

Word of the Kingdom Conference 2007

John Herbert

'In the Beginning Part 1'

1). As we come to the start of this second annual Word of the Kingdom Conference I wonder if there is a better place to begin than where God began

a). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

b). We need to realize that just because the creation of the heavens and the earth is at the very beginning of God's revelation to Man this does not make it an arbitrary act, nor a random event. The creation happens with purpose and reason within God's plans for the eternal ages.

c). And the use of the Hebrew plural noun 'Elohim' for God shows us that all three parts of the trinity were involved in this, both the creation and the purpose.

2). We would note that when we talk of the heavens we are talking of that invisible realm connected with the earth from which rulership of the earth takes place - Da 4:26...*the heavens do rule.*

a). And it is interesting to see that in the creation it is the heavens, the place of rulership, that is created first

b). And we may conclude from this that rulership, certainly with regards to this one province in God's universal Kingdom at least, is the focus of the creation.

3). Now we know also that the heavens and the earth of Genesis 1:1 were created perfectly.

a). Although we read in - Ge 1:2 *And the earth was without form, and void;*

- By comparing scripture with scripture we can 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.*

b). And if it were not created 'vain'/'void' in the beginning then it obviously became that way at some subsequent point.

4). Now this is significant because we know that this newly created, perfect earth was placed under the authority of a specifically created messianic angel, along with an unspecified number of angels with him, to be administered on God's behalf. This is the one we now know as Satan – Eze 28:13 *You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 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.*

a). He is of course now a fallen angel and a rebel ruler, but still the messianic angel who holds the scepter of rulership in respect of the earth.

b). Joh 14:30 *"I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.*

c). 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.*

d). Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

e). Satan and his angels have ruled over the earth from the beginning and will continue to do so until the time of the Kingdom.

5). As we then read God's own commentary on the original creation of the heavens and the earth we see something very interesting. Firstly note these verses in relation to the means of creation -

a). Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.....14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,*
(Teach this)

b). Again speaking of Christ - Heb 1:10 *And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.*

c). Eph 3:9 *and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God **who created all things through Jesus Christ;***

d). All things have been created through Jesus Christ.

6). Now note these verses in respect of the purpose for the creation –
a). Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

(Teach this)

b). 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.*

c). Heb 1:2b.....*whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*[literally the ages]

d). Please see that all things have been created for Him – for Christ. And that He has been appointed heir of all things, and that Christ is the One through whom God made the worlds – literally the ages.

e). God the Father then has constructed the ages, eternity past, this age, the age to come and eternity future around the person and work of His Son, for whom all things have been created.

7). From the beginning of creation all things were created through God's Son and for God's Son. And if we remember that the heavens, the place of rulership in respect of the earth was created first, and if we remember our scripture from Colossians Chapter 1 speaking of thrones, dominions, principalities and powers, also speaking of rulership, we will realize that although a specifically created messianic angel was created to have jurisdiction over the earth in the beginning, it had always been God's purpose that His Son and not Satan should exercise this authority at a given point in time.

a). Perhaps this was the underlying motivation for Satan's rebellion that caused the ruin of the creation that we see in Genesis 1:2a?

8). Now please keep all these things in mind as we look at part of God's conversation with Job concerning the original creation in eternity past – Job 38:4 ¶ *"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

a). And - Isa 51:13 *And you forget the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth;*

b). And again let us remember that in these two scriptures we are referencing the perfect creation of Genesis 1:1. And in them we are witnessing a specific point when the creation took place, described as laying the foundations of the earth and stretching out the heavens.

c). So as we focus once again on the beginning let us look at some more things God says about this specific point when creation took place.

d). Heb 4:3 *For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' "* **although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

e). Mt 25:34 *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

f). Re 13:8 *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

9). So to bring all this together – All things were made through Christ and for Christ by the instrumentality of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

a). God's works in respect of this were finished from the foundation of the world – From the beginning, and, despite the present system of rulership being in existence, the work necessary to place His Son in the position of authority made by Him and for Him was already completed, but was not then, and is not yet manifested.

b). The coming Kingdom of Christ, to be received by human beings as an inheritance as a result of the redemption of the spirit, soul and body seen in our Matthew scripture – was also prepared from the foundation of the world in a completed form. The Kingdom was not manifest then and is not yet manifested.

c). And because God's works exist in a completed state, we find the One whose incarnation, death and shed blood and resurrection would make the totality of redemption possible, the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, slain from the foundation of the world. This event was not manifested until some two thousand years ago. Some four thousand years after the restoration of the ruined creation seen in the verses Genesis 1:2b and following. And an unspecified time from the original, perfect creation, 'in the beginning'.

d). All of these, in God's economy, were completed and absolute before the heavens and the earth were created.

