

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 2.4.2

Series 2 of the Parables Bookshelf contains a variety of writings covering a wide range of topics related to the Kingdom of God. These writings originally appeared as posts on the Heart4God website, or the Parables Blog, both of which are the websites of Bible teacher Joseph Herrin.

The Seven Days of Man - Part 2

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth**, and subdue it:

KJV

This phrase "replenish the earth" means to fill it again. You can only replenish something that has been made empty. We speak of replenishing the supply of food in our cupboards when the cupboards have been emptied. We would not use the word 'replenish' if we were filling the cupboard the first time. In such a case we would speak of filling the cupboards, not re-filling them.

The root word in the Hebrew is 'male' (mal - ay), and it means to fill. But the form of the word found in this passage, and in only a few other occurrences all bear the understanding of a replenishing, or refilling.

We find this same word form used in Genesis 9:1

where God is speaking to Noah after the flood.

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth**.

KJV

We can understand very plainly that 'replenish' is the appropriate word to be used in this passage, for all but a remnant of living creatures perished in the great flood. Mankind had been completely judged and destroyed, with the exception of Noah and his family. Noah's family, and the animals on the ark, were to replenish the earth. They were not just to fill it, they were to refill it, for it had previously been filled, but now was empty.

This is also the understanding we have of Genesis chapters 1 and 2 when we understand them properly. The original earth had been previously inhabited, but it was made waste and void at the judgment of Satan. Adam and his wife were called to replenish the earth that had become depopulated.

This same word form also occurs in the following verse.

Genesis 1:21-22

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **fill the waters in the seas..**

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To be consistent, this verse also should read "replenish the waters in the seas", for it uses the exact word form as the two verses we have just examined. Sadly, there has been a great inconsistency in the way certain word forms have been rendered, and this inconsistency has led to the obscuring of the true understanding of many Scriptures.

I have taken the time to show you the error of the KJV translators in rendering this one word "hayah" which means "became," due to the tremendous errors of understanding that have resulted from one mistranslated word. Consider that many Christians have had their faith troubled because preachers have told them that the earth was only created six thousand years ago. When science has challenged this assertion by providing evidence of a much older earth, the Christian has had no recourse but to deny the evidence presented by science, or to abandon their faith in the inerrancy of the Scriptures.

Understanding what the Bible actually teaches resolves all problems that arise from observing in the earth both evidence of an old creation and a more recent creation. It also resolves the problem of understanding when the dinosaurs roamed the earth, and what caused their extinction. We must study to show ourselves approved by "rightly dividing the word of truth."

Now we are prepared to talk about the three creations of the earth, and its seven unique stages. (There is an eighth state, but that pertains to the new creation. It arises from something completely distinct from the present earth, for this present earth will be consumed as with fire and then a new earth will come down out of heaven.)

We should expect the earth to conform to this pattern, for it is a pattern that is pervasive throughout God's creation. We mentioned that the tertiary structure of creation is seen in the tri-part nature of man. We also see that there were three great feasts that God ordained for Israel to observe, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. We see that the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple were divided into three distinct areas, the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. We see that the saints are described by John in three levels of maturity, little children, young men, and fathers. We see that time has three great divisions, past, present, and future. We could list pages of such examples of the tertiary design of creation. It should then not surprise us to find that there are three earths described in scripture.

The earth is a parable of man, for man's flesh was formed

of the dust of the earth. We can therefore see tremendous parallels between what has, and will, occur in the earth, and man's own condition.

THE FIRST EARTH

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The Scriptures do not tell us a lot about this first earth, for this earth was not the earth of man. It seems that during the present age Yahweh has only revealed things to us on a "need to know" basis. He has revealed enough for man to have understanding of his present place in creation, but He has not yet allowed man's curiosity to be fully satisfied by looking clearly into ages that preceded his existence, nor future ages. Of these things, we are only given glimpses. What we are told is that this first earth was destroyed at the judgment of Satan, and for this reason we find it lying in a state of ruin and darkness in Genesis 1:2.

THE SECOND EARTH

II Peter 3:7, 10

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men... But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

Genesis 1:3 begins the re-creation of the earth. This is the second earth, and the earth of Adam and Eve. This is the earth man has known for the past 6,000 years. This earth too shall pass away. Even as man must pass through the fire of affliction in this age, or be cast into the lake of fire that his sinful flesh might be dealt with, so too must the earth be consumed by fire. There is a perfect correlation between the two.

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THE THIRD EARTH

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

After the second earth is destroyed by fire, Yahweh will then create the earth a third and final time. This third earth corresponds to mankind in the resurrection, after he has received a new and glorified body.

I Corinthians 15:53-54

For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality...

I John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

We see then that even as man is a tri-part being that was formed of the dust of the earth, so too the earth will have its three creations. Yet within this tri-part design we see a further seven-part division. This is in harmony with other acts and creations of God. Consider that there were three great feasts given to Israel where they were commanded to appear before Yahweh in Jerusalem three times a year. These great feasts are Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Yet these three feasts break down into seven distinct events, for Passover has three parts to it, as does Tabernacles. Passover includes The Passover, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, and The Sheaf of Firstfruits. Tabernacles includes The Blowing of the Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Tabernacles. Thus the three great feasts have their seven divisions.

