

THE DAYS OF CREATION AS A PROPHEPIC PATTERN FOR HISTORY

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Soli Deo Gloria!

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now ... are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment ... But, beloved, **be not ignorant of this one thing**, that **one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**" (2Pet3:7-8)

- DAY 1:** Division of "the light from the darkness". The battle between God and Satan begins (Gen3:15; Act26:18). Adam physically died on this "day" (Gen2:17; 5:5).
- DAY 2:** Division of the "waters ... under ... and above the firmament" (Gen1:7), which will be used to destroy the world in Noah's flood (cf. Gen6:6; 8:2). The only day of creation not to receive God's blessing.
- DAY 3:** Dry "land" first appears (Gen1:10); first mention of "seed" (Gen1:11). Only day to receive a double blessing (Gen1:10,12). A picture of the call of Abraham and formation of the nation of Israel (Gen12:1); birthright of Israel as God's firstborn son is to receive a double blessing (cf.; Exod4:22; 1Chron5:1).
- DAY 4:** The Sun created to be a "greater light" (Gen1:16). First coming of Jesus as the "Sun of righteousness" (Mal4:2) and "the True light" (Jn1:9).
- DAY 5:** The "whales" and "every living creature that moveth" in the waters are created (i.e., fish; Gen1:21). Christ called disciples to be "fishers of men" in "all the world" (Matt4:19; Mk16:15).
- DAY 6:** Man is created and commanded to "be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it" (Gen1:28). It is during this period of history that world population and dominion greatly expanded.
- DAY 7:** God rested (Gen2:2). There remains a future day of "rest to the people of God" (i.e., Millennial Kingdom; cf. Heb4:3-9; Rev20:1-6).

CHURCH AGE/RETURN OF CHRIST TYPOLOGY

Often, "two days" (2,000 years) is a typological reference to the Church Age (cf. Hos6:2; Jn4:40,43; 11:6; Act15:14). Often, "the third day" is a typological reference to the return of Christ to establish the Millennial Kingdom (cf. Hos6:2; Matt16:21; Luk24:21; Jn2:1; 1Cor15:4).

IMPLICATIONS FOR DATING THE SECOND COMING

The rapture of the Church cannot be dated, but perhaps the second coming of Christ can. The crucifixion of Christ, followed a few weeks later by Pentecost and the birth of the Church, occurred in 32 AD. The second coming of Christ should occur in 32 + 2,000 years = 2032 AD. 2032 - 7 years = 2025 AD for the beginning of the Tribulation (Dan9:27). Thus, the Rapture of the Church must occur no later than 2025?

QUOTES FROM EARLY CHURCH WRITERS

Epistle of Barnabas 15:4-5 (c. 100 AD)

"Give heed, children, what this meaneth; He ended in six days. He meaneth this, that in six thousand years the Lord shall bring all things to an end; for the day with Him signifyeth a thousand years; and this He himself beareth me witness, saying; Behold, the day of the Lord shall be as a thousand years. Therefore, children, in six days, that is in six thousand years, everything shall come to an end. And He rested on the seventh day. this He meaneth; when His Son shall come, and shall abolish the time of the Lawless One, and shall judge the ungodly, and shall change the sun and the moon and the stars, then shall he truly rest on the seventh day."

Irenaeus, Against Heresies 5:XXXVIII:3 (c. 180 AD)

"For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded. And for this reason the Scripture says: Thus the heaven and the earth were finished, and all their adornment. And God brought to a conclusion upon the sixth day the works that He had made; and God rested upon the seventh day from all His works. This is an account of the things formerly created, as also it is a prophecy of what is to come. For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years; and in six days created things were completed: it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at the sixth thousand year."

Hyppolytus, Hexaameron on Daniel 11:4 (c. 200 AD)

"For as the times are noted from the foundation of the world, and reckoned from Adam, they set clearly before us the matter with which our inquiry deals. For the first appearance of our Lord in the flesh took place in Bethlehem, under Augustus, in the year 5500¹; and He suffered in the thirty-third year. And 6,000 years must needs be accomplished, in order that the Sabbath may come, the rest, the holy day on which God rested from all His works. For the Sabbath is the type and emblem of the future kingdom of the saints, when they shall reign with Christ, when He comes from heaven, as John says in his Apocalypse: for a day with the Lord is as a thousand years. Since, then, in six days God made all things, it follows that 6,000 years must be fulfilled."

¹ Hyppolytus makes use of the genealogies in the LXX, which erroneously reckon the creation of the world at 5500 BC.