

There Is Time In Heaven

'Do not forget this one thing Beloved, one day with the Lord (in heaven) is as a thousand years (on earth), and a thousand years (on earth) as one day (in heaven)' (2 Peter 3:8). 'A thousand years in Your sight are just like yesterday when it is past' (Psalm 90:4).

'The four living creatures (cherubim) ... never rest day and night saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, Who was and Who is and Who is to come!"' (Revelation 4:8).

'These are the people who came out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. They are before the throne of God serving Him day and night in His temple' (Revelation 7:14 & 15).

'When the Lamb (Jesus) opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour' (Revelation 8:1).

'I (John) heard a loud voice in heaven saying, "Now has come the salvation, the power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Messiah, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night' (Revelation 12:10).

'The smoke of their torment (in the lake of fire) goes up forever and ever. They have no rest day and night' (Revelation 14:11).

'The devil who deceived them (unsaved people) was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever' (Revelation 20:10).

By looking at these above verses, we can see there is time in heaven and in the eternal lake of fire. When the Lord created the heavens and the earth, He created time and seasons to keep things in order, otherwise there would be chaos. 'God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. There was evening and morning, one day ... God said, "Let there be lights in the universe to divide the day from the night and let them be for signs and for seasons, for days and years" ... God made the two great lights: the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night ... God set them in the universe to give light to the earth and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness' (Genesis 1:5, 14, 16, 17 & 18).

The time on earth is obviously vastly different to time in eternity but when God said the angels and cherubim in the throne room worship Him day and night, that tells us there is currently day and night even in heaven. In the lake of fire there will be torment day and night forever and ever, indicating there will eternally be day and night in the lake of fire. In heaven, night will cease once all the judgements have taken place and redeemed people have settled into the Kingdom of God on the new heaven and earth God plans to create. 'For behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth' (Isaiah 65:17). The Lord Himself will be our Light. The Lord created mankind to be eternal beings and the following few verses reveal the eternal master plan God has for us. When sin came to mankind, the Tree of Life was removed from the Garden of Eden and will be replanted on the new earth for God's redeemed people to enjoy, revealing to us His eternal plan for mankind. By realising the Tree of Life is an eternal tree, it reveals to us the Tree of Life is somehow a divinely spiritual plant. By reading these few verses in sequence, we can understand all mankind is already touching eternity. 'Out of the ground God made every tree to grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The Tree of Life was in the middle of the Garden of Eden, as was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil' (Genesis 2:9) ... God said to Adam, "From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:17) ... Eve said to the serpent, "The fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat but not of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, for God has said, 'You shall not eat of it neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" The serpent said to Eve, "You will not die for God knows in the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:2 to 5) ... God said, "Behold, Adam has become like one of Us (the triune Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit), knowing good and evil. Now, lest he put forth his hand and take of the Tree of Life and eat and live forever..." So God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden then placed Cherubim and flaming swords to guard the way to the Tree of Life' (Genesis 3:22 to 24). (Note: The triune Godhead were terribly concerned mankind would live forever in their fallen state. God immediately came up with the plan for redemption so only the spirit of the redeemed could live forever although the body would die, just as He told Adam.) Ezekiel and Apostle John prophesied about the Tree of Life producing new fruit each month: 'By the riverbank, on this side and on that side will grow every tree for food whose leaf will not wither, neither will its fruit fail. It will bring forth new fruit every month' (Ezekiel 47:12). 'On both sides of the river was the Tree of Life bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month ... The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it and His servants serve Him. They will see His face and His name will be on their

foreheads. There will be no night and they need no lamp light for the Lord God will be their Light and they will reign forever and ever' (Revelation 22:2 to 5).

