Eternal Issues, Lesson 2

“If you can tell me first where we are and where we are headed, I can better tell you what we should be doing and how to do it.” --Abraham Lincoln

I’m going to attempt to show you where we are, and where we are headed so that we can know what we should be doing and how to do it…

God is the greatest story-teller in the world. Because He wrote the story. We have been given the privilege of being characters in the story, and the question becomes what character are we going to play?

* Are we going to be characters that He uses to write the story?
  + David, Esther, Peter, Samson…
* Or are we going to be characters that are used to fulfill the story?
  + Goliath, Haman, Simon the Sorcerer, Delilah…
* Or are we going to be non-players?

Six thousand years ago He stretched out a canvas and He began to paint. When He began painting He already knew the beginning from the end. He knew what the end would look like before He ever started. Then He invited man to co-create with Him. He gave man the ability to reproduce in the likeness of man’s own image, who was created in the image of God. We have been given the ability to co-create with our Maker, and to play a part in this story we call Life.

We’re going to look at some key strokes God put on this canvas to paint this picture and tell this story. To do this right, we need to partner with an ancient Truth…

Prov 8:22-36 NASU

"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old.

From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth; while He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world.

When He established the heavens, I was there, when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,

when He made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed,

when He set for the sea its boundary so that the water would not transgress His command,

when He marked out the foundations of the earth; then I was beside Him, as a master workman;

And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, Rejoicing in the world, His earth, and having my delight in the sons of men.

Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for blessed are they who keep my ways.

Heed instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.

Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts.

For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord.

But he who sins against me injures himself; all those who hate me love death."

Who is THIS????

Prov 8:12-21 NASU

"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;

Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.

Counsel is mine and sound wisdom;

I am understanding, power is mine.

By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice.

By me princes rule, and nobles, all who judge rightly.

I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.

Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.

My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, and my yield better than choicest silver.

I walk in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, to endow those who love me with wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.”

**WISDOM** was with God before the creation of this world. Wisdom was beside God as He created. Wisdom was God’s daily delight. Wisdom delighted in the sons of men.

And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, Rejoicing in the world, His earth, and having my delight in the sons of men.

Proverbs eight tells us wisdom calls. In verse four it tells us wisdom’s voice calls to the sons of men. That’s us! Wisdom is calling us! And she implores us to listen for God finds His delight in her! Look what she gives:

Prov 8:6-11 NASU

"Listen, for I will speak noble things; and the opening of my lips will reveal right things.

For my mouth will utter truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverted in them.

They are all straightforward to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.

Take my instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than choicest gold.

For wisdom is better than jewels; and all desirable things cannot compare with her. “

* She speaks noble things
* Her lips reveal right things
* Her mouth utters truth
* Her mouth utters righteousness
* Her truths are straightforward to him who understands
* Her truths are right to those who find knowledge

**We need wisdom.** Let’s look at a couple more Scriptures about wisdom…

1 Cor 1:18-22 NASU

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

**…the world through its wisdom did not come to know God…**

James 1:5-6 NASU

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting,

**Simply ask God for wisdom. It’s that simple. Now believe in faith He gives it.**

*[pray for wisdom]*

Now let’s go to the canvas and see what God has been doing…

The Israelites knew and understood God placed importance on names. You’ll see various names in Scripture represent thoughts of God’s. For example, God changed Abram’s name [exalted father] to Abraham [father of many nations]. He commanded Hosea to name his children in accordance with the state of the nation. He changed Jacob’s name [deceiver] to Israel [prince of God] and named His people after him.

The first ten generations on earth spell out the setting for the story God is writing. Look at it from a Messianic Jew’s explanation:

Adam = “man”

Seth = “replaced”

Enosh = “mortal”

Kenan = “sorrow”

Mahalale’el = “God, the Blessed One”

Yared = “shall come down”

Enoch = “teaching”

Methushelach = “His death shall bring”

Lamech = “the despairing”

Noah = “rest”

*“Man replaced [with] mortal sorrow. G-d the Blessed One shall come down teaching. His death shall bring the despairing rest.”*

Avi Ben Mordechai, Signs in the Heavens page 48

[explain about the Hebrew/Israeli/Jewish culture and language and the need to familiarize ourselves with context according to the origin of Scripture, not our paradigm or perspective, possibly tell about Rabbi David “what are your roots??”]

