

Group Discussion:

Journey to the Magic Kingdom

1. Take a minute to share your name with everyone at the table, along with one of your biggest dreams as a little child. Now that you're OLD, how do you see that dream? Was it too big, too small... or maybe both? Did it change over time?
2. God, our Father, had a dream. Read it together out loud at your table:

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ... ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

² Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. – Genesis 1:26-28, 31-2:3

- a. What do you think is the image and likeness of God? (Scholars have debated this for two thousand years. So don't be shy. Dream God's dream. Describe what someone in the image and likeness of God would look like, act like, think like, and feel like.)
- b. Did God get His wish? Did He fail or did He succeed? Have you been made in the image of God . . . and is everything that God has made very good?
- c. If not, what does this mean? Has the Word of God failed?

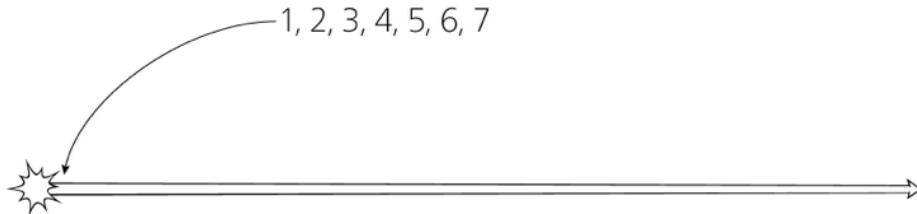
¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.... ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. – Colossians 1:15,18

- d. Before Christ was born how many people had been born?
 - e. And was Christ born before He died or after He died, if in fact, He was firstborn from the dead and firstborn of all creation?
 - f. "My Father has been working until now," said Jesus (John 5:17). But God rested on the 7th day. . . . What day is it?
3. What does it mean to be saved? What are we saved from?
 - If you just said "sin," what is sin?
 - If you just said "death," what is death?
 - If you just said "Hell," what do you mean by "Hell?"
 - If you just said "wrath," . . . Why is God angry and what would assuage His wrath?
 4. ~ Did God make you in His image and make everything good . . . and then, you got saved? **OR**
~ Did you get saved . . . and then God made you in His image . . . and everything got good? **OR**
~ Is God still saving you and making you in His image?

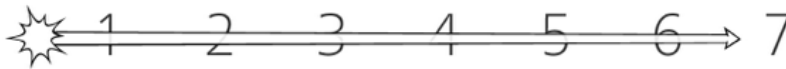
Journey to the Magic Kingdom

5. Comments? Questions? Weeping and gnashing of teeth?

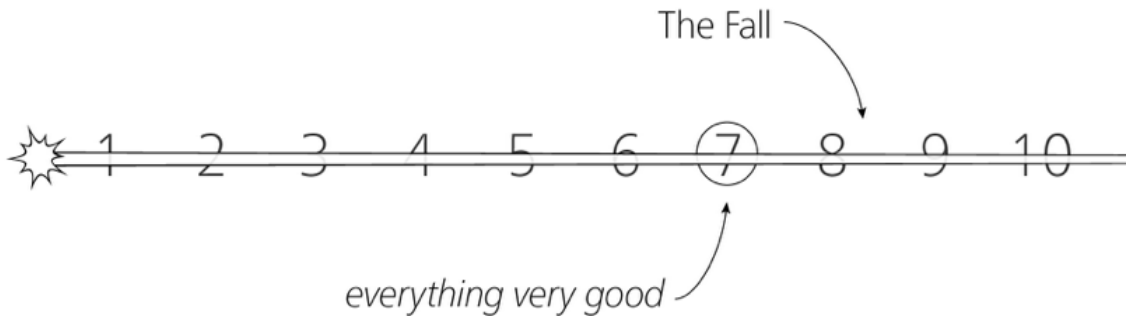
How most people view the 7 days of Genesis.



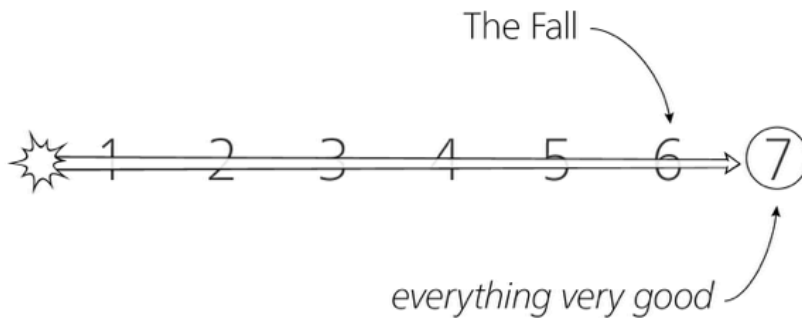
How some physicists, Church Fathers, and Scripture (I would argue) view the 7 days.