The same pattern is seen regarding the earth. We have seen its three creations. Now we will see the seven divisions within these creations. At each division the earth exists in a distinct state that is set apart from the others. They are as follows.

FIRST STATE - THE ORIGINAL EARTH

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth...”

In this first creation the earth is perfect. The original Garden of Eden was found here, and Lucifer before his fall walked in this garden. It is my belief, and that of other Bible teachers such as Watchman Nee (see his book “The Mystery of Creation”), that this was the earth upon which the dinosaurs dwelt.

SECOND STATE - THE JUDGED EARTH

Genesis 1:2

“But the Earth became formless and void and darkness covered the face of the deep.”

It is obvious that this earth exists in a different state than it had previously known. Even as the sky was darkened from the ninth to the twelfth hour during the crucifixion of Christ when the judgment for all sin was laid upon the back of Yahshua the spotless Lamb, so this earth under judgment is sealed in darkness where no light can penetrate.

THIRD STATE - THE RE-CREATED EARTH

Genesis 1:3 - 31 describes for us the re-creation of the earth. Note that the very first thing that occurs is the removing of the judgment of darkness.

Genesis 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.”

This verse is unlike the other verses of the creation account. It does not say here that God created the light. It merely states that God said, “Let there be light.” Light already existed in the creation, but the judged earth had been sealed up against this light. This judgment has to be removed in order for God to begin re-making the earth. The earth is then formed once again according to the design of God, and a new garden of Eden is placed upon the earth and man and woman are set as inhabitants in the midst of it.

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FOURTH STATE - AFTER THE SIN OF ADAM

After Adam sinned, the earth became subject to the curse. Paul speaks of it in this way:

Romans 8:20-22

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

This earth now brings forth thorns and thistles, and it yields it produce with difficulty. Man must now work by the sweat of his brow to obtain the good fruit of the earth. Death has now entered into the creation.

FIFTH STATE - EARTH UNDER THE FLOOD

Genesis 7:24

The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Although the Scriptures state that God destroyed the earth with the flood, it was not a destruction of the order that occurred when Satan was judged.

SIXTH STATE - EARTH AFTER THE FLOOD - CURRENT AGE

The earth is distinctly changed.

Before the flood we are told that there was no rain, but a mist rose from the earth to water the ground (Genesis 2:6). After the flood there is rain. Prior to the flood we see men living to great ages, Methuselah being 969 years old at his death. After the flood man's lifespan is shortened to 120 years (Genesis 6:3). This is the state of the earth that man currently finds himself in.

SEVENTH STATE - MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

In Revelation 20:2-7 we are told that in the coming Millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. Isaiah speaks of this time.

Isaiah 65:20

"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed."

Isaiah also gives us this insight:

Isaiah 11:6-8

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

This is a very different world from that which we currently know, and it will exist for a thousand years. That this is the seventh state of the earth finds perfect correspondence with the seventh day of creation. The seventh day is Sabbath rest, and this thousand year period finds its parallel in the seventh day of creation when the earth knew rest.

At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be released and will rebel one final time and be judged. This earth will be consumed with fire, and a new heaven and a new earth will appear. This new earth will not be counted as a part of the former creation, but as a new beginning, eight being the number of new beginnings. This last earth will know nothing of sin, rebellion, or the curse.

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

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II Peter 3:13

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Eight is the number of new beginnings, and it is also the number that relates to Yahshua the Messiah, the New Creation Man. We are told that He arose on the eighth day, and following His pattern mankind will experience a resurrection from the dead and will receive a new and glorified body that knows no sin or death.

Look at this Scripture from II Peter 3:13 and consider it as a parable of man. According to the promises of God we are looking for a new body in which righteousness dwells. As John declared:

I John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

What a glorious earth this will be! A unique aspect of this final earth will be that there is no longer any sea. The seas represent death throughout scriptures. This is why God always used seas as a point of demarcation. Passing through a sea was typical of passing from one stage of life to another. Thus we see the Israelites passing through the Red Sea, leaving the bondage and fleshpots of Egypt behind them. Even baptism in water today is symbolic of being joined with Yahshua in His death and then being resurrected to new life in Christ. There will be no death in this final earth, and therefore it will contain no seas.

What a magnificent design is revealed in these things. We see that Yahweh has had a plan for the earth and its inhabitants that is marked by the fulness of the numbers three and seven. There is also the new creation when man will lay

II Peter 3:8

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

In Psalm 90 verse 4 and in this verse from Peter's second epistle we find a key to understanding the hidden truths of

Yahweh as it pertains to time and His plan of the ages. Before Yahweh began to create anything, He had already formed in His mind the boundaries of time, and had established a plan with great precision wherein everything that He would accomplish would be fulfilled. The apostle Paul speaks of this plan of the ages in his letter to the church in Ephesus.

Ephesians 3:11

According to a plan of the ages which he made in the anointed Jesus our Lord...

