

The Plan
and Progress
of the
Seven Days
of Creation

Continuing in Christ's presence
freegiftfromgod
© 2000

John Lemmon

The Plan and Progress of the Seven Days of Creation

A free e-Book presentation from
www.freegiftfromgod.com

Written by
John Lemmon

Copyright © 2007

No material presented in this eBook may be used or reprinted either in part or in full without the express permission of the author and must include reference to the source and website at www.freegiftfromgod.com

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Blueprints.....	4
God's blueprint.....	4
Planning is part of the nature of God	4
The Seven Days of Creation - In the beginning.....	5
Day 1 - Let there be Light	5
Day 2 - The creation of heaven.....	6
Day 3 - Creation of the Earth	7
Day 4 - The sun, the moon and the stars... ..	7
Day 5 - Creation of animal life.....	8
Day 6 - Man.	8
The physical creation of man	9
What does this imply?.....	10
What came next...the beginning of the history of man!	10
The creation of the Spiritual hosts	11
The process of perfecting man	11
The need for the law.	12
The Promise of Righteousness.....	13
The purpose of Christ's visit to the earth.....	14
How is the spiritual man created?.....	15
Day 7 - God rested.....	16
Where is God's plan at right now!	17
When is the seventh day of rest?.....	17
The end of the matter.....	18

Blueprints

Have you ever been involved in a building project? If not, have you ever seen a show on television where some kind of construction is going on? If either of these is familiar, you may recall that at some point the builders were using blueprints or plans printed on paper to guide the work of construction.

A blueprint is exactly that. A plan of what needs to be put together to create a building. It identifies at a high level the dimensions, materials and placement of all the necessary parts that need to go into the building to ensure it is complete and nothing is missed.

It is of course designed at a very high level. If you look at a blueprint you can get a pictorial representation of what the building looks like, but you will not see where every nail, nut or bolt will be placed. The purpose of the blueprint is to provide a guide, but the actual construction techniques as to how materials are joined and put together is left to the skill of the tradespeople involved in the project.

A plan or a blueprint is essential in the development of every building project. You will need a plan whether you are building a skyscraper, a house or a cubbyhouse for the kids.

God's blueprint

When God decided to build and create the universe and everything in

it, He too developed a blueprint for creation. He carefully designed and planned every aspect of His creation to ensure the final product would be identical to His plan.

We are fortunate that He has seen fit to allow us to see His blueprint for the Creation. And indeed He is still following it to this day as the Creation is still under construction.

The first chapter or so of Genesis is God's blueprint for the creation. Like a master architect God created this blueprint to define the major sections of His Creation, before a single atom of the world, universe or anything in them had even come into existence.

"When God decided to build and create the universe and everything in it, He too developed a blueprint for creation"

You
u
will
als

o see as you continue to study, that this plan is being executed in a somewhat different manner to what is commonly believed, but more of that later.

Planning is part of the nature of God

There is a saying that says, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." Nothing that is done of any significance is done without a plan.

Christ also taught us that it is necessary for us to plan when He said, "Which of you desiring to build a tower does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin

to mock him saying, 'this man began to build and was not able to finish.'" (Luke 14:28-30).

Planning is part of the make-up of your human mind. It is part of the way you live day to day, whether it is planning your future, planning your career or planning what you will eat today.

Th ***"What is the plan of God for man?"***
e

bible tells us in the first book of Genesis that God made man in his own image and likeness. It is evident then that planning is part of the nature of God since we are made in his likeness.

However when we humans plan, it is usually from a position of incomplete or inadequate knowledge. You can take heart that God has provided encouragement in the scripture for our plans saying, "A mans mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9). He also tells you to, "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

But what was the plan of God for the Creation and what is the plan of God for man? In order to understand the answer to these questions, you need to look at God's plan and to understand how it is unfolding.

The Seven Days of Creation - In the beginning...

