



BEGINNINGS (Heaven & Earth, light, plants)

READING No.1 Genesis 1.1-13

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In this section and the next we must take account of the anticipation lying behind what God "saw" at each stage of creation. God declared with joy much as He did at the mount of transfiguration His deep satisfaction with His non-retractable acts. God is committed to "light and enlightening"; to the kingdom on earth and in heaven and to saving provision for man through sowing His life at the cross and so to the harvest of the ages. God from the outset saw His acts of creation as germane to these lasting purposes.

THREE HEBREW VERBS (1)

In the **beginning God created the heavens and the earth.** Barbara CHENAULT Duff, the daughter of the American general who led the D Day landings was not only a superb soloist but very conversant with scripture when I met her in the 1980's. She first pointed out to me the three Hebrew verbs for "Create"-BARA, ASAH' & YATZA. The first I shall connect with the carpenter for it means "to cut" or "to choose"; the second with the chef for it means to "create as an offering"; the third with the potter for this verb means "to form". The Hebrew word BARA attracts its "ex nihilo" significance from Hebrews 11.3 though essentially it means "to choose" so that we may say God's first choice was to select (not from a range of wood samples like the carpenter) but from His own mind what he "created" The word is cognate to "cut" so that we may say our glorious Saviour the Word of God (who was known on earth as a TEKTON or builder "separated" this material universe as a new dimension which had no forerunner. In the beginning Augustine said, "It is idle to look for time before creation, as if time can be found before time".

WITHOUT FORM AND VOID (2)

And the earth was without form and void. (Hebrew TOHU BOHU) The Hebrew words mean "with no regular form" -this since the muddy earth was subject to invasive mighty swirling waters (described as "the deep" or "commotion") in the darkness. **The earth was also "empty" like an empty house.** In Proverbs 8.27 the WORD (God's wisdom, Christ) was there when God first "set a compass on the horizon" so that the earth took form as the sphere we now know. It is hard to conceive of it as a lump of indeterminate shape superficially mud and water but with a core of molten iron -but that is exactly how it was. It was bathed in darkness and its "great deep"(Hebrew TEHOM) was in the folds of darkness. Peter speaks of the earth as "standing out of the water and in the water" 2Peter 3.2

THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN ACTION

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. The "face of the waters" suggests the earth is to be thought of from the start as akin to the human head-of a round character. This hovering suggests the beginnings of life as we know it. It entails "waves" of sound and then also as in v3 "waves of light" and also "heat waves". The earth like a troubled baby was being awakened to its profound new day.

LIGHT (3-4)

And God said, Let there be light The first of many 'waw consecutive' verbs (one with an "and" followed by an imperfect follows the first verb of scripture-a Hebrew Perfect") begins a narrative. That indicates that what follows is a simple timed sequel. God (The Strong One) was speaking luminously and commanded Let light be and there was light All this 3 days before the creation of the Sun. Well might

John Calvin comment, "The LORD bears witness that He holds in his hand the light, which He is able to impart to us without sun and moon" God saw the light prophetically for it was good. **A prophetic TORAH**

Light with positive power to carry life and this without the radiation that destroys is truly good. That is indeed the character of the light of the New Jerusalem Rev 21.23. And God divided the light from the darkness The separation hails the first revolution of the earth into and out of light simulating the action of sunlight and initiating rotation.

DAY /YOM (5)-DAY 1

And God called the light "Day" and the darkness He called "Night" and there was evening and there was morning -the first day *It appears God called out these names almost like a preacher of good news. It is good news in allegory- evil is separated from good as light from darkness-this is the action and process initiated by the "Holy One."*

Nobody bothers to argue about "night" but huge debate has emerged on the word "day" here. It was Ambrose of Milan who said, "Scripture established a law that twenty four hours including day and night, should be given the name of "day"(Ambrose: Hexameron)The theistic evolutionist who yields to eras of creation and the literary interpreter who like OCCAM divides words from external reality both object to this being a literal or 24-hour day.

1. "Evening and morning" used 39 times in the OT denotes a 24 hour day.
2. Exodus 31.12 & 20.11 "In six days the LORD made heaven and earth"-God acted within this space to give divine precedent for essential human rest.
3. Henry Morris pointed out that with day 1 the cycle of rotation as we know it today starts.
4. James Barr "When YOM means a time period it is heavily modified by other time indicators-cf "evening & morning."

Evening and morning were the first day *Jewish understanding is that day begins from decline after noonday. Day ends as light breaks climaxing at noon*

DAY 2 BEGINNING OF THE EXPANSE/ RAQIA' (Hebrew "to beat out thin") (6-8)