[Rotherham Emphasized Bible]

We also find reference to Yahweh's precise timetable in the following verse:

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure...'

Yahweh purposes things and then fulfills them. No one can alter His plan. What I want to convey is that in the creation account found in Genesis chapter one, we find the plan of God hidden in dark sayings, and cloaked in a parable. Relatively few people have discerned those things hidden, for most Christians are not aware of the presence of truths hidden in the form of parables. They read Genesis as a historical account, or perhaps as a fictional allegory, but they do not discern those things Asaph spoke of in Psalms 78. There are mysteries hidden in these tales of old. Yahweh has hidden His mysteries in plain sight, but not many men have searched them out.

The earliest recorded testimony that I am aware of that speaks of the seven days of creation as a parable of seven thousand years which God has allotted to bring mankind to maturity is in the Epistle of Barnabas that is dated to the years 80-120 AD. This is believed to be an authentic writing of Barnabas, the companion of the apostle Paul, but it was judged to not meet the criteria to be included in the canon of Scripture. There are actually quite a number of ancient writings by Biblical persons that are not in the Bible. I do not want any to think that they should base doctrine upon extra-biblical writings, yet there is merit to understanding

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what other men of antiquity believed and taught about God and the Bible.

We find in Scripture that ancient writings from Biblical characters have been quoted, even though the writings the quotes are taken from are not included in the canon of Scripture. For example:

Jude 14-15

It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Enoch is just briefly mentioned in chapters 4 and 5 of Genesis, and none of his words are recorded for us. So you might ask, "From what source is Jude quoting?" Some have suggested that he was quoting from oral tradition, but there was in existence in Jude's day a writing called "The Book of Enoch." The earliest manuscript present today is an Ethiopian version dated to 160 BC, a couple hundred years prior to Jude's writing.

I mention this only to demonstrate that among those God selected to write the Scriptures there was a familiarity with writings not counted as Scripture, and that some portions of these writings were judged to contain true prophecies and accurate teachings.

We should not be surprised then when we read in the ancient epistle of Barnabas some things that are true and insightful. But all things must be judged against the testimony of the Spirit and the Word.

I would caution you also, that if you are seeking to study this writing of Barnabas for yourself, that there is a false book called "The Gospel of Barnabas" that was written no earlier than the 14th century AD. It claims to be the writings of Barnabas, but is a fake and many believe it was written by an adherent of Islam, for it contains words that speak of a prophet named Mohamet coming and contains numerous Islamic ideas.

There are numerous translations of the "Epistle of Barnabas." The one I am quoting from is by J.B. Lightfoot.

Barnabas 15:3-5

Of the Sabbath He speaketh in the beginning of the creation; *And God made the works of His hands in six days, and He ended on the seventh day, and rested on it, and He hallowed it.* 4 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. 5 *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.

[Source: Epistle of Barnabas, 80-120 AD]

What we can discern from this is that the early church was familiar with the idea that the seven days of creation were a parable and this parable revealed that each day of creation equated to a thousand years. After 6,000 years of man's presence upon the earth, Christ would return and establish His millennial kingdom. This thousand year period of the Millennium finds its perfect correspondence in the seventh day of creation known as the Sabbath, for the earth will know rest under the rule of Christ.

I believe this idea set forth by Barnabas is correct, not because Barnabas said it, but because numerous other Scriptures support it, and the Spirit bears witness to this understanding. In mentioning Barnabas' writing I am seeking to let you know that these ideas did not first occur to me. They have existed for a very long time.

In the previous presentation we looked at the parable of the demon possessed man from whom Yahshua cast out "about 2,000 demons." We saw that this was a parable that dealt with timing. Christ appeared at the end of day four of creation, that is four thousand years from Adam, and the corrupted church age would exist for approximately another 2,000 years. Thus we see the demons inquiring of our Lord, "Have you come to torment us ***before the time?***"

Barnabas makes reference to the Scripture that declares that a thousand years is as a day to the Lord. As I mentioned, this is a primary key to understanding certain parables of Scripture relating to timing.

One such Scripture that I believe contains hidden truth

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relating to the timing of Yahweh's plan of the ages is the following.

Hosea 6:1-2

“Come, let us return to Yahweh. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him.”

I believe this is prophetic of the state of believers after Pentecost. Man becomes a divided house when he experiences spiritual birth. I believe this is the meaning of “He has torn us, but He will heal us.” The apostle Paul speaks of the tremendous struggle that exists with those who have been born again of the Spirit of Christ.

Galatians 5:16-17, 24

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please... Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

It would be a terrible thing for God to leave mankind in the state he has existed in since Pentecost when the Spirit was given to the church. We find that a warfare exists in our members, for the flesh lusts after sin and selfishness while the spirit of Christ within men seeks to do the will of the Father. We find that we must daily do battle to keep the flesh under the rule of the spirit, and are constantly plagued by the presence of evil within our members.

But Hosea says that God will revive us after two days. This corresponds to two thousand years. God will not leave His elect in this divided and embattled condition forever. In the book of Revelation we read that there will be a resurrection that precedes the Millennial reign of Christ. This is the resurrection of the overcomers. It is the barley harvest associated with Passover.

