

LINE UPON LINE

Lesson #6

God's Prophetic Timetable: The 7,000 Year Plan of God

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Establish that God has a 7,000 year redemptive plan for man and the earth.
- Learn both the Biblical and extra-Biblical sources which teach about the 7,000 year plan of God.
- Understand the names of the different ages of the 7,000 year time frame.
 - Olam Haba = World to Come
 - Olam Hazeh = The Present Age/World
 - Athid Lavo = The Future Age/Coming
 - Yemot Mashiach = The Days of the Messiah
- Learn the spiritual understanding of the 7,000 year division of time.
- Learn that the current Jewish year 57xx is not literally since the creation of Adam and Eve.

GOD'S PROPHETIC TIMETABLE **("The 7,000 Year Plan of God")**

==> This is a major concept and foundational truth in understanding the eschatology (study of last things) of the Bible, the fall festivals in particular and Bible prophecy in general.

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==> From Creation to the end of the millennial (1,000 year) reign of Christ was understood to be 7,000 years long. This was based upon tying the 7 days of creation (*Genesis 1:1, 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31, 2:1-3*) to *Psalms 90:4* and *II Peter 3:8*. We can establish this Bible fact because both *Psalms 90:4* and *II Peter 3:8* are our two witnesses of this, which establishes a Biblical truth.

==> This has been a traditional understanding of time in Rabbinic/Orthodox Judaism. This is still the understanding today.

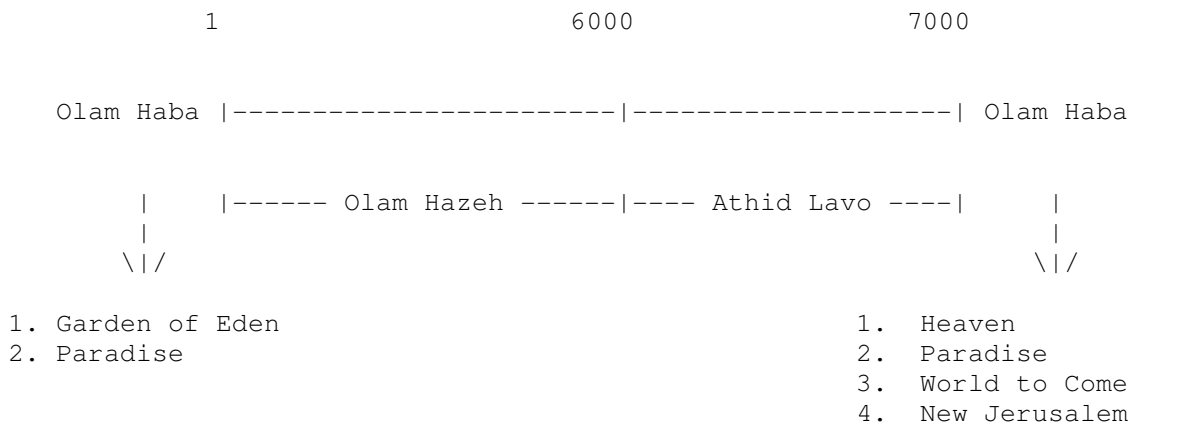
==> The 7,000 year plan of God has been consistent with Jewish thought for thousands of years. The apostle Barnabas who was a partner in ministry to the Apostle Paul (Rav/Rabbi Sha'ul/Paul) (*Acts 13:2, Acts 14:14*). The Epistle of *Barnabas* written in the 1st century explicitly tied the 7 days of creation to *Psalms 90:4* and the 7,000 year plan of God. (See the handout of the epistle of Barnabas; *Barnabas 13:3-6*.)

==> The Talmud (a collection of customs, rules, and understandings concerning different subjects given by God in the Bible to the Jewish people passed by oral teachings from generation to generation which was written down from 200-600 C.E. [Common Era]) tells us in Sanhedrin 97b that the world is to exist for 7,000 years based on *Psalms (Tehillim) 90:4*.