10). Again, from that event recorded at the very beginning of God's revelation to Man – 'In the beginning' – the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, with Christ ruling from His own throne in the New Jerusalem with His coheirs from the heavens – and Christ ruling from His father David's throne in the earthly Jerusalem with Israel at the head of the nations on the earth, was, from the perspective of the Godhead already a reality – waiting only for the fullness of time to see it in actuality.

11). This means that Satan's rebellion - 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;*

a). The creation of Man - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion*

b). The fall of Man - Ge 3:17 ¶ *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

c). And the need for redemption - Ge 3:21 ¶ *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

d). Are all part of the process to bring about the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes for the ages. All of which are for His Son.

e). God did not have and does not have a plan 'B' or plan 'C' – this is the plan and within God's perspective, which must of necessity be eternal in scope, this is His perfect plan - Isa 55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

f). We realize then that from, 'In the beginning' with regards to the rulership of this earth God had always intended that Man would rule with His Son in the stead of angels.

g). 2Ti 1:8...*the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

h). Tit 1:1 ¶ *Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal[Age lasting] life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,*

12). Exactly what we find evidenced for us in scripture - Heb 2:5 ¶ *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. 6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

(Teach this)

a). To be quite sure that we are all clear concerning ‘the world to come’ let us go back to the foundation in Genesis - 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. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

b). The earth was in a state of ruin as a result of Satan’s rebellion and in order to restore His creation God undertakes six days of work followed by a seventh day of rest. In the sixth day God creates Man with a view to him having dominion during the seventh day.

c). Now when Satan deceives the Woman and Adam enters into her sin, both the material creation and Man become ruined – Man’s spirit ‘dies’, his soul becomes corrupted, he now has a sin nature, and his body starts to decay.

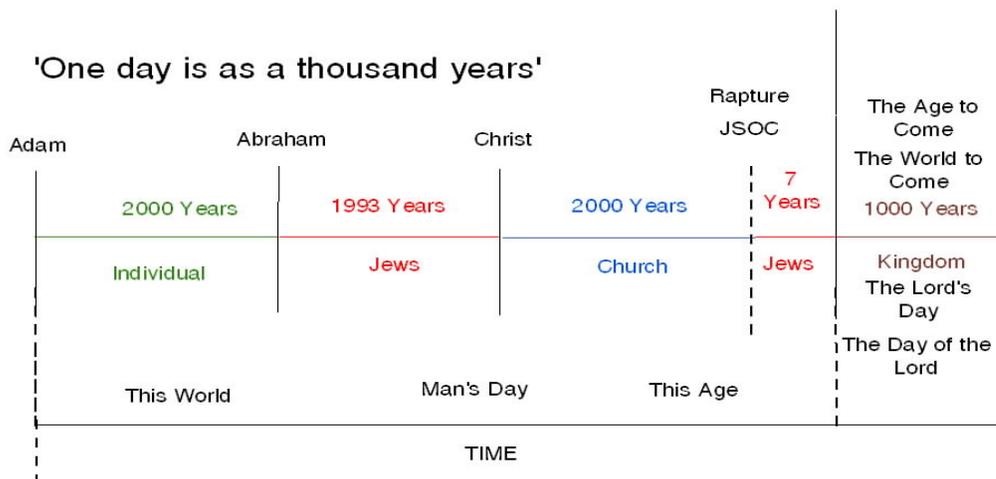
d). In order to restore His fallen creation God must of necessity follow the pattern He has already set – six days of work, followed by a seventh day of rest. Remember God’s numeric pattern for dealing with a ruined creation is perfect – there is no other and no better way to do this.

e). 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 - 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.*

f). We do not have time tonight to look in detail at the context of the scripture, suffice it to say that 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 day, a seventh thousand year of rest. Giving a time frame of six thousand years from the restoration in Genesis 1 to the end of God’s dealings with ruined Man and a thousand years for the Millennial Kingdom of Christ before the endless ages of eternity.

