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Although a variety of men penned the totality of the Scriptures over a period of about 1,600 years, it was the Supreme and Sovereign God Who *inspired* each and every part. In its origin, all Scripture — every single letter and stroke — has the mark of God upon it. It was the Creator of all things Who gave each Word, Who designed the structure and layout of the complete Work, and Who did so with specific design and purposes. And it is only God Who can (and will) perform everything laid out within the pages of His Written Word, Who can (and will) bring all things to completion. *Everything will be brought to completion.* Everything! The complete Written Word will be brought to completion *through* the Living Word — the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among men.

Seeing and understanding these things can only bring a person to a place of awe and wonder as he/she realizes that this written Work is totally set apart as something to be mined, as a miner would mine for gold, silver, and precious stones. God's Word is set apart from any and all other writings, for God's Word is the only written Word that *is alive*. And the One of Whom the written Word, in its entirety, speaks — the Living Word — is the One Who became flesh in the person of God the Son, Jesus the Christ.

In His first coming (the details and timing of which had been specifically prophesied), Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies. Yet there are more prophecies in the Old Testament that have yet to be fulfilled. This One, Who became flesh and dwelt among men, is coming again, and will fulfill the totality of prophecy!

Here is the question we will be dealing with in this series: Does God's written Revelation to man give us insight, even details, concerning *the timing* and *the chronology* of these prophetic events *which await a*

future fulfillment? Can we know, with assurance, that we are fast approaching “the fullness of time”? If so, *how can we know?* How do we study God’s Word in order to understand these things with certainty?

Yes, God’s Word is clear about these things. And yes, we can know them with certainty. In this study, we will look at prophecy the way God gave it, and strive to understand the timing and the chronology of events yet to be fulfilled — according to this Divine way.

Are you ready to begin? Let’s go.

Day One — The Word Inspired

Begin your study time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher as you submit yourself to His leading. Please do that now.

Okay. Let’s begin.

In realizing that the Supreme Intelligence of the entire Universe is the Author behind the whole of Scripture, we must also realize and understand that Scripture has been laid out in a specific way — it has a specific beginning and a specific ending, with specific points lying between the beginning and the end — all of which has Divine reason. And God has laid it all out in a particular fashion, after a particular design. So if one is to understand God’s Word to any degree, one *has to study it the way God gave it*. That makes sense, doesn’t it?

Compared to other books available to Christians today, God’s Word is the focus to which our attention is called. Actually there is no comparison, for man’s word is of no moment when set alongside of God’s Word. Only one has life, all the others don’t! The *best* commentary on Scripture is Scripture! The best way to study Scripture is *to study Scripture*. (Does that even need to be stated?) Then the youngest babe can grow into a greater understanding of God’s Word! Look carefully at what Isaiah says about how God gave His Word, and to whom He will give knowledge and understanding —

Isaiah 28

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little...

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. (KJV)

Observe what the passage says. Notice *to whom* God will teach knowledge (i.e. the deeper things of God [1 Cor. 2:10; 3:1, 2]) — to those weaned from milk. Also, notice *how* He teaches it — He draws from passages of Scripture, a little from here and a little from there, until the whole picture is complete; a bit from this book and a bit from that book, making the overall picture more and more detailed. Isaiah explicitly states as much.

(Of course, this is not to say that *the context* of any passage is to be ignored. Never! Understanding the context of a passage is one of the major keys to properly interpreting

Scripture. Even seeing the larger context of any passage is necessary, realizing that all the parts of Scripture fit into the overall scope of Scripture. When a passage is lifted out of its original context to help interpret another passage, both passages must maintain the *original intent* within the passage wherein it was found.)

In other words, an individual can put the word picture together more and more as he studies that which Moses wrote, along side that which John wrote, and that which Jeremiah wrote, and that which Matthew wrote, and that which Isaiah wrote, etc., etc. On and on one could go, studying and understanding a little from here and a little from there, until an intricately designed picture is drawn. And oh! How beautiful the picture becomes!

