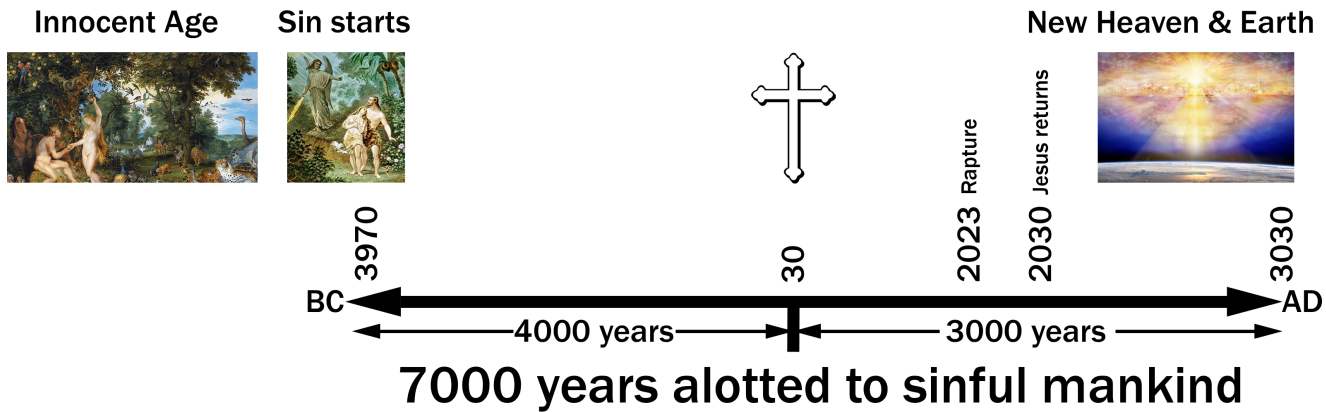


The Time Allotted to Mankind

by Armin A. Wolff

Does God deal in approximations? I don't think so! In God's physical creation everything is amazingly precise. I think this extends to the realm of time and prophecy also.



The foundational assumption (axiom) of this essay is that God exists and has communicated and still communicates his absolute truth with human beings. This communication is not merely some sets of facts, but is God himself in the person of Jesus Christ as recorded in John 14:6 and all other scriptures as written in their original languages.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

I think in the time we are now living, we are headed from third-base to the home plate. Do we really believe what God tells us in Scripture? Are 2Peter 3:8 or Psalm 90:4 really to be taken literally? I firmly believe this is *literally* true. The Bible does have other literary constructs, but in the main it is a document that must be read as literal truth.

2Peter 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

I believe that God says what he means and means what he says. I firmly believe that the *1 God day = 1000 people years* is an exact mathematical equation. God in his omniscience was fully aware of the impending fall of man into sin. God who is

not subject to time, solved mankind's problem with sin once and for all through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. That event of central importance, the crucifixion of Jesus happened on April 11 in the year 32 A.D. There is also considerable evidence for April 7, 2030 and April 3, 33AD. There is some disagreement among scholars, but whatever the exact date scholars may agree on, the cross of Christ is at the divide of time. Our calendar still reflects this.

Missing the target

Many people do not like nor understand that little three letter word "sin". It comes from an archery term as used in that popular sport in ancient Greece. An archer who missed the target was said to have "sinned". The *perfection* and righteousness of God is the target. Ever since the first man missed that target, every human being descended from him has missed the target as well. We all have "sinned" and come short of the righteous perfection of God.

Fear of death controls people

The Covid-19 crisis is a rehearsal for what is coming, when fear filled people will meekly obey the edicts of the coming world government. Those who have chosen not to believe God's word, can be easily controlled by their fear of death. All crises together will not equal the worldwide crisis of fear that will happen after Jesus takes his redeemed people away from this planet. God tells us in his

word that people's hearts will be failing them because of the fear of what will soon happen. They will be crying for the rocks and mountains to cover them and hide them from the coming wrath of God. (Revelation 6:16)

Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

7000 years to deal with sin

Because of my study of science and technology, I have often marveled over the mathematical precision of God's universe. I don't think that God's word and the prophecies therein is any less precise. The God who created time has allotted a specific amount of it for the existence of the universe and humans therein. The existence of the first human was not constrained by time, because he was created as an eternal, timeless, spirit-person made in the image of God. It is only after man sinned that he became subject to death and of necessity, subject to time. Sin and death as well as time as we now experience it, are limited to a total of seven God days. These days are spelled out in Genesis as *six days* of work and *one day* of rest. That is equivalent to 7000 human years.