And God said, 'Let there be an expanse between the waters and let there be a division between waters even to waters. And God made the "expanse" and made a veil between the waters belonging to the expanse below and above and it was so. And God called the "expanse" heaven and there was evening and morning the second day *Henry Morris says this is "atmosphere very likely in a vapour state and extending far out into space." It would seem that catastrophic mid Atlantic tectonic plate slide accounts for the later deluge and in this deluge upper waters played no significant role. Huge reserves of water exist below the earth's mantle-perhaps 10-12 times the amount in earth's oceans (Williams: "Drowned from below").Whitelaw's research on the problems an ice canopy would cause-"heat loss-Sunlight diminution; high pressure up to 220 degrees; ice-field physically unsupportable as it would be destroyed by ultra-violet light. Two other theses propose to explain the biblical cosmology neither of which is affected by Whitelaw's arguments. First Humphreys white hole cosmology which proposes that the waters above are 20 billion light years away and describe the edge of the universe. His model starts with a sphere of liquid water and a black hole becoming a white hole whose perimeter passed through the earth on day 4 thus accounting for a day 4 event and the expulsion of matter to the widest limits of space suddenly in what is perceived as billions of years. The second model is Hartnett's who postulates that God set the waters above at the limits of our solar system which was first created on day 1. Hartnett speaks of a process of universe expansion which on Day 4 is filled with stars and planets cascading along the expanse. He speaks of time dilation and the travel of light to us at the heart of the universe during day four. The crab nebula explosion arrived in 1054 and Supernova 1987a in that year. These models both lay claim to a more complex understanding of what scripture says-explanations which are not to be dismissed-but considered with caution.*

PLANTS VEGETABLES FRUIT TREES BEGIN TO FLOURISH 11-13

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered to one place and let the dry land be seen" and it was so (or it was so constituted) *The command that dry land be seen in future time anticipated the first view of Adam on day 6-just 3 days ahead. God had created one landmass and one sea. We can envision a central and fertile earth encircled by sea. John Hartnett records that geology confirms the land/water division and that there was one original landmass, which subsequently split into the present day continents. And God called the dry land 'earth' and the gathering of waters took the name 'seas' From the plural we can deduce that the waters were so contoured as to faintly resemble oceans. And God saw that it was good. After this third separation God clothed the earth with plants and vegetables and trees to yield food for man.*

And God said, 'let the earth bring forth full grown plant with seed (Hebrew ASHAB as opposed to DASHAH or 'newly sprouted plant')matured within it and fruit tree offering fruit and according to species -whose seed is in it's(fruit)upon the earth-and it was so. *The Hebrew here is very succinct and clear. The vegetable is at full maturity and indeed in some cases seeding. The fruit trees are ready for harvesting and some fruit has already fallen. The argument for calendar days could not be more cogent. As Henry Morris states in his 'Genesis Record' each type of organism had its own unique DNA'. And the earth brought forth mature plant life with seed within it after its kind and fruit tree offering fruit which had seed in it after its kind and God saw it was good. And there was evening and morning, the third day. That within one day from saturated mud a crop of matured vegetable and fruit should be ready to eat is a miracle unrepeated in the plant world. We may interpret MIN as "genus" or family and ZARhA as genetic DNA or "species". Jonathan SARFATI reminds us that human sperm or egg cells could produce 2 to the power of 6700 and 10 to the power of 2017 whereas the number of atoms in the universe is only 10 to the power of 80. There was very great variety in the original DNA of the seed God created. Thus it is now widely admitted that all species of dogs came from the wolf. A Short earth view goes hand in hand with high variegation since the flood. Taking fish as another example SARFATI quotes the case of Lake Victoria where 300 species of cichlid fish have resulted from six endemic genera. Ernest MAYR showed that through different food choices or different calls fish and birds can alter their family genre.*

We must not lose the wonder of divine anticipation and provision for Man in this study. Whilst walking with man in the garden God was overjoyed by the fresh and beautiful world He had so recently prepared. No parents ever looked forward with more joy to the birth of their firstborn than God to the creation of Adam. The beautiful and mature environment for all its glory was but a shadow and figure of something further along that was by far more spectacular and enduring. In seeing the land and the fruit God saw through to the eternal city with its glory and fruits that would heal the nations.

READING No.2 BEGINNINGS (Stars) 1.14-2.3

SUN MOON AND STARS - THE BEGINNING OF THE SOLAR AND STAR SYSTEM

And God said, 'Let there be positioned lights in the expanse of heaven to separate the day from night and let them be for signs and seasons days and years. And let them be *positioned* lights in the expanse of heaven to give light on earth' and it was so. And God made two great *positioned* lights; the larger *positioned* light *positioned* to rule the day and the lesser positioned light placed to rule the night and also the stars. And God provided them (as a gift) to the expanse of the heavens for light on earth. Also he gave them to rule day and night and to divide between light and darkness. And God saw ahead that it was good. And there was evening and morning the fourth day.

(a)*Light and heat already were provided. As Jewish scholar Umberto CASSUTO of Jerusalem university puts it, "the light was crystallised" or linked with newly created bodies.*

(b)*I have interpreted the Hebrew "M" as "positional" and the position of these bodies was very important-it was eternal wisdom and love that settled them in space. Russell Humphrey's new cosmology in "starlight and time" explains that a white hole focused light in these luminaries. He*

proposed that the perimeter of a white hole passed through the earth on day 4 giving rise to the passage of 13 billion space years in the compass of day 4 of creation.