God is good to you and I as he provided us with all of the information we need to live in this life and to prepare us for the next. He took the trouble to set out his plan for man

from beginning to end, and He gives you His plan in the words of the bible.

The first chapter of Genesis and part of the second is the high level blueprint of His plan. The seven days of creation as recorded in Genesis detail the plan He is following, and the throughout the Bible he gives clues how he is progressing His plan.

Furthermore He has blessed you & I by allowing us to see his plans and designs so that we may learn and understand what He is doing both for us and in us. Let's take some time to go through the elements of His plan together to see what He has done and what is in store for us.

Day 1 - Let there be Light

The very first thing that God created on the first day of Creation was Light. (Gen 1:3). God said, "Let there be light,' and there was light." Light is usually considered as being in the presence of the sun, moon or stars or the man-made artificial equivalents of these natural lights. Darkness is typically the absence of these things.

Day 1: Let there be light...but what is this light?

You may find it interesting

that God created light on day one, but He did not create the sun, moon and stars until the fourth day of creation. This raises the first interesting question. Just what was this light that God created on the first day? Those opposed to what is written in the Bible will simply say that it is in error. However I believe there is no error in the Bible, only a lack of understanding on our part. Prayer and study will provide you with all the answers whenever there

may seem to be an inconsistency...that is a promise (Matthew 7:7-8).

Let's get back to

"The light was good..."

the question of this creation of Light and Darkness on day one. You get the first clue in the very next words of the same verse. He says (vs. 4), "And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness."

In this high level blueprint of creation you can see that God is not talking about light and darkness, as man perceives them. God says that he "...saw that the light was good," but He did not proclaim the darkness to be good. What it appears that God was doing was separating good from evil. There are many instances in the bible where you can see this separation of good and evil spoken of in terms of light and darkness.

As Christians we are often called sons of light

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

(John 12:36) or sons of the day (1 Thess 5:5) and those who are not Christians in the world are sometimes referred to as being in darkness. Jesus said, "Walk while you have the light," (John 12:35) talking about His own appearance on earth. He also said, "I am the light of the world..." (John 1:8). In John 3:19-20 he shows that men loved darkness rather than the light and anyone who does evil hates the light. And there are many other scriptures showing this distinction between light and darkness as being good versus evil.

One of the first things you should now understand about the plan of God's creation as shown in Genesis 1, is that it is both a spiritual and a physical creation. You can see this in the separation of good from evil on day one. You will see this more as you progress in the next few sections.

Day 2 - The creation of heaven.

What is often missed in the reading and study of the Creation in Genesis chapter 1 is the creation of Heaven. The heavens and the earth were created right at the very beginning of the Creation, but in the second day the place where heaven exists was defined.

We all have a sense of heaven, but without knowing what it is or where it is. Heaven is a spiritual place and not something that you can see, touch or feel. The Lord tells you that on the second day He created, "...a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." (vs. 6).

What is interesting is that He created the firmament to separate the waters that were above the firmament from the waters under the firmament. The fascinating thing is that God then called this firmament...Heaven.

If you are unfamiliar with the word "firmament", the dictionary describes it as "the vault of heaven." In the sense that the word "vault" is used to describe this word, it is an overarching structure that lies above the world.

In this first chapter of the bible God is telling you not only that He created

heaven, but also where it is. Heaven is the overarching structure, or firmament, that lies between the waters above and the waters below. The waters below are the rivers and seas and the waters above are the clouds that bring rain. So heaven exists somewhere between the seas and the clouds and is all around us.

But of course heaven is a spiritual place and not a physical place. Again this is evidence that the blueprint of creation God laid out in Genesis 1 is not just of the physical creation but the spiritual creation as well.

Day 3 - Creation of the Earth

It is not until the third day that you begin to see the creation of the earth, as we know it. Although the earth was in existence from the beginning, as you can see from the very first verse of Genesis 1, it was without form and void.