The context within which Peter gives us God's time scale factor is the end of this present creation and a brand-new creation that has not existed before. God, through the apostle Peter tells us that this time equivalency is a ***fact***, not a metaphorical, literary expression.

Jesus proclaimed King

The date from which Daniel predicted for the Messiah to be proclaimed King was based on the issuance of an edict by Artaxerxes, the ruler of Persia. Throughout the ministry of Jesus, there were occasions when the people wanted to crown Jesus as their king, their Messiah. Jesus did not allow this to be done except on that special day, when he rode on that donkey into the city of Jerusalem. On that day as Jesus rode that donkey into Jerusalem he wept over that city (Luke 19:41-

42), because although they could have known, the Jewish leadership rejected the Messiah of Israel.

Later that week, only five days later the fickle crowd who had shouted hosanna to the King yelled crucify, crucify him! Then on the third day after the crucifixion, exactly 7 days later from Palm Sunday, God resurrected Jesus from the grave. God wants us to know his plans. (Amos 3:7) There is a book still in print by Sir Robert Anderson that goes into the details of Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 9:25.

First coming of Messiah

Through the prophet Daniel God tells us the exact date when Messiah the King would appear in Israel as King. (Daniel 9:25-26)

Daniel 9:25-26 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and wall, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, Messiah shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

• Order to rebuild Jerusalem

There were 4 decrees issued concerning the return from the Babylonian exile of the Jews to their homeland. Three of them are chronicled in the book of Ezra and concern the re-building of the temple. However, they were not given the authority to be independent and were not allowed to rebuild the fortifications and their military at this time. This gave rise to physical and spiritual frustration and no real progress toward the goal of restoring the city and nation to its former status. The book of Nehemiah chronicles much of this frustrating time. Notice a detail in Daniel 9:25; it mentions not the temple, but the city itself with its streets and the *wall* are to be rebuilt. Nehemiah succeeds in getting the permission that allows the re-building of the city, and especially the means of defense thereof. According to Daniel, the count starts from the day the decree or command is given to rebuild Jerusalem and specifically its wall. When this command was given is recorded in the book of Nehemiah. (Nehemiah 2:1)

Nehemiah 2:1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

• **Mathematical Prophecy**

According to Daniel, Messiah will come 173,880 days after the after Artaxerxes' decree. It is important to remember the Babylonian calendar was 360 days to the year. ($483 \times 360 = 173,880$) That day according to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich England was 14 March, 445 BC. That was the first day of Nisan, which is the beginning of the ecclesiastical Jewish new year. By straightforward counting according to the Julian calendar which we use, that comes to 477 years and 24 days. We have to remember to subtract one year from that, because there is no year zero. That leaves us with 476 years and 24 days. Now we have to account for leap years. That adds $476 \text{ years} / 4 = 119 \text{ days}$. That brings us to 173,883 days which is remarkably close to the 173,880 day figure given in Daniel.

God deals in exact numbers

Close enough only counts in horseshoes. God our Creator deals in exact numbers. It turns out the discrepancy comes from the fact that the Julian calendar year is $1/128$ of a day longer than a true solar year. Because of that, it is necessary to omit a leap year every 128 years. If that factor is corrected for, and we get back *exactly* to the original 173,880 day number. Therefore we come to Sunday, April 6, 32 A.D. which is the exact day upon which Jesus rode as King of the Jews into Jerusalem.

The prophet Zechariah predicted the precise circumstances of the event. (Zechariah 9:9) and Daniel had given us the exact day of the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

7000 years for sinful mankind

In the year 2032 on April 11, it will be *exactly* 2000 years (two God days) after the date of Jesus death. Through the prophet Hosea, God informs us that after two days, God will revive Israel and on

the third day he will come to them and they shall live before him. (Hosea 6:2)

Hosea 6:2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

After about 2000 years, on May 14, 1948 Israel became an independent nation once again. If that equation is literally true, which I believe it is, then Jesus will come back to earth, specifically to Jerusalem, in the year 2032.