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Another Scripture that is very similar in nature to this one is found in the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 13:32

And He said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.’”

I believe that Yahshua was speaking of more than Himself in this verse. We must understand that Yahshua envisioned His disciples as being one with Himself. Even as He was Christ, so too are they, for Christ means “anointed.” Even as He was directed and empowered by the Spirit of Yahweh, so too are His disciples to be. Yahshua's high priestly prayer recorded in John 17 contains His plea to the Father that we might be one with Him.

Not only did Christ cast out demons and perform cures, but so too would His body for the next two thousand years. This is seen in the words “I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow.” Again, as in the prophecy of Hosea, we find that this thought is concluded with a prophecy of the third day. “And the third day I shall be perfected.”

This will be the state of those who attain to the first resurrection. No man could possibly rule and reign with Christ during the Millennial period unless they have become the perfect expression of Christ. Those who attain to this resurrection will put aside their mortal bodies and put on immortality. They will put aside their bodies marred by corruption and put on incorruption. (I Corinthians 15:53 ff.)

What we see in all of these Scriptures is that God is working all things out according to a plan. This plan allows for man to dwell upon the earth for 6 days (six thousand years) before he arrives at maturity. Four days had passed on the earth when Yahshua was born. It has been another two days since. We live in a very important time in God's plan of the ages. We live at that very time when He has determined that a group of mature sons should be revealed to the creation.

Romans 8:19-25

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from

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its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Do you know this inner longing to enter into the fulness of sonship, and to experience the redemption of your body? The hour is near for the revealing of the sons of God. Tremendous birth pangs must be experienced on the earth as these sons come forth. But our Lord has encouraged us with the words that when we see all these great distresses upon the earth, to be encouraged for our redemption draws near (Luke 21:28).

Romans 8:29-30

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

I Corinthians 15:49

Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

It is tragic that so many Christians have failed to comprehend the glory of Yahweh's intent for mankind. The majority have no greater thought than to live a comfortable and decent life on this earth that they might be carried to heaven when they die. They have little comprehended the awesome scope of Yahweh's intent for man. This plan was first expressed in Genesis chapter 1.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

We are destined to be conformed to the image of the Son of God. Yahshua prayed that we would share in His glory. Yahweh is looking to the day when He has many glorified sons after His image and according to His likeness.

Man has passed through varying stages on the path to maturity. From the time of Moses man was placed under the tutor of the Law. Those under the Law, though they were sons, were treated no different than servants. They were like children placed under guardians as long as they were minors.

Upon Christ's death, man was freed from the Law and entered into another stage where he was directed by the Spirit. This was a great advance, but not yet the conclusion.

Romans 8:14-17

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

This stage that we now know is but a prelude to greater things. In this age we are able to taste of the powers of the age to come, but in that coming age we will be fully clothed in power. In this age we have the token of the Spirit, but in the age to come we will know the Spirit without measure. In this age we know in part and see in part, but in the age to come we will know all things, even as we are known.

This mortal must put on immortality and this perishable must put on the imperishable. What great things God has planned for His children! But did you hear they condition placed upon all of these things? "Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.**"

Let none be deceived in thinking that they can live for carnal pleasure in this life and enjoy all that is reserved for overcoming sons in the age to come. Be not deceived. God will not be mocked. Those who sow to the flesh will reap destruction. It is those who sow to the Spirit who will reap the life of God, which is eternal. One must follow Christ wherever He leads them. We must suffer with Christ in order to fully receive the inheritance of sons.

Genesis 2:7

Then Elohim Yahweh formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man

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became a living being.



We have seen then that God has established a plan of the ages in which man will go from being a creature that is formless and void, having no true resemblance to the spirit and image of God, to being sons after His image and likeness. This is the work of God, to bring forth sons after His image and His likeness. Yahweh has determined that there should be six days, or six thousand years to bring forth sons after His image. These first sons to attain to the image of God will be the barley harvest. It is those who attain to the first resurrection, and they will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

We see that this is Yahweh's great work in many Scriptures. We are told that He is working to conform His elect to the image of His first born Son, Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah. Paul says in Ephesians 4 that we must come to the fulness of the stature of Christ.

We stand at the end of six days of this plan of the ages, and must soon enter into the seventh day. What then is revealed in the opening pages of Scripture that we should understand? What truths are hidden there to be uncovered? What message is hidden there to instruct those who would enter into the seventh day of Sabbath rest with God?

In order to understand the parable of the seven days of creation we must see that the earth and man are symbols of one another. The Scriptures reveal that there is a very close relationship between man in his present state and the earth.

I Corinthians 15:45-49

So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

This is the plan of God. He will take those who are earthy and transform them into spiritual creatures. For the past 2,000 years there have been on this earth men who were born of woman and the Spirit. These men are part earthy, and part spiritual. As we read in Hosea, these men are torn, but Yahweh will make them whole. He will raise them up on the third day from Christ.

The first men to be delivered from the warfare that exists within their members as the flesh and spirit oppose one another, will lay aside their earthly bodies and receive spiritual bodies. They will no longer be torn, but whole.