(c)The "seasons" involved would include seedtime and harvest-but I would extend it to the timing of the feasts of Jehovah which were linked to moon phases. They also were to be "proof" of other things. These might include "their creator" "the glory of God in Joshua's day" and "that of Hezekiah" and the importance of "the crucifixion" and as "signals of the end of the age" when the sun is darkened and the moon glows red (ADAM) or is trodden on by man. In these we may also include "weather signs" and "navigational signs" The house of the planets called the Zodiac is known among all nations and would appear to originally have proclaimed spiritual events-since erroneously taken not to refer to God's doings but rather events in our lives.

(d)That the light from the stars (which in the main are essentially simple bodies of hydrogen and helium) some billion light years away-was seen by Adam on day 6 could be possible by the creation of light energy waves (Henry Morris)

THE FIRST FISH BIRDS AND DINOSAURS-DAY 5

And God said, "Let the waters abound in small moving aquatic animals with the breath of life and let birds fly over the earth on the edge of the expanse of heaven." And God created (separately) great sea creatures and everything alive of the amphibians (*Hebrew RAMASH*) and creeping things which abound in the waters after their kind and all the birds that fly after their kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the sea and let birds multiply in the earth". And there was evening and morning; the fifth day. *On the fifth day life with "consciousness" -living fish and birds and creeping things and large amphibian reptiles appeared. These TANNIM qualify as the dinosaurs of antiquity whose remains and footprints are still being discovered. The freedom of movement within their medium and freedom to reproduce that God gave is akin to that given to man. All of these creatures reproduced after their kind or in accordance with given genetic DNA molecules.*

ANIMALS & MAN (Day 6) 1.24-2. (Day 6) 1.24-2.3

(a) FIRST ANIMALS

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind-large animals (*Hebrew BEHEMATH*) and small creeping animals (*Hebrew RAMASH*) after their kind and wild animals of the earth and it was so. And God made (*Hebrew hASHAH "to make to offer or sacrifice"*) wild animals after their kind and livestock animals after their kind and all creeping things of the soil after their kind and God saw that it was good. *The variety of creature was related to cultivation and habitat and fructification and aeration and good use of the earth. Wild beasts and tame and small creeping things constitute three types of animal that God made. The three categories as Morris observes are relative to man unlike the naturalist classification amphibian reptile mammal and insect. The first includes numerous animals man can domesticate and the second includes animals of the wild and indeed dinosaurs whilst the third includes smaller creatures which perform useful functions in the ground. There is no "evolutionary struggle" quite the contrary-God observed of the whole tranche that "it was good".*

(b)THE FIRST MAN & WOMAN

And God said, "Let us make man" *Here is the triune God in counsel. There were eternal councils prior to this of which we read in 1Peter1.20 2Timothy1.9 and Revelation17.8 but only after preparing a beautiful environment did God determine to put into effect the most costly plan He could possibly unfold-the creation of man whose capacity for the obscure and oncoming "fall" would inevitably call for redemption.*

"in our own image(*Hebrew TZALAL meaning "like in form" but different in substance as is shadow to figure and also "obscure" so that man would possess the capacity to think private and diffuse thoughts- i. e. be highly intelligent*) and in our likeness (*Hebrew RAMOTHENU meaning "standing erect" "possessing dignity of deportment" and subdue (Hebrew RADAH meaning ""have under the feet" or "walk by the side of")* all the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and the beasts of the field and the earth itself and all creeping things that creep on the earth." And God created man in His own image-in His triune image He created man, male and female He created them. *No reference is here made in detail to the manner of creation which mirrors the trinity insofar as 1.Man had divine form 2.man was given breath or Spirit and 3. Woman was made from Adam's rib. This detail we will presently find in Chapter 2* And God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and subdue it (*as a hostile adversary*) and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens and over all creatures that move on the ground. And God said, "Behold I have given you all reproductive green herbs or vegetables which are upon earth and every tree that has fruit and bears seed for you to eat." *God was especially excited to introduce man to his food. He had both vegetables and fruit in prime condition for consumption and also ready to seed or plant for a second crop. This was a joyous moment. The man and his wife would be able immediately to sample the food which the Lord showed them. "And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of heaven and all that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life I have given every green herb that may be eaten"-and it was so. The equal joy of God to see the animals and birds and fish relish what He supplied is to be understood. God saw everything that He had made and Look! It was very good!! And there was evening and there was morning-the sixth day.*

DAY SEVEN-REST: FIRST MAN: THE FIRST REST AND WORSHIP

The heavens and the earth were complete and their entire host. God had completed in the house of the seventh day all the work which He made and God rested on the seventh day from all the work which He had done. And God blessed the seventh day and set it apart for in it He rested from all the work which He had created to offer (*man and His creatures*) *I have taken the second meaning of the Hebrew ASHAH to emphasise that God had done all of this to "offer" it to man-to give it away-it was to be man's world. God had other dimensions in the heavenlies but all of this special creation in which the fruitful earth sits central was gifted to man. In the bible we read, "If he should gain the whole world and lose his soul what is man profited" We also read that Satan offered the future world to Jesus in a trade of for immediate submission. All this does not vary the fact that originally man before the fall was granted dominion over all he surveyed.*

These are the origins or families of the heavens and the earth (*the history from earth's creation and the stretching out of heaven, from stars to birds and fish to plants*) in the day when they were created or new when Yahweh the Strong God made earth and heaven and any shrub of the field was cut off and any green herb was cut off