God's Plan Cannot Thwarted

2032 is the year when Jesus Christ will begin his millennial rule on the earth. After additional 1000 years, in the year 3032, the time clock for sinful mankind will have run out after 7000 years total.

Dissolution of this present Creation

According to the apostle Peter and other prophecies, God will then incinerate this sin-soaked earth.

Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

God will roll up the universe and create a new heaven and a new earth where sin and death will no longer exist.

Isaiah 34:4 The heavens above will melt away and disappear like a rolled-up scroll. The stars will fall from the sky like withered leaves from a grapevine, or shriveled figs from a fig tree.

How old was Jesus when he died?

Many scholars believe that Jesus was born in 4 BC. That means that by the year 32, he would've been 35 years old. We read in Scripture that he began his ministry at about 30 years of age. That is also how old a person must be in order to become a high priest according to the law of Moses. The apostle

Paul labels Jesus as the "second Adam".
(1Corinthians 15:45)

1Corinthians 15:45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

In Scripture he is also called high priest. (Hebrews 3:1)

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

Jesus, this high priest lived a sinless, perfect life of 35 years. Was the duration of Adam's sinless existence, before his expulsion from the garden, also only 35 years? We are not given this information in Scripture. If we go back exactly $7000 - 3000 = 4000$ years from the crucifixion, then we get to the year 3972 BC. Is that the year that Adam was expelled from the garden and the 7000 year time clock for the existence of sin in this present creation and therefore sinful mankind started ticking? In Scripture we are not given the exact date when Adam was expelled from the garden of Eden.

Good and evil inseparably intertwined

At this time we all live in a world where good and evil are inextricably intertwined. Jesus tells us in Matthew 13 that human beings are incapable of making a clean separation between good and evil. Human efforts to do this separation have always resulted in the good suffering with the evil ones.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Matthew 13:39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

He tells us that the reapers, that are the Angels, will do this at the end of time when the harvest comes.

No one knows the day or hour

In a number of Scriptures we are informed that there will be a seven year period of time unlike any other before then or thereafter, to be split up into two halves. That time is labeled "Jacob's trouble" and also the "tribulation". The last half of this

seven year period is often referred to as the "Great Tribulation". The dates of major events in prophecy have been accurately known. The coming of Jesus for his church is the **only** date that we are not informed of, but are even specifically told that no one knows that exact *day or hour*. We do however know the *season*.

The time period for the church starts from Pentecost, but will end at some indeterminate time before Jesus returns to earth in 2032, where every eye shall see him. That window of time has been steadily narrowing since then and must slam shut no later than 2025. However, it can happen sooner than that, such as today. Although many have tried, there is, just as Jesus said, no possible way to figure out the day and hour of when this event that has been labeled "The Rapture" will take place. That is why we, as the Lord's blood bought redeemed people, must always be ready by being awake and faithful, awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom.

This Christian jargon word "rapture" is nowhere in the Bible. It comes from the Latin translation into Greek, where the word ἁρπάζω "harpazo" is translated as "raptus" from which we get the word "raptor" which is a type of bird, such as an eagle or falcon, which without warning swoops down and snatches its prey and carries it upward into the sky. In Scripture we can read about this in 1Thessalonians 4:17 where the English phrase "caught up" is found.

1Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Unknown date of personal death

Another date that is unknown, at least to most of us, is the exact date when each of us dies. That countdown clock of our own time here on this planet begins ticking at birth. The date when a person dies or that special day when the rapture happens, is unknown.

War in heaven

That incarnation of Satan, the Lawless one, the Antichrist, cannot come to power while the church is still here on earth. Satan, the accuser of the brethren will not be allowed to disrupt the marriage

of the church, the bride of Christ to her heavenly bridegroom. That is why we read in Scripture that there is war in heaven which culminates in Satan and his minions getting thrown out of heaven, down here to earth.

Revelation 12:7-9 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Since we have no insight into the heavenly realm, we have no way of knowing whether that war is not already raging right now.

