the conclusions are not supported at this point, but will be supported throughout the remaining chapters. The purpose of inserting a timeline here is to enable the reader to orient to where we are headed in this book, since these are complicated subjects. Therefore each of these timeline items are in summary form and will be discussed in much greater detail in later chapters:

1. Before anything was created, and before time or location existed, God existed in an "eternal now" prior to and apart from time and location. God does not need time or location, so neither existed before God created them. As such time did not "pass" during the eternal now before God created time. There simply was no time until God created it. Everything to God was in the present, all at once.
2. God determined to create souled creatures, but first He needed an infrastructure in which they could live since they could not exist in God's "eternal now" apart from time and location. Therefore when souled creatures were about to be created, both time and location were required first, and God created time, the original universe, and heaven. These became the infrastructure in which souled creatures could exist.
3. After God created both time and the original universe He created the first sentient (souled) beings, the angels. Angels were created once there was a structure consisting of time and location in which they could exist. The angels occupied heaven and the universe, and the earth was created for them as their home planet. Earth was originally provided as a paradise location with perfect environment as a source of pleasure, sort of a theme park for the societal structure of the angels. The over-sized animals (dinosaurs) on earth at that time could not harm angels and were meant for their enjoyment along with the original plant life.
4. At some point in time Satan revolted against God, and 1/3 of all angels joined with Satan. War broke out in heaven and in the universe. Satan and his fallen angels lost.

5. Earth was shut down by extinguishing its sun resulting in the earth being frozen and encased in ice which formed glaciers; all plant and animal life died (the “extinction event”), and earth remained a frozen dark planet for likely a very long time. The earth was essentially put into mothballs. This status probably continued for a very long time.

6. After the fallen angels lost the angelic war another location was created, which was the Lake of Fire. This new location was created to be the eternal prison for Satan and his fallen angels. Satan and his fallen angels were sentenced to spend eternal time in this newly created location.

7. Satan and his angels were not immediately put into the Lake of Fire due to Satan appealing his sentence to God. God agreed to allow Satan to appeal his sentence and prove his case, so the appeal trial phase of time started. God determined to create mankind to resolve the appeal of Satan. Fallen angels moved their societal structure in its fallen state to a new, undisclosed location in the universe since earth was no longer open to them.

8. After a period of time elapsed, the appeal trial of Satan began. God restored the original universe including planet earth and prepared it for the creation of man. God therefore restored (not created) the universe and earth for this new category of souled beings to occupy. This restoration of the earth in six days is the story of Genesis 1:2-16 and included an entirely new set of plants and animal life, since none of the original species were continued. It also included a restored sun, since the old sun had been extinguished after the fall of Satan.

9. After the restored universe and earth were prepared, one man was created and put on the earth into a perfect environment called the Garden of Eden. Later God created one woman using the DNA taken from that man.

10. The appeal trial of Satan began, and over a period of time Satan worked at enticing the humans to sin. After some time he lured the woman into sin first, then the man also joined her in sin as a revolt against God’s will. After their fall, the man and woman were removed from the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden, then the woman's womb was made active for child-bearing and the couple propagated outside of the Garden in a fallen state and in an imperfect environment.

11. Since the time the Garden of Eden was shut down mankind has been living out human history under various Ages of time. God has segmented human history into Ages to demonstrate several different

aspects of His love and fairness during the appeal trial of Satan in order to disprove the appeal accusations made by Satan against God. Adam and Eve started the first human Age, the Age of the Patriarchs.

12. Approximately 1500 years after the Garden of Eden was closed down the earth experienced a universal flood. That flood changed the earth in several significant ways.

13. God later created a new race from one man called Abraham, and one woman called Sarah, creating a new race called the Jews.

14. The Jewish descendants would eventually enter a land promised to them, beginning the Age of Israel, which was the second Age of time. God made a covenant with the Jews in the form of the Old Testament.

15. About 1400 years after the Jews became a new race the promised Messiah Jesus Christ was sent to be a substitute sacrifice for the sins of mankind, making salvation a reality and allowing God to offer expanded grace to mankind.

16. The Church Age began shortly afterward. A New Covenant to the Church was provided, changing how God would interface with mankind after the Messiah had removed the sin issue. This is the current Age in the timeline of time & history.

17. The next major change to the earth will occur after the Church is removed. Then the Great Tribulation will occur. It will last for seven years and the earth will be severely damaged.

