

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you..." (Hos 4:6)

"For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has shown it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, (even) his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" (Rom 1:18-25).

"Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he who has called you is Holy, so be you holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be you holy; for I am Holy" (1Pet 1:12-16).

"Be not rash with your mouth, and let not your heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in Heaven and you upon earth: therefore let your words be few" (Eccl. 5:2).

Since the beginning of knowledge and after man acquired that knowledge through the discoveries of science, man clung to one and only cliché: "Until it's proven to be true by science, I won't believe it". Many researchers believe and have proven that the Bible is a real phenomenon of positive and negative codes depending on the person who encodes the word of God and what formula he/she is using and conforming to. There is no doubt that the contents of the Bible are mathematically and arithmetically webbed and maze-liked of strange prophecies and forecasts depicting an amazing foreknowledge, and represent inter-dimensional hidden formulas, especially the Books of Daniel's and Revelations, often mysterious and mystifying, obscure and secretive, metaphoric in nature and form rather than literal, where only few in this world were able to tap into them and succeeded somehow to decipher some of these codes the like of Nostradamus, Jeffrey Grant, Michael Drosnin, etc.

With the science of numerology, these hidden codes are based on calculations, intercalations and arrangements that in the absence of full human understanding and capability are only realized and accepted once they take place. I do believe that these codes show first that God is the author and coordinator of the inspired writings, in spite of the many seemingly contradictory aspects of the narratives of the different writers, and second that they are God's pseudonym, his signature, his autograph and his seal of authenticity and authority.

Many argue that science in referring to millions of years involved in the creation of the universe is contrary to God six-day creation story. Either those claimants are privied to greater knowledge or they missed the overwhelming biblical evidences that back science. The Bible is a scientifical, historical, historiographical, medicinal and cultural source and resource among others, besides being a religious and devotional tool and reference.

We live in an era of sophisticated intensification and bombardment by atheistic creationism with its base and origin sciences to unseat the theistic science of creation. I plan to delve into this subject more from a layman's vocabulary and understanding than espousing and pretending a deep and thorough scholarly knowledge. We, as believers, get sometimes entrapped into discourses and heated arguments about the subject that we forget our inability to understand the

mysteries of God, let alone interpret, comprehend or perceive them. Is it wrong to study the word of God and discern his will and handy works? Absolutely not, because God exhorts us to do so, but without inputting our lame two senses.

In this respect, we argue and we write books after books as if our salvation depends on this subject. The Judeo-Christians lived until the 15<sup>th</sup> century believing that the earth is the center of the solar and universe systems, and Muslims, until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, believed that the earth is flat, until science proved them wrong. Leonardo Da Vinci as well as Jules Verne wrote extensively about helicopters, airplanes, automobiles, submarines and spacecrafts, among others, way before they became reality. The various contemporary religious and faith institutions were the first to excommunicate them labeling them charlatans, sorcerers, heretics and dreamers. If these examples could serve as a lesson, we would learn not to limit God and Science. Can humans open their minds to the possibility, plausibility and feasibility that, due to our abject ignorance, present inability and future advancement, more scientific facts than fiction be gleaned from the Bible? Does not the Bible forward this truth and reality: "Everything exists from the beginning, but knowledge increases?" (Dan 12:4).

In reviewing the many verses and passages that deals with time and space, we find certain mentions where no one can accurately pinpoint what "a-day", "one-day" or "one-year" means. In general, the computation and intercalation usually mean the appointed intended physical and literal "one-day" in a calendrical week, month or year. Besides the six days of creation, we read this mathematical scheme: "And you shall number seven Sabbaths of years unto you, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto you forty and nine years" (Lev. 25:8), while in other instances, it symbolically refers to periods, eons, eras, epochs, stretches of time, even eternity.

What can we make of these two verses? "For a thousand years in Your sight (are but) as yesterday when it is past, and (as) a watch in the night" (Psa 90:4) and: "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day (is) with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2Pet. 3:8). It seems that these passages convey a contrast of connectivity between a conceivable infinity in "yesterday" and a very short span in "night watch". While we perfectly know that these two passages speak contextually and conceptually of God's faithfulness to his promises, shall we also infer from them an established mathematical formula to be taken literally?

Whether we consider the six days of creation a literal 24-hours units or metaphorical stretches of time, the fact remains, they once took place, while the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the day of rest of the Lord continues. Does that mean that God, by resting on the seventh day and while he continues to rest, we cannot communicate with him on that day? The answer might be found in the fact that Jesus healed on the Sabbath, and got sneered at for doing so, yet he demonstrated that God still reach out to the human race even on his resting day. In the creation story, it seems also that God is talking to Adam, revealing to him the process of his creation, while ushering a formula and a package of "6 days plus one" (Deut 5:13-14).

In a dialogue with others he started: "My Father is always at work to this very day, and I, too, am working". For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God" (John 5:17-18). And one day he said to his listeners: "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father...and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:27-28).

