

# GOD, TIME, AND YOU

## Introduction

- 1) We arrange our lives by **time** – calendar/clock: years, months, days, hours, minutes (Acts 20:16)
- 2) God created measures of time (Gen. 1:14); time moves in a linear, straight-line fashion
  - a) We speak of the past, present, and future – our present “moves” with the passage of time
- 3) God dwells in eternity (Isa. 57:15) – not subject to the limitations of time (2 Pet. 3:8)
- 4) In mankind’s earthly timeline, there is a beginning point, a climatic event, and an ending
  - a) Consider God’s involvement in our time, and what that means for you and me in eternity!

## I) **The Beginning**

- A) **“In the beginning”** – the time when all things were created (Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:16; Heb. 11:3)
  - 1) Jesus referred to this point in time as the creation of man and woman (Mk. 10:6)
- B) Seven days are carefully and clearly revealed as the *time frame* of creation (Gen. 1:3-2:3)
  - 1) Literal 24-hour days that became the exact pattern for a seven-day week (Ex. 20:8-11)
    - a) “*Six days* you shall labor...*for in six days* the Lord made the heavens and the earth” (exact parallel of literal, consecutive, and sequential days)
- C) Many today deny and/or contradict this divinely revealed account of creation in the beginning
  - 1) Evolution; Gap, Day-Age, and Literal Day/Gap theories; Framework Hypothesis
  - 2) Divine revelation set aside by the human wisdom and evolutionary babblings (1 Tim. 6:20)

## II) **The Fullness of the Time**

- A) God sent forth His Son “when ***the fullness of the time*** had come” (Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:9-10)
- B) God’s plan of redemption to save mankind from the eternal destruction of sin was based on events in time leading up to the coming of the Son of God
  - 1) Temptation and fall into sin (Gen. 3:1-15)
  - 2) Promises given to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)
  - 3) Establishment of a covenant for the nation of Israel (Ex. 19:5)
  - 4) Promises of Messiah, His death, kingdom, and covenant (Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 31:31; Isa. 53:4-9)
- C) Jesus, the Christ, came into the world at the exact time of the Father’s choosing (Mk. 1:15)
  - 1) “This phrase implies God’s control over and direction of history so that the sending of Jesus was done at a time selected and appointed by the Father” (Willis, *Galatians*, 180)
  - 2) “It was God’s appointed time for the fulfillment of much that He had planned for mankind” (Jenkins, *The Theme of the Bible*, 36)
  - 3) Perfect convergence of divine prophecy, man’s redemption, and world circumstances

## III) **The Last Day**

- A) A time (day) has been appointed when Jesus will return and judge the world (Acts 17:31)
- B) When will this day be?
  - 1) Unknown to all but the Father (Matt. 24:36; 25:13)
  - 2) Will come unexpectedly – like thief in the night (Matt. 24:44; 1 Thess. 5:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:10)
  - 3) Passage of time will not invalidate God’s promise (2 Pet. 3:8-9)
    - a) God is *not slack*: “the idea of lateness with reference to an appointed time” (Vincent)
- C) Day of resurrection (Jn. 5:28-29); no reincarnation, purgatory, or many resurrections – false!
- D) **Last Day** – end of time when we shall enter the realm of eternity (Heb. 1:2; Jn. 6:40; 12:48)
  - 1) Will your eternity be one of eternal punishment or reward (Matt. 25:46)?

## Conclusion

The Bible tells us that “Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). The time for you to hear and obey is NOW, not yesterday or tomorrow. Don’t be late for eternal life because you didn’t “check” the time! There is no reason for delay (compare Acts 16:33 and 24:25). Get your spiritual clock in order and obey God before time runs out!