*“God knew precisely what He was going to accomplish before His plan was necessary; His creation was going to echo redemption by defining a ‘day’ as 1,000 years. In ancient Jewish thought this was called the ‘7,000-year week.’ From beginning to end, it was determined by G-d that mankind was to have only six ‘days’ to live out his time on earth. On the seventh day, G-d would bring His redemption plan full circle.”*

Avi Ben Mordechai, Signs in the Heavens page 187

This was ancient Hebrew understanding of the canvas of the world, the plan of God. The seven days of creation was the model for the sum of life on earth. As we go through, we’re going to see numerous models and blueprints…

Day One = 0-1000 [or 4000 B.C.]

Day Two = 1001-2000 [or 3000 B.C.]

Day Three = 2001-3000 [or 2000 B.C.]

Day Four = 3001-4000 [or 1000 B.C.]

Day Five = 4001-5000 [or 1000 A.D.]

Day Six = 5001-6000 [or 2000 A.D.]

Day Seven = 6001-7000

Ps 90:4 NASU [a psalm of Moses]

For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night.

2 Peter 3:8-9 NASU

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.

This was common knowledge to the Israelites, passed down through their teachings. This is not a new teaching. Let’s look at another Scripture:

Gen 2:15-17 NASU

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Did Adam die the day he ate the apple? Did God lie? Or is there another meaning?? Did any man live beyond the “day” of one thousand years? [no]

Gen 5:5 NASU

So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

Now hopefully we’re beginning to see some foreshadowing (prophecy) taking shape in the amazing canvas of creation. Let’s keep looking…

I don’t want to spend a lot of time on the individual days, because that’s a whole other teaching, so we’re going to just glance over them real quickly. If you want to investigate it on your own, I’d highly encourage you ☺

Dr. Patti Amsden has a fascinating book, Portals that delves into the process of what she calls “transfiguring the world from its perfect beginning into a mature creation.” In it, she spends a little time at least on the first three days of creation and their symbolism and pattern for how man can use his labors to reconstruct life into the pattern God intended for it based on the model given at Creation.

She writes,

*“The arrangement that would follow after day one would not only be created in the light of Heaven, but it would be specifically designed to reveal Heaven’s light. Light, or a special manifestation of God moved into the new emerging creation. All that came after – the land, seas, animals, skies, stars – would be developed to make known some aspect of God. The creation would testify to the Creator. The seen would unveil the Unseen. The observable would undrape the Invisible.”*

Portals, Dr. Patti Amsden, pp 14-15

Day One LIGHT, divided the light from darkness

Day Two FIRMAMENT, [sky, Heaven], divided waters above from waters below

Day Three LAND, divided waters from land [earth and seas with grass, herbs, seeds, trees, fruit]

Day Four LIGHTS in the sky, [SUN, MOON, STARS], divided the day from night

*Given for signs and seasons, days and years*

Day Five SEA CREATURES and BIRDS, “be fruitful and multiply”

Day Six LIVING CREATURES, [beasts of the earth] MAN & WOMAN, “be fruitful and multiply”

Day Seven GOD RESTED

Israelite “day” is evening then morning, as opposed to morning then evening.

Israelite calendar is lunar. World calendar is solar.

Why does this matter? Because that’s how God set it up, not man.

The Gregorian calendar is a revision of the Julian calendar which itself was a revision of the ancient Greek & Roman calendars in which the days of the week were named after the sun, the moon, and the five planets they knew of then, which were incidentally also their gods (Ares, Hermes, Zeus, Aphrodite, etc.)

**Jewish Calendar Year\* Jewish Religious Year\*\***

Tishri (Sept/Oct) Nisan (Mar/Apr)

Heshvan (Oct/Nov) Iyar (Apr/May)

Chislev (Nov/Dec) Sivan (May/June)

Tevet (Dec/Jan) Tammuz (June/July)

Shevat (Jan/Feb) Av (July/Aug)

Adar (Feb/Mar) Elul (Aug/Sept)

Nisan (Mar/Apr) Tishri (Sept/Oct)

Sivan (May/June) Heshvan (Oct/Nov)

Tammuz (June/July) Chislev (Nov/Dec)

Av (July/Aug) Shevat (Jan/Feb)

Elul (Aug/Sept) Adar (Feb/Mar)

\*Counting of years and chronology \*\*counting of reigns of kings and kingship years in Israel

There are seven feasts and festivals. In Hebrew they’re called “moedim” and that means “appointed times” or “rehearsals”. You can read about them in Leviticus chapters 12 and 23.

