WOK Conference 2024 Back to the Future Session 1 The Beginning and the End

Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done,

The Word of the Lord given through Isaiah the Prophet simply states that God has declared the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done. And as we come to the final Book of Scripture Jesus makes the statement that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End, who is and who was and who is to come. And these are words that He speaks at the time of the resurrection/rapture of the church, prior to the beginning of the Tribulation, in anticipation of Christ's Millennial Kingdom, the coming Seventh Day. He is the Alpha, the Beginning, and in that beginning, Christ is the Omega, the End which has been declared.

And during the Lord's earthly ministry to an eternally saved generation of Jews, offering them the Kingdom of the heavens, He said this – Jn 5:45 *Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. 46 For if you believed*

Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Iesus said that Moses wrote about Him and if what had been written by Moses had been believed then His words would have been confirmed and they would have believed Him. And Moses of course, was responsible for writing the first Book of the Bible, which deals with ancient times, the Book of Beginnings, the Book of Origins, the Book we know as Genesis. And following His resurrection, Jesus once again turned to Moses to reveal Himself to His disciples -

Lk 24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Moses in the Book of Beginnings wrote about the Christ who is the Alpha, the Beginning, declaring through what he wrote, that Christ is the Omega, the End.

Ge 1:1 *In beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

These are the very first words that God gave Moses to record in His revelation to Man, and as such they are the underpinning for the foundational thirty-three verses that follow, upon which all the rest of Scripture is built. And as such it would be good to pay them some particular attention.

Most Bibles have the translation of the start of this verse as, 'In the beginning...., but the word 'the' is not present in the original language. The use of the word 'the' given where it is placed at start of all Scripture creates the illusion of a point of beginning, a specific moment in time when God began. And as a result, people can be misled into thinking that this is the first action that God took as He created the material universe. However, this would not be the correct way to view this.

As far as God is concerned, He has no beginning point, He is the Beginning and He has no end point, He is the End. Pure and simple – Ps 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

And to assume that the material universe is being referred to when God created the heavens, and the earth is not borne out by the Scriptures. The creation of the heavens and the earth, deals with the inhabited earth that we know, and the heavens associated with it – Isa 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

And it is from the heavens that rulership takes place – Da 4:26......the heavens do rule.....

The focus throughout the Scriptures is on this one province in God's universal Kingdom and it would be entirely inconsistent with the rest of Scripture for the first verse in all of the Scripture to deal with something different. And so, if we are not dealing with the beginning point in time for the creation of the Universe, which we are not, then what was God doing 'in beginning'? To begin with the word translated 'beginning' has to do with being first in the order of importance, rather than a specific starting point in time. So, then, the most important thing that God did as the Alpha, the Beginning, was to create the heavens and the earth. And why was this the most important thing? Because in doing so He declared the End of the matter with respect to the One who said. 'I am the Alpha and the

Omega.' Again - Ge 1:1 *In beginning God* [Elohim. The plural form of the word translated God, showing more than one]......

In 1:1 In beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things were made through Him**, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

That which we read in John and Colossians is exactly the same as that written by Moses, that which God had given him, in the first verse of all Scripture, with John and Colossians adding more detail to that which was initially said.

And in this we see Jesus, the One who said, 'I am the Alpha', 'I am the Beginning', through whom all things have been made. We see Jesus, for whom all things have been made. And that which has been made by Him and for Him, in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible, are thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. Or to sum this up in one word, RULERSHIP. And the fulfillment of God's purpose with respect to rulership and the One who is the Omega, the End, is recorded in the Book of His Revelation, the last Book of Scripture. A Book given by God to the Apostle John to record, the same John whose Gospel begins in exactly the same place as Moses began –

Re 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

As we continue on in the first Chapter of Genesis, we find that the heavens and the earth became formless and void because of Satan's rebellion. He was the original 'messianic angel' given jurisdiction over the earth. Not only did his rebellion cause his sanctuaries to be defiled, cause the earth to become formless and void, but he was also disqualified as the earth's ruler. And we know from the very first verse of Scripture, taken to its conclusion in the Revelation, Who, would rule the heavens and the earth in Satan's place. The One who made all things and for whom all things were made, but He would not do this alone - Ge 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."............. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Adam was created on the Sixth Day and the Woman was built from a part of Adam's body on the same Day. And they were given a mandate by which they were to rule over the material creation that had been restored over five days of preceding work. And this was to be during the Seventh Day.