First Earth, First Man

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. But the earth became formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep...

Ephesians 5:8

For you were formerly darkness...

Matthew 4:16

"The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned."

We have established that there is a symbolism that connects the earth and man, for man was formed of the dust of the earth. What we find written of the earth, we also find a perfect parallel to in the Gospels. The principle is followed, "first the natural, then the spiritual." First we read of a natural work in the opening book of the Old Testament. Then we read of a spiritual work in the opening books of

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the New Testament.

We are not told how long the earth was in its original form before Satan was cast down and the earth entered into judgment and was sealed up in darkness. Neither are we told how long it was between the time of Adam's creation and his fall into a darkened state, but we do know it wasn't long for the genealogy of Adam is recorded in Genesis. What is certain is that Adam's fall was not long after his creation.

We could testify of Adam in this way. God created Adam. But Adam became formless and void and darkness was over his deep parts. What does this mean? God declared that man was to bear His image, and His likeness. Yet man sinned and the image of God was lost. That is, Adam became formless. Man was created to be a temple in which God's Spirit would dwell, but man was void, that is to say, he was empty. Man was to radiate the light of the life of God, but he became darkened by death, and darkened in his understanding. Thus a perfect parallel is seen between the earth's condition and man's condition.

Day One

Genesis 1:3-5

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 8:12

Then Yahshua again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 9:5

"While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

John 12:36

"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

In order to attain to Yahweh's desire for man, to become as Christ, being heirs with Him and sharing in His glory, and ruling and reigning with Him, we must go through all six days of creation and arrive at the seventh day which is Sabbath rest.

The first thing that God had to do in recreating the earth was to remove the curse of darkness, for the earth had been sealed up in darkness. The lights were still in the heavens, but their light had been cut off.

Even so, man entered into spiritual darkness when he sinned in the Garden of Eden. The first thing man had to experience was a return of light into his darkened world. Yahshua the Messiah is the light, and this light shined in the darkness. Those who believed in the Light were transferred out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.

I Corinthians 2:9-16

Just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

When we are born of the first Adam we are born as natural men. We are two-part beings, having a body and a soul. This natural man lacks the capacity to become as God, for the natural man cannot accept those things that must be spiritually appraised. Thus we see that even the greatest

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man among all the prophets and patriarchs of the Old Covenant was unable to fully comprehend the work of God. Yahshua said that among those born of woman there was none greater than John the Baptist. Yet shortly before his death John sends a messenger to Yahshua to ask if He is the Sent One of God, or if they are to look for another.

Why did this man who was so mightily used of God have such difficulty discerning the plan of God and identifying the Messiah? John was born of woman, but not born of the Spirit. This is why Yahshua said that the least in the kingdom of God was greater than John the Baptist. In John chapter 3 Yahshua reveals that one must be born again of the Spirit to see the kingdom of God, and to enter the kingdom of God. John could not see clearly those the things of God's kingdom, for he was a natural man.

All men have dwelt in spiritual darkness from the time of Adam's transgression. But when Christ came a light dawned upon the earth. This light would attain a greater light when the Spirit was given at the day of Pentecost. This light was depicted in tongues of fire resting upon each person gathered in the upper room.

The apostle Paul stated:

II Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

On day one of our spiritual journey we must have the curse of darkness removed, and we must behold the light of God. This light is Christ.

I must state a great tragedy that has occurred in Christianity. Many who are called of God have stopped at day one and have thought they have arrived. They stop at day one and then seek to rest until God takes them to heaven. These ones testify that they have seen the light of God and that the light is good, even as God declared the light good on day one. Yet God did not declare that the earth was good on day one.

God is not content for us to merely be confessors of Christ. It is not sufficient that we maintain that Yahshua is the Son of God, nor that He is the Way the Truth and the Life. God wants us to be conformed to the image of His Son, not

merely confessors of His Son. All those who stop at day one will fail to enter into the Sabbath rest of God.

Day Two

Genesis 1:6-8

Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Acts 8:36-37

As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Yahshua Christ is the Son of God."

What happens on day two of the re-creation of the earth is a perfect symbol of what is to transpire in the life of men who have seen the light of Christ. Day two is all about separation, and water is pictured prominently. Even so, those who have seen the light of Christ and have believed as did the Ethiopian Eunuch, are to be baptized in water to symbolize that a separation has occurred in their life. They have died to the old creature they were, and are arisen into newness of life in Christ.

The apostle Paul wrote the following to the Christians in the city of Ephesus:

Ephesians 4:20-24

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Again we see the error of those who are merely confessors of Christ. It is not sufficient to testify that Christ is the Son of God. We must be renewed in our minds, and put on the

The Seven Days of Man - Part 2

new self in the likeness of God. This is the destination determined by God on our behalf, that we share His likeness. We cannot continue in sin.

Day Three

Genesis 1:9-13

Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

Even as Christ was raised from the dead on the third day, so we see the dry land arising from the waters of death on the third day. This then also symbolizes that man is not to remain in sin and death after confessing Christ, but he is to be resurrected as a new creation.