14 Nisan – Pesach {Passover} (Mar/Apr)

15-21 Nisan – Hag HaMatzot {Feast of Unleavened Bread} (Mar/Apr)

16-17 Nisan – Yom HaBikkurim {Feast of First Fruits) (Mar/Apr)

6 Sivan – Shavuot {Pentecost or Feast of Weeks} (May/June)

1 Tishri – Rosh Hashanah {Feast of Trumpets or New Year} (Sept/Oct)

10 Tishri – Yom Kippur {Day of Atonement} (Sept/Oct)

15-21 Tishri – Sukkot {Feast of Booths or Tabernacles} (Sept/Oct)

[Iyar – the Second Passover for those who couldn’t participate in the first (Apr/May)]

[9 Av – Tisha B’av {mourning for both temples destroyed} (July/Aug)]

[25 Kislev-2 Tevet – Hanukkah {Feast of Dedication} (Nov/Dec)]

[14 or 15 Adar – Purim {Feast of Lots} (Feb/Mar)]

Just keep in mind this is like an outline or a template. We’ll come back to all of this later, but this is the template to keep for reference as the time comes.

What I want you to see is God instilled a way for us to know and see what He was doing.

Eccl 3:11-12 [Complete Jewish Bible]

He has made everything suited to its time; also, he has given human beings an awareness of eternity; but in such a way that they can’t fully comprehend, from beginning to end, the things God does.

“…in such a way they can’t fully comprehend, from beginning to end, the things God does.”

So we aren’t ever going to fully “get it”, but we need to still pursue it. God builds precept upon precept, line upon line, a little here a little there. Remember that knowledge thing?

Isa 28:9-12 KJV

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.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

Look at the same verse in the Complete Jewish Bible. It says it a little different:

Isa 28:9-12 [Complete Jewish Bible]

Can no one be taught anything? Can no one understand the message?

Must one teach barely weaned toddlers, babies just taken from the breast,

so that [one has to use nursery rhymes]? —

Tzav la-tzav, tzav la-tzav,

kav la-kav, kav la-kav

z‘eir sham, z‘eir sham

[Precept by precept, precept by precept, line by line, line by line, a little here, a little there].

So with stammering lips, in a foreign accent, [Adonai] will speak to this people.

He once told this people, “It’s time to rest, the exhausted can rest, now you can relax” —

but they wouldn’t listen.

So we’re going to pursue Adonai, that He might teach us these precepts upon precepts, these lines upon lines, here a little and there a little. We’re going to pursue knowledge and let the Most High teach us.

Let’s start with this, because it’s a key to understanding:

Isa 46:8-10 [Complete Jewish Bible]

Remember this, and stand firm. Keep it in mind, you rebels.

Remember things that happened at the beginning, long ago —

that I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

At the beginning I announce the end, proclaim in advance things not yet done;

and I say that my plan will hold, I will do everything I please to do.

Now pay attention to the “at the beginning I announce the end, proclaim in advance things not yet done” because this is a valuable key to unlocking His mysteries. And remember, God “will do everything [He] pleases.”

If we go to the beginning [Genesis], we can start to see the wisdom of God, the mysteries of God, and the plan of God. It starts at the beginning and it unfolds…

He laid out a template for the earth in the seven days of creation. Those “days” were thousand year segments of time for His purposes to be accomplished and mankind to come into unity with God and His purposes.

Day One

0 – Adam

130 – Seth

235 – Enosh

325 – Kenan

395 – Mahalalel

460 – Jared

622 – Enoch

687 – Methuselah

874 – Lamech

<930 > Adam dies (930)

<986 > Enoch taken to heaven (365)

Day One He “separated Light from darkness” and He called them night and day. It was a simple issue: light and darkness are separate. In day one nine of the ancient patriarchs were born, Adam died and Encoh was taken into heaven. This is the day men lived to be 8-900 years old. This is a different earth than the one we are familiar with, even though it’s the same one. The conditions are different. There was no rain in those days. The ground was watered by the springs in what Genesis 2:6 calls “mists”.

Day Two

<1042 > Seth dies (912)

1056 – Noah

<1140> Enosh dies (905)

<1235> Kenan dies (910)

<1290> Mahalalel dies (895)

<1422> Jared dies (962)

Ham, Japheth

1558 – Shem

<1651> Lamech dies (777)

1656 FLOOD [2348 b.c.]

1658 – Arphaxad

1693 – Sheleh

1723 – Eber

1757 – Peleg \*Earth divided

1787 – Reu

1819 – Serug

1849 – Nahor

1878 – Terah

1948 – Abram

Nahor, Haran

<1996> Peleg dies (239)

<1997> Nahor dies (148)

Day Two God placed a firmament to separate the waters into waters on the earth and waters above the earth and he called the firmament “heaven”, or “sky” in our common vernacular. Noah was born at the beginning of this thousand year day, the flood was in the middle, and Abram (Abraham) was born at the end of this thousand year day.