Therefore, as we look at prophecy, we will strive to study the Biblical prophetic timeline in this way — a little from here and little from there — beginning at the beginning, and working our way through to the end, surveying parts of the Bible, back and forth, until the timeline (both past and future) is clearly drawn. We will strive to realize God's form and fashion as He gave His Word, especially as we strive to understand the chronology of events in prophecy. Peter says:

II Peter 1

19 And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

So according to v. 21, please commend yourself to the Holy Spirit.

Along the path to a better understanding of the prophetic timeline, there is something else we need to see that Scripture does for those who choose to study it with care. Let's read a passage that is probably very familiar to you. Paul tells us something critical about Scripture.

II Timothy 3

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

According to II Timothy 3:16, how much of Scripture is breathed by God?

Go back and circle the word *profitable*. What do you think it means that something is *profitable*?

From this passage, describe what all of Scripture is profitable for.

What does the Word of God do for the man of God?

In this passage, Paul deals with the fact that Scripture is *inspired by God*. The phrase *inspired by God* is a translation of the compound Greek word *theopneustos* (*theos*, “God”; *pneuma*, “breath”). The literal rendering and understanding of the word would be “God-breathed.” Additionally in I Corinthians, Paul tells us that the Scriptures are *spiritual thoughts* put into *spiritual words*. The Scriptures are *God-breathed* thoughts, put into *God-breathed* words (I Cor. 2:13).

God breathed His Word for the purpose of revealing His Divine plans to man. He did all of this with a view to extending to mankind the revelation of His Divine plans and purposes for the ages. God *desires* redeemed mankind to know and understand His Mind about such things. Read what Paul said about these things in the following passage.

I Corinthians 2

7 but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

9 ... “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 HIM¹.” 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 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. 12 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, 13 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.

...16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE SHOULD INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

According to this passage, what has God revealed to us?

How has God revealed these things to us?

At the very end of v. 16, what did Paul say we have?

That’s it for today. As you go your way, please continue to pray that God will give you understanding.

¹ Remember that capitalized letters in the NASB simply reveals that the portion in caps is a portion being quoted from the OT.

Day Two — The Word of God

Today we are going to spend time looking at various verses throughout Scripture which depict the fact that God inspired the Scriptures and that He desires us to *hear* and *heed* His Word. Any personal notes you wish to make can be made in the margins.

Isaiah 40

8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

1 Kings 8

56 Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.

Psalms 19

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 12

6 The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

Proverbs 30

5 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Deuteronomy 8

3 And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 17

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes...

Deuteronomy 4

10 Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’

II Chronicles 17

9 And they taught in Judah, having the book of the law of the LORD with them; and they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

Isaiah 45

19 “I have not spoken in secret, in some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in a waste place’; I, the LORD, speak righteousness declaring things that are upright.

Matthew 4

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

Acts 17

11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

Matthew 5

18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

Romans 15

4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Hebrews 4

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matthew 4

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

I Corinthians 10

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

I Thessalonians 2

13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men,

but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

John 6

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

II Peter 1

19 And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Psalms 119²

13 With my lips I have told of all the ordinances of Thy mouth.

...89 Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.

...152 Of old I have known from Thy testimonies, That Thou hast founded them forever.

Overall, what is your impression of these passages?

Day Three — The Word Became Flesh

If one is to understand the Biblical timeline of prophecy, one must understand that the Bible tells a complete story, from start to finish. It has one main plot, with innumerable subplots, and each and every subplot plays into the overall plot. This story has several main characters: God (Three in One — the

² If you have more time for study today, you may want to read Psalms 119 in its entirety, for it is all about the Word of God. It is printed in the Appendix for your convenience.

Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) and His angels, man, and the arch-enemies of God and man — Satan and his angels. The setting is the earth and the heavens surrounding the earth. The story opens in conflict and ends in the resolution of that very same conflict. But the overall main Character in the overall story is God the Son, Jesus Christ. Everything has to do with Him. Everything! This must be seen and understood.

All of that which is written in God's Word is written about some facet of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, or some facet of His past, present or future work. Through Jesus' Own Words, the whole Old Testament is about Him. (That is quite a statement to make, but the truth of it is born out in the passages we will study today.) Actually, Jesus Himself connects the two Testaments in a way that would be imperative for us to comprehend and follow as a guide to interpretation. His very words reveal that a good grasp of the Old Testament *is paramount* to understanding the overall scope of Scripture, including prophecy.