On day three God gathered the waters under heaven into one place and caused the dry land to appear. The dry land he named Earth and the waters he named the Seas. So here you can begin to see the creation of the physical world, as we know it.

It is also in this third day that He brought forth vegetation and plants of all kinds.

Now what is interesting is that there was still no sun, moon or stars. So you could rightly ask how did these things grow without any sunlight? Fair question. I could make the point that God is able to do anything, but the sceptics would think that was a cop-out. However God is more than capable of causing plants to grow

and life to exist without sunlight, as you can see in other parts of the bible.

If you look at the other end of the bible, you will see in Revelation 21 the creation of the New Jerusalem when God makes His home with man. This is after the final judgement when all evil has been destroyed and God is with us. We see in Rev 21:23 it says, "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb." In verse 25 it also says, "...there shall be no night there." It is shown also that the tree of life grows in this new city as seen in Rev 22:2. From this you can be sure that the Lord is able to create vegetation, trees and plants and cause them to grow without the need for the sun.

You should remember all through this discussion that the first chapter of Genesis is a high level blueprint for the plan of God. When we get into the second chapter, then you will begin to see how he caused all of this to happen.

Day 4 - The sun, the moon and the stars...

On the fourth day God created the sun, moon and stars and separated them so that the greater light would rule the day and the lesser lights rule the night (Genesis 1:14-18). On this day he effectively created the universe.

It was also not until this day that God put in motion the processes you will recognise as the measurements of time. Seasons, months and years did not previously exist as these are all measured by revolutions of the earth

about the sun. Likewise the movement of the moon about the earth determines tides and phases of the moon.

Now in case you missed it, note that the sun, moon and stars were created after the earth, not before it. The earth existed, albeit without form and void, right from the very beginning of the creation and the sun, moon and stars came later.

As we progress you will see other instances where what is commonly believed is the exact reverse of how God created them. Conventional human knowledge suggests that the universe began with a "big bang". Under this theory all matter exploded from a source point billions of years ago and galaxies, suns, stars and planets were created over time as various astronomical events shaped them.

Now don't get me wrong, this may be correct in terms of the creation of the universe. When God made the sun, stars and moon He may have done it as a "big bang". However there is one difference between my opinion based on the Bible and the conventional belief concerning the big bang theory. The difference is this; the earth was already in existence prior to the creation of the rest of the universe.

Now before you think me a crackpot and opposed to what scientists have proven, let me explain why this is conceivable.

There is good reason to believe this is the case from data that science itself has provided. The earth is different to all other planets of which we are aware. The most compelling reason is that the only place in the

universe where water exists is on the earth. Water does not exist anywhere else according to spectrographic analysis of the universe and without water, life as we know it cannot exist.

It is quite conceivable that God created the universe with a "big bang" and placed the earth into it in an appropriate place. The universe is expanding as science has shown, and by computer modelling scientists can reverse this process back to a point of origin. But the question even the scientists ask about the big bang is, "Who lit the fuse?" I believe it was God.

Day 5 - Creation of animal life.

On the fifth day God created all of the animals, birds, fish, insects and swarming things. It is at this time that He was beginning to populate the earth and establishing it to bring it to a place that would be habitable.

I will not dwell on this day but look at the creation of the animals further when we look at the generations of the creation covered in Genesis chapter 2.

Day 6 - Man.

You now come to the creation of man. For us this is a particularly interesting stage in the creation process. It has a special relevance when you compare the Genesis 1 information with the next phase discussed in the second chapter of Genesis.

What you should note in this section is that God said, "let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

(Genesis 1:26). The question you need to consider here is why did the Lord make this statement in this way? Why not just say either to make man in God's image, or to make man in God's likeness rather than say both? The key word in this verse is the word "after". This is indicating that a period of time separates a dual creation for man.

There are two separate and distinct creations of man. This verse alludes to that fact by designating a separation of the two creations. The first creation is the creation of man in God's likeness. The second creation is the creation of man into God's image.

