

God's Plan for the Ages - Part 1

Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

- A. Looking forward to the return of Christ is purifying meditation. (1 John 3:3)
- B. There are more than twice as many mentions of Christ's Second Coming than His first - it is very important, therefore.
- C. History should be called "His-story." In His story, events are moving towards a climax. (1 Corinthians 15:24; 2 Peter 3:3)
- D. God's purpose is expressed: that all human history shall be consummated in Christ. (Ephesians 1)
- E. The climax is yet likely some time away though.
- F. There are two areas of time: eternity past and eternity future.
- G. In Revelation 20 a thousand year period is mentioned five times concerning the end of the age. This is the millennium.

II. Eternity past.

- A. You cannot go earlier than the beginning. (Genesis 1:1)
- B. In the original creation it was perfect in every detail. (Isaiah 45:18)
 - 1. All the stars sang together as they composed a great background symphony. (Job 38)
 - 2. In Genesis 2 the earth does not appear to be in this state.
 - 3. Various views claim that there is a gap between Genesis 1 and Genesis 2.
 - a. In this time existed the creation of Satan who was both beautiful and bright. (Ezekiel 28)
 - b. There was a mineral paradise of Eden described here.
 - c. Isaiah 14 describes the fall of Satan.
 - d. Jeremiah 4:23-26 is an eye-witness account after Satan's rebellion. The earth was without void.
 - e. 2 Peter 2:4 also substantiates the rebellion. 1 Corinthians 6, Jude 6 and Matthew 25:41 do also.
 - 4. God put a new overseer after the events of Satan - Adam.

a. Satan has a great deal of liberty - even today. He set out upon a jealous campaign to regain his lost empire.

b. During this period of time the principle activity seems to be a struggle between Christ and Satan for the souls of man. (1 Corinthians 4:9)

III. An undetermined period between Genesis one and the flood.

A. Bishop Usher thought this was about 1600 years, but many disagree with him.

B. There is little information about this period.

C. Conditions of the earth: Adam did not eat meat. Water came not from the sky but from the ground. Lifespan was long. Climate was perfect.

1. Differing theories on the temperature have to do with earth tilt, land/water temperature, and the canopy theory that presumes the earth was covered with a canopy of water.

2. Theories also exist about a united landmass that all people inhabited.

D. Man was judged under the flood.

1. Water burst forth from the ground. (Genesis 7:11)

2. The flood was a giant mud pie that churned up the world, creating all sorts of land formations.

E. Noah ignorantly became drunk because the grape juice he expected experienced something new under the canopy-less sky that fermented the grape juice through the sun's power. Man's life was shortened and his diet changed.

IV. Conclusion.

A. God is our refuge and strength - we will not fear even the changes of the earth.(Psalm 46:1)

B. At the millennial age, things may be restored to the paradise it was. Whatever the case, we are not to be afraid.

C. We have much to look forward as to what we will know and what we will be. (1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 John 3:2)

D. It is possible that two earths could occupy the same space at the same time without either to be conscious of each other if they were perfectly synchronized. We are seated in heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians)

E. The glorified body can travel through matter at the speed of thought. Our current bodies our imperfect vehicles for expressing the emotions and experiences of the soul. We know that we will be like Him for we will see Him as He is.

Application questions.

1. What were the causes of creation's two major decays?

2. What do you think of this theory? Do you have any objections? Any other support? Explain.

3. How has this glimpse at the beginning of time affected your view of the end? How did you respond emotionally to the claim that we will be like Christ and restored to a supernatural state? Explain.