Jesus spent about three years in public ministry. Even at the end of that period, even after His death and resurrection, He needed to correct His disciples in their view of the Old Testament Scriptures. We would do well to learn the same lesson they did. Let's look at it.

This particular event happened on *Resurrection Day*. There were two disciples who had set out on a seven-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Their hearts were downcast because of the events during the past three days, i.e. the crucifixion of the One they had hoped would redeem Israel, His burial, and the report that He had been seen alive that day. Without their knowing Who He was, Jesus began walking and talking with them. He questioned them as to their thoughts and conversation. *Their response to these events revealed a very definite lack of understanding of the way the Old Testament was put together.* This lack of understanding (something which should not have been the case for these disciples), evoked this rebuke from Jesus:

Luke 24

25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

What descriptive term did Jesus use in describing these two disciples?

According to Jesus' Own words, why did Jesus call them this?

Write out the disciples' mistake, and how Jesus corrected their mistake.

According to this passage, how much of the Old Testament is about Him?

According to v. 27, exactly where did Jesus begin in His explanation about Himself?

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible — Genesis through Deuteronomy. It is in these books, particularly the Book of Genesis, that the very foundation of all of Scripture is formed. According to the previous passage, how pervasively should we see Jesus in Moses' writings, and the writings of the Prophets?

The events of that day continued. The two men, arriving at their destination and still not recognizing Jesus, asked Him to stay longer with them. He complied. Then, as they sat down to eat —

Luke 24

30 And it came about that when He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”

At what moment did they recognize Who He was?

In considering what Jesus had just taught them (v. 27), *why* do you think they recognized Him at that moment?

Drawing from this whole story, and seeing the Scriptures the way Jesus taught them, what effect did it have on them (v. 32)?

Once Jesus *broke bread* with them, they recognized Who He was, and then He disappeared from their sight. The two had come to realize *the key to understanding Old Testament truths* — that the whole of the Old Testament is about all the various facets of the person and work of Jesus Christ. After coming into this understanding, it was easy for these two disciples to realize at once that the One breaking the bread was Himself, the Bread of Life, Whose body had just been broken three days prior. Immediately they recognized Him! And the essence of this lesson itself had a result in their hearts concerning Scripture — it caused their hearts to burn within them (v. 32)!

We must learn this lesson well! For it is only in understanding Scripture the way Jesus taught that we will understand correctly.

At once, these two disciples made their way back to Jerusalem to let the eleven and others with them know that they had seen Jesus alive. Once there, while the two disciples were relating their encounter with Jesus to this larger group, Jesus appeared in their midst, and spoke with them. Here is how Jesus ended His discourse with this larger group:

Luke 24

44 Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...

According to this passage, where did Jesus say one could go to find *all things that are written about Him*?

In showing these disciples that this is the way to view Scripture, what did He do for them (v. 45)?

The record of the events on this day is not without great significance! In fact, to think that these events and this particular teaching took place on the most pivotal day in the entire history of mankind thus far is no small matter. In short, if a person wants Scripture to *cause their heart to burn within them*, he must view Scripture the way in which Jesus taught the two disciples on the road to Emmaus that day. And if a person wants Jesus to *open his mind to understand Scripture*, then he must understand the same things that Jesus showed the larger group of disciples later that same day. The method is quite simple: A person simply must *begin with Moses*, move through the Prophets and the Psalms and understand that the whole of Scripture is about Jesus Christ! Do you see that?

Following are a few example passages that depict the truth of what is stated in the previous paragraph. Notice how Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 are related.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Compare these two passages:

Now look at what follows these verses in John chapter one:

... 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

What does it mean that the Word became flesh?

If one *does not* grasp these facts, there can be no proper understanding of Old Testament Scriptures! (How is that for a comprehensive statement?)