18. Next in sequence the Millennium will begin and Jesus Christ will rule the earth, and the current earth and universe will be healed by Him. The current earth will undergo a major restoration before the Millennial Age begins, as the earth will be restored to a perfect environment similar to the Garden of Eden, then mankind will continue on the same earth for a final 1000 years of human history.

19. After the Millennium is over, the appeal trial of Satan is complete, and all mankind is taken off the earth. Then the current universe and all in it will be unzipped at the atom level and destroyed. Nothing will remain of the current earth and universe. History will be complete at that point.

20. All unsaved mankind and fallen angels will be put into the Lake of Fire which was created just after the fall of Satan. These two sets of beings will spend eternity (unending future time) in the Lake of Fire.

21. A new eternal universe will be created at the beginning of the Eternal State, and a new heaven will become part of it. This is the second universe. God, elect angels, and saved mankind will all live together in this new combined heaven/universe forever.

22. Time will continue during eternity as every angel and every human who ever lived will exist in two very different states of existence, either with God or apart from Him.

To sum up the overview of time, and looking forward in time, as time plays out it will have included two creations of sentient souled beings, two creations of separate universes, two restorations of the first universe, and four creations of plant and animal species. God created one set of plants and animals for the angels, one set for man during the first part of his time on earth, will renovate plant and animal life late in the Ages (Millennium), and will create another set for the Eternal State. As we see, the history of time and locations is not simply one continuous sequence of events in the same universe with only humans, but rather it is much more complex.

With this timeline overview in mind as a means of orienting to the subject, let us unravel the details and mysteries of time and the universe starting at the beginning. The beginning of time, that is. We cannot begin at the beginning of God since He has no beginning, and lives outside of time. Eternal now, remember?

CHAPTER 2

THE ORIGINS OF TIME & LOCATION

Neither time nor location have existed forever into the past. Both were created by God. The Bible declares clearly that time had a beginning:

"We declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began." (1 Corinthians 2:7)

"This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time" (2 Timothy 1:9)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1-2)

As we have already noted, before there were souled creatures who needed time and location there was only God Himself alone in Trinity, and neither time nor any location existed because God never needed either. As the creator of time, God is in control of time, not the other way around. And as the creator of all locations He also did not require place, space or any location, so there was no universe or heaven until souled creatures which required time and location were about to be created.

Jeremiah 32:17: "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

Nehemiah 9:6: "You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."

As Nehemiah says, heaven itself did not exist until God created it, and neither did a universe. God existed in an "eternal now" apart from time and location until He determined to create souled creatures who needed both time and location.

Time and location are twins. And God is not subject to either. He created both time and location for souled creatures and He controls both as a necessary part of His plan for those creatures. God does not need time or a place to reside or sit. All locations were created by God for residence by His created creatures and to enable His souled creatures to interact with Him. We have seen how God did not

require time or space or any other boundaries, but when He decided to create souled beings, they required boundaries such as heaven, a universe, planets, stars, animals and plants, and so on. And yes, they required time. Without time, created beings cannot orient or function. So in the beginning, God created.....time. In fact, time was the first thing God ever created. Then after there was time, God created the first location which was the original universe (we will explain the "original" part shortly) and also heaven. And after all of that infrastructure was in place He created the first souled beings, which were the angels. Created beings with souls must be placed into time and location. Time is the mechanism by which sentient beings have continuation, can orient to their roles in life, have a basis for meaning and purpose and motivation, and can relate to each other and to God. Location provides a material place in which material beings can function, since they cannot exist inside an immaterial environment. It also defines boundaries, provides for a frame of reference for understanding what is going on around them, gives them order and predictability regarding their surroundings, provides for nourishment, and allows for finding and interacting with God and other created creatures. The universe has different types of materiality, as shown by the difference between human and angel bodies, such as how angels can perform space travel, be invisible or visible, and other issues we will discuss. That is also why the universe and heaven are both material, although a different type of materiality.

We know that God is Trinity, and the Bible reveals which Members of the Trinity were involved in the various aspects of creation, and later restoration, of the various locations which will have been created over time. The Second Member of the Trinity, known as God the Son, created time and the original universe.

Hebrews 1:1 "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

Colossians 1:15 "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

During the history which has played out over time to this point, God the Son became Jesus Christ the God-Man Savior. It was the deity side of the Son who created everything which exists.