If you consider this for a moment you will agree that all of mankind are basically alike but not identical. That is, most people are born with a mouth, a nose, two eyes, two ears, two arms, two legs and so on. We are all alike in the basic structure of our bodies, but not EXACTLY alike. When God made man in His own likeness, he was creating us to look similar to Himself.

However God then says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." If you look into a mirror what do you see? You see a perfect image of yourself down to every precise detail. When God said He would create man in His own image AFTER His likeness, he is talking about the creation of man's spirit so that we are exactly like God. Not in a physical sense but in a spiritual sense. This is the work that He is doing in the New Covenant as we are being transformed into the image of God.

The first creation of man into the likeness of God was the physical creation. The second creation of man into His image is the re-creation of man in the spirit. God is spirit and He has set the processes in place in the New Covenant to recreate man into His image in the spirit (2 Cor 3:18).

You will note that several times I have said that this first chapter of Genesis is a high level blueprint of God's plan. It is clear that the depth of His plan is still to be fully fathomed. There is no doubt in my mind that He was not talking in this chapter only about the physical creation, but also the creation of parts of the spiritual realm. Day one and day two show clear evidence of that, and here again in day six we see that the creation has a spiritual dimension.

Now if this is true, then we are still in the sixth day of creation. It is evident that man has not yet been created in God's image; otherwise there would be no sin. If you need proof of this, just turn on the evening news for the latest instalment of man's inhumanity to man and you'll get the picture.

The physical creation of man

It is appropriate to now look into the second chapter of Genesis at the physical creation of man.

When was man created? I have stated above that there were two creations of man, which was indicated by God when He said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

On the sixth day of the creation according to his blueprint, man was

made in the image of God. Now we know that God is Spirit so if man is to be in the image of God he must have the spirit of God (John 4:24). Paul wrote that first there is the physical body and then comes the spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:46). Likewise, Genesis tells us that first man was made in the likeness of God, which is the physical creation. But when did this occur?

You can see the beginning of the physical creation of man described in the second chapter of Genesis. What is interesting here is that it begins by saying, "These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created" (Genesis 2:4). This indicates that what follows is a step-by-step description of the process of creation as it occurred.

The timing of the creation of the physical man is quite different to what is commonly believed. You can see in Genesis 2:4-7 that the physical man was created in the day when the earth and the heavens had been formed but before God had caused any plant to spring up. It was at that time God created man from the dust of the ground.

If you look back in Genesis 1 you will see that this means that the physical creation of man actually occurred during the third day of the creation.

What does this imply?

This is quite a different scenario to what is commonly believed. It also raises a second interesting point.

You see what this is telling us is the exact opposite of what the people of the world believe. Typically it is

taught under the theory of evolution that the lower life forms came first and evolved into the higher life forms by a process of natural selection, mutation and survival of the fittest.

However what the bible is telling us is that God created man first. The highest life form was the first form of life created, not the lowest form.

If you have never seen these points before, it bears some consideration. Please check the bible for yourself and you will see that this is so.

Man was the first life form created. We then see further on in Genesis 2 that God said it was not right that man should be alone so God created all of the animals and birds. As each one was created God brought them to the man he had created and it was the man who named each of them. After all of the animals and birds were created God created woman for man to be his helper as none of the animals were fit for him.

Now as woman was made after the birds, cattle and beasts of the field, it is evident that she was made during the sixth day of creation, but the man was created during the third day. So there were several days of creation in between the creation of the physical man and the physical woman.

It was not until during the sixth day of creation that the population of the earth by the human race commenced.

What came next...the beginning of the history of man!

What you will see from here on is the beginning of the history of the creation of man. For all intents and purposes the history of man as we know it commences with the fall of man from perfection.

God created man perfect. However when that serpent named Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, (Genesis 3) sin was born and man ceased to be perfect in the sight of God.