1. *Moses is telling us there was no rain in those days but streams and fountains watered the earth from day 2-3 to 5. Plants were there but none had been cut to provide food for man but vapour came up from the earth and watered all the ground.*
2. *Moses tells us man was formed from red earth dust and "inbreathed" by the Spirit of lives. Man was like John the Baptist filled with the Spirit of God and man became a living soul*
3. *The LORD God set up a garden **from the east** in Eden (place of pleasantness and relaxation) This beautiful area may be related to the "fertile crescent" which stretches from Mesopotamia to Israel and on to Egypt. There God placed man.*
4. *A great variety of ornamental trees and fruit trees were there-and in the midst of the garden the tree of lives and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
5. *From Eden flowed a river dividing in four. The first tributary was PISHON-encircling HAVILAH Africa has first claim as a gold producer. Samaritan Torah interprets as the Nile. The land produced gold pearls and onyx. (cf Exodus 28 15-21) The second tributary circles the land of CUSH which is Ethiopia-clearly a river which ran west of the Nile. The third river, HAVILAH, went east towards ASSHUR and the fourth was PARATH or Euphrates which since Moses' time ceased to be a tributary and rises in Armenia. My view on the PISHON is supported by the fact that the only reference to the east links to the HAVILAH. All four rivers began in Eden. The ancient geography Moses set out is now*

lost to us. Henry Morris' gives a credible explanation of the rivers. Water from the sea area descends to a constant heat source under the surface which pressurises it upwards. This land based hydrology linked with subterranean pools was replaced, Morris says, by the present atmospheric movement of water linked with mountain snow melt and gravitational water distribution.

6. The LORD put man in Eden and said he could eat of the trees as he desired but of the tree of "the personal experience of good and evil he could not eat"-if he did the process of death would begin in his life.

7. God said it was not good that man should be alone-so he determined the wonderful surprise of a helper "who would be in his presence"

8. The LORD God formed animals & birds from the ground and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them-The high intelligence of man can be adduced from the fact that no second thought was needed.

READING No.3 Genesis 2.20-3.21

FIRST OPERATION AND FIRST MARRIAGE

20 The procedural order of naming the creatures was-domestic animals and great animals first, next birds and then what we would call wild animals. Adam "called out" the names "belonging to each". The expression suggests a bond as well as a name. The task would take a number of hours and involve several thousand creatures. Despite the time Adam could spend in the garden and in company with the animals there was no helper who would be "very like" or "constantly in his presence" (Hebrew NEGED) 21 In the divine operation that follows the LORD God caused Adam to sleep and become total inert. Then as Adam began to sleep He took one of his ribs and closed the flesh mark. 22 And the LORD built the rib into a woman and brought her to the man. Adam has scarce awakened until God who executed his building elsewhere brought Eve to Adam. We ought to observe that woman's first companion was the LORD Himself. To this day women especially & instinctively are conscious of the value of prayer. ...23 A beautiful example of how Adam named the creatures is seen in his one act of naming Woman. He said, "This tread" or "footstep"(Hebrew PhAAM) is bone from my bone and flesh from my flesh and she will call herself "woman" for she was taken out of man" The word "forward step" seems to be lost in translation; I believe the import is that man not only spoke but showed his affection-perhaps embracing the woman. This is the first time we have the recorded language of man-and man has by now a name for himself-which is probably God's favourite name for Adam-as "one of valour" "noble" akin to Jesus' customary greeting, "be of good courage". So woman deserved that good name because she was taken by God from his ISH she would be ISHAH. The sound of the two words in Hebrew makes plausible the possibility that man first spoke in a language with a sound system exactly like Hebrew that endured until the Babel division of language would render one of many tongues.24 Man's courage and nobility is seen in his leaving his parents to be damasked or welded (Hebrew DABAQ) to his wife for life. This unity in flesh is marriage and Adam was now married-a "noble" estate which lasted for hundreds of years through all the failure of the future and all the joys as well.25 Adam and his wife were not ashamed of their physical union or nakedness because they were innocent and had not known the disobedience of sin. ...3.1 **The naked impudence or sheer craft** of the "shining one" or old "serpent" (Rev 12.9& Genesis3.1) is annotated here.

BE AWARE OF SATAN'S DEVICES: THE FIRST LIE AND FIRST SIN 2-6a

1. He said to the woman "Any more on why God said you may not eat of every tree in the garden? There is no mention of LORD-ship. There is evidence of an earlier listening

2.The woman said to the serpent, "We **will** eat the fruit of every tree", adding that "God (notice the dropped LORD) has said "not from the tree in the midst of the garden" "Don't eat, don't touch, for fear of death" There may be evidence of discussion which Satan overheard and upon which He was basing this subtle approach

3. "You will not die a 'death'" is the **first lie** Physical death was inevitable though it may be valid that both Adam and Eve were saved-here is masterly subtlety

4. For God knows "your eyes will be opened to see more you will live as gods and you will have personal relationship with good and evil." The guile in this is to suggest previous blindness to things

that might be known; to suggest increase of power and to suggest future contact.

