

In the Beginning – Part 3

- ❑ From our previous lesson, we saw that;
- ✓ God (Elohim), in the beginning created the heavens and the earth and we should note that, the heavens and the earth of Genesis 1:1 were created perfectly.
 - **Deut 32:4** *He is the Rock, His work is perfect;*
 - Although we read in;
 - **Gen 1:2** *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.*
 - By comparing scripture with scripture, we now know that it was not originally created that way.
 - **Isa 45:18** *For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, [same Hebrew word translated ‘void’ in **Genesis 1:2**] Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.*
 - We saw that it was not created ‘vain’/‘void’ in the beginning but it became that way at some subsequent point as a result of Lucifer’s rebellion.
- ✓ God had created a magnificent, perfect ruling angel, along with an unspecified number of subordinate angels, to administer the earth on His behalf but later sinned.
 - **Eze 28:12b**..... *'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. **13** You were in Eden, the garden of God;... **14** You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. **15** You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.... **16** By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned;... **18** You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities,*
 - Lucifer and one third of the angels with him rebelled against God.
 - **Isa 14:13** *For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’*
 - As a consequence of his rebellion, a ruin of the creation took place and that’s why the creation is seen in Gen.1:2a as without form and void.
 - The earth was in a state of ruin and the rebel ruler, Satan had proved himself unworthy to rule and became disqualified.
- ❑ It’s important to note that God had no plan of restoring the fallen angels, but instead replace him with an entirely new being; one that had never existed before. He therefore undertook six days of work followed by a seventh day of rest to restore the ruined creation and in the sixth day God created Man with a view to him having dominion over that which had been newly restored.
 - **Gen 1:26** *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*
- ✓ This was spoken before man’s creation and God’s purpose is clear. ‘Let them have dominion’.
 - **Gen. 1:27** *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

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- And this same purpose is repeated after the creation of man, giving clear instruction as to the reason for his creation. *'Have dominion'*
- ✓ Although man was created to rule, it's important to remember that in God's economy, there is a set pattern for rulership which dictates that the one presently occupying the position of rulership, even though disqualified by his own actions, cannot be replaced until the one to replace him has been proven worthy.
 - In order to be proven worthy, there must be a test, and again this follows a set pattern. The test for rulership is always faithful obedience to what God has said in His Word.
 - Hence;
- **Gen 2:16** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*
 - Now Adam and the Woman, although created to have dominion, did not exercise that authority as they did not pass the test of obedience.
- ✓ The Woman was deceived by Satan and her husband of necessity entered into her sin with her thereby disqualifying them to rule, leaving the incumbent ruler, Satan holding the scepter even until the present day (*Please revisit Pt.2 on this*).
 - It is interesting to note that the sin entered into by the Man and the Woman is remarkably similar to that of Satan –
- **Gen 3:5** *"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*
- **Isa 14:14b**.... *I will be like the Most High.'*
- ✓ We can see the consequences of their actions in **Gen.3:14-24**. We see the ground being cursed, the man and the woman being clothed with tunics of skin, but still driven out of the Garden of Eden. But most importantly, the promise of the coming Seed is given to 'that serpent of old', making abundantly clear that the Seed of the Woman (Christ); the one who will crush the head of the serpent is the one who will remove Satan and his fallen angels as rulers over the earth. The coming Kingdom of Christ is at the heart of all and at the heart of the Kingdom is redemption.
Note: Headship has to do with authority.
 - **Gen.3:15** *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*
 - Now when Satan deceived the Woman and Adam entered into her sin, both the material creation and Man become ruined – Man's spirit 'died', his soul became corrupted as he now had a sin nature, his body started the process of decay and lost the covering of glory.
- ✓ But, as we have seen in previous studies, the fulfillment of this promise of a change in rulership requires a process. A process that is initially seen in the 6 days of the redemption/restoration of the material creation leading to a 7th day of rest. That process foreshadows the process by which fallen man's spirit, soul and body will be fully redeemed, leading to that which the day of rest pictures – Christ's Kingdom.