Sin was a tremendously powerful force right from the beginning. Consider also that after Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden they had two sons, Cain and Able. Sin was so powerful a force that when Cain's offering was rejected he became intensely angry. The Lord warned Cain in Genesis 4:7 saying, "...sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it." This same warning extends down through the ages to us today.

Cain did not master it and fell under the power of sin. He led his brother out into the fields and then murdered him (Genesis 4:8). So you see that right from the start sin was an intensely powerful and evil force within man, so much so that the first man born killed the second man born onto the earth (Adam and Eve were not born but were created by God).

Now you may be wondering why God allowed such a powerfully evil force to exist. Why didn't God just create man perfect and be done with it?

The creation of the Spiritual hosts

If you consider the creation of the spirits and angels, it is evident that they were created perfect. They did not have the sin factor that exists in man.

But we see that Satan who was one of the pre-eminent of the angels was full of egotistical pride and wanted to rule like God or even above God. On discovering this he was cast out of heaven and out of the presence of God and has come down onto the earth as the great deceiver of mankind. (Ezekiel 28:11-19, Isaiah 14:12-21).

Again you might ask...why would God allow this to occur?

The process of perfecting man

Man started out imperfect because of sin and was cast out of the Garden of Eden. It is sin that causes man to die and it is sin that separates us from God. Without sin man would be perfect.

When the Lord created the angels He created beings that were perfect. But one-third of them chose to do evil. Satan fell first and then deluded or led astray one-third of the angels who became the demonic spirits that now roam the earth. (Revelation 12:3-4). Their purpose under the guidance of Satan is to lead man astray.

What God has done with man though, is the reverse of what he did with the angels. From the beginning God allowed all mankind to be under the power of sin so that He could be merciful to man. He decided to allow all of mankind to begin in an imperfect state and under the power

of sin so that He can show His grace to man.

He also gave man the ability to make choices. We can choose to do evil and follow the ways of the devil, or we can choose to do good and follow the Lord.

The difference in this creation of man versus the creation of the angels is that the angels started in perfection and then chose to do evil. However it was the hope of God that man would choose to do good, having started in imperfection. A person who chooses to do good is more likely to remain good when they have an understanding of the other side of the coin. Once you have tasted what both good and evil have to offer, then once your choice is made it is unlikely you will want to go back.

God is hoping that when a man chooses good over evil, he will never desire to return because there is nothing there for him.

It is my belief that the very purpose for the creation of man and the reason we are all here for the seventy odd years that humans typically live for, is to do just one thing. I believe we are here to make just one decision in our lives, and that is whether we will choose to follow God or not. Everything else we do on earth is insignificant in comparison to this one decision as it is this decision that determines whether we will strive to live into eternity or just use the few years of our life in the here and now.

The aims of the plan of God for man is that man would seek Him and find him (Acts 17:27) and so choose to live with God forever. It is not God's desire that any person is lost to the

power of sin (1 Timothy 2:4), but He has left that choice for individuals to make for themselves.

Imagine what you could do and what you could achieve if you were not limited by sickness, disease, old age and death. Imagine also what you could achieve if you had face to face access to the Creator of the universe to guide and assist you on your journey. The possibilities are limitless! Space travel to foreign worlds would be a reality because it wouldn't matter if it took a million years, as death would have no part to play.

Did you always want to learn how to play the piano? Or perhaps learn some intricate skill? Imagine the possibilities for such adventures you could have and the things you could create if there was no death to stop you. Who knows, you could even get a perfect golf swing happening...if that's your thing.

But let's get back to the discussion.

The need for the law.

Sin came in when Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan and with it came death. As time went on, man became more and more sinful and evil, with only a very few people who stood out as beacons of righteousness.

At the time of Noah, God had had enough of the evil, corruption and violence caused by man. Man had become so evil that God said he was sorry he had made man. He decided he would destroy all mankind from the earth, with the exception of Noah who remained righteous before God.