Ge 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

As we add vv2-3 to what we have already seen, we find the Spirit of God, which is also the breath of God, moving over the face of the waters. And as God spoke, so His breath, His Spirit brought forth light.

This was the first Day, and God's work to restore that which had been ruined by sin, the material creation, was not completed on this Day. There were another four Days of subsequent work before the creation of Man on the Sixth Day, in anticipation of rulership in the Seventh Day – 2 Pe 3:8 *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

And in the six days of work followed by a Seventh Day of rest an unalterable, irrevocable, Divinely perfect process for the restoration of a ruined creation was established – Ge 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Knowing the purpose for God's creation of the Man and the Woman, Satan was strategically placed in the Garden to deceive the Woman. Which he did. And this deception took place before they could fulfill the mandate given to them in Genesis 1:28 and therefore before they could fulfill the purpose for their creation. They became disqualified, ruined by the introduction of sin, and the restored material creation over which they were to have ruled came under a curse because of it. It became ruined as well but remained habitable – Ge 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake......

However – Ro 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Romans 8:20 deals with that seen in Genesis 3:17. So, what is the hope that the restored creation had as it was subjected to ruin? That it would be delivered from the bondage of corruption when the sons of God are revealed. And what would be the basis for this hope of deliverance? It was based upon Him, the Alpha and the Omega, who subjected it in this hope – Ge 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

The basis for the hope of deliverance is God's provision of death and shed blood to pay redemption's price. Provided by God for Adam and his wife through the death and shed blood of the animals killed to clothe them. And this foundational picture of redemption finds its ultimate fulfillment in the death and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The One who subjected the creation to futility in the hope of its deliverance.

Adam and Eve could not redeem themselves, the restored creation under a curse cannot redeem itself; Israel when in Egypt could not redeem itself and every human being procreated in the likeness of fallen Adam can do nothing to bring about their own redemption. All is contingent on redemption's price, death and shed blood – Ex 12:13 *Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you*

Ex 12:13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

In 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.......

Redemption for fallen Adam and the Woman, redemption for Israel in Egypt and yet future, redemption for those born dead in trespasses and sins and for the creation under a curse is brought to pass by one means ONLY, death and shed blood. So where do we see death and shed blood in the second verse of all of Scripture as God began to redeem the ruined creation following Satan's rebellion? We see it in in the place where God gave it in His unchangeable Word -

Re 13:8.....the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

It is the death and shed blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom and for whom, all things were made, that is the basis for God speaking 'let there be light' on the first day in Genesis Chapter 1. He is the Alpha, the Beginning, who through His death and shed blood has not only declared the end but is the Omega, the End Himself. The detail is not given by Moses in Genesis as this is the foundation, and nor does it need to be, because the same God who inspired Moses to write added the detail Himself in the last Book, the Book of His Revelation. Remembering – Heb 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

How is it possible for the Lamb to be slain from the foundation of the world when the Jewish people, to whom this privilege was given, didn't crucify Him until 32AD? We are not expected to explain it, simply to believe it. But as always, the Scripture helps – Ecc 3:15 *That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past.*

And in the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world is to be found the efficacy for the death and shed blood of the animals killed to clothe Adam and Eve and for every Passover Lamb until the Lord's crucifixion. And as the salvation we presently possess is based upon the same, the death and shed blood of God in the person of Son, His completed work at Calvary, how could anyone think that the first generation of Israel to come out of Egypt were not redeemed or that

the Jews alive at the Lord's first Advent, who had been slaying the Passover Lambs for generations, were not redeemed either.

Let's take this back into Genesis - Ge 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. [the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world] And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

The movement of the Spirit of God leading to God speaking, His breath forming the words, is based upon the redemptive purpose of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. And that which immediately takes place is the introduction of light and the division of the light from the darkness – Lk 1:79 *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.*"

And as we had seen earlier, this was the first of six days of work to complete the redemptive process, with a Man and a Woman then to rule together in the Seventh Day. The creation of Adam adds another facet to the picture of the light being spoken into being on Day One – Ge 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

The Man was created from the dust of the ground, but his body was dead and did not become alive until God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Then he 'became a living being'. And not until he became a living being was he able to do anything with respect to God's purpose for creating him – Eph 2:1 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.....*

And how did God make us alive when we were dead in trespasses and sins? In the same way that we see in Genesis 2:7. As we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ God breathed into us the breath of life. His Spirit entered us, and we have spiritual life. And ONLY following this initial step can any of us operate in the realm of the Spirit. And both Ephesians 2:1 and Genesis 2:7 must be seen in conjunction with the light and the darkness in Genesis 1:3.

