

THE PERPETUAL REST

I am in awe of a mighty God Who created everything in six days! On day one God created light (Gen. 1:3-5). Genesis 1:5: *"And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."* On day two God created the firmament and separated the waters -- heaven above, water below. This was the creation of the first and second heaven (Gen. 1: 6-8). Genesis 1:8: *"And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day."* On day three God created the dry land, the sea and vegetation (Genesis 1:9-13). *"And the evening and the morning were the third day"* (Genesis 1:13). On day four God created the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars (Genesis 1:14-19). *"And the evening and the morning were the fourth day"* (Genesis 1:19). On day five God created aquatic (water) and aerial (sky) life (the fish and birds) (Genesis 1:20-23). *"And the evening and the morning were the fifth day"* (Genesis 1:23). On day six God created the living creatures on land (animals and reptiles). On this day God also made man and woman. (Gen. 1: 24-31). Genesis 1:31: *"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."*

If I could summarize the sixth day of creation, it appears that God began the day (which began in the evening) with a time of rest. Then during the night or early morning, God made the land animals. Some time after Adam awoke he did the seemingly insurmountable task of naming the animals. Keep in mind he was not naming the breakdown of the species, but rather the "kinds" of animals. For instance the Bible mentions fifty different birds and modern ornithologists divide the bird class into about 8,600 species. Adam just named them bird. Some evolutionists want to argue that a species or type of a certain animal had its unique and own "evolution." Two different breeds of dogs may form a new breed, but that dog will never become a different kind of animal such as a cat. Remember man and woman were made with a built in perfect vocabulary and a perfect thinking process. Russell M. Grigg, Creationist Chemist said, "Adam therefore had most of the daylight hours of day six in which to complete his task. Note that this task did not include his searching out the animal, because Genesis 2:19 tells us that God 'brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them.' Presumably this was in some sort of reasonably orderly procession."

According to Genesis 2:19, 20 this included only the land and sky animals. Take a parade of one thousand animals brought before Adam; if we do the math with 3,600 seconds in an hour, taking just over 3 ½ seconds per animal he could have completed the task in an hour. If you want to stretch that out to just over 2 minutes per animal, it would be done within eight hours. Adam's first day was pretty busy. After seeing all the animals he was to be surrounded by, he was still lonely, for God had said, "...It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). I perceive that God made woman toward the end of the sixth day and as the sixth day came to an end and they started the seventh day together in rest.

The six days of creation have a statement about the 24-hour segments of time in common: "*And the evening and the morning were the (first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth) day.*" Notice the uniqueness of the seventh day as mentioned in Genesis 2:1-3: "*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work that he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*" The phrase mentioned in the first six days but not mentioned in the seventh day is, "...the evening and the morning." I am not saying this day was longer than 24 hours of time. As a matter of fact, in the Old Testament the Bible dogmatically speaks of the seventh day as one day. "*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy*" (Exodus 20:8). God separates this day from all the other days of creation, even the sixth day when He made man and woman.

On the seventh day God rested. He did not need to rest because He was tired: "*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding*" (Isaiah 40:28). "*To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?"*" (Isaiah 46:5). God doesn't get tired, weary, exhausted or worn out, yet he takes the seventh day and rests from all His labor. He created nothing else on this day of rest. He had completed His mission of creation. Now every type of plant and tree would be able to generate from this original act of creation. Every type of animal is able to diversify from the many different kinds of animals God made. Every person who is ever to be born will come from these two people, a man named Adam and a woman, his wife named Eve. God steps back, looks at His creation and declares it as very good. Nothing could be added; it was a perfect world where sin had

not marred this perfect human couple, animal kingdom or plant life. The word "Sabbath" in Hebrew, Greek and English means "to rest."

I am captivated by the fact that the seventh day was not marked by "the evening and morning" sequence. Something is being said by what was not said. For instance in the New Testament we read, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:9,10). In this passage of Scripture we see this is a perpetual sabbath. It doesn't end once we have entered this sabbath or rest.

This is a message for the saved and the unsaved. If you are without Christ, wouldn't you like to quit trying to earn your salvation? You might as well, because it cannot be done. For those of you that are saved but frustrated because you are not growing the way you should or you find yourself unable to live the Christian life as you know it should be lived, Paul said, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3). He told the Galatians, you started out by faith, did you think you could leave it off once you got started? The same grace that saves you is the same grace that keeps you!

1. The Sin of Not Believing God

As we study Hebrews 4:1-6 and Hebrews 3:12 we observe that unbelief is something that comes from a "wicked heart." Jeremiah said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus pointed out in John 8:24 that unbelief will send you to Hell. The work Christ did on Calvary is a finished work. When we accept His finished work, we enter into His forever rest.

2. The Salvation in Substitution

God exposes the trouble in Hebrews 4:7, Hebrews 7:5-19, and Psalm 95:8-11. The Israelites rebelled against God by putting Him on trial. God is the judge; we dare not tempt or try Him (Genesis 18:25)! God reveals salvation by substitution in Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:2-8.

3. The Savior Alone Gives Sabbath (of perpetual rest).

Christ was typified by the Rock in the wilderness as Paul said in I Corinthians 10:5. There is none like Him to be compared, "*For their rock is not as our Rock...*" (Deuteronomy 32:31). In Numbers 20:9-13 we see Moses disobeyed God, Who told him to speak to the Rock, but Moses struck it. There is a copious amount of Scripture that verifies Christ has died once for our sins and that covers the sins of the world; He will not nor cannot die for sins again. This is spoken of in Hebrews 7:27; 9:12, 24-28; 10:10-14 and I Peter 3:18. Christ our Rock was struck for us. All we need do is call upon the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.