Noah also was granted to save his wife, his three sons and their wives, along with two of every kind of beast on the earth (Genesis 6:5-8).

After the flood, Noah and his family were sent forth to re-populate the earth. In time though, man became evil once more. However rather than destroy the world again, this time God laid down the law.

In his servant Moses he found someone he could trust. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the rest of the laws (Exodus 20:1-17). There are more than six hundred laws in the Old Testament by which the people of Israel were to abide.

In these laws God did three significant things. First, he provided a benchmark for what was good and what was evil. Second, in the law he defined sin for what it was. Sin is lawlessness, which is the breaking of the law (1 John 3:4). And third, he provided in the law great wisdom so that you and I would be able to live safely, securely and free from many of the afflictions of the world.

There was now a standard to which all men could be held accountable for sin and righteousness. There was also a way for man to receive forgiveness from his sins under the law through the blood sacrifices. The law also enabled the people to be ruled justly and to set the standard against which wrongdoers could be punished for their wrong. Many of the laws not only stated what sin was, but also meted out the appropriate punishment.

However, what God was really looking for in man could not be contained in the law. He was and still

is looking for a people who will do what is right because it is the right thing to do, not just because the law says it is what they should do.

The law created a situation where people would be compliant to do what is right, but God is looking for people who are committed to doing the right thing. Commitment is much greater than compliance because commitment is a matter of the heart, soul and mind of a person. Compliance is about ensuring someone does the right thing...or else suffer the consequences.

But God had made promises to the earlier saints and patriarchs of Israel to the effect that His righteousness would be revealed apart from the law (Romans 3:21).

The Promise of Righteousness.

God made a promise to Abraham that he would have descendants as many as the stars in the sky (Genesis 15:1-6). He made this promise at a time when Abraham was about ninety years old and Abraham's wife Sarah was about eighty years old. Also when the promise was made, Sarah was barren being unable to bear children all of her life and was well past menopause.

However despite all of these negatives, the bible tells us that, "Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6).

This was a very important statement as it was the first time that righteousness was declared to be given by God on the basis of faith. It

was not necessarily the first time it had occurred, but it was recorded for our benefit. The faith that Abraham had in what God had told him was "reckoned" or added to him and God pronounced Abraham to be righteous.

This same promise has now been extended to us and it is critical that you understand this fact (Romans 4:22-24). Under the law people could achieve forgiveness, but they could not achieve righteousness. They could do what is right and follow the letter of the law, but in the very sacrifices and offerings by which they had forgiveness, they were constantly being reminded of sin (Hebrews 10:1-4).

You cannot have both sin and righteousness co-existing together. A person is either righteous or a sinner, not both.

God gave up on man because of man's sin (Romans 1:24, 26, 28), so if He was to be able to help man, then somehow he had to do away with sin. The example of how he proclaimed Abraham righteous through what he believed is the method by which God enabled this to work. Abraham had something specific to believe and so do we, and it is because of what we believe, like Abraham, that God now says we too are righteous.

For this to work though, God had to do away with sin, which now brings us to the purpose of Christ's visit to the earth.

The purpose of Christ's visit to the earth.

God said that he would have nothing to do with man because of sin. It is sin that separates man from God and unfortunately all men and women sin.

However if man is to ever come into the image of God, as described in His master blueprint, then sin has to be done away with...somehow.

Sin is the breaking of the law as stated by the apostle John (1 John 3:4) and the law defines what sin is. The law cannot make you perfect or bring you into the image of God. In the law there is the constant reminder of sin. The law stands there constantly condemning people for their wrongdoing (Hebrews 10:1-4). This is not to say there is anything wrong with the law. The law is holy, just and good, as the apostle Paul stated (Romans 7:12). But while the law remains we will always live under condemnation.