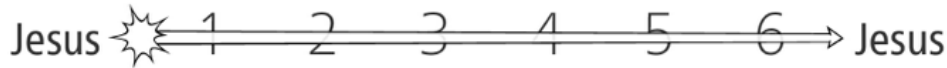
A traditional view of the fall:



A Biblical view (I would argue) of the fall:



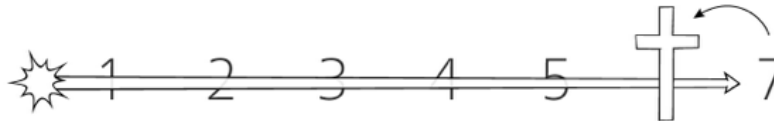
Jesus claims that He is the beginning and the end.



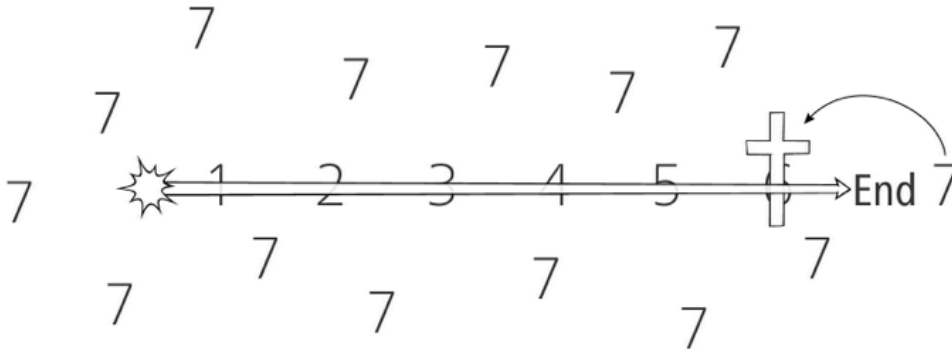
“He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages (aions) to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” - Hebrews 9:26



“[These things] were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages (aions) has come.” - 1 Cor. 10:11



“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal (aionios) life.” - John 6:47



“His commandment is eternal (aionios, “of God’s age”) life.” - John 12:50

No matter what you think of these stupendous diagrams (made by Michael Hannah), the point is that we are still in the process of being created in God’s image . . . and God won’t fail.

- Salvation isn’t an addendum to creation . . . to fix a botched job.
- Salvation is part of creation . . . Salvation is how we are created in the image of God.

And so our situation is best portrayed as follows:



³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. – Romans 11:32-36

6. You are half-baked. You're neighbor is half-baked. The whole world is half-baked. But you will get fully baked. God will finish what He started. If you believed this,
 - How would this knowledge change you're ride in the van?
 - How would this change you're attitude toward your self?
 - How would this change you're attitude toward your neighbor?
 - How would this change you're attitude toward your enemies?
 - How would this change you're attitude toward God?

7. So why does God arrange for this ride in the van and a stop over in Junction City? What is He still creating? Do you think He'll be successful?

And for this reason did Moses declare that man was formed on the sixth day; and then, again, according to arrangement, it was on the sixth day, which is the preparation, that the last man appeared, for the regeneration of the first. Of this arrangement, both the beginning and the end were formed at that sixth hour, at which He was nailed to the tree... Thus, then, in the day that they did eat, in the same did they die, and became death's debtors, since it was one day of the creation. For it is said, "There was made in the evening, and there was made in the morning, one day." Now in this same day that they did eat, in that also did they die. But according to the cycle and progress of the days, after which one is termed first, another second, and another third, if anybody seeks diligently to learn upon what day out of the seven it was that Adam died, he will find it by examining the dispensation of the Lord. For by summing up in Himself the whole human race from the beginning to the end, He has also summed up its death. From this it is clear that the Lord suffered death, in obedience to His Father, upon that day on which Adam died while he disobeyed God. Now he died on the same day in which he did eat. For God said, "In that day on which ye shall eat of it, ye shall die by death." The Lord, therefore, recapitulating in Himself this day, underwent His sufferings upon the day preceding the Sabbath, that is, the sixth day of the creation, on which day man was created; thus granting him a second creation by means of His passion, which is that [creation] out of death. –Iraeneus, Bishop of Lyons, Against Heresies ~180AD

... assuredly the world was made, not in time, but simultaneously with time. ... For in these days the morning and evening are counted, until, on the sixth day, all things which God then made were finished, and on the seventh the rest of God was mysteriously and sublimely signalized. What kind of days these were it is extremely difficult, or perhaps impossible for us to conceive, and how much more to say! –Augustine of Hippo, The City of God - 426 AD