

Everlasting

"I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Jeremiah 31:3

Everlasting—From our perspective about time, this is a strange word. While it means “the indefinite future” in more than 300 occurrences, it also can mean “a particular point in the distant past.” (20 occurrences) As if that were not confusing enough, the word is also translated as “since” and “until” and in one notable example, as “world. (**Isaiah 64:3** the beginning of the world).

No matter which *direction* the temporal idea points toward, one thing is common. It is a long period, longer than most lifetimes can imagine.

This is the sense of the passage in Jeremiah. God’s love lasts a long, long time. This word tells us that His love extends to the very limits of human past history. And it also extends to the very limits of the future of humanity. It embraces all of what we know or will know about God’s interaction with men. It is a love that “never fails.”

But there is a theological sense that extends this word beyond even these limits. The Bible tells us that the motive behind all of God’s creative actions, behind the very decision to make anything at all, is Love. The range of human temporal measurement does not limit God’s love. God is Love. So, God’s love extends into the infinite past because Love is a characteristic of who God is. And His love will go on and on forever into the future because Love is who God is. Love is the basis of existence.

The next time your world seems constrained by temporal limits, remember that God’s love covers it all. The next time you think your future looks like it will hit the Wall, remember that God’s love overcomes every barrier. The next time you can’t figure out how you will ever get from here to there, remember that God’s love bridges every temporal event.

God’s Love is the rainbow that stands over all that exists.