The heavens are plural. There is not just one heaven. The whole of the universe plus the places where the Lord and His holy angels live are all called 'The Heavens'. Apostle Paul was taken up to the third heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2 to 4) and logically if there is a third heaven, there has to be a first and second heaven. Eternal life was promised to dedicated followers of God before He created time. 'In hope of eternal life which God promised before time began' (Titus 1:2) once again revealing God's master plan for mankind's eternal life. Eternity does have time, days, nights, months and years but it does not have seasons, cold or winter. The four seasons were created for earth for harvesting food. 'While earth remains, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will not cease' (Genesis 8:22). The Lord is able to change the times and seasons on earth. 'He changes the times and the seasons' (Daniel 2:21). 'It will happen in that day, there will not be light, cold or frost. It will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, not day and not night, but it will come to pass, at evening time there will be light' (Zechariah 14:6 & 7).

In the language of God, one year on earth is called 'a time'. Two years is called 'times'. Six months are called 'half a time' and three months are called 'a season'. A 'week' is seven years. Seventy 'weeks' is seven hundred years. 'You (Nebuchadnezzar) will be driven from men and will live among the animals of the field. You will be made to eat grass as cattle and seven times (seven years) will pass over you until you know the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives to whoever He will' (Daniel 4:32). 'As for the rest of the animals, their dominion was taken away yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time (one year and three months)' (Daniel 7:12). 'The Beast will speak words against the Most High and will wear out the believers of the Most High. He will think to change the times (the calendar) and the law (laws based on the Laws of Moses) and the believers will be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time (three years, six months)' (Daniel 7:25). 'After sixty-two weeks (six hundred and twenty years after the temple was rebuilt) the Anointed One (Jesus) will be cut off (sacrificed)' (Daniel 9:26). 'From the time the continual burnt offering will be taken away and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there will be one thousand two hundred ninety days (three years, five months). Blessed are those who wait and come to the one thousand three hundred thirty-five days (three years, six months)' (Daniel 12:11 & 12). 'Two wings of the Great Eagle (a heavenly being) were given to the woman (the church in Israel), so she might fly into the wilderness to her (safe) place so she might be nourished for a time, times and half a time (three years, six months), from the face (persecution) of the serpent' (Revelation 12:14).

The heavenly creatures called the Great Eagles or Flying Eagles were mentioned twice in the Old Testament (Ezekiel 17:3 & 7) and three times in the New Testament (Revelation 4:7; 8:3; 12:14). A Great Eagle flew through the mid heaven crying out, "Woe" because life on earth would not be peaceful, even after all the suffering. "I saw and I heard an eagle flying in mid heaven saying with a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of earth, because of the trumpets of the three angels who are yet to sound!" (Revelation 8:13). There has not been peace on earth since 1914. Somewhere in the world, in various countries, wars have been waged since then. There are earthquakes, famines, epidemics, wars, natural disasters, mass shootings, constant murders, new diseases, airplane crashes, motor vehicle crashes resulting in many deaths and an increase in crime, and things are only going to get worse. That was why the Great Eagle was crying out, 'Woe to the inhabitants of earth'.

After Jesus opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for thirty minutes. What caused this strange silence in heaven, which is a bustling, busy, noisy place? It was as though every holy being was standing still, almost holding their breath waiting for something dreadful to happen on earth. It is estimated, half an hour in heaven equates to about twenty-one years on earth. Some Bible scholars have surmised, guessed, concluded and hypothesised, though not in any way proven, this could have been the time between the first and second world wars. If we look at what was happening on earth at that time, it is possible the seventh seal was opened immediately after the end of the first world war, and opening the seal unleashed the terrible events of the second world war. We know during both world wars many millions of people perished. The Bible says in heaven there was silence, but on earth (reading from Revelation 8:1 to 13) there were storms, thunder, lightning, hail, an earthquake, 'fire' (bombs) came from the sky, a third of the earth was burning, 'mountains of fire' (bombs) were being dropped into the sea and thousands of ships were destroyed along with thousands of sea creatures. Blood flowed everywhere. A great 'burning star' (the atom bomb?) was dropped on earth causing massive death and destruction. A few people who survived the bombs dropped on Japan thought they were looking at a bright burning falling star just before it exploded. The bombs were detonated several metres above the ground to cause maximum destruction. During the war, many people worldwide died as a result of drinking contaminated water. All these things took place during the Second World War and we were given the prophecies 2,000 years ago. No wonder there was silence in heaven as the holy angels anticipated the catastrophe that was about to be unleashed on earth. Armistice Day after World War One was November 11 1918. Seven months later, the Treaty of Versailles