Day Three

<2006> Noah dies (950)

2024 – Ishmael

<2026> Reu dies (239)

2048 – Isaac

<2049> Serug dies (230)

<2083> Terah dies (205)

<2085> Sarah dies (127)

<2096> Arphaxad dies (438)

2108 – Esau and Jacob

<2123> Abraham dies (175)

<2126> Sheleh dies (433)

<2158> Shem dies (600)

<2161> Ishmael dies (137)

<2187> Eber dies (464)

<2228> Isaac dies (180)

Day Three

* Israelites in Egypt
* Moses
* EXODUS
* Judges
* King Saul
* King David

Day Three God separated the dry land from the seas so Land and Oceans/Seas were established. Then He placed seeds, trees, grass, etc. on the land. At the beginning of this thousand year third day, Noah died, and shortly thereafter Isaac was born, the promised seed of Abraham and the namesake of the covenant of God to Abraham. In the first half of this thousand year day we also got Esau and Jacob and the twelve sons of Jacob who became the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel, and their subsequent captivity in Egypt. In the last half of this thousand year third day we get the great exodus and Moses, the origins of national Israel, the judges, and the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David. David’s kingship rolls into the fourth day.

Day Four

King David

King Solomon

King Rehoboam

Kingdom divided~ North: Israel, South: Judah

Israel falls, ten tribes scattered

Judah falls, taken into captivity

Babylon, Persia, Greece & Rome rule successively

Jesus is born

On Day Four God created the celestial beings: the sun, moon and stars and He placed them in the firmament/sky He created on Day two. He said He made the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night, and He said they were to be for “signs, seasons, days and years”, in other words, markers and signposts. At the beginning of the four thousandth day, the Kings of Israel had made their nation a world power. King David was finishing his reign and King Solomon continued the legacy for a few decades. It didn’t last long and we’ll get into that later, but it splintered and split just before the half-way mark of the thousand year day. It ceases to be a world power, per se, and other world powers arise on the scene. At the end of Day Four, Christ is born, just as the template depicted. [the sun was created on the fourth day] True students of the Scriptures knew He was to be born on this day, and we’ll get into that later.

Day Five

Christ is crucified

Rome rules

Catholic church established

Rome falls

Islam becomes a dominant power

Middle/Dark Ages

On Day Five God created all of the sea creatures and all of the birds and gave the first commandment to “be fruitful and multiply”. At the beginning of the thousand year fifth day, Christ was crucified and resurrected and He gave this command to His disciples:

Matt 28:18-20 NASU

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We have what they call the “church age” at this point, where the disciples took their commission seriously and set out to tell the world about Christ and God’s Kingdom. Also at the beginning of this day five, Jerusalem was burned and the remnant of Israel found the Jews were scattered. About a third of the way through this day, Rome established what they called the one universal church, or the Catholic Church. Shortly before the half-way mark of this thousand year day, the world power of Rome fell. The world by now was divided into many nations with mostly autonomous reigns. Shortly after the half-way mark the Islamic rule of the Middle East was marked by the auspicious event of the Dome of the Rock being built on the ruins of Solomon’s Temple. There was no real Israel/Hebrew/Jew influence in the Middle East for the remainder of this day.

Day Six

Renaissance Period

Enlightenment Age

Martin Luther’s 95 Theses/Start of Protestant church

United States of America founded

Industrial Revolution

World Wars I and II

Israel reborn as a nation

Jerusalem restored to Israel

Space Age

Information Age

On Day Six God created all of the land animals and then Man (Adam) and then Woman (Eve) and gave the second command to “be fruitful and multiply”. The beginning of the sixth day of the thousand year day, found an interesting world picture of a Roman Catholic Church and an Islamic reign of terror in the Middle East. The places on the fringes were somewhat unscathed by these battles, but they were a major factor of the history of this time. By the mid-point a radical by the name of Luther had challenged the autonomy of the Catholic Church, the Guttenberg Bible was being printed in the common man’s language, and a new surge of interest was opened. Toward the end of this day, America was founded, two world wars had rocked the planet, and toward the very end of this day, Israel was re-founded and a few years later Jerusalem was given back to her. At the end of this day an “information age” had come upon the world in a way unprecedented. The world had become connected in ways never before imagined or attained.

Which finds us today… The end of the sixth day, on the cusp of the seventh. The day God rested. If it seems that the years are amiss, there’s much dispute about years and days along the way because the calendars have been changed from Julian to Gregorian, to days and even whole years missing. Avi Ben Mordechai dates the end of the “day” at the very latest to be 2030, when taking in account the various missing dates, etc.