

In a Word - Time

Introduction

- Our whole life revolves around time. Time gives us structure and order.
 - Time is a measurement of life.
 - Time is the continued sequence of existence and events that occurs in an apparently irreversible succession from the past, through the present, and into the future. Wikipedia
 - Time plays a very important part of the biblical account.

I. Time – A Creation of God

- a. Time is so important, it's the very first thing He created.

(3) Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (4) And God saw the light that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. (5) God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. (Genesis 1:3–5)

- b. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah (and man) not to destroy the earth again and set in motion the seasons and specified the duration...

"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22)

- c. In a study of the biblical record, we see that God has dealt with man in dispensations of time.

(1) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (2) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds... (Hebrews 1:1–2)

- d. We adhere to a simple three dispensation view, while other hold to a more detailed view of the dispensations of world history.

- i. Some take the view that there are 5 to 7 dispensations of time. Theological discussion.

- e. Three Dispensation View

- i. Patriarchal – Genesis 1 – Exodus 20

- ii. Mosaic (Jewish) – Exodus 20 – Acts 2

- iii. Christian – Acts 2 – Revelation 22

- f. God created time as a way of governing mankind. He has set limits of us using time as seen in our next point...

II. Time – Limited for Mankind

- a. After the fall in the Garden of Eden, God set a limited time for man.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)

- i. Because of sin, we became mortal and all have limited time on earth...

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment... (Hebrews 9:27)

- b. Even though men lived hundreds of years in the beginning, (Adam lived 930 years; see Genesis 5) lifespans gradually got shorter after the flood. Moses wrote...

The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. (Psalm 90:10)

- c. While we are here, there is a time and purpose for everything...

(1) To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: (2) A time to be born, And a time to die... (Ecclesiastes 3:1–2)

- d. Not only is our time limited, it passes quickly.
 - i. Faster than a weaver’s shuttle, passes like a breath (Job 7:6-7)
 - ii. Swifter than a runner, like an eagle on its prey (Job 9:25-26)
 - iii. Like a mist (James 4:14)
 - iv. Like grass that withers and a flower that falls (1 Peter 1:24)
- e. Because our time is limited, we are to make the best use of it.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. (Colossians 4:5 ESV)

- f. Immortality can only be achieved by God’s grace and through man’s obedience to the Gospel.
 - i. Speaking of the 2nd coming of the Lord...

(53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Corinthians 15:53–54)

III. Time – God is Timeless

- a. Even though God created time, time is not relevant to Him.

For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night. (Psalm 90:4)

- i. This verse is quoted by Peter as he describes the 2nd coming of Christ and the end of the world as we know it.

(8) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:8–9)

- ii. We don't believe that these verses give us a literal scale of time to apply to God.
 1. For instance, we don't use this scale to go back and count each day of creation as a thousand years.
- iii. Rather it is a figurative use of the number to show the eternal nature of the Lord, something that is difficult for mortal humans to understand.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. (Isaiah 40:28)

- b. WE must always keep in mind that as Isaiah said...

(8) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. (9) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8–9)

IV. Conclusion – In a Word – Time

- a. Time – A Creation of God
- b. Time – Limited for Mankind
- c. Time – God is Timeless

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God (which includes time), so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)