Escape is possible

Jesus tells His disciples in Luke 21 that there is an escape available for those people who watch and pray, while waiting joyfully and expectantly. That escape is from the coming judgments as outlined in the book of Revelation. It is *available* to all those who have repented, whose sins have been forgiven.

The first resurrection

The event labeled "The Rapture" is preceded by "The First Resurrection". The rapture applies to those redeemed ones still alive on the earth at that time. The first resurrection applies to the redeemed ones who have experienced death of their physical body. I believe those two events are simultaneous. The account of the resurrection of Jesus gives us some indications that what happened to Jesus is also likely to happen to those participating in the rapture.

A sudden disappearance?

Most Christians who believe in the rapture believe that they will suddenly disappear, likely without a trace. That may well be, but Jesus did not disappear immediately after his resurrection. The bruised and mutilated dead body of Jesus was instantly transformed into an immortal body made of an entirely different kind of matter than what we are familiar with.

He was here on earth for another 40 days during which he met with and ministered to his disciples

and many others who believed him. His gentle, loving reinstatement of the apostle Peter who had failed miserably, comes to mind here. Since Jesus was at this time living in his new transcendent, immortal body, he was no longer limited to time and space. Because of these facts in the Bible, I believe that this *could* likely also be the case of all Christians participating in the "rapture".

That would certainly give the redeemed and glorified Christians an opportunity to prevent the crash of the car they happen to be driving at that moment, as well as giving Christian pilots the chance to safely land the airplane they may be flying at that time.

Christians in name only?

The transformed Christians would get the opportunity to still comfort and admonish those who may have labeled themselves as "Christians", but who did *not* want to fully believe and trust in Jesus. They did *not* love his appearing. They still wanted to complete their own life plans before the Lord Jesus shows up.

2Timothy 4:8 Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day; and not to me only, but also to all those who love His appearing.

They were, like the five foolish virgins, not ready for him.

Matthew 25:1-2 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

These who were not prepared, can be informed that they still have a possibility to escape the final judgments of hell by fully and totally entrusting themselves to Jesus, repenting of their sins and not accepting the "Mark of the Beast". Most of them if not all of them will have to forfeit their physical life in order not to be damned eternally if they do accept that Mark, whatever it will be.

Explaining such a disappearance

If on the other hand this event of the "rapture" *does* involve a sudden disappearance without a trace of the redeemed church, then the event of the rapture would be easier to explain away by the remaining unbelieving people.

It is difficult to imagine that the world's unbelievers will readily admit the truth that Jesus had come for those who loved him and were waiting for his appearance, in order to take them away from this earth. It is much more likely that the explanation for the sudden disappearance of millions of people will involve some sort of outer space aliens who came to kidnap a large number of human beings, likely for nefarious purposes. One of these purposes could be to frighten the daylights out of the remaining humanity. This could be done by the propagation of *the lie* that these aliens are planning to invade and take over the earth.

The militaries of earth at Armageddon

In Scripture we read about the armies of all nations gathered together for the final war of humanity in a valley just north of Jerusalem, the Valley of Megiddo.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

The militaries of frightened, deceived humanity could readily be gathered there *specifically*, to ostensibly prevent the invasion of this planet by space aliens who previously kidnapped millions of humans.

Christians are considered aliens

Christians do not consider this earth their permanent home. Jesus has resurrected us Christians in order that we may be seated with him in heavenly places. (Ephesians 2:6)

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Therefore in the biblical sense we *are* aliens and strangers. (1 Peter 2:11)

1 Peter 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and exiles to keep on abstaining from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.

The redeemed people of God *will* in fact invade the earth with Jesus when he comes to set up his righteous world government. Satan the deceiver, through the Antichrist's world dictatorship, will convince the nations of the earth, to try and repel the supposed invaders from space which is actually the return of Jesus. We know from Scripture that

Jesus will then overthrow that government and cast Satan into the bottomless pit.

Conclusion

Because of the soon coming blessed event of the rapture, redeemed Christians should live their lives in harmony with God's word. We need to continue to be obedient to the great commission by spreading the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ in every way we possibly can.

We do not know the date when this will happen in the same manner that we don't know the day we will die. It should always be our aim to live as if the present day was the last day of our lives.