==> The current year on the Hebrew calendar is 57xx. Although this date, in theory, is supposed to be the number of years since the creation of Adam, this dating of time was only done in the 8th or 9th century in response to our modern dating of time. It is not literally the year since the creation of the world. In recalculating time since the beginning of the world, approximately 250 years of time was not counted during the time which the Jews were taken captive in Babylon ("*Judaism in the 1st Century Christian Era*," Volume I, Chapter I by George Foote Moore).

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Below is how the 7,000 years of time was seen:



Paradise is a term for heaven (*Luke 23:42-43, II Corinthians 12:2-4*)

Olam Haze ---> The present age

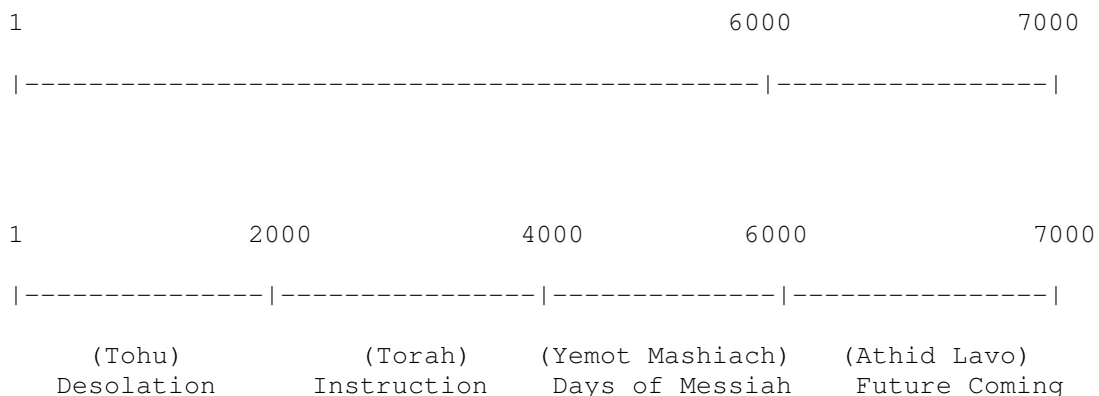
Athid Lavo ---> the future age (coming) ---> the 1,000 year millennium

Olam Haba ---> the world to come

==> Time is going forward to the past. That which was is that which shall be (*Ecclesiastes 1:9*). The world to come is seen as being like the Garden of Eden. Time is going forward in a circle. The best way to envision time is not on a flat plain but as a circle.

==> God has a 7,000 plan of redeeming man and the earth back to God. The Messiah (*Yeshua/Jesus*) was seen as the central figure in accomplishing the redemption.

==> The 6,000 years were divided into three 2,000 year periods as follows:



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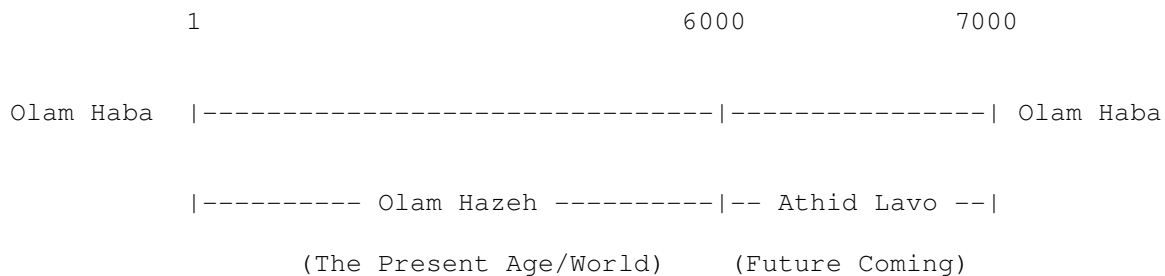
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==> The division of time will correspond to how our lives evolve from being lost and without God, gaining a knowledge of God, believing the message and living the Christian life, and inheriting our promised future reward.

