

God's Plan

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—God has a plan for man. History is not a random succession of meaningless events. This chart, "The Course of Time From Eternity to Eternity," shows God's past and future dealings with a rebellious humanity. Defining the following words will help in understanding God's plan.

Eternity: Has no beginning or end—Without time. (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 57:15). "Time no longer" (Revelation 10:6).

Time: A period during which action, process, etc. continues (Webster's dictionary). Made by God, "In the beginning" (Genesis 1:1). "Time is short" (1 Corinthians 7:29). "It is time to seek the Lord" (Hosea 10:12).

Create: (Hebrew: *Bara*)—To bring into existence where nothing was before—To make from nothing. The three creative acts in Genesis 1 are of: *Matter* (body) v. 1; *Soul* in everything that moveth v.21, 2:7; and *Spirit* (human) in the "image" and "likeness" of God v.26, 27. "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24).

Chaotic: The change that happened to the earth after the original creation: "And the earth was without form and void" (Genesis 1:2). *Contrast*: "He created it not in vain" (Isaiah 45:18).

Made: (Hebrew: *Abah*)—To form from what is created. God remade the earth in six twenty-four hour days. "God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God *created* and *made*" (Genesis 2:3).

—The six days of remaking the earth (Genesis 1:2b-31) point to God's dealings with man throughout time: "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure" (Isaiah 46:9,10).

Day One: Genesis 1:3-5—God gave the "light" of: *Creation* (Psalm 19:1-6), *Conscience* "ye shall be as gods" (Genesis 3:5; Romans 2:15), and *Promise* of Christ the coming Redeemer (Genesis 3:15).

Day Two: Genesis 1:6-8—Waters "above" point to God setting up human government (Genesis 9:6). "The most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and setteth up...the basest of men" (Daniel 4:17; Romans 13:1-5).

Day Three: Genesis 1:9-13—Dry land appearing points to when God called Abram to be the father of His earthly people Israel (Genesis 12:1-4). God dealt with Israel until Christ was rejected and crucified, and He will again deal with Israel during the seven years of great tribulation after the church is taken to glory (Revelation 3:10) and Israel will be "the head, and not the tail" of the nations (Deuteronomy 28:13) when Christ reigns for 1,000 years over this earth.

—The center of God's time schedule is the cross: "When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman...that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4,5).

Day Four: Genesis 1:14-19—Lights ruling in heaven speak of Christ as the Sun and the moon as the church, God's heavenly people as His testimony to the world today (Revelation 2&3). This is the time between the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God came to form believers into "one body" of believers called the church (Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:13), and the Rapture when Christ shall come to the clouds and take the church home to glory (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

Day Five: Genesis 1:20-23—"Waters" point to the unrest and turmoil of the tribulation period (Genesis 49:4; Isaiah 57:20; Luke 21:25,26), called "Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7), which will last seven years (Daniel 9:27). The trouble is so intense on this earth in the last half of this period that it is designated in Revelation as 3 ½ years (12:14), 42 months (11:2), and 1260 days (12:6).

Day Six: Genesis 1:24-31—Man made in God's image and likeness points to when Christ shall "subdue" everything on the earth and reign for 1,000 years over this earth as man (Revelation 20:4).

Day Seven: Genesis 2:1-3)—God resting "from all His work which God *created* and *made*," points to Eternity future (Revelation 21:1-8; 2 Peter 3:11-14).