In the respect that all the Old Testament Scriptures are about Christ, the Apostle John could only have been referring to the *complete Old Testament becoming flesh* in the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is *the Living Word* — the One of Whom *the written Word* speaks. It was “*the Word*” that “*became flesh*.” The Word took on human flesh at the time of the incarnation, when a Baby was conceived in the womb of a young virgin in order to dwell among man. Just think of it!

Now with these things in mind, think of *prophecy*. In a literal sense, at the time of Christ’s first coming, *the prophecies* that spoke of his first appearance *became flesh*. But we know that the One Who came in the flesh, came to die in the flesh (again fulfilling prophecies). Then God raised The Word from the dead, in the flesh, and now He is seated at the right hand of the Father, in the flesh glorified, waiting for the time when the Father will make His enemies a footstool for His feet (which will happen at His second coming), thus yet fulfilling prophecy completely. The One Who became flesh will come again, *in the flesh*, to fulfill the remainder of prophecy. And at that future time, the Word will once again dwell among men. Again — all of this is with reason.

Have you ever wondered why Christ will come again? If He came the first time to redeem us from the bondage of sin and give us eternal life (which He perfectly and completely accomplished), then *why* is He coming back? What will be accomplished in His second coming? Think carefully about this and write out your answers.

In order to begin to grasp the answers to the previous questions, we need to understand that in the beginning, not only did Jesus create the heavens and the earth, but at some subsequent point in the past, He also created things *in the heavens* and *on the earth*. Read what Paul said:

Colossians 1

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him.

What things were created *in the heavens*?

What things were created *on the earth*?

Continuing in the same text —

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself

might come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Relating v. 20 back to v.16, what things *on the earth* have been reconciled through His blood?

What things *in the heavens* have been reconciled through His blood?

Yet we do not see all things under His feet at this present time. We await the fulfillment of these things in His second coming. The author of Hebrews wrote his epistle about these very things. Let's read about it.

Hebrews 2

5 For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU REMEMBEREST HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU ART CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? 7 THOU HAST MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; THOU HAST CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAST APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; 8 THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. 9 But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Exactly what does the author of the Book of Hebrews say he is speaking about in this epistle (v. 5)?

At the end of v. 8, what does he say is not yet subjected to man?

What is the contrasting thought put forth in v. 9? What is the author saying about Jesus?

With Colossians 1:16-20 and Hebrews 2:5-9 in mind, please allow me to ask the question again: Why is Jesus Christ coming again? What will He accomplish in His second coming?

When Jesus comes back, He will bring about the realization of the completion of this reconciliation, which had begun at His death. And then His enemies will be put under His feet, as He sits on His own throne, crowned with the crown of rulership over the whole earth, and will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. Praise His Name forever and ever.

Think on these things. See you tomorrow.

Day Four — The Foundation at the Beginning, Part One

With the information we have covered in the past three days, we can begin to understand how things were laid out at the beginning of the Scriptures. Now we will begin laying the foundation of the Biblical timeline. But first, please begin your day of study in prayer. Do that now.

Since God began His revelation to man with that recorded in Genesis chapter one, it is there we will begin.

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

In the Biblical Survey study, we did a fairly in-depth study of these two verses in the first chapter of Genesis³. The opening verse of all of Scripture deals with an absolute beginning. At some point in eternity past, *Elohim* (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) created the heavens and the earth. Comparing Scripture with Scripture it is relatively easy to see that God *did not create* (Heb., *bara*) *the earth formless and void*, but the earth came into such a state at some point subsequent to its perfect creation, due to the rebellion of Lucifer (Isa. 45:18; cf. Ezek. 28:11ff; Isa. 14:12-14).

God originally created the earth in a perfect state; but the earth came into a chaotic state — darkness covered an utterly formless and void condition. This chaos was the result of Satan's rebellion, the anointed cherub originally created to rule over the earth (Ezek. 28:11ff). Through his rebellion, Satan became disqualified for this position of rulership, and at some point in time subsequent to this disqualification, God began a restorative process that lasted six days, wherein He restored the earth, forming *it to be inhabited* by man (Gen. 1:2b-2:3; Isa. 45:18). And on the sixth day of this restorative work, God created man in His Own image to rule over the restored creation (Gen. 1:26, 28).

