

THE CHRONOLOGY OF OUR EXALTATION ELM FEB 1990

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Those who are “in Christ” are legally in heaven with Him at the right hand of the Father. We are regarded by the Father as sinless by virtue of Christ’s sacrifice. Of course, now this is only in a legal sense, as we are clearly very much still human, but our inheritance is sure.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

The whole reason for the Bible is to reveal and explain:

1. The chronology of God’s plan for human beings.
 - a. Why we are here.
 - b. The purpose of life.

The Bible is the most accurate history book we have. It explains how God’s plan for us has developed over millennia, with a dramatic change effected by Christ’s life and sacrifice for us.

The future of human beings is really difficult to grasp in its magnitude. We were and are made in God’s image in our human bodies, but our destiny is to become like God in every way.

God is a spirit, but has a body which looks like we do, and occupies space. Each of us is to become a “Firstborn” Son or Daughter of God just like Christ is. We shall have the same tangible bodily composition as God, the same character, the same powers.

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

We shall have a spirit body, which will be tangible, not ghostly, not whimsical, not a green fog, but a spirit body with texture and shape.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Human beings have a physical body and a human spirit which is given to individuals at the time of their birth. It is the spirit in man which enlivens us, and enables us to have consciousness, thought, and intelligence. Everything that is alive has a 'spirit' that gives it life and the characteristics it has. Whether elephant, dog, bird or fish, it is the spirit which enlivens it and makes it what it is.

When we humans die, we have no consciousness, and we are indeed dead, and the 'spirit in man' in us returns to God.

Ecclesiastes 12: 7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

The notion of 'going to heaven' when we die is based on the pagan concept of 'the immortality of the soul' which is a false doctrine.

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Those who have died are resurrected, those who have not died and are still alive, our bodies (our souls) die at that instant, and at that instant made alive as spirit beings.

The spirit in man cannot have any life or consciousness without a body, but it does include an imprint of the sum total of the whole person's experience and physical characteristics. An analogy could be that it is much like a tape recording which can have no 'life' without a tape recorder to play it on.

The spirit in man is stored by God until the time of the resurrection when it is inserted into our new spirit body which then takes on the characteristics of the person whose spirit it was. This will enable us to recognize others we have known in our physical lives.

When that happens, we shall have a body that reflects an 'ideal' time in our physical lives when we were mature, and at our best, maybe around thirty

years of age, but it will be perfect in form, and any damage or disability we had as a human will be gone.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Once we are installed in our new spirit body, we shall have to undergo a period of training to learn how to use our new powers. As spirit beings, we will be like newborn babies, not at all competent to use our new spirit bodies any more than a newborn human child is. We shall have to learn how to operate as God-beings!

God is in one place at one time, as Jesus Christ is, and of course can manifest Himself anywhere at any time also. They have a shape and a form that is just like us, or rather we look like them! The Holy Spirit is not an individual, but is God's power, and is also like water, and can flow everywhere where it is needed.

The notions churchianity have about salvation is so very far from the present reality or of what lies ahead for those who are in Christ.

Isaiah 66:5 Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. 6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the Lord that rendereth recompence to his enemies.

This passage is talking about Christ's return when He will render recompence to those who fought Him. At this time, occurs the first resurrection, which is here described as heavenly Zion, is the "she" here, which gives birth to the new nation of spirit beings in an instant.

Isaiah 66:7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. 8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

In a picture or an allegory, we are now "begotten" sons and daughters of God, and Jesus Christ who is One with the Father is our Elder Brother. As

“begotten” children, we are with Christ in the spiritual womb of heavenly ‘Zion’, and we are in a sense having our ‘travail’ or physical time in the womb here on this earth. But when the time comes for us to be “born” it will happen in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye.

It is no wonder that people’s minds whose eyes are closed cannot give credence to this ‘picture’.

Women go through many changes in their body during the ‘travail’ of pregnancy almost from the moment of conception. Over the time of the nine months and ten days, they experience many different things. Then at the end, come the birth pangs, the contractions and pain of giving birth. The analogy in Isaiah 66 shows that the ‘mother’ Zion will not experience travail, only conception and instantaneous birth at once!