g). (TIMELINE) –



The six thousand years corresponding to the six days of work are referred to in scripture as, ‘this world’, ‘this age’, ‘Man’s day’

h). The seventh 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’.

i). Beyond the seventh day, moving into eternity future, we have ‘God’s Day’ or ‘the Day of God’.

j). 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. That will not be in subjection to angels – where angelic rule will be replaced by rule by Christ and His coheirs just as God had purposed from the beginning.

k). This is why Jesus responds to Pilates question about His being King of the Jews in the way He does - Joh 18:36 *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world.*

l). 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 be because of the structure God set in place in Genesis. The very words of Christ Himself in John 18 testifying to this.

13). To equate the salvation we presently possess, the free gift of eternal life, with entrance into the Kingdom or to see the Kingdom as already here, even in some mystery form or as being somehow present in our heart is totally and absolutely to go against that which scripture clearly teaches. Such teachings are just plain wrong – they are a lie and need to be replaced by the truth. Remember what we read in Hebrews 2 – we don't yet see...

a). Pastors, Teachers, Elders take note - Isa 40:21 *Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?*

b). Isa 46:9 *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

14). This is why it is so important for us to study scripture the way God has given it to us – beginning where He began by laying the foundations in Genesis and then building on those foundations through the rest of scripture.

15). The Book of Hebrews as we have already seen is a Book about 'the world to come' that will 'not be subject to angels'.

a). In the first Chapter of this Book there are 7 Messianic quotations from the OT in respect of the world to come - Heb 1:5 *For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?*

b). In our example here we find a quotation from Psalm 2

c). For a moment we will look at the context within Psalm 2 of our quotation - Ps 2:1 ¶ *Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 ¶ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break*

them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

d). Psalm 2 begins portraying a time that is not too distant in the future when Gentile world power – the kings of the earth – will take counsel together with Satan and his fallen angels against God and His anointed, Christ, to see how they may free themselves from the bonds and the cords of God and His Son. How they may circumvent all that the prophets have spoken.

e). God just laughs at this declaring that He has set His King on His holy hill of Zion.

f). We have already seen this evening that this has been set in place from, ‘In the beginning’, but is yet to be brought to pass in time, waiting on that coming time at the end of the Tribulation when the Kingdom will be established.

g). We then have our quotation – ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’

h). Following this we go again to the time of the Kingdom where Christ receives the nations as His inheritance and breaks them with a rod of iron during the Millennium.

i). Christ was begotten – a word referring to the process of birth through the womb of a woman – some 2000 years ago.

j). And within our scripture this event is sandwiched between two direct references to the ‘world to come’ that lay some 2000 years beyond this event.

k). We could better understand ‘You are My Son today I have begotten You’ as ‘for this day, the 7th day, the world to come – to allow this day to be brought to pass – You were begotten, becoming more than My Son, becoming My firstborn Son.’

l). Christ was begotten 2000 years ago for the purpose of bringing to pass that which today still remains yet future – the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom

16). And as 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.*

a). Placing those within redeemed man found worthy on His throne with Him - Ro 8:17 ¶ *and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint*

heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

b). Please remember the wise and foolish virgins, the man without a wedding garment, the unfaithful servant, the parable of the dragnet.

c). We will realize that Christ's incarnation, coming in the likeness of sinful flesh. Was for purposes far beyond keeping us out of the lake of fire for eternity.

d). *Php 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

e). His birth, His death and His resurrection have made possible the total redemption of fallen man – spirit, soul and body.

17). 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.

a). And please do not be deceived it is not our new birth per se that makes us part of this.

b). 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.

c). But as you remember our timeline you realize that eternity future does not begin until the conclusion of the 7th Day, the Millennial Kingdom.

d). Participation in eternity is absolutely guaranteed and we can do absolutely nothing to change that.

e). Participation as a joint heir with Christ in His coming Kingdom is by no means guaranteed.

f). This is something that must be worked at through faithful obedience and must be the primary focus and motivation in our life.

g). When Jesus said - *Mt 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,*
He meant exactly that.

18). Returning to our foundation in Genesis - *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 of the restoration when light shines in the darkness is a picture of the new birth, where we pass from death into life.

b). 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.

19). 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.*

a). 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.*

(Teach this)