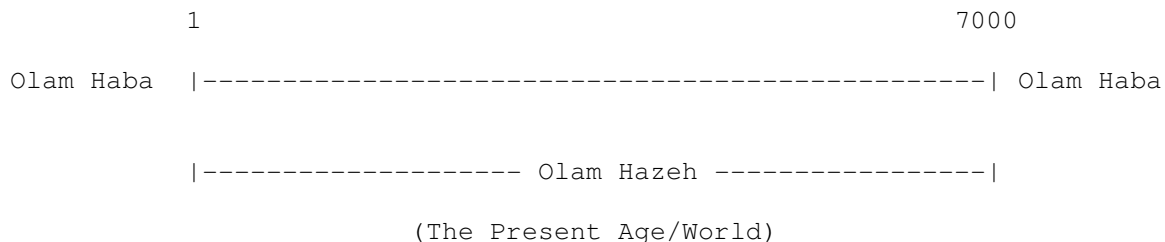
1. Tohu = desolation (speaks about being lost and without God) - (*Ephesians 2:12*)
2. Torah = Instruction (we learn of God) - (*Romans 10:17, John 3:16, Romans 10:8-11*)
3. Yemot Mashiach = the days of the Messiah (we live the Christian life)
4. Athid Lavo = the future age (this speaks of our promised eternal inheritance we receive by being believers) - (*Ephesians 1:9-14, Hebrews 9:15, 1 Peter 1:3-4*)

==> The 7,000 years of time was seen in multiple ways.

A. Corporate: Time/environment for the physical earth



B. Individual: Spiritual picture for those who never receive the Messiah



---> Those who never receive the Messiah live according to the laws of the natural world rather than the provisions of the Kingdom of God.

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C. Messiah: Time is divided into Messiah's coming:
(Pre-Messiah and Post-Messiah)

1 4000 7000

Olam Haba |-----|-----| Olam Haba

|----- Olam HazeH ----- | ----- Yemot Mashiach---|

(The Present Age/World) (The Days of the Messiah)

D. Messiah: Time measured according to Messiah's 1st and 2nd coming

1 4000 6000 7000

Olam Haba |-----|-----|-----| Olam Haba

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|-- Olam Hazeh --| Yemot Mashiach | --- Athid Lavo --|
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(Resurrection) (Resurrection) (Resurrection)

(Matthew 27:52-53) (I Thessalonians 4:14-17) (Rev 20:5,11-15)
(Ephesians 4:8) (I Corinthians 15:51-53)

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LESSON REVIEW/QUESTIONS

1. What is Biblical eschatology?
2. What is the significance of the seven days of creation in establishing God's 7,000 year prophetic timetable for the earth?
3. Give two scripture references for establishing that there are 7,000 years in God's prophetic timetable for the earth which connect their interpretation back to the seven days of creation.
4. Give a reference in the Talmud which discusses the 7,000 year plan of God.
5. Is the current Jewish year of 57xx the literal number of years since the creation of Adam?
6. Give the Hebrew term for the 'The Present World/Age', 'The Future Age/Coming', and 'The World to Come'.
7. How is eternity past and the Garden of Eden referred to as the 'Olam Haba' and eternity future called the 'Olam Haba'?
8. Give several terms which are synonymous with the 'Olam Haba'.
9. What period of time is referred to as 'The Future Age'?
10. What is the term which refers to years 1-6000?
11. Fill in the Hebrew and English names for the separate ages pertaining to the 7,000 year plan of God given in the chart below.

1	2000	4000	6000	7000
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12. How do the ages in question #11 relate to the individual believer in Yeshua as Messiah?
13. What is the common event associated with the ending of 'The Present Age', 'The Days of the Messiah' and the 'Future Age'?
14. Why can the 7,000 year plan of God be broken up into several different time frames?