Up will come all those who have been in “Yahweh” from olden times who were dead, and all those who have been and are “in” Christ now. Suddenly here are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, the Prophets, Peter, James, John, plus all those in Christ, all having an amazing learning experience and a life that is to last forever.

Once born as Spirit Beings, we will be spiritual “babes”. We will have no idea how to use our new form and shape and beingness!! We will have to be taught. We will have to draw the spiritual ‘milk’ so that our new existence can grow in knowledge.

Isaiah 66:11 That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.

Then we shall go through some stages of development as Spirit Beings, becoming competent to use our new powers.

Isaiah 66:12 For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides (on her hip), and be dandled upon her knees. 13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Continuing the analogy, just like tiny children are carried on the hip for a few months, and then dandled on the knee, we shall grow up in our knowledge of our new existence under Christ’s instruction. Although the Bible may not say as much in a single sentence, the analogy is clear.

We will have a lot to learn about the way God and Christ do things!!
Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Creation shows us God's glory in the universes, and everything on earth, and men are discovering thousands more new plants and creatures on earth every year.

It is good for us to realize and remember daily that the Lord Jesus Christ created all things, that is everything! Precious few believe God's Word, the Bible when it says:

Colossians 1:16 For by him (Jesus Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him.

He is the lawgiver and the lifegiver. He designed and invented DNA, He spread out the universe like a curtain, He designed every one of the millions of different species of fauna and flora on this earth. He created the earth as it is, all the angelic and spirit beings, Adam and Eve, and us!

'Churchianity' has no real concept of this truth about "Little Lord Jesus, meek and mild!" It is more than sad that most 'educated' people now embrace some form of 'evolution', that everything made itself, thus denying the power and creative nature of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and of us!

Psalm 19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

God the Father talks to us, speaks to us in and through the things He has made. Jesus Christ under the rulership of the Father created all things.

God said that everything reproduces according to its kind. Men say, no, it all evolves from nothing all by itself!

How does everything reproduce after its kind? We now know about DNA, it is that magic unbelievably complex spiral that Christ designed to carry the specific code to enable everything to reproduce itself. From simple (!!??) single cell organisms with motors to move them about, to the most

complex, the bird, the fish, the mouse and the elephant, all were created with their own specific DNA to ensure they replicated themselves.

For a long time, scientists (!) suggested that a lot of the genes in the DNA were not used. The reason they said that was because they did not know or understand their function. They still don't. Nor will they ever. They can learn a lot perhaps, but never understand it all.

Ecclesiastes 8:17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man **cannot** find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

Paul tells us in Romans how to know what God is like in the way He does things. The invisible things of Him are clearly seen in the works, the shape, the form, the mechanisms of the Creation.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 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: 21 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. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

With Darwinism, they changed the truth of God into a lie.

B Side.

John 3:1-13 tells the story of Nicodemus who could not grasp the concept of being born any other way than through the womb. This section of John's gospel reveals a lot about being 'born' again, I will not take the space here, but it is fascinating reading.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this

we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep.

Paul was either still thinking that the second coming would occur in his lifetime, or he is using 'we' in the sense of 'those of us' which are alive and remain, speaking of Christians in times to come. There is no doubt that Paul came to realize that the time was not yet before he died.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

When we are resurrected, "so shall we ever be with the Lord", and that means wherever He is we shall be with Him, whether on earth when He is, or in heaven when He is.

Once we are Spirit, we will live for ever. Human babies are more or less powerless for at least the first six months to a year of their lives needing constant care and attention. So it will be with us (newborn Gods!) as fledgling children of God in His family.

Some false ministers teach that in the Kingdom, Christians are to rule nations, and teach others, when clearly, they cannot rule themselves, and are teaching all the wrong things! They never give a thought as to how they will get to know how to rule and what to teach!!

Even the best educated humans demonstrate how hopeless they are at ruling a nation! Yes, as members of the God Family, we will need a lot of specialized care and attention and that will take time. The Bible shows that God has a time schedule, which we may not understand, but He works to a time frame which is not always clear to us!