*5. The **first seed of sin was sown** and brought forth as Eve saw what she took to be lovely food and because it was as desirable as a life partner and most valuable to develop one's cunning. There is desire for a new relationship and to have subtle powers like the serpent*

THE HISTORY OF SALVATION OPENED WITH A GOSPEL CALL

*...6b-7 Eve took of the fruit and gave to her husband. Now there are two “H locale” terminations at the end of this sentence in the Hebrew. Adam **stood with Eve** and **he was there** at this point. The NT conundrum “Adam was not in the transgression” means that Adam did not buy into the lie but He took what they had concertedly previously considered from her hand. Their eyes were opened –the had an experience of naked embarrassment that involved their Creator-so that they did not welcome his presence and crafty ideas resulting in a quick-fix- Eve found needles and they had some sort of cord and both got busy sewing fig leaves-the **first rude clothing** ...8 As they were sewing they heard the voice of the saving LORD walking and still walking in the garden toward the evening breeze of the day. The LORD never breaks a covenant and cared enough to continue the relationship. Adam and Eve had been hiding themselves again and again (Hebrew Hithpael Future YITHHAhBEAh) No-one has portrayed this running away and this loving pursuit better than **John MASEFIELD in his "everlasting mercy"**. They hid from the face of the LORD God in the midst of a tree of the garden. The favourite tree for the commentator must be the fig –for they had no time to escape and their task was not complete-like man's wretched rags of righteousness their coats were of no lasting value....9 The saving LORD God was calling Adam, “Where are you?” **prophetic TORAH** of the gospel call 10 And Adam was saying, “I heard Your voice in the garden house and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid”. ...11 God reveals something we are not told earlier in His question, “Who is there to proclaim or celebrate your nakedness or craftiness? Have you eaten from the tree which I decreed constitutionally to make an exception from eating?”...12 The man instanced the fruit provider as the woman. ...13 God confronted Eve next with her action. Her defence was “The serpent deceived me and I ate.”...14 And Yahweh said to the serpent, “Why have you done this?” The divine curse distanced or set apart the serpent from livestock and wild creatures as detested and shunned. The curse changed the serpent to a sliding snake which “ate dust”. Snakes actually eat mice nowadays but the Old Serpent Satan is recognised to have an insatiable appetite for devouring man....15 And I will put persecution (Hebrew AhEYVAH) between you and the woman, your seed and hers, and He shall trample your head and you will trample His heel. ...16 To the woman He said, I will increase greatly your (conception)pain and your wailing, with pain you will bear sons, your desire will be for your husband and he will rule or teach you....17 The verb “to listen” is Preterite admitting of a period of suggestion leading to decision. Because he obeyed Eve not God he would have to “travel far” for food and “toil hard” with the earth life-long. Two more problems would follow-thorns or piercing briars and spreading or circling weed would spring up and man would eat the herbs of the field so food would be less easily obtained....19 Adam would through the sweat of his brow eat bread till he died. God pronounced a term to human life. “From red earth you were taken. Dust you are and to dust you will return”...20 And Adam called the name of his wife “Hayeh” (Eve) “the living one” because she was mother to all living and **God made them coats** (Hebrew KATHNOTH) “coats” (generally with sleeves and reaching the knees) **of skin or hide of an animal and clothed them -prophetic TORAH** of the righteousness of Christ. These were long lasting leather garments. Should these have been goatskin the death of several animals would be entailed. Towards the end of this segment are many firsts. The first painful pregnancies announced-indeed the first mention of pain. The first crying, also the first weeds and the first sweating occur. The first clothes are made and the first slaying of animals takes place-both by the hand of God.*

READING No.4 Genesis3.22-4.1-18

THE FIRST BIRTH AND MURDER

And the LORD God said (this designation means the triune God speaking through the Son) “Behold man has become as one of us to know good and evil” God acted to pre-empt man taking from the tree of life by effecting the expulsion from Eden. The thought of man living in a fallen state for one long age

(Hebrew LEAOLAM) which then appears to have been a possibility was not countenanced. There was no issue about eternal life so long as man received what was on offer in redemption and did not doom himself like Satan to a life without the Spirit and renewal that had to be accommodated in a dimension of ongoing gloom for the spirit. Here God was contemplating what we call "Hell"-where man would choose to make his state of sin continuous....3 God sent Adam from Eden to work the earth from which he was taken. Afterwards from the eastern side God placed Cherubim who dwelt there and also a flaming sword which rolled and tumbled to keep the way of the tree of life.