So why not just remove the law? If there were no law, then you wouldn't be able to break the law? If there is no law then there is no sin since sin is the breaking of the law. But Jesus said of the law that not a dot or an iota shall pass from the law until all things have been accomplished (Matthew 5:18). So you can't get rid of the law. The law is here to stay.

So how is it possible to escape from sin when the law is always there to condemn us? If you can't take the law away from you, then is it possible to take you away from the law?

The bible tells us that the law is binding on a person only during their life (Romans 7:1), but the dominion of the law ceases when they die. You can escape the law when you die. But it isn't really practical to wait until

you die, because the bible also teaches that it is appointed for a man to live once, then die and after that comes judgement (Hebrews 9:27). If you wait until you die it's too late. But this piece of knowledge, that you can be freed from sin and freed from the law through death is extremely helpful.

You will recall earlier that God proclaimed Abraham righteous because he believed what God told him. Abraham was given something very specific to believe to be pronounced righteous, and this same process has been established for us.

Under the old covenant there was no forgiveness of sin without a blood sacrifice. The purposes of the sacrifices were actually twofold. First, the sacrifice was made to enact the covenant, to bring it into force. And second it was for the purpose of forgiving the person their sin. The book of Hebrews states that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin (Hebrews 9:22).

However what we are looking for is not just a process for forgiveness, but for the complete removal of sin. If we are to come into the image of God then we need to be without sin as God is without sin. How is this possible?

It is made possible through Jesus Christ. John the Baptist witnessed of Jesus saying, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) And there is a very specific and clear process that God put in place, which you are to follow if you are to reach the place where your sins are taken away.

How is the spiritual man created?

The bible tells us in the book of John that, "God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) Paul also tells us that first comes the physical man and then comes the spiritual man (1 Corinthians 15:42-50). This also aligns with the creation of man in the sixth day of Genesis 1 when God says, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness." So first the physical man is made in the likeness of God and then the spiritual man is made in the image of God.

Now since God is Spirit and is without sin, then man too must come into a place where He is without sin. You will have seen above that Jesus came to take away the sins of the world, but the law continues on defining what sin is and condemning man when he breaks the law.

You will also recall that the only way you can escape the law is through death. But this is not practical for obvious reasons. So in order to achieve freedom from sin and freedom from the law, which continues to condemn us as sinners, there must be a way to die without actually going through a physical death.

God established that process through water baptism. As Christians we are baptised into the death of Christ and raised out of the water with the risen Christ. When we go down into the waters of baptism, our bodies are "buried" in the water, which symbolises our physical death with Christ. But when we are lifted up out of the waters we arise with the risen Christ as spiritual men (Romans 6:1-

6), and our life is hid with Christ who is seated at the right hand of God in the spiritual realm (Colossians 3:3).

Now you may be wondering how it is that this works. The basis of this teaching is faith. You will recall that Abraham was given something specific to believe and because he believed what God said, God proclaimed him righteous. So Abraham was proclaimed righteous through his faith.

The same process applies to us. It is through our faith that we have died with Christ and been raised again as new creations, and it is through faith that we are released from our past sins and set free from the law (Romans 6:7-8). We do not have to die ourselves for this to occur as Christ has died for us. This is explained in Romans where Paul shows that in the same way as a woman is set free from the law of marriage through the death of her husband, we are set free from the law of God through the death of Christ (Romans 7:1-6, esp. vs 4).

The important thing for you now, and this is the key to your faith, is that you must now consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:11). It is by faith that you have been transformed from the physical realm to be re-created in the spirit.

The next phase of the creation of the spiritual man occurs through the receiving of the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to change you into the image of God, as this work of transformation is the work of the spirit.

There is much more detail on our website as to how this whole process of faith, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit works and what these things mean. Just log onto www.freegiftfromgod.com and check out the e-Book on the "Foundation Teachings of Christianity."

Day 7 - God rested

The final section of Genesis chapter one says that on the seventh day God rested from all of his labours.

