

## Gen 1:14                      GOD, CREATOR of DAYS and YEARS

**PRELIMS.** We all know it is January the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009! The beginning of a new year, a year we never had before. God is the Creator – of everything – even of time and years! Here we have an account of God creating the world and the **seasons.** Its **amazing** that the God of **miracles** took so long in creating the world – a whole **week!** He could have done it in **1 second** flat!

**Creation!** Wow! Our world is but a part, very small part of our galaxy. Google Def:=A **galaxy** 'A system of about **100 billion stars.** There are **billions of galaxies** in the observable universe' + 'in 1999 the Hubble Space Telescope estimated that there were **125 billion galaxies** in the universe, and recently with the new camera HST has observed twice as much as they observed before with the old camera.' God made time – He is 'outside' time - thus 1,000 years are 1 day to God – but **not** to us!

So **why** did God not do it in 1 second? The answer is that God is **orderly,** never in a hurry – He **plans** (carefully) **all** He does! It is a long, long plan – it covers centuries and millennia! God is **organised!** He doesn't mind something looking **incomplete** and **disorderly** – as long as it is all part of The Plan He has made. God's Plan includes, what to us seems nothing but **chaos** and **disaster!** The News this morning is 'Everythings **on track!**'

### GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER

God **never** acts suddenly (impulsively)! It only **appears** sudden to **us** – because we don't know the full story! No one acts without **first** thinking and then deciding after thought to do something. No one puts on a **coat** without first deciding they need to be warmer. No one tells a **lie** without 1st deciding to deceive. We think before we act. And God does nothing without 1st deciding to do it. And just as there is **always** a **reason** for our doing something, so there is a reason why God does everything He does! God plans, **stage by stage,** all things *"in conformity with the **purpose** of his will"*![Eph 1:11]

So the Holy Spirit is careful to ensure that right at the **start** of Holy Scripture, we get the message – God is a God of **order!**

Everything in its time – a long time! **2,500 yrs** after Adam, God **began** to write (thru Moses) the Bible! It took **1,500 yrs** to complete! After Malachi, the last OT prophet, who said the 'Lord would **suddenly** come to His temple', the Church waited **400 yrs** before Jesus came! But it was **bang-on time!**

God wants us, the **Church**, to do everything “*decently and in order*”! Titus was to “*put what remained into order*” in the Church at **Crete**! [Tit 1:5] Paul **rejoiced** “*to see your good order and your firmness of your faith*” [Col 2:5]! After setting out an order for the Lord's Supper in Corinth, Paul said “*the rest I will set in order when I come*” [11:34 AV]. Paul **toours**, were all planned, and Luke **wrote** “*an orderly account*” [Luke 1:3] **Heinz** = 'Plan your work – work your Plan'!

Now even **time** itself has order! That is why God **divided** it up into smaller 'parts' - hours, days, weeks, seasons, years! It was to **help us to plan and keep** order!! (God of course can manage fine without such 'technology') but for **us** it is most helpful! Time and dates gives some **meaning/significance** to things – it adds a **dimension** and **shape** which makes things much more interesting. Time is most helpful to the Church to carry out the Plan God has given it! God **has given** the Church a Plan!

The **one** thing that the Church ought to be **obsessed** with, is God's Plan for it! That Plan is the Church's **Mission** in the world – to bring the **lost world** into a state of salvation - and **then** to **glorify God!** The Great Commission! “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always...*” [Mat 28:18cf] The **promise** (that God will remain with us) is **conditional** to our obedience to **go** into the world and to **make disciples** of **all** cultures and to **teach** them everything God has commanded in His Word!

\*Now God has given '**time**' to **help** us fulfill the Great

Commission! So let us look at how time and dates and days and seasons can help us in our work!

## **TIME, DATES, DAYS, SEASONS, YEARS - ARE SIGNS!!**

God **specifically** says that, the sun and moon, which **determine** for us, the days, the seasons, the years – they are **signs** to us! “*let them be for signs*”[14] Signs of **what?** They are signs of **God's Voice** to us over the years. The voice of our Creator calling to us regarding our '**vocation**'! Regarding our '**purpose**' in life! (Selwyn=Purpose for Living) They are **reminders** to us of very important **indicators** God has instituted our lives! The seasons are God's Voice to us to **help** us in our Mission. Time is **not**, as the world says 'the **enemy**' ! If we knew God more and were more focussed on Him and our 'calling/purpose' we would see time as our **friend**! Time '**speeds**' us on to **maturity** and **wisdom**!! (Very few people do **not** learn some things from the passing of time!! The most stupid/dullest of us **do**. There are **two main lessons** for us to learn: Look:

1) Dates, New Years, etc, **bring back memories** – which in turn, **stirs** the **emotions** and creates **nostalgia**! The 'old' days at school, boyhood pranks, Xmastime, university, apprentices, romantic evenings, etc all bring back memories of **facts** that **related** to us as **people**! God **meant** it to do that – to help us to ask **why** and to consider the **values/purposes**! **APP** And God is saying, no matter the **sadness** in it (for there usually is some sadness in nostalgia), it can **always** be 'put right' because God's greatest attribute is His **forgiveness** and **understanding**. To make known the **gospel** and its **healing/hope/power**!

Reminding people of the past is **Biblical**. **Peter** “*Therefore I **intend** **always** to **remind** you of these qualities, **though** you **know** them and are **established** in the truth*”[2P1:12] + “*This is now the **second** letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In **both** ...I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of **reminder***” [2P3:1] + **Paul** “*Now I would **remind** you, brothers, of the*

*gospel I preached to you”[1C15:1] Jude “Now I want to **remind** you, although you once **fully knew** it” [Jude 5]+ Heb “But in these sacrifices there is a **reminder** of sin every year [Heb 10:3] **APP** God is reminding us that there is mercy – Church services, Lord's Supper, funerals, baptisms, are all **reminders** of our need and God's **willingness** to **pardon**!*

2) Dates, New Years, etc are given to us to **check progress**! How are we doing in our relationship with God? Has another year's **experience** of life and of God's **love/mercy** to us, made us **stronger** in our faith towards God, or **more careless** regarding our **profession**? How are you compared with this time last year? Have **you** 'sorted' out any 'issues' that needed to be sorted out between you and God? Has God's 'dealings' with you **melted** you or **hardened** you? Are you praying more?

**APP** There again, if you have **failed** in whatever was your duty, here is a **new year** (a gift from God to you **personally**), in which you can make good ground in the way of **restoration**. God delights in mercy and is **offering** you who have failed, to “**restore** the years which the locusts have eaten”[Joel 2:25 AV] Ie, God is saying, I will more than **compensate** for the ills of the past – **if** you **repent**! All **conditional**! Conditional to them 'rending their hearts and not their garments and returning to the Lord' “*Yet, **even now** declares the Lord, 'return to Me with all your heart...rend your hearts and not your garments’*”[Joel 2:13,14]! God's Word is **full** of **promises** to those **in** the Church, those who have been baptised and made a profession and yet have fallen away, that if they return and repent there is great blessings in store. It is so **encouraging**!

We are a **year nearer** the time when “*the earth **will be filled** with the knowledge of the **glory** of the **LORD** as the waters cover the sea*”[Hab 2:14] and when an angel will say “*“The kingdom of the world **has become** the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever”*”[Rev 11:15]