It is difficult for humans to understand there was a point when time was created, and therefore time simply did not exist before that creation occurred. But it should be even more difficult to accept that time is as ancient as God. If time went back as far as God, then it would be His equal, and God could not know the future until time revealed it to Him since they would be on the same path, with God needing to wait for the future for it to be revealed to Him by time. God would therefore need to rely on time to teach Him and reveal to Him and allow Him to understand things which have not yet happened inside of time. These are impossible, since that would not be the limitless perfect God the Bible reveals. God is not subject to, reliant on, or beholden to time since He created everything which exists, including time and all locations. If God did not create time, then there is no such thing. But He did, and there is. Therefore, time is a “thing,” a confined and circumscribed part of God's plan, something controlled by God for His own purposes, not something which always was, and into which God must find a way to “fit.” John 1:3 says "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." And Hebrews 1:3 reveals "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." The creation and sustaining of all things includes both time and location, which God the Son created and now sustains, which in turn allows souled beings to exist. Of course this is deep and hard to understand. But hang on, and it will become more clear....over time.

We have discussed how there was a timeless period before souled creatures existed when there was only God. No universe, no heaven, no angels, no mankind, no animals or plants, and no time. Eternal now means God can be anywhere in sequence at any moment, and everywhere in sequence all at the same moment. Created creatures must be inside time and can only proceed in sequence as time proceeds, creating an ever increasing past as the future sequentially becomes an ever-transforming present, which continuously becomes part of the past. Sequence creates a past but time can never proceed faster than the sequence allows. This is a key to understanding God in relation to time, that God is not subject to the inexorably changing sequence which time contains. Therefore, at any point of time God can be in any and all other points of time as though the entirety of time was the present moment. In reality, all of time is in the present moment to God, which defines the eternal now in which He lives. God does not live sequentially. And to God all things are continually in the present, and all at the same time. But He chooses to act toward His creatures in ways allowing for time and sequence to play out under conditions where each souled creature has free will to make decisions in their own present time, and sequentially.

One of the more difficult issues to understand is how free will can exist in souled beings yet God knows the future. The only answer is God's eternal now existence outside of time where God is not subject to sequence. God allows each souled creature to make free-will decisions and He also allows those decisions to determine the future of each of those beings and the future course of history which

will be developed over the entirety of time. God knows the future decisions which will be made by souled creatures because He is outside of time, but God does not make those decisions for those creatures, or force them to make certain decisions. This defines predestination in the Bible, that God already knows all future decisions, but He does not coerce those decisions when they are related to choosing for or against His plan. God's will and the free will of souled creatures co-exist during history, and God's knowledge of the future decisions which are yet to be made does not negate the freedom of those souled creatures to make those decisions. God may influence decisions, for example to protect His own believers from harm caused by the decisions of others, but the core issue of free will in souled creatures is the choice to freely choose for or against God, and such choices are the key part of free will which God does not coerce. This is one of the most amazing things about God, that He allows and enables true free will in His souled creatures while at the same time He is already at the end of all things, outside of time in His eternal now, but also continually in the present time with His own believers during time. Once again, out of all of the concepts which are most difficult for us as humans to understand during this life, the issues of time and God's relationship to it and souled creatures having free will are definitely among them. But you are now beginning to understand, and you will learn much more.

As humans we are tempted to say that time is eternal in both directions, so we generally attempt to relate to God in His eternal now by calling the period before time began something like “the eternal past” or some other term of accommodation, which is not accurate. But it is understandable that we try to comprehend the eternal now in which God lives by using a term for it related to time and thinking of time as going back eternally. But eternity into the past only applies to God Himself inside His eternal now which is outside of time, so eternity does not apply to time itself, which makes our heads hurt because we try to relate eternity to time, including past time, which is incorrect. Remember that God's eternal now is not inside of time, and time has not existed forever, therefore saying time goes back eternally is not a valid concept. Therefore eternity does not apply to time going backward, only forward, so we can more appropriately use the term "everlasting" which applies only to future time, not to the past. The phrase “the eternal past” makes God subordinate to time, implying time is as eternal as God since it does not account for the absence of time before God created it. Saying that God lived in an “eternal past” is therefore inaccurate since time only goes forward from the point of its creation, and does not go backward before it was created by God. It implies there was a past before time was created, and that cannot be true. In reality, before God created time it simply did not exist, and only God existed in an “eternal now” apart from time, and still does. Eternity past would require that time never had a beginning, but it did. However, it is understandable that we use some imprecise words and phrases to explain such deep concepts as time, therefore this is merely an explanation, not an attempt to criticize and seek to eliminate all impure terminology. But technically speaking, time is not eternal, only everlasting since it had a beginning. Eternal means no beginning or end, and that only applies to God in His eternal now outside of time. Everlasting means perpetual continuation forward once

created, so that applies to time and all souled creatures. The reality is that time did not go back eternally, but rather simply did not exist before God created it. If time went back eternally, it would have gone back as far as God, and that is not possible. God pre-existed time inside His eternal now, and He created time, otherwise He would be subject to it. A perfect God cannot be subject to time.

