

Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005

## Seven Days – Part 1 of 2

- 1). At the very beginning of the book of beginnings, Genesis, we read of God's creation of the heavens and the earth
  - a). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
  - b). The heavens are created first as we know from Daniel that Da 4:26b .... *the heavens do rule.*
  
- 2). This original creation of the heavens and the earth is not arbitrary or casual. God is a God of order and precision and this one segment of His universe is brought into being with purpose and would be administered by those specifically created for that purpose.
  - a). Eze 28:14 *"You were the anointed cherub (Literally – 'Messianic angel') who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*
  - b). However the one created to rule rebelled against his Creator
  - c). Eze 28:15 *You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*
  - d). 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;*
  - e). And as a result of these actions - Eze 28:18a *"You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, Sanctuaries – the heavens and the earth*
  - f). Ge 1:2 *The earth was (Became) without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.*
  
- 3). Because of sin God's creation had become ruined and was now engulfed in darkness in a place of death.
  - a). But God has purpose for His creation and will not leave this part of His universe in a corrupted condition.
  - b). His solution as we know is to restore His ruined creation over a period of 6 days followed by a 7<sup>th</sup> day, a day of rest.
  - c). Ge 2:1 ¶ *Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*

4). The newly restored material creation however must be governed and the former ruler, Satan, as a result of his actions had disqualified himself as the earth's ruler. But, according to God's design he must remain in authority until the one to replace him is found worthy. Cf. Saul and David

a). God's solution, as you know, is to create an entirely new being. One that has never existed before, at any time, within the past ages of eternity to take Satan's place.

b). Ge 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."*

c). This man, made in the image and likeness of God is also a very part of the material creation over which he is to rule.

d). Ge 2:7a *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,*

5). The incumbent ruler, Satan, was able through the deception of the woman, to bring about the disqualification of man to rule. Once again leaving God's creation in a ruined condition.

a). Man was now dead in trespasses and sins. He no longer had the light of life, but rather found himself in a place of darkness. And consequently, such is the condition of every person born into this world.

b). 1Co 15:22a *For as in Adam all die,*

6). However God had already set in place an unchangeable pattern for the restoration of His fallen creation – 6 days of work leading to a 7<sup>th</sup> day of rest.

a). We should particularly note that the purpose of the 6 days is to bring us to the 7<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> day is destined to be the completion of God's restorative act in respect of His creation and rulership.

7). What I would like us to realize today is that the process of restoration we see in Genesis Chapter 1 is exactly the process of our own salvation, both spirit and soul. The work of each day in Genesis represents a stage that we must go through if we are to find ourselves in the 7<sup>th</sup> day. As such it would be a picture of the process of the successful Christian life, in the same way as we saw in the Book of Ruth. In fact genesis 1 would parallel Ruth's experiences.

a). This is a process that can be seen in a general sense in respect of mankind and in a specific sense for all those who are redeemed.

b). In a general sense we know that God has a set period of time in which He is going to work – 6 days and at the end of that time some human beings will be identified as being worthy to have dominion.

c). The Apostle Peter, referencing this very thing, makes absolutely clear the boundaries of the actual physical timeframe in which God is working - 2Pe 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.*

d). God has set a period of time of six thousand years, with each thousand years represented by one day in Genesis. At the conclusion of this time period, following the pattern of the original 6<sup>th</sup> day. A part of the Man's body will be removed and presented to Him as His bride and together they will have dominion.

e). We are of course talking of the second man, the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ and His bride who will be removed from His body.

f). And this of course leads into the conclusion of God's actions, the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the millennial kingdom, the Sabbath rest. The establishment of a new order of sons positioned for rulership. It is the end towards which everything moves.

8). Now within this general time frame God deals with individuals after the same fashion, bringing their own process of restoration to a place of completion so as they would be a part of the Bride and able to enter the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

9). There is not of course a period of 6 days given to us in a literal sense. Nor do we live for six thousand years. But the restorative process shown in Genesis 1 must be the experience of every person who will find themselves entering the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Without it entrance will be denied.

a). Let us briefly examine the process.

10). DAY ONE - Ge 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.*

a). The first day is the foundation. It is the beginning point where all restoration must begin. God must sovereignly speak into that which is only darkness in order that light can shine. This is salvation by grace through faith. This is the free gift of God that brings light and life to that which is darkness and death. Which is based solely and completely on the finished work of Christ at Calvary.

b). 2Co 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.*

c). Joh 5:24 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

i/ This is what is pictured for us in Ruth's marriage into a Jewish family

d). What will become abundantly clear to us then is that once this initial division between the light and dark has taken place on day one everything that happens on days 2 through 6 has to do with something beyond the salvation we presently possess. It is of course the salvation of our soul which is in view. It is interesting to note that God spends one day on spirit salvation and then a further five days on the salvation of the soul.