...4.1 Now we are told of the first birth. Cain was conceived outside Eden. Eve called him "Cain" as being "purchased" by pain and tears and blood. He was not "God's" but "hers". She felt her labours had brought a warrior who would be close to God and perhaps close the gap of the fall. Eve was over-zealous about her firstborn-it would be millennia before our glorious God given Saviour came. ...2 She later delivered Abel. Abel was a shepherd, Cain a farmer tilling ground for crops...3 From the harvest of days (The earth was highly productive and harvest yielded rapidly)Cain brought a portion of the fruit of the earth-a bloodless offering to the LORD who saves This preterite verb "bring" suggests that as long as he lived Cain didn't bring a proper offering...4 Abel "performed to bring"(Hebrew HABIAH)fat lambs from the firstborn of his flock and the LORD "saved" Abel and the offering or gift. The fact that Abel's offering is called "bloodless"(Hebrew MINHATH not ZEBAH)may mean that before he offered it he was killed...5 God didn't look but a moment (Hebrew SHhAAH)on Cain's and Cain had great burning anger and his face was sullen...6 God asked Cain to explain his anger and sullenness. ...7. God challenged Cain, "Isn't it so that if you do well you will be raised up and if you do not sin crouches like a dog at the door and it wants to follow you but you must be its master."...8 Cain invited Abel for a walk in the field. They were there-well away from home and Cain lifted up his empty breathe (of anger) against his brother **and slew him** as an animal is slain for sacrifice (Hebrew HARAG)...9.God asked Cain about the whereabouts of Abel. Cain said, "I don't know" "Am I my brother's keeper?"...10. God told Cain that the last cry of Abel to God concerning wrong done to him reached His ear as Abel lay dying amid his blood. It has to be observed that God did something special for Abel-he caused the earth to open up and possibly close over Abel...11 and told Cain the earth despised him and he was now cursed from farming! Cain was deeply afraid and wanted just to get away from the place where his useless offering was grown and his felony-the first murder-was committed. God's voice rebuked him most seriously....12 God told Cain the land would not serve him or yield her best and that he would wander and be chased (Hebrew NOD and NhA)The "land of Nod" is the land of "persecution"...13-14.And Cain prayed, "My wickedness is a greater burden of guilt than I can bear; behold today you are driving me from the red earth(where Adam was formed)and from a shelter (an allusion to his secured lodge) I'll be a wanderer and chased and whoever finds me will slay me like a lamb." This is a prayer that has allusion to God's expulsion of his parents and now him, it reflects deep sadness at the loss of trade and home and at its heart is deep sorrow and a burden shared with God alone about his future as just a wanderer...15.The Lord said "Not so!" He ruled that an avenger would be punished "seven times". **God actually marked Cain like his own lamb lest any avenger find and slay him.** This operation of grace for a murderer after a vile act -followed a deeply sorrowful prayer. Cain would presently turn to building the first real housing.

16..And Cain rose up from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of persecution east of Eden...17And knew his wife and she conceived and had a son -Enoch This is a very special name and this little boy was probably dedicated by sacrifice. His sister had a gentle influence on this hard man and the child she bare was given to God....18 It happened at the time **Cain** was building a city and he dedicated that city to God....19 To **Enoch** was born "**IRAD** (naked or demolished foundation or forsaken [city]..is this testimony to the early collapse of Cain's earlier city or to an early disruptive conflict?)His son was a "man smitten by God" **METHUJAEL** who named his son "man of God" (**METHUSAEL**) and his son in turn was **LAMECH**, "strength" who had three sons, **JABAL** the man who probably first promoted meat eating widely; **Jubal** the musician and **TUBAL-Cain** the arms inventor-who were contemporaries of godly Enoch.

READING No.5 4.19-26

THE ORIGINS OF MUSIC AND METAL WORKING

19 LAMECH married two wives-**the first** bigamy. LAMECH was a contemporary of godly Enoch. He was patently a rebel. His wives were ADAH ("testimony or "meeting" also "deposed king" and "ruined realm") and Zillah ("defence" and "prayer" and "shade") It would seem some sort of united spiritual worship and prayer is hinted by these names which come in the fourth generation from Adam. People were looking to God again in a very real sense on the Cain side as well as Seth's line. 20 And ADAH bare JABAL (Hebrew for "producing" or "rejoice" or "running water") He was the first (Father) to tent dwellers who purchase and raise cattle. This was a pleasant and wealthy life-style. Abraham adopted this mobile style exploiting the great open pasturelands. 21 The name of his brother was Jubal (Hebrew "joyful sound" "music" "trumpet sound") He was originator (father) of all who play the harp or pipe or organ. (We have two more significant **beginnings** here-the origins of wealth creation and trade and the origin of music) Zillah had a son, TUBAL Cain (Meaning "smith of metal" probably gave rise to the Roman name VULCAN -the god of metal) probably a sharpener of all metal fabrications of brass and iron. This was another **first**- the invention of the first war implements besides the first metal ploughs. TUBAL Cain's sister was NAAMAH (beautiful or gracious) ... LAMECH made clear in detail to his wives that he had "slain" a man or soldier who threatened me (Hebrew PATZAH often used of the stealthy approach of a beast of prey) and a youth associated in the attack on me 24 If Cain will have been avenged seven times then LAMECH avenged seventy seven times. This was essentially a protest about "self-defence" and reduced culpability. Nevertheless it suggests trouble or "violence" ahead. It would appear that LAMECH used and had used weapons that his sons invented. The credibility of his plea must be in some doubt as he was a man armed with modern weapons of that time. 25 And Adam knew his wife and she bare a son and called him Seth ("placed" or "tumult" or "contemplate") she believed God had replaced her beloved Abel with another "seed. The concept of seed takes us back to 3.15 where the "contest" with Satan is seen to be powerfully resumed. Eve's contemplation is in the context of growing violence and other deaths. There was unrecorded tumult and "violence" to which we are alerted in 6.13.... 26 To Seth also a son was born called ENOSH

