

Lesson 07

3. PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE BIBLE (introduction) and THE ETERNAL ALLIANCE

- To make it easier to study the Bible, let's study it in periods. If we don't distinguish these periods well, it becomes very difficult to understand the Bible.
- The periods are defined in chronological order throughout history, making them easier to understand. The attached figure shows these periods schematically.

a) God and time

- God in 'past eternity' creates time. We can see this in Genesis:

⇒ **Genesis 1:3~5;** *'God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night'*
 ⇒ **Genesis 1:14;** *'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years.'*

- God is outside of time. We see in the attached picture the word '**ETERNITY**' involving time; we could say (*just for elucidation*): '*past eternity*' and '*future eternity*'.
- We are subject to the terms present, past and future, but God is not. For God everything is ready, everything is present.
- It's difficult for us to understand because it's not part of our natural experience. If God spoke to us and manifested himself in terms of eternity, we wouldn't understand anything. God has to speak to us in our terms, because we are limited beings.
- If we ask ourselves: What is eternity, we would respond:
 - It's something that never began. How could it never begin? It's more logical to us that everything has a beginning!
 - It's something that will never end. How can it never end? It's easier for us to believe that everything has an end!
- But God is Self-existent, He has always existed and will never cease to exist.
- God is outside of time; he has already created all things. Everything is ready for Him, but here in time and space, everything is unfolding for man.
 God is Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent (knows all things, is everywhere and can do all things). When he created everything, he was not subject to time. God didn't start by creating and waiting, as if there were a present, past and future; that's what we're experiencing. For God everything is ready, he announces what is going to happen before it happens.
 - ⇒ **Psalms 139;** God knows us before we are born and in everything we do.
 - ⇒ **I Corinthians 2:7;** *'the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.'*

b) The eras

- Eras (ages) are defined as periods of time marked by profound physical (*geological*) changes in the earth. We see the following eras in the figure:
 - Original earth, mineral; ⇒ **Genesis 1:1**
 Earth in chaos; ⇒ **Genesis 1:2**
(Because of the sin of the Angels)
 - Vegetal earth; ⇒ **Genesis 1:3~27**
 The era of the flood; ⇒ **Genesis 7:6~8:14**
(Because of the sin of the human race).
 The division of the continents; ⇒ **Genesis 10:25**
 - The millennium; ⇒ **Isaiah 35:1~2**
 Because sin will be restricted, the earth will be plentiful.
 - Eternal fire; ⇒ **II Peter 3:7~13**
 Sin will be released for eternal judgment.
 - New earth; ⇒ **Revelation 21:1**
 The earth is man's final dwelling place in communion with God
- Note that the Proterozoic, Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras, which are part of the doctrines falsely called science, never existed; **I Timothy 6:20~21**.
 God is not against science; this is false doctrine, doctrine falsely called science.

c) The epochs or dispensation or periods

- These are well-defined periods of time in the Bible, which determine different ways in which God relates and reveals himself to the human race throughout history.
 - It is God acting in an organized, continuous and clear plan, from Genesis to Revelation, programmed before the foundation of the world, with the sole aim of rescuing man and planet earth.
 - Every time an epoch, a period, comes to an end, there is a judgment from God. Let's see how God presents his plan and Satan presents his, similar, to confuse man and divert him from the way back. God has to intervene in order to proceed with his redemptive plan.
 - The Bible says that no one will thwart God's plans, *'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'*
- ⇒ Isaiah 46:9~10**
- You might think: does God make mistakes; does He try to do it one way and then change it because it didn't work? Absolutely not. God, acting through time, shows a single plan. From the very first moment, after the fall of man, God reaches out to snatch him away from Satan, because man became Satan's slave at the fall.

- The evidence that there is a beginning, middle and end is:
 - ⇒ **Genesis 1:1**; *'In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth'*
 - ⇒ **Revelation 21:1**; *'Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth,' (the last 2 chapters of the Bible briefly describe what this new heaven and new earth is like).*

Between ⇒ **Genesis 1:1** and ⇒ **Revelation 21:1**, we will see God rescuing man through his redemptive plan. God, through his Omniscience, knew that it would happen this way, but he went on to create free beings and could not intervene, as we have already studied. God is executing his plan in a perfect way, where in the end we will have a perfect creation, with no possibility of sinning and falling again.

- At the beginning of every period, God reveals his will to man. This revelation is well-organized, like everything else He does, and will manifest itself in three areas:

GOVERNMENT - WORD - WORSHIP

- Government area: ⇒ how man should govern land, his property, his country.
- Word area: ⇒ what man should proclaim.
- Worship area: ⇒ how to worship God.

- The epochs, periods or dispensations, of the revelation of God's plan to man are:

- 1º) Innocence; ⇒ It begins with the creation of the man and ends with his fall and judgment.
⇒ **Genesis 2 and 3**
Judgment; Expulsion of Eden.
- 2º) Conscience; ⇒ The period between the Fall and the Flood.
Man recognizes good and evil but chooses evil.
⇒ **Genesis 3:7~7:24**.
Judgment; The flood.
- 3º) Nations, human authority; ⇒ It covers the time between the end of the Flood until the construction of the Tower of Babel. ⇒ **Genesis 9:11~11:9**
Judgment; The confusion of the languages.
- 4º) Promise; ⇒ It begins with God's promise to Abraham, requiring faith in return.
⇒ **Genesis 12** up to ~ **Exodus 1**
Judgment; Egyptian captivity
- 5º) Law; ⇒ It began with the giving of the commandments at Sinai,
⇒ **Exodus 19** and ends at Golgotha with the death of Christ.
⇒ **Roman 10:4** and ⇒ **Galatians 3:13**
Judgment; Worldwide dispersion of the Jews. God prophesied long before. ⇒ **Deuteronomy 28:63~64**

- 6º) Grace, the Church; ⇒ It covers the period from the death of Jesus Christ to the rapture of the Church.
See ⇒ **Acts 2** the descent of the Holy Spirit.
Judgment; Rapture of the Church and tribulation for the remnant.
- 7º) Millennium; ⇒ It begins with the coming of Jesus in majesty and glory ⇒ **Matthew 25:31** and ⇒ **Revelation 19:11~16** and ends with the final judgment in front the white throne, ⇒ **Revelation 20:11~15**. This is followed by the eternal and unchanging state of a new heaven and a new earth, ⇒ **Revelation 21~ 22:5**.
Judgment; Destruction by the lake of fire of the first heavens and the first earth.