If it seems like these discussions have said the same thing several different ways from different perspectives, that is what was intended. With such a deep concept as time there is not one simple way to make the issues clear. So there is a method in doing this, and it is the only way to make these issues understandable. The core principles must be stated in different ways in different contexts if they are to be communicated clearly, so this will continue to be an issue in this book.

Regarding location, there could not be any location without time. These twins of time and location were created by God for souled creatures to enable them to interact with Him. So why do we use the term “location” instead of “the universe” or “space”? It is because some locations are not inside the universe, so it is not an all-encompassing term. And the term “space” is not specific enough for our use, and space does not go on into infinity, at least not as the term is commonly used, so at least one location is outside of what we call “space.” Furthermore, although several locations already exist, there will be more in the future, and some will not be contained inside the current universe or space, but rather in a new universe. Therefore using the term “location” allows us to discuss past, present and future places, some of which do not yet exist, and some which will cease to exist. Location is commonly thought of as two very different but connected places, namely the existing universe and heaven. But there are also other locations which currently exist, some occupied and others not occupied at this point, which will also be discussed. And within the major locations there are sub-locations, such as the universe containing earth as a primary focus for God's plan, so we must understand that the current universe is a set of sub-locations, and also a single location in its entirety. Therefore the term “location” is useful when we sum up all of the various places created by God such as the universe, heaven, and others, some past and others still future. Although many have not recognized heaven as included in the term “location,” it definitely is since it was created for souled beings as a place for creatures to locate and interact with God. We will discuss how the universe, heaven and other locations, past and future, are connected. And all locations relate to time. We cannot discuss one without discussing the other.

God is apart from time and has never needed time, which is why 2 Peter 3:8 says: “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” This describes an eternal now whereby God is not subject to time because He lives in all parts of time at every moment, including all of the past, present and future. With God, all parts of time are compressed into the present, and He can

choose which parts to focus on as He desires. But He also recognizes the need to relate to His souled creatures each in their own present time, where time is constantly progressing. Souled creatures must live in an ever-changing present time, which is how God designed time to work for His creatures.

All of this should show the Reader that only an eternal perfect God could create time since it could not have existed without a creation event. As a "thing" time is very complex having multiple intricately designed components including sequence, continuation, series, and so on. We also see why God cannot live inside of time, because He cannot be subject to those components of time and remain God. Therefore He lives in an eternal now where there is no past or future, only all things at the same time, but outside of time. He simply is "Existence." That is His real name, as He has told us in His Word. Exodus 3:13:

“Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

The Hebrew word for "I AM WHO I AM" is what we transliterate into "Jehovah" or "YAHWEH" (the Tetragrammaton) and is often translated as "The Lord". The "I Am" means far more than simply God exists, rather it means He is "The Existence." As such He exists outside of all else, including time and location. He cannot be subject to that which He created, and which He Himself never required as pure existence with no requirement for anything outside of Himself. "The Existence" as the name of God also confirms no beginning or end, which can only be possible outside of time. John starts his Gospel by saying "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) This passage calls God "The Word" referring to perfect Truth, therefore the ultimate "beginning" as discussed in the Bible was not Genesis 1:1 but rather John 1:1 where God simply "existed" as Trinity alone and apart from any other created thing, including time. We see in Colossians 1:17 "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Part of the "holding together" is time, and the other part which He holds together are the various locations He has created, and those He will create in the future. God not only holds together all things in the present time, but He holds together all things of all time, all at the same time, apart from time.

This is another of the more difficult issues to understand or explain about time, that before God created it, time simply did not exist, but God simply was "The Existence". Time is merely one of the many creations of God, therefore He controls time, not the other way around. To say that God needs anything outside of Himself is an absurdity incompatible with a perfect God who calls Himself "The Existence."

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