was signed on June 28 1919. World War Two started on September 1 1939 and ended in Europe, June 6 1944. The bombs (burning stars) were dropped on Hiroshima, August 6 1945 and Nagasaki, August 9 1945. The time gap between the two world wars is 20 years 293 days. 20.83 years calculates to 20 years 302 days – a five day difference. If we include leap years, the time between the end of the First World War and the start of the Second World War is approximately 20.83 years, or 30 minutes in heaven.

All that 'woe' will continue until Jesus returns to earth and only then, we will know peace on earth but it will be for only one thousand years, which in God's time is only one day. After the thousand years has past, there will be yet another world war called the 'Gog and Magog War' (Ezekiel 38:2) and God Himself will bring that war to an end by devouring the enemy with fire. 'After the thousand years has passed, the devil will be released from his prison and he will come out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for war, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. They (the evil army) went up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people and the beloved city (Jerusalem). Fire came down out of heaven from God and devoured them all' (Revelation 20:7 to 9).

Once that is over, everything holy will enjoy perfection all day forever. Everything evil will suffer the consequences of their actions day and night forever (Revelation 14:11; 20:10 & 15). Hell, otherwise known as hades, gehenna or tartarus is a waiting place for the wicked and unsaved as they await Judgement Day, before they are tossed into the eternal lake of fire. 'God did not spare fallen angels when they sinned but cast them down to hell and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment' (2 Peter 2:4). 'Angels who did not keep their first domain but deserted their own dwelling place (in heaven), God has kept in everlasting bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day' (Jude 1:6). 'The wicked are wells without water, clouds driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of darkness has been reserved forever' (2 Peter 2:17). 'The wicked speak evil of whatever (spiritual) things they do not understand. They are like creatures without reason and are destroyed in these things. Woe to them! ... These people are hidden rocky reefs, shepherds who without fear feed themselves, clouds without water carried along by winds, autumn leaves without fruit, twice dead (both naturally and spiritually), plucked up by the roots, wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, wandering stars for whom the blackness of darkness has been reserved forever' (Jude 1:10 to 13). The lake of fire will have gloom and darkness forever, lit only by the flames.

This earth will one day be burned to ash because of corruption, sin and death. God said the seasons would only last as long as the earth remained (Genesis 8:22) so when this earth is destroyed, so will time as we know it and the seasons. 'The heavens (our universe) that are now and this earth, by the same spoken Word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men ... The Day of the Lord will come as suddenly as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the universe will be dissolved with fervent heat. The earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and Godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the Day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the universe will melt with fervent heat? But according to His promise, we look for our new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:7 to 13).

Genuine born-again believers will be sent to the new heaven and new earth created by the Lord and He will dwell with mankind forever (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22). There will be no oceans or seas on the newly created earth but there will be a river of pure crystal clear water. 'I (John) saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away (been destroyed by fire) and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people and He will dwell with them and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God' (Revelation 21:1 to 3). 'He showed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb' (Revelation 22:1). The new heavens and the new earth will not have day and night like the heavens and earth do at the moment. It will be shining daylight all the time. There will be no need of days and nights on the newly created earth and so nights will cease to exist. At the moment, we need to sleep at night or we become very ill. Once we are living on the newly created earth, as spiritual beings with a new resurrected eternal body, we will not need to sleep. 'The new city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine, for the very glory of God illuminates it and its lamp is the Lamb of God (Jesus). The nations will walk in its light ... Its gates will in no way be shut by day for there will be no night there' (Revelation 21:23 to 25). 'There will be no night and they need no lamp light for the Lord God will be their Light and they will reign forever and ever' (Revelation 22:5). Jesus is the Light; the Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16).

Amen and God bless you.

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