As it is written:

Romans 6:4-7

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

Not only are we resurrected to newness of life in Christ on the third day, but we begin bearing fruit. Even as the Earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit, so too must the saint begin bearing fruit that will abide to the glory of the Father. Yahshua spoke in the following manner to His disciples:

Matthew 7:19

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and

thrown into the fire."

The message for the saint is to ever go forward in the plan of God. We must not stop short of accomplishing all the desire and pleasure of Yahweh. If we would attain to the first resurrection and be counted worthy to rule and reign with Him for a thousand years, then we must progress through all six days of man's re-creation.

Day Four

Genesis 1:14-19

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Having seen the light, having been cleansed from sin, being partakers of the resurrection life of Christ and bearing fruit unto righteousness, the saints now shine forth as lights in the earth.

Even as the stars in the heavens were given for signs, so too the children of God are given for signs and for wonders as the Scriptures do testify:

Isaiah 8:18

Behold, I and the children whom Yahweh has given me are for signs and wonders...

The saints shine forth as stars, having the light of Christ within them to be revealed to others.

Daniel 12:3

"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

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Even as the glory of the Moon and the Sun and the stars vary from one another in their glory, so shall the glory which rests upon the saints vary in the day in which they receive their resurrected bodies.

I Corinthians 15:41-42

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.

This fourth day then speaks of the saints as they reveal the life of Christ within them. As a city set upon a hill they are to give off light. As virgins with oil in their lanterns they are to give light. Even as the stars are used to navigate by, so the saints are to be signs by which the world can know the path of righteousness, and the way of truth.

What a perfect testimony of the work of God in the lives of men has been hidden in this first chapter of the Bible!

But what should be the lot of Christians if they fail to shine forth as lights in the earth? There will be much grief on the day of judgment when many saints come before God having no oil in their lamps. The hour is already late for the saints to allow the light of Christ to be seen in their lives. The hour to earn reward is almost over, and many have given only the slightest concern to the matter. Like the wicked servant of Christ's parable, they have taken that which they have received and buried it in the earth of their flesh to give it back to Christ when He should call for it. They have earned no interest on what was entrusted to them. They have not brought forth increase for the Kingdom of God. They have no fruit that will abide, and great will be their shame when they stand in God's presence on that day.

The lights in the expanse of the heaven then speaks of the saints of God who are set as lights in the midst of darkness. The saints are to shine brightly out of the darkness. Yet it is a great indictment on the church today that few can tell the Christians apart from those who have not seen the light. Christians have allowed themselves to be conformed to a darkened world, and thus we see that the following words of Revelation are speaking of those who have been called of God, but who have failed to attain to the image of Christ.

Revelation 6:13

And the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

The stars of the sky are the saints of God, and tragically there are many who are like unripe figs. They have failed to come to maturity, which Paul describes as "the fullness of the stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4). Since these failed to attain to the image of the heavenly, they will be cast back down to the earth, for they stubbornly retain the image of the earthy.

Day Five

Genesis 1:20-23

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

That which we see created on the fifth day has to do with those things that will share the earth with man. On the fifth day we see specifically those things that dwell in the depths of the sea and those things that fly in the heavens. Each of these creatures represents something that man must contend with as he dwells upon the earth, as he journeys toward Sabbath rest on the seventh day.

Remember, however, that the earth here is a parable of man himself. What then is signified by those things created on the fifth day? I believe that those things in the depths of the sea refer to those things that man finds deep inside himself that he must contend with. I believe that those things in the depths of the sea speak of those things that man finds in his soul that must be subjected to the rule of the Spirit. Similarly, those things that are in the heavens are outside of man, and they speak of spiritual forces that man must meet in his six days upon this earth.

There are many dark and evil things that dwell in the depths of man's soul, even as there are great sea monsters and many hideous creatures in the depths of the sea.

Matthew 15:19

"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

The Seven Days of Man - Part 2

The Scriptures make a distinction between the several parts of man. Mankind that is born of woman is a two-part being, having body and soul. Man that has experienced spiritual birth becomes an entirely new creature and is a tri-part being, as the words of the apostle reveal.

I Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In order for man to be complete before God, all parts of man must come into subjection to the rule of Christ. The flesh must be put to death, and God's provision for this part of man is that it should be put off and replaced with a new body created in immortality and incorruption. This is what Yahshua testified that He has gone to prepare for His disciples, even dwelling places wherein is righteousness, and no more sin. Man is called to rule over all the evil that is present in his flesh. He must subdue it and rule over it.

As man is called to put the flesh to death, he is called to bring the soul into subjection to the Spirit. When the Scriptures state that we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, it is the salvation of the soul that is in view. The flesh will not be saved. It is to be replaced. The spirit of man does not need to be saved, for it is created in holiness and righteousness. It is in the soul that man must work out his salvation.