We will have to attend a heavenly 'university' for many 'years', and our Faculty member will be Yahweh, Christ Himself. Christ lived 30 years before He took up His ministry. Perhaps our training will last that length of time, and then a further 40 years, a total of 70 years, to reach the level of spiritual knowledge and maturity as 'Gods' before we can be handed a city, five or ten cities to rule. The growth in us will be created by God and Christ.

For the first time, the 'many mansions' phrase begins to have a very different meaning.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house (in heaven) are many mansions (places of abode): if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place (an abode) for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also.**

While we are in the heavenly University, we shall need somewhere to live, and Christ has all that organized for us, so that as long as we are in heaven being trained for our new posts on earth, we shall not be homeless! Exciting or what?

For this seventy year period of time, the earth will be mostly desolate "with few men left." The destruction wreaked on the earth by the wars, and because humans fought with Christ will be almost complete. So for the first 70 years of the millennium, there will be some 'restitution' needed; some clearing up of debris and refuse, radiation and pollution, renewing the ozone layers, some restoration of order on earth, before the new wonderful millennial era of peace harmony and beauty can be created.

Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 And it shall come to pass, when **seventy years** are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. 13 And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.

The area of Babylon was ruined in the past, but has never been totally desolated, with no inhabitant, so this is a prophecy for the future.

Perhaps at the end of our first 30 years training we will then be part of this cleaning up process for 40 years. Interesting that 1000 years minus 70 years = 930 years. This is exactly the time the first Adam lived on earth, and would be the time the second Adam (Christ) is ruling with us during the millennium. Selah!

One thing for sure, it is going to be exciting, and more rewarding than anything we can imagine.

Just before Christ returns, the desolation on the earth will be almost complete. All commerce (Tarshish) will have ground to a halt. There will be practically no farms capable of producing food, no supermarkets, no clothing sweat shops, virtually no commerce of any kind, and the earth will return to a very primitive existence. This picture has been painted by many post 'Armageddon' movies.

Revelation chapters 16-18 talk about the plagues of destruction that will ruin the earth.

Revelation 18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

The earth and the moon have been peppered in the past with meteorite activity, and there is more to come which will shake the earth and cause it to reel back and forth like a drunkard.

Isaiah 24:20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

It will be a terrible time to be alive as a human being on the earth.

Isaiah 24: 24 Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. 2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. 3 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word. 4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. 5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, **and few men left.**

The earth will seem to be empty compared with how it was just before Christ returned.

Isaiah 23:14 Howl, ye ships of Tarshish (traders): for your strength is laid waste. 15 And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten **seventy years**, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy

years shall Tyre sing as an harlot. 16 Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered.

The 'few men left' will have a struggle to survive. Everything we know of as 'civilisation' like power, drainage, communications will cease. But then the cleaning up of the earth will commence, and all commerce and services, and houses will have to be rebuilt.

Isaiah 23:17 And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the Lord will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication (the word is actually 'intercourse', but not sexual intercourse, it applies to commercial and spiritual activity) with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth. 18 And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the Lord: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the Lord, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.

So housing, services, food and clothing will start production again for the inhabitants of the millennium.

A new Temple is going to be built. Many if not most prophecies have a prior and a later fulfillment.

2 Chronicles 36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.

Ezra 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Ezra 1:7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

The context of Isaiah 44 is when Christ is ruling on earth so there is another 'Cyrus' to come who will build a Temple. Other scriptures talk of the new temple which will be built before the second advent.

Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Egypt is to be utterly destroyed at the time of the second advent.

Ezekiel 29:1 In the tenth year, in the tenth month, in the twelfth day of the month, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt:... 6 And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the Lord, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel.... 8 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut off man and beast out of thee. 9 And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it. 10 Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia. 11 No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.

Clearly this has never happened in history.

Ezekiel 29:12 And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. 13 Yet thus saith the Lord God; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered: 14 And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom. 15 It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations.

Daniel 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

There was a fulfillment back there and there will be a fulfillment just before the millennium when Jerusalem will be desolated. The Temple that will be built in the millennium will be built in Shiloh not in Jerusalem which will then be called by another name.

During this seventy years we will be “growing up’ in the Father’s House, learning how to treat, teach and govern people, this is all part of the plan of redemption. The God will bring His throne to earth forever, and the Earth will be the centre of the universes.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.... 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

God speed that day.