(But before the man could be placed in the position of rulership, he first had to be tested for obedience [i.e. the command was given: "Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil..."]. Man failed the test through disobedience, and Satan *retained* the position of ruler of the earth, which has continued to this very day.)

In ever-so-brief terms, we have seen the reason for the earth's chaotic condition, as it is stated in Genesis 1:2 — it was Lucifer's rebellion. Verse two describes darkness covering the surface of the deep (lit. raging waters), and the Spirit of God moving over the surface of the waters. At this point, God begins to bring order out of such a horrible disorder.

During events seen either in the latter part of v. 2 or the beginning of v. 3, we see *time* begin (as we know it today). This marks the beginning of God's restoration — the first day.

³ UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE — BIBLICAL SURVEY Lessons Three and Four

The remainder of Genesis chapter one is printed for you, being divided into *six days of time*. In the NOTES section after each passage, briefly write out which day it was, and what God did on that particular day. We'll look at Days One through Three today; and the remainder tomorrow. As an example, the first one is done for you.

Genesis 1

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

NOTES:

The first day — God brought forth light; made a separation between light and darkness; called the light day, and the darkness night.

Genesis 1

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." **7** And 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. **8** And God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

NOTES:

Genesis 1

9 Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. **10** And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. **12** And 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. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

NOTES:

Day Five — The Foundation at the Beginning, Part Two

We will continue doing the same thing today as yesterday. Keep up the good work.

Genesis 1

14 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; 15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. 16 And 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. 17 And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

NOTES:

Genesis 1

20 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.” 21 And 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. 22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

NOTES:

Genesis 1

24 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. 25 And 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.

26 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.” 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And 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.”

29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so.

31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

NOTES:

And now for the seventh day! Read the first three verses of chapter two and make notes of what the seventh day was all about.

Genesis 2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

NOTES:

Now that you have made notes about that which happened on each of the seven days, go to the timeline at the end of this lesson entitled THE FOUNDATIONAL TIMELINE. Notice that eight vertical lines divide up the horizontal line, with the respective days numbered above each vertical line. Below the horizontal line, write out the most basic information concerning what took place on each day. Do that now. You will have information in all seven places.

What you have now is the foundation upon which the remainder of Scripture rests. This record of events, given at the very outset of God’s Revelation to man, is specifically laid out with the Divine intention of revealing to man certain things about God’s plan for this age and the age to come (Gen. 1:3-2:3). This record, divinely ordered as it is, captures the very perfection of God’s timing, ways, and means of restoring a ruined creation. Since God performed a restoration perfectly the first time, in any subsequent restoration of a ruin, He would only employ His previously established timing, ways, and means, having deemed it perfect the first time (Gen. 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). Absolute perfection cannot be further perfected.

Then with the creation and subsequent fall of man, along with the resulting ruin of the earth due to the man’s fall, God begins another six-day period of restoration to bring order out of resultant chaos brought about by man’s fall at the hand of Satan. Only this time, the accounting of each of the six days of restoration will be six 1,000-year days, not 24-hour days (*cf.* II Pet. 3:8), with a seventh day rest (a 1,000-year period) at the end of the six days (six 1,000-year periods). We’ll study more on that next week.

The foundational timeline, laid out in Genesis 1:2-2:3, based upon the timing, ways, and means God initially employed in restoring a ruined creation, becomes the skeletal framework upon which we can build in order to understand how the subsequent restoration of a ruin will take place. And the intricate details,

which are built upon this foundational timeline (a skeletal framework), are given through the use of innumerable types and antitypes seen throughout the remaining pages of Scripture until a complete and perfect word picture is formed. More on all of this as we study.

This is where God began His revelation to man. And this is exactly where we will begin to understand God's timeline. We will strive to study the remainder of Scripture in light of this, and according to the way in which God gave it.

That's enough for one week. See you in class.

Chart 1:1

The Foundational Time Line

Day One	
Day Two	
Day Three	
Day Four	
Day Five	
Day Six	
Day Seven	

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and the earth was [empty].
And the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the deep.

Lecture Notes