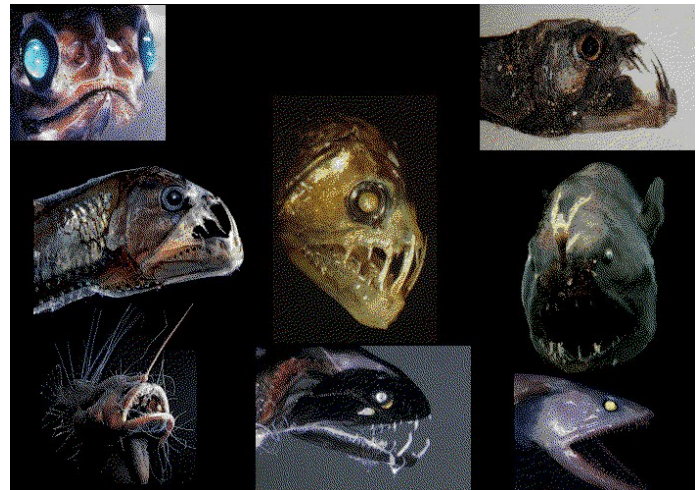
Trinity of Man

Spirit	Soul	Body
Most Holy Place	Holy Place	Outer Court
Yahweh	Holy Spirit	Yahshua
Glorification	Sanctification	Salvation
Righteousness	Work Out Salvation	Sin

The dynamics of man's struggle can be summed up in the following way. All men have the same flesh. The apostle Paul stated "in my flesh dwells no good thing. Sin dwells in my flesh." This is true of all men, whether we are speaking of the greatest saint, or the vilest sinner. There is no difference in the flesh of any man.

The distinctions arise in the soul. Some have identified the soul as the seat of man's intellect, will and emotions. The soul is the operations base of man. Man thinks in his soul, man decides and directs in his soul. Man experiences emotion in his soul. The soul receives input from the flesh, and this input is always sinful and selfish. The soul also receives input from the spirit of man, if that man is born again of the Spirit of Christ. It is in the soul that we choose to entertain the input from the flesh, or the input from the Spirit.

Deep Sea Creatures



Deep Sea Creatures

Those men who have given themselves to entertaining the input of the flesh will wax worse and worse. Their soul will be polluted with sin, and the passions of the flesh will be turned into great monsters within the depths of man.

For example, all men find that sexual lust dwells in their flesh. Some men fight against this lust, and keep it at bay. Though they may stumble as David, if they repent and continue to fight against the passions of the flesh, not allowing them to run unchecked in the soul, they will not find any great monster arising there. However, those who cease fighting against the lust of the flesh, but give it free rule in

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their soul will wax worse and worse. All sin is progressive if left uncontested. Where do child molesters and serial rapists and other such monstrous men come from? They are those who have given up the battle to rule over the passions arising in the flesh, and they have given these passions free reign in their soul. They apply their mind to scheming up ways to fulfill their lusts. They apply their will to putting these schemes into action. They become monstrous in their behavior.

The same is true of anger. All men have anger in their flesh. Yet some men fight valiantly against this anger. Others give up on the fight and allow this anger to find a home in their soul where the mind, will and emotions of man transform what is a simple impulse of the flesh into a hideous monster. This is why Yahshua said "out of the heart (soul) comes evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, and slander."

All men find anger in their flesh, but not all men allow anger to give rise to murder. All men find sexual lust present in the flesh, but not all allow it to be manifest in adultery and fornication. All men find coveting present in their flesh, but not all men give themselves to thievery.

We cannot do anything about the evil desires of the flesh. They are always present with us, and will be until that day when we receive new and glorified bodies created in righteousness. However, we can do something about those things that occur in our soul. We do not have to allow sin to take up residence in our soul. We can choose to bring the soul under subjection to the spirit.

Have you ever considered why Yahweh created the creatures that dwell in the deepest parts of the oceans to be so hideous in appearance? They serve as a parable of those things that dwell deep in the soul of a man. Notice how prominent the mouth and teeth are in most of them. This is also a parable of the beast nature that lives to satisfy its appetites. The lust for sex, violence, drugs, alcohol, and other things, when kept far away from the light of God, are transformed into things hideous to look upon.

Romans 6:11-14

Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your mem-

bers as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

I believe then that those things created on day five which are in the sea represent those things that seek to find residence in the soul of man. Even as there are great monsters in the sea, so too can there be great monsters in the soul of man. The command of God is that all things must be subdued and ruled over.

Those things in the heavens speak of spiritual forces outside of man. Satan is called "the prince of the power of the air." Paul also spoke of our battle against spiritual forces of wickedness in high places. In our Lord's parables He often used birds as symbols of Satan and those in league with him.

Mark 4:3-4, 15

Behold, the sower went out to sow; as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up... These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

Man must contend not only with those things within his being, but those things without. We are called to fight the good fight of faith.

Day 6

Genesis 1:24-28

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

The Seven Days of Man - Part 2

On day six we find one more category of creatures that share the earth with man. This is all that dwells upon the face of the earth, both creeping things and cattle. These too signify those things that man must contend with. I believe that these creatures which dwell upon the surface of the earth are those things man finds resident in his flesh. Each animal finds its counterpart in some trait that man must contend with.

We find that King Saul is first mentioned searching for his father's donkeys. He was never able to find them, and this was a parable of the man. Donkeys are known for their stubbornness and Saul was rejected by God because of the same trait.