EXORDIUM ON THE EARLIEST REVIVAL- "calling on the LORD"

This word "man" (Hebrew ENOSH) is formed on the Hebrew root of the term "man" (Hebrew AhISH) with the additional letter "N" which means "fish" but more significantly means 50 or "Jubilee". It softens and changes the concept of "man" the husband and soldier to "man" the "sent as a reminder of the beloved" or "sent as a fore-runner" of the Seed. Scripture adds, from that time (Hebrew AhZ) of "praise" or "lament" or "celebratory festival" (Hebrew HALAL) they called on the name of the LORD as the Saving One or they **preached** in the name of the Saviour. We have significant **prophetic TORAH** here. The family of Adam gathered to this occasion they proclaimed the "Coming Redeemer who would bruise the Serpent" and they called upon His name in prayer led by Adam himself. The existence of such occasion is clear from the above exposition. It could simply be "Adams grandson's birth 235 years after the creation though the child's name engrafted as it was with the letter for "jubilee" in the word "man" suggests more. One possibility is that the day of ENOSH'S birth was a jubilee of the birth of Abel who was so precious to God? **Whatever the cause of this great movement in Adam's prime a new name for "man" is created with a highly spiritual connotation.** In time long distant this name is used by Daniel of the "Son of Man" (Hebrew BAR-ENOSH) and by our LORD Himself when he spoke of His "humble birth and divine standing and power." **Prophetic TORAH** of God's Son our living Saviour.

READING No.6 Genesis 5.1-24 EXORDIUM ON THE BOOK OF "GENERATIONS" (Toledoth)

Ancient history was largely genealogy. Within the family listings were names whose choice spelled out the circumstances current at that time. Other outstanding events were added within the context of

names. Each time an antediluvian is mentioned one child who is the firstborn male-one only of numerous children(with one exception-Lamech's sons and his daughter) is registered in the book of generations-enabling us to arrive at Noah. The line of Seth ultimately takes us to Abraham and through David to Christ. But that apart the persons mentioned have in themselves a prophetic significance and I have tried to bring this out in the following paragraphs-thus recognising in the supposed repetitive mundane recounting of time moments of joy and reviving along the path of ancient history.

THE GENERATIONS OF ADAM-PROPHETIC BEGINNINGS (Jude 14)

*(a)...1 This is a book of the generations of Adam. In the day God created Adam he made him in the house of becoming like God. God gave man features that were specific to him and God left much room for increase in what we would call "Christ-likeness". Man was to be enabled to grow godly....2 God made male and female and gave His human family the name "**Adam**" ("red" or "ruddy") which signifies man's humble "dust" origins. The female was created within the original Adam....3 Adam was 130 when he became father of Seth-a son both in his "likeness" and as his "shadow". Seth benefited in two ways from Adam. First he grew like him as he achieved manhood and he was enlightened by his teaching (literally "light was thrown on him") in those years. This helps us understand how we too become more like the LORD....4 Adam had sons and daughters after that during the 8 centuries that followed. The original creation of Adam was a determinant of the comparative numbers of male and female children he fathered....5 Adam lived 930 years. Moses speaks of Adam's days as well-all 339,450 of them. Contrast that with today's lifespan of about 25,000 days. Adam was strong and healthy and lived to see the birth of LAMECH (whose classic poetry of the heart Gen 4 23-24) declares the continued need for divine grace), the eighth generation after him but his end came as the days of violence began. Adam's death confirmed the solemn words of God, "In the day that you eat you begin to die and will ultimately die"*

*(b)When **Seth** lived 105 years he fathered ENOSH, at that spiritually significant moment of history-living a further 807 years-912 year in all- with a growing family of his own. He died too. It was well understood by now that none would escape death. Seth Eve considered a replacement for Abel and Seth became an example of Christ-likeness*

*(c)**ENOSH** lived 90 years when he fathered KENAN (whose name can mean "measuring stick" or "wealth") KENAN'S life like a measure stretched out right till the days of Noah. His was the pre-diluvian generations to live to see Noah. ENOSH missed the birth of Noah expiring just 6 years prior He lived 905 years in all leaving a substantial mixed family. As the first paragraph of the section shows his birth hailed a time of spiritual growth*

*(d)**KENAN** who lived 179 years into the time of Noah had a son called MAHALALEL which is a lovely name-it means "Praise of God" or "Hallel to El" There can be little doubt but that the ENOSH time was one of preaching prayer and praise which strongly influenced the generations coming afterwards for the better. KENAN'S life fell short of that of Adam by only 20 years. His life becomes the first instance of the measure of the patience of God.*

*(e)**Mahalalel** became father of Jared at 65.He lived 895 years. He also met Noah. The highlight of his life was the birth of Jared when he was 65. All of these named men were the firstborn of their father. Jared (Hebrew for "flowing down" or "cast down". The word is used of "movement downwards"; "descending from mountainous areas" or going down in search of water abundant water or better irrigation. It may testify to a family move from lofty settlement to a lower elevation.)*

*(f)**Jared** was the oldest Pre-diluvian to date. If, as I have suggested, his father moved to a low elevation the benefit of greater atmospheric protection as is achieved today at the level of the dead sea might well have been a factor in his longevity. Jared out-lived Adam and overlapped the life of Noah by 364 years. His son Enoch (meaning "initiated" or "trained") is traditionally credited with developing writing skills. His name suggests he was uniquely equipped to record God's will. In Jude 12 we are told he was a*

prophet and prophesied the "second coming" or coming as king of the LORD who saves-an event He predicted would be one which combined the saints of earlier and ancient time.