"These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens...." (Gen 2:4) while this verse is speaking of the succession in creating the many heavens and the earth in one day, the Bible and the Qur'an hint of God having destroyed and annihilated, besides civilizations, whole creation and replacing them with new creation and generations. Does that mean all human race or just selected generations? Was that before or after the creation of Adam, before or after the flood, etc.? Does any one know?

It is reported that the Old Testament contains 2,304 times the Hebrew word *yom* (day), of which 1,452 times in the singular. In Genesis chapter one, all the 7 days of creation are in the singular, except in verse 1:14 we read "for days and years", which might cement the notion and

acceptance of the literal non-figurative 24 hours solar day of the six days of the creation, thus rendering "year" to mean a literal year.

"Six days you shall do all your labor ... but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth ... and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exo 20:9-11)...

"I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel...and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year" (Eze 4:5-6).

360+30 for leap months=390. Today, the majority of the world regards a year to be 365 days, with 366 days for leap years, based on a Julian solar computation. The Jewish, Muslim and Oriental calendars among others follow some kind of lunar computation for a year, with some kind of leap months instead of years; Byzantine churches follow Gregorian calendars, aborigines and others tag on Astronomical, Tropical or Alexandrian Aristarchus' calendars: does that mean God's computation and intercalation are wrong? At the face of it, there seem to be contradictions, but at the core of it, it is pure and simple math, as when properly calculated by adding or subtracting, the result is one and the same. God created the Sun-Moon-Earth, and through their cycles, humans used them as basis for the different calculations and calendars. Praise be to God who imparted of his wisdom and knowledge in the beauty and wonders of science.

And finally, in Genesis Chapter one, we read that God called the daylight portion together with the nighttime portion "one-day". In the narratives about the Passion of Christ, we see a different scheme used for defining a day, where the number of days from crucifixion to Resurrection is referred to as "three-days", where Jesus reportedly died on Friday around the setting of the sun, which means give or take, between five and six o'clock Friday to between five and six o'clock Saturday morning is "one-day", then Saturday between five and six o'clock morning to between five and six o'clock evening is "one-day", and finally Saturday between five and six o'clock evening to Sunday between five and six o'clock morning is "one-day".

With regard to the word "week", where many scholars prefer to call 7, meaning any 7 units of time; it confers, including but limited to the literal and calendrical 7 days week, a connotation of years and/or Sabbatical cycles (7x7=49 years). Daniel's seventy "sevens" reference is the base for the application, while the text speaks of a literal 70 weeks, the unanimous consensus among scholars that it speaks of a symbolic 70 times seven, which will translate into years. (Dan. 9:24-27).

Another biblical connotation worth exploring is the repeated use of "time, times, and half a time" as in "a year", "two years" and "half a year" as expanded in Dan. 4:16,23,25 & 32, Dan. 7:25; Dan 12:7, 11 and in Rev. 11:3, 12:6 & 14. The consensus among Judeo-Christian scholars is that the "1290" is derived from two numbers: one is the addition of one year + two years + half a year to equal "1260" and the other by adding 30 for leap months to give a total of "1290":

"Time"		360	days
"Times"		720	days
"Half a time"		180	days
•		1260	·
+ Leap month	(when applicable)	30	days
Total		<b>1290</b>	•

The following passages intimate us with another kind of complex computation known only to God Himself: "And I said: this (is) my infirmity, (but I will remember) the years of the right hand of the most High" (Psa 77:10). And: "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn" (Isa 61:2), seconded by "To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luk 4:19).

"And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were **eight hundred years**: and he begat sons and daughters: And all the days that Adam lived were **nine hundred and thirty years**: and he died" (Gen. 5:4-5).

In the light of this brief exposé, we have to conclude that whether or not believing that the 6 days creation story is literal or metaphorical does neither earn us anyone salvation, nor a guaranteed place in heaven. Science is no more than building on what we already acquired and

knew from the Bible, the scientific and literal dissertations and discoveries and advancement. Science is not the enemy of God, but the tool to his love and knowledge. God and not man created science, where God endowed humans with intelligence; God exhorted us to earn our keep by exploring, discovering and improving, when he said: "In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread till you return unto the ground" (Gen 3:19). Nothing in us is good to produce any good except by the Grace of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and by building on what we so far know.

If we acknowledge, admit and aver that God is timeless, ageless and limitless, then his creation days could be also regarded as part of his divine nature, purpose and activity, with no limitations or restrictions.

Just because elevators in America and the West do not show the "bad luck" number 13, and in Far East China, Taiwan and Hong Kong do not have the "bad luck" number 4, that in itself does not mean that these numbers do not exist, have a value or other connotations. Humans suffer from an actual and factual incomprehension, lack the ideal and ultimate intelligence, live in a couched reverie of God's mysteries, and speculate on anything and everything, especially about things, which are beyond their grasp, and for all these, they shout "hurray: we solved God's mysteries and we know better". Before we second guess and limit God in looking for a needle in the haystack of our biblical and scientific myopia; Christ, hallowed be His Name, said:

"If I have told you earthly things, and you believe not, how shall you believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:12)...