This is where the arguments rage about whether God really created the world in seven human days or not. But hold on a minute! Above I indicated that the second creation of man into God's image was not complete, meaning we are still in the sixth day of creation. If this is so, then how could God have rested on the seventh day? Either I am wrong in my assumption and God has already rested after the completion of the creation, or the creation isn't yet complete!

If the latter is true then clearly God did not create everything in seven literal days, as some believe. Not only that, the work of creation is still occurring and the blueprint in Genesis chapter one is not some historical record from thousands of years ago, but an active and living document.

The only way we can verify which of these positions is accurate is to see what the Bible and God said about this matter Himself.

Where is God's plan at right now!

Like a builder or an architect who plans and builds a house, there is a blueprint being followed to guide the construction and to ensure it is done correctly. The first chapter of Genesis is God's blueprint for the work He is doing. And like any good builder He does not go on to the next stage until He sees that the work done in each preceding stage is satisfactory. Thus we see that God, "...saw that it was good and there was evening and there was morning..." indicating the end of each stage.

But has God finished the sixth stage? You will recall I have already suggested that He has not, and if so, then He has not rested from all His work. This then suggests that the seventh day of rest is still yet to come at some time in the future.

Jesus told us in John 5:17 that, "...My Father is working still, and I am working." He made this comment to the Jews who were persecuting him for healing a cripple on the Sabbath Day. The answer Jesus gave them is very revealing because if both Jesus and the Father are still working, then the seventh day of rest identified in Genesis 1 has not yet occurred.

You should also consider the section of scripture in Hebrews 3:10-11 saying,

10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their hearts; they have not known my ways.'
11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

Here the writer is telling you that there is still a seventh day of rest that is yet to be attained.

Consider also the section of scripture that follows from Hebrews 4:4-8:

4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way, "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."

5 And again in this place he said, "They shall never enter my rest."

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,

7 again he sets a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, when you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

The crucial information is seen in verse 6 that shows there is still a seventh day of rest yet to be attained by some people. It is also clear from the scripture quoted in John 5:17 above that both Jesus and God are still working so that the promise of entering his rest remains open. Those who will miss out will do so because of their disobedience to the truth. But even they still have time to turn around on any day that is called, "Today."

When is the seventh day of rest?

Now let us skip forward to see what the bible says about the seventh day.

In Genesis 2 at the beginning it says that after God had completed all of the creation he rested on the seventh day. But as you have seen already

God is still working as is Jesus and there is still the promise of a seventh day rest for those who are here on earth.

lives with man and man has been completely perfected and cleansed from sin. It is then only that the seventh day of rest begins.

The seventh day of rest does not occur until all of God's works are finished. In Genesis 2:2 the bible tells us, "And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done." If you then go to the end of the bible in Revelation 21:6 he says, "It is done!" This does not occur until after Christ has returned to the earth and reigned here to rid the earth of all forms of evil. At this time the final judgement has occurred, Satan has been condemned to the lake of fire and brimstone and the dwelling of God is with men.

The end of the matter

So the totality of the Plan of God for you is simply this. He wants to provide you the opportunity to seek Him and find Him so that you may make a decision to follow His ways.

The reward for this is life into eternity without sin, without evil, without sickness or death.

It is not until this time that we see the final stage of the creation when God

God has given you a short time here on earth to answer just one simple question. Will you follow Him or not?

What will your answer be?

-----o000O000o000-----

If you would like to learn more about living as a Christian, please check out our website at www.freegiftfromgod.com or you can email us with any questions about this e-book or any other matter to john@freegiftfromgod.com.

All teaching, ministry and other items provided by www.freegiftfromgod.com are free of charge as it is our firm belief that God's word should not be peddled but should be freely available to all.

I encourage you to continue to study the Bible and to seek out the truth of the gospel to find the hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and keep you.

Note: All scriptures quoted in this document are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.