(g)**Enoch** at 65 had a son whom he called "Man of the missile" or "man of the calamity" If we are to accept the unique prophetic insight of this man we do well to understand that more than a military dart is predicted. Already such instruments were probably developed. The better understanding would seem to be a massive missile (meteorite) that would trigger calamity, occur at the time of the deluge and explain the tilt in the axis of the earth. The vision that Enoch was given at this time completely redirected the course of his life. **And Enoch walked with God and was not (there) because God took him to His home** (Hebrew LAQAH as a bridegroom taking a wife to His Father's house). This act is itself a picture or **prophetic TORAH** of the LORD'S coming for His church.

READING No.7 5.25-6.4 **BEGINNING OF PREACHING (2PETER2.5)**

Methuselah at 187 had a son called **LAMECH** ("strong") He also had a very strong family over hundreds of years and died the world's oldest man at 969 years. It is revealing to discover from calculation that Methuselah died just 782 years after **LAMECH'S** birth and if we add **LAMECH'S** age at Noah's birth to the age of Noah at the flood we get the sum of 182 plus 100 which is exactly 782 so grand-father Methuselah died the very year of the flood -**LAMECH** his son had pre-deceased him by 5 years so neither lived to experience the terrible deluge. **Methuselah died in the year 1656** from creation assuming the generations as recorded by Moses are comprehensive. The year length may have been marginally shorter presuming the earth was originally perfectly true to its elliptical orbit around the sun-giving an exact 360 days per annum and not 365.

LAMECH had a firstborn son whom he called **Noah** (Rest) and named him in hope that mankind would be comforted on account of the curse of God on the ground and the painful toil would be abated. One can be forgiven for being disappointed with **LAMECH** who looked to Noah and not to the LORD for consolation.

Noah is a quite exceptional man. First he appears not to have married until just before or on his 500th year. **He clearly was aware of the significance of his times and well briefed on Enoch's prophetic writings.** He occupied himself as one of history's **earliest** preachers calling in a violent age for true repentance. Methuselah was 869 or thereabouts when he attended Noah's wedding. The LORD gave Noah what appears to be a special favour of three sons-though perhaps not triplets? He had a first-born **Shem** ("a name"-for Shem would carry the divine name) and also **Ham** ("black"-for his progeny would inhabit the hot dusty lands of Africa) and **Japheth** ("enlargement"-for from him many great nations would spread over the world). From these three the world was to be re-populated after the flood.

SUMMARY: MANKIND EXPANDS: THE BEGINNING OF DRASTIC MORAL & SPIRITUAL COLLAPSE

It came to pass as man in accordance with numerical growth profaned or violated the covenant of God on earth; (Hebrew HLL) sons were born to them. The "**sons of God**"(fallen angels) took the daughters of men -beautiful women-they took wives from all the women they chose. God said his Spirit would not rule plead and strive with man for any long period. Man was put under a warning just 20 years before Noah was married. This probably set Noah's preaching career and calling at red alert as he called to a race which had now been given notice of judgement to come. Mans 120 years with immediate effect meant that any born at or after that date would not live beyond it and after the flood alike lifespan would be reduced accordingly. The next genealogy in Genesis 11 sees lifespan precipitously reduce from 500 to 200 years within the next millennium.

*The **Nephilim** were on earth before the flood and **after that too**. Numb13.33cf ANAKIM, also Dan2.43? They could span the flood because they also inhabited another dimension as "fallen ones". (Hebrew NEPHELM) That this is their nature is the united view of Josephus, the LXX translators, the ancient Jewish interpreters and earliest Christian commentators. Angels as in their appearance to Abraham ate with him and equally angels held the hands of Lot and his wife and children to hasten their escape. Heavenly angels who kept their estate "do not marry" **but these who left their OIKETERION (Greek) broke with that restriction and committed polygamy on a large scale to quickly corrupt the human race.** They fathered giants, great warriors from that ancient age, beings with "son of man-like fame after death"-that is, they had earthly and heavenly background and died on earth in the deluge and otherwise in Herculean struggles. The Greek legends of Zeus and the Titans and many such epic accounts testify to this era in the folk memory of man. Jude 6 2Peter 2 4-6 and 1Peter 3 19-20 corroborate the "fallen angel" reading. Their flagrant rebellion which included going after strange flesh as was the practice in Sodom condemned them to TARTARUS (2Peter 2.4) The fearful prejudice these fallen angels were perpetrating against the divine purpose demanded the draconian judgement of the flood. Their part in the violence of the pre-flood world was momentous*

The end of the Part 1: "Beginnings"