Stubbornness, Donkeys

I Samuel 15:22-23

And Samuel said, Hath Yahweh as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Yahweh? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of Yahweh, he hath also rejected thee from being king.



As you become sensitive to the parables God has placed throughout His word, you begin to see many things that were formerly hidden. Every detail of the lives of the men and women whose histories are recorded in Scripture bear significance. The first command given to man included the injunction to subdue and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

When we then read this seemingly random event in the life of Saul, that he was looking for his father's donkeys, but could not find them, we should not think that God has set it there for no purpose. Yahweh has always spoken through parables. Saul's failure to find these donkeys is a symbol of his own inability to identify and rule over the rebellion and stubbornness in his own being. Because Saul failed, God rejected him and chose another who was better.

David, Lion, Bear

I Samuel 17:34-36

But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear..."



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When we read about David, we are told early on that he has killed both the lion and the bear, and he has kept the sheep of his father safe from harm. This too is a tremendous parable. Lions represent pride, and bears stand for depression. Both of these enemies assaulted David in his life, but he subdued and ruled over both of them.

Even so, God's admonition to us is to rule over all these creatures. He does not mean that we should become lion tamers, or swim with the sharks, or wrestle with bears. What He is commanding the man and woman to do is to rule over all that which these creatures signify. If we are to arrive at the Sabbath rest of day seven we must fulfill the command given on day six.

No Christian should think that they will arrive at the promises of God if they have carelessly disregarded the very plain command of God in this matter. All those who want to attain to the first resurrection and enter into the fulness of the stature of Christ, must subdue and rule over all the beasts, fish and birds of creation. We must subdue and rule over that which is found in our soul, in our flesh, and those enemies that are external to us in the heavens.

Revelation 15:2

And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

In the first chapter of the Bible we read Yahweh's command to man to subdue and rule over the beasts. In the final book of the Bible we read that there are some who will do so. No man can attain to the seventh day who has not passed through all of the preceding six days victoriously.

Day Seven

Hebrews 4:1-11

Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it... For He has thus said somewhere concerning the seventh day, "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; and again in this passage, "They shall not enter My rest." Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "Today if you hear His

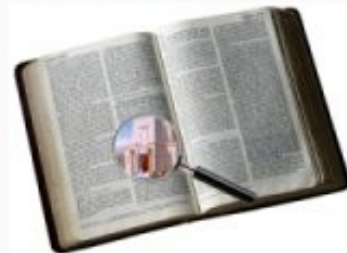
voice, do not harden your hearts..." There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.

Yahweh has established a plan of the ages. He has allotted mankind six days to attain to the fulness of the stature that is in Christ. Only a remnant will reach maturity at the appointed time. These will be the barley harvest. They will attain to the first resurrection, and will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. These will be delivered from the divided condition that man now finds himself in, while others will have to wait until the thousand years are over.

The apostle Paul prophesied that a sign of the last days will be that men will not endure sound doctrine, but they will turn aside to myths and fables. They will heap up to themselves teachers to tickle their ears and tell them the things they want to hear. Many are those in the church today who confess that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, but they stubbornly cling to their lives of darkness. Few walk in newness of life with Christ. Fewer still are bringing forth fruit that will abide to the glory of the Father. It is a remnant that stand as lights in the world. And it will be seen that it is a small flock that fulfill the command of God to subdue and rule over the beasts in all that they represent.

Surely the saints stand to forfeit much of eternal value. Yet Yahweh will have a remnant that will come forth victorious. Let all those who have ears to hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

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Charles Haddon Spurgeon - Bible Devotion

*"Just balances, just weights,
a just ephah, and a just hin,
shall ye have."
Leviticus 19:36*

Weights, and scales, and measures were to be all according to the standard of justice. Surely no Christian man will need to be reminded of this in his business, for if righteousness were banished from all the world beside, it should find a shelter in believing hearts. There are, however, other balances which weigh moral and spiritual things, and these often need examining. We will call in the officer to-night. The balances in which we weigh our own and other men's characters, are they quite accurate? Do we not turn our own ounces of

goodness into pounds, and other persons' bushels of excellence into pecks? See to weights and measures here, Christian. The scales in which we measure our trials and troubles, are they according to standard? Paul, who had more to suffer than we have, called his afflictions light, and yet we often consider ours to be heavy--surely something must be amiss with the weights! We must see to this matter, lest we get reported to the court above for unjust dealing. Those weights with which we measure our doctrinal belief, are they quite fair? The doctrines of grace should have the same weight with us as the precepts of the word, no more and no less; but it is to be feared that with many one scale or the other is unfairly weighted. It is a grand matter to give just measure

in truth. Christian, be careful here. Those measures in which we estimate our obligations and responsibilities look rather small. When a rich man gives no more to the cause of God than the poor contribute, is that a just ephah and a just hin? When ministers are half starved, is that honest dealing? When the poor are despised, while ungodly rich men are held in admiration, is that a just balance? Reader, we might lengthen the list, but we prefer to leave it as your evening's work to find out and destroy all unrighteous balances, weights, and measures.