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- **Note:** All of us have found ourselves in this world through procreation. We were not created; we were born, but we can trace ourselves all the way back to the original man and woman. **Gen.3:20** clearly states that Eve became the mother of all living, hence we are all born in the likeness of Adam, being dead in trespasses and sins and in need of redemption. The beginning of Genesis 5 has stated that very clearly;

-Gen.5:1-3 *This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. 3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth*

- Rom 5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*

- Eph 2:1 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

- ✓ We were all born into this world ‘dead in trespasses and sins and in complete darkness just as the creation was in Genesis 1:2a. Thankfully, the restorative/redemptive process extends to all mankind on an individual basis and begins just as it did in Genesis with light shining in the darkness.

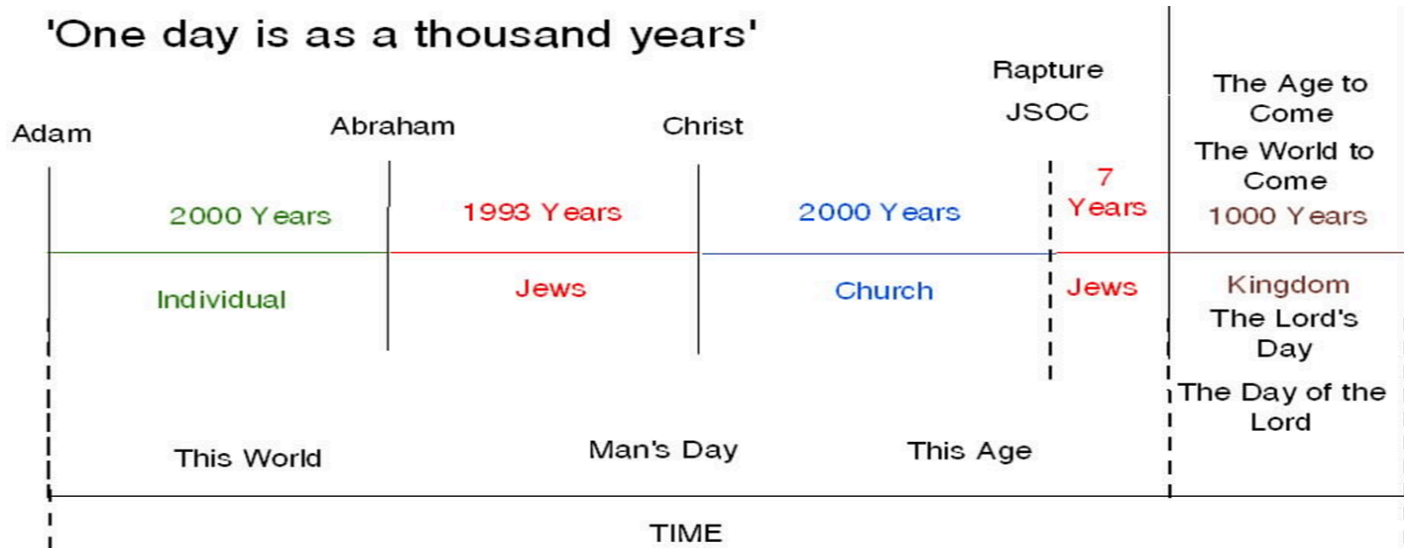
-2Cor 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

- Rather than restoring the material creation and finding a new ruler, God sets about the restoration of man with the purpose of bringing him back to the place where he can occupy the position for which he was created; participating in Christ’s Kingdom with Him as His co-heirs.
- In order to restore Man, His fallen creation, God must of necessity follow the pattern He had already set – six days of work, followed by a seventh day of rest. However, when dealing with the restoration of ruined Man, (*a uniquely created being that had never existed before and the only being in the universe created in the image and likeness of God*) although the numeric pattern remains the same, six days of work followed by a seventh day of rest, the duration of the days changes. These would not be seven literal days, but seven days each consisting of one thousand years.

-2Pet 3:8 *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

TIMELINE:

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- ✓ We are being told that each of the six days of work in relation to the restoration of Man will be one thousand years in length, followed by a seventh thousand year of rest.
 - This gives us a time frame of six thousand years from the restoration in Genesis 1 to the end of God's dealings with ruined Man and then a thousand years for the Millennial Kingdom of Christ before the endless ages of eternity.
 - The six thousand years corresponding to the six days of work are referred to in scripture as, '[this world](#)', '[this age](#)', '[Man's day](#)'
 - The seventh, one thousand years corresponding to the day of rest is referred to as, [the world to come](#), [the age to come](#), [the day of the Lord](#), [the Lord's Day](#) – we also refer to it as, '[the Millennial Kingdom](#)', '[the Messianic Era](#)', '[the coming Kingdom of Christ](#)'.
 - Beyond the seventh day, moving into eternity future or endless ages, we have '[God's Day](#)' or '[the Day of God](#)'.
- So it is the world to come, that one thousand years corresponding to the seventh day in Genesis that will not be subject to angels (**Heb. 2:5**). That will not be in subjection to angels – where angelic rule will be replaced by Christ's rule and His coheirs just as God had purposed from the beginning.
The establishment of His Kingdom will bring about a change in the system of rulership with a new order of sons replacing Satan and his fallen angels;
 - **Heb 2:10** *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*
- This is why Jesus responded to Pilate's question about His being King of the Jews in the way He did –
- **John 18:36** *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world.*
- Christ's Kingdom, His exercise of authority over the earth that was made through Him and for Him has not and will not exist during the six thousand years from Adam to the end of the Tribulation. It cannot because of the structure God set in place in Genesis and the very words of Christ Himself in John 18 testifying to this.

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- ✓ Even though, from ‘In the beginning’ it has been God’s intention for redeemed Man to rule with His Son, and even though this will be an absolute reality, it has always been within the human realm a matter of choice as to whether an individual will participate in the outworking of God’s purpose.
 - And please remember that it is not our spiritual birth or new birth per se that makes us part of this. The salvation of our spirit, the birth from above, the free gift of eternal life is but the beginning. As a result of this we are saved unto eternity.
 - From our timeline, eternity future does not begin until the conclusion of the 7th Day, the Millennial Kingdom.
 - Participation in eternity is absolutely guaranteed and we can do absolutely nothing to change that.
- ✓ Participation as a joint heir with Christ in His coming Kingdom is by no means guaranteed.
 - This is something that must be worked at through faithful obedience and must be the primary focus and motivation in our life.
 - When Jesus said –
- **Mat 6:33** *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,*
He meant exactly that!
- Returning to our foundation in Genesis –
- **Gen 1:3** *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*
 - The first day of the restoration when light shines in the darkness is a picture of the new birth, where we pass from death into life.
 - What follows subsequent to this, days 2 -6 of the restoration relate to the salvation of our soul and the redemption of our body – All leading to the 7th Day – the day of rest, the Millennial Kingdom.
- **Heb 4:1** *Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.*
- **Heb 4:4** *For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; 5 and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest." 6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, 7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*
 - As Apostle Paul encourages us in 2Tim.2:15, let us remain diligent so that we can be proven worthy when we stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ (JSOC) on that day.
- **2Tim.2:15** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*

- **2Cor.5:9** *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*

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- ✓ In these verses, Apostle Paul is including himself as well as the JSOC concerns all the saved and the unsaved will not appear at this judgment. They will appear at the Great White Throne Judgment seen in Rev.20 and that will be after the Millennial Kingdom reign is completed.

1Cor.3:11 *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

- ❖ **Note: The 7th Day, the coming Kingdom of Christ is the focus and that is where our rewards will take us. Let us be diligent to enter that rest!**

QUESTIONS:

1. Please review **Deut. 32:4; Gen. 5:1-3; Isaiah 45:18; Ezek.28:12 and 15**. What can we conclude about God's creation (Angels, Adam and Eve, material creation)?
2. After Lucifer's rebellion, God had no plan of redemption for the fallen angels. What plan was in place?
3. God created man and the woman to rule in his place. Did they assume the ruler ship?
4. In **Gen.3:15**, what promise was given to the Serpent?
 - a. Does this give us hope?
5. God's principle of Biblical governance requires that an incumbent ruler continues to be in authority until another is found worthy to replace him. With scripture references;
 - a. What example did we look at?
 - b. What does that mean for Christ?
 - c. What does that mean for us?
6. How was God going to restore His fallen creation, man?
7. How should we understand **Gen.1:3-5** and **2Cor.4:6**?
8. Using the timeline, please explain how we should understand **2Pet.3:8**?
 - a. How about **Heb.2:5-10**?
 - b. How about **Mat.6:33**?
9. How should we understand **Heb.4:1-11**?
10. Please read **2Cor.5:9-10** and **1Cor.3:11-15**. Do these have to do with our eternal salvation (salvation by grace through faith)? If not, what do they have to do with and who is being dealt with here?