And what Scripture has made very plain is that the events surrounding Day One in Genesis do not complete God's redemptive purpose. The free gift of eternal salvation, the passing from death to life is therefore not the end of the matter. It is the key, so to speak that opens the door for what must come next. That pictured through Days 2-6 in Genesis Chapter 1. That which will complete God's redemptive process for His fallen creation resulting in rulership in the Seventh Day in exact accord with the foundation.

Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The so great a cloud of witnesses are those seen in the previous Chapter of Hebrews, Chapter 11, OT saints who had faith to the saving of the soul. Those who through their faith have demonstrated the certainty of God's promise for which they still wait – Ro 4:13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. [to the saving of the soul]

Ga 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

And as this great cloud bear witness to this, so we are to look away from this world unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. And as the Book of Hebrews is a Book that deals with matters beyond the free gift – Heb 2:5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.

Then our faith of which Jesus is the author and finisher is not referring to the salvation we presently possess, the free gift, but the salvation of our soul. And Jesus is the originator of this faith, of which He is also the example. And where do you think we should place the origin of the salvation of the soul? Where should we turn to see where our faith to the saving of the soul must begin? Where else but the Book of Origins. The time must come for each of us when we realize that to have the faith that will result in the salvation of our soul, we must begin in Genesis 1:1 where we will find the One who is the Alpha, the Beginning, through whom the end in which we are to have faith is declared.

The verses from Hebrews Chapter 2 also tell us that for the joy that was set before Him, ruling in the Seventh Day with His joint heirs, Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame. But where should we place this statement? We have always put it at the end of the Lord's earthly ministry, in the days before He was crucified. But surely this must be applied to the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The joy set before Him did not begin at Calvary but prior to the moment that God spoke light into the darkness. And this is where we will begin also - 1 Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you

have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

And as we continue in Genesis Chapter 1 beyond Day One, the foundational picture for the free gift, so we come to Days Two through Five where we find pictured a continuing work of the Spirit among those who are already saved, pictured through Day One. A continuing work of the Spirit to bring the Christian who has faith to the goal of that faith, the salvation of his soul that he might be an heir according to the promise given to Abraham and a joint heir with Christ in the Kingdom Age – Ro 8:16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

And at the conclusion of God's redemptive work that begins but does not end with Day One, we come to Day Six and the creation of the Man and the Woman for the purpose which has been declared from the first verse of all Scripture through the one who is the Alpha, and the Omega, the creation of the heavens and the earth. The most important action God took in the accomplishment of His purpose by and for His Son.

And to the detail from Chapter 1 we can add God's commentary from Genesis Chapter 2 – Ge 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a

man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

According to the Scripture – Ro 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of **Adam, who is a type of Him** who was to come.

To which we can add - Eph 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

In anticipation of the Seventh Day in Genesis Adam, who is a type of Christ, was put into a deep sleep and from his body was taken the Woman, flesh of his flesh and bone of his bones. She was taken from his body therefore, she was just like Adam in every respect, but not all Adam's body became the Woman. And Adam is a type of Him who was to come, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End.

Just as the Woman was taken from Adam's body after he had been put into a deep sleep, so the Bride for Christ will be taken from His body following Him having been put into a deep sleep.

At the end of the sixth day, the sixth one thousand years from Adam, the body of Christ, all Christians from this dispensation will appear in His presence at His Judgment Seat, who will hear the words we began with this evening, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End, who is and who was and who is to come.'

And from the gathered body of Christ those who have had faith to the saving of the soul will be removed, identified as His Bride, adopted as

firstborn sons, His joint heirs, to enter with Him into the Seventh Day to have dominion in the place of Satan and his angels.

With the redemption of their souls accomplished, those taken from His body will be 'flesh of His flesh and bone of His bones'. They will be in the image and likeness of God having a redeemed spirit, a redeemed soul, and a redeemed glorified body – Mt 13:43 *Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

1 Th 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.