11). DAY TWO - Ge 1:6 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.*

a). Subsequent to our new birth we are now in a position where we have a redeemed spirit and an unredeemed soul. That which is associated with the light and that associated with the dark and through the ministry of the word we will start to differentiate between the two, coming to realize that 'the flesh profits nothing'. 'It is the Spirit who gives life'.

b). Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

c). Col 3:1 ¶ *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. We will be choosing not to be conformed to the things of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.*

d). The recognition of the division between things heavenly and things earthly. Those things, which are spiritual, and those, which are carnal, must be acted upon if there is to be an advance to maturity. This is laid out for us in 1 Corinthians.

e). 1Co 3:1 ¶ *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?*

f). In relation to the Book of Ruth this would be pictured for us in the division of Ruth and Orpah. The separation of the carnal from the spiritual. Orpah, the carnal, turns back to the things of this world, but Ruth, the spiritual, commits to continue to the end. To go on to the meeting with Boaz with a view to finding rest in the house of her husband. In the type of Rebekah this would be the point of choosing to 'go with this man'. Following the Spirit as He leads.

g). The choice to act upon what God has revealed – setting our heart and mind on that to do with our heavenly calling and then producing works in accordance with our faith is that pictured for us in day 3.

12). DAY THREE - Ge 1:9 ¶ *Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.*

*11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

*13 So the evening and the morning were the third day.*

a). Here we see the dry land appearing from the midst of the waters. From the place of death comes that which is then able to produce fruit.

b). The third day, the resurrection, Israel coming out of the Red Sea and the symbol of water baptism are inescapable here.

c). Ro 6:3 *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

d). Ga 5:16 *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

e). Ro 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

f). It is only that which is done in the spirit that will produce fruit in our lives and it is only those who determine to walk in the spirit who will find themselves in the position of sons, positioned for rulership.

g). Ro 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* This would be picking up our cross daily and following Christ.

h). In our connection with Ruth this is where we would see her working from the beginning to the end of the barley and wheat harvest, beating out the grain.

13). DAY FOUR - Ge 1:14 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.*

*16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.*

a). As we continue to make divisions between the spirit and the flesh and continue to divide between that which is of the earth and that which is of heaven. As we continue to die to self and walk in the spirit, seeking the kingdom first so God brings about for us that portrayed in day four. It is the opening of His word in relation to the kingdom through the wisdom that comes from above, from the One who is 'the light of the world'.

b). Jas 3:17 *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

c). Col 2:2 *...attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

d). It is the gospel of the glory of Christ that would shine from the heavens to the earth - 2Co 4:4 *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

e). In relation to the nation of Israel He is - Mal 4:2 *But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.*

f). The further division between the light and the dark, the day and the night as a result of the 'lights' placed in heaven is unmistakable – For us Joh 11:9 *Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.*

1Jo 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

1Th 5:5 *You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 ¶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

g). To be 'sons of the light and sons of the day' and to have had the 'light of the gospel of the glory of Christ' shine upon us, so as to put on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet of the hope of salvation, we will, from the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, have received the keys to unlocking the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Having been given from above the revelation that He is 'the Christ, the Son of the Living God'. Setting our heart fully on the blessed hope that is to come. We will have grasped the big picture. Understood that it is here a little and there a little. That all scripture is about the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will have understood the types and seen the anti-types. We would be able to do exactly that which we saw in Matthew last week - Mt 13:52 *Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."*

h). And this is what we find in day 5.

14). DAY FIVE - Ge 1:20 ¶ *Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be*

*fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.*

a). Just as the birds we can now, through the continued revelation of the Spirit, through the word, soar to great spiritual heights. Remember the Lord said He would send us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. In a very real sense we can claim the fulfillment of Isaiah 40 - Isa 40:31 *But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

b). As the fish and great sea creatures plumb the depths of the oceans, so we can plumb the depths of the deep things of God by the spirit through the word.

c). Job 11:7 ¶ *"Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?"*

1Co 2:10 *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

d). There is freedom in the Spirit, through the Word, to search out the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. If we will ask, it will be given to us. If we seek we will find. If we knock it will be opened to us.

15). DAY SIX - Ge 1:24 ¶ *Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 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." 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." 29 ¶ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. 31 ¶ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

a). Just as the living creatures on the earth would roam to and fro on it finding food wherever they go, so we may roam to and fro through the word of God and feast, just as we have done this morning.

b). Days four, five and six in our Ruth connection would take us to her decision - Ru 3:5 *And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."* And would encompass her preparation of washing, anointing and putting on her best garment. In preparation for meeting Boaz on his threshing floor.

b). And then at the conclusion of this six day process, just as the conclusion of Ruth, we see the one created to have dominion in a position to be recognized to do just that.

c). That recognition will come at the Judgment Seat of Christ, typified by Boaz's threshing floor, which will take place at the end of the sixth day, the sixth thousand year. Leading into that which God set apart and hallowed from the beginning, the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the day of rest, the Millennial kingdom.

16). Heb 4:9 *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.*

a). The Rest remains for the people of God and we will access it through the process of the six days in Genesis 1. It is in this process that we will be 'working out our own salvation in fear and trembling' and at the conclusion of it we will receive the goal of our faith, 'the salvation of our souls'.

b). What God set in place for the restoration of His fallen creation in the beginning never changes. It is only as we move into spiritual maturity through the process that the 6 days of Genesis represent that we will find ourselves built into His Church, His Bride, a spiritual house.

c). Day One stands alone and is forever finished. Days 2-6 are not incremental stages, but continuous and progressive.

d). Where are you today? The start of the week or moving to its close. Have you determined to observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy?