

GOD'S PLAN OF
THE EONS

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GOD'S PLAN OF
THE EONS

INTRODUCTION
GOD'S PLAN OF THE EONS

Perhaps you are asking yourself how we came by the title '*God's Plan of the Eons*'. That is not too difficult to explain. Paul speaks about this in Eph.3:11. Usually that which is mentioned there in Greek is translated by '*the eternal purpose*' or '*the eternal election*' or something like that. Because of this it escapes the reader that Paul is not talking about '*the eternal purpose*', but about '*the purpose of the eons*'. The purpose of God, to bring His Plan to fruition through His Son during five periods (ages, eons). A gigantic plan that embraces the whole creation!

Would you like to know how '*God's Purpose of the Eons*' fits together? That will cost you very little time or effort indeed. Have a good look with us! This booklet shows you, in broad outline, the whole of '*God's Plan of the Eons*' as depicted in the Scriptures! This is so that you will taste something of '*the Untraceable Riches of Christ*' and '*the Multifarious Wisdom of God!*' These riches and this wisdom were made known some 2000 years ago, but regrettably they have remained hidden for many people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. van Hoeven', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

C. van Hoeven

T I M E L E S S N E S S

GOD A L L I N H I M S E L F

THE FIVE PERIODS OF TIME

Has it ever crossed your mind that God is above and outside of our time? That implies that God never ages even by one second, and that God sees *everything at once* and at the same moment! Mind-boggling, don't you agree? He did not only create the ages, but He controls them too. From A to Z! God sees the beginning and the consummation of His creation, although these events are thousands of years apart from each other, at *one and the same* moment. Nothing catches Him by surprise. He does not therefore have to make any adjustments either. At the end, the Consummation, everything, both literally and figuratively, will come back to Him.

From out of His *timelessness* God created five periods of time. The whole history is embraced within these five periods. Such a period is called in the Greek '*aiōn*', in translations of the Bible this is rendered *Age, Eternity, Eternities, Everlasting*, etc. Do you know why? It is because in the early Christian era, the church, at the decree of its patron, Emperor Justinian, changed the *meaning* of the word '*aiōn*'. From that time on the word '*aiōn*' (age, timespan) was given the meaning of *endless eternity*. Because of this not only the Bible, but God Himself and His love were placed in a false light. People did not grasp that in '*God's Plan of the Eons*' the history of mankind was an *interruption* of this timelessness. Timelessness exists only before and after this interruption.

Would Emperor Justinian ever have grasped what damage he inflicted with this alteration of the word '*aiōn*' for God as well as for humanity? *He* meant to teach this: Believers should be endlessly happy and the unbelievers should be endlessly condemned. God intended with the Plan of the Eons that He, as Creator and Saviour of all people, in five periods, will become '*everything to every one*' (C.V.: '*All in all*' - 1 Cor. 15:28 and 1 Tim.4:9-12). We will show you that in this book.

Shall we have a look at this Plan of the Eons in detail, examining each period in turn?

T I M E L E S S N E S S



GOD IS SPIRIT

GOD A L L I N H I M S E L F

GOD IS SPIRIT **God** (Gk: Theos) means: He Who subordinates, puts all and everybody in its place. That is similar to the most important meaning of the Hebrew word 'Elohim', which means Placer, or Referee. That indicates God's relationship with Space and Power. The name 'Jahweh' denotes God in His relationship to Time.

GOD IS SPIRIT **Spirit** (Gk: pneuma) also means '*Gust of wind*' or '*Breath*'. The word is derived from the verb pneō and denotes '*air brought powerfully into motion*'. Figuratively it is used as '*Spirit*' to indicate the invisible power of movement, life and thought. It is the Divine Power which reveals itself in God's invisible, untraceable deeds and actions.

In Greek, Spirit is not '*he*' or '*she*' but always '*it*'. In English this is very difficult to express.

'*Spirit*' is the life-principle common to animals (Eccl.3:21) and to humans (Gen.6:17). It is not to be confused with '*Soul*'! The soul comes into being by the combination of body and spirit/breath. Because of the spirit of life man became a living soul. Man was enabled to be aware of his environment with his senses (Gen.2:5-7).

When the Bible says '*God (is) Spirit*' it is true literally. When the Bible says '*God is Love*' or '*God is Light*' it is not meant literally, but figuratively and means: '*God is like Love*' or '*God is like Light*', because no man can know exactly what God is in Himself.

T I M E L E S S N E S S

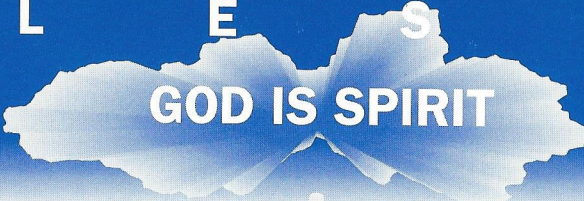


Image of the invisible God



GOD A L L I N H I M S E L F

IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

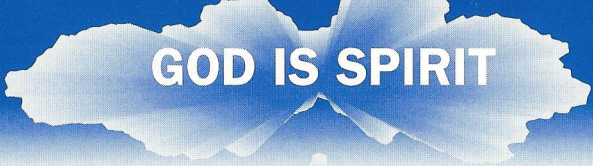
Do you know who and what the Lord Jesus was before He was born out of the virgin Mary at Bethlehem 2000 years ago? He was then ***‘the Image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, ... all things were created through Him and for Him’*** (C.V.: *‘the Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of every creature, for in Him is all created, ... the visible and the invisible, ... all is created through Him and for Him’*). That is quite staggering, isn't it?

In that *‘Image of God’* He called Abram and entered into a covenant with him. He revealed Himself as *‘I AM WHO I AM’* to Moses. He liberated His people from the slavery of Egypt and gave them the law at Sinai. He brought them into the land that He had promised. That was not the Father, but the Son in the *‘Image of God’*.

As the *‘Word of God’* He let them hear what the Father had to say to them, until He divested Himself of the *‘Image of God’* and took upon him the *‘form of a servant’* (C.V.: *‘slave’* - Phil.2:5-11).

From out of Himself and timelessness, the Father placed Him, as the man Jesus, in the time/space continuum. John says of Him quite rightly: *‘in Him was life, and the life was the light of men ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... and we have beheld His glory, glory of the only Son from the Father, ...’* (C.V.: *‘In it was life, and the life was the light of men ... And the Word became flesh and tabernacles among us and we gaze at His glory, a glory as of an only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth’*). Maybe you will understand it even better if I say: In the *‘Form of God’* the *‘Image of the invisible God’* gave among other things the law to His people, in order to fulfill it Himself in the *‘form of a servant.’*

When Jesus asks His disciples *‘But who do you say that I am?’* Peter replies: *‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’* (C.V.: *‘Now you, who are you saying that I am?’ Now, answering, Simon Peter said: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*) But that surprising reply need not astonish you anymore!



GOD IS SPIRIT

Image of the invisible God



BEFORE
THE
EONIAN
TIMES

1

COSMOS
BECAME CHAOS

DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD

GOD ALL IN HIMSELF

1st EON (Gen.1:1)

With the creation of the first timespan, the first eon, the Creator begins to interrupt timelessness. Here the point is that it does not deal with '*In the beginning*' but with an *undefined* beginning. Nobody knows exactly *when* the cosmos was created. We do know however how this first eon ended: namely with the *disruption* of the world. So that the earth *became waste and sterile*.

Usually the word '*disruption*' is translated incorrectly by '*foundation*' as if the Greek word were '*themelios*' instead of '*katabolē*'. That is not only an error in *translation*, but also an error of *logic*!

How long this first eon lasted nobody knows. Because, how ever glorious this first eon may have been, Adam and Eve were not there. They were not created '*in the beginning*' but after the disruption of the world, during the re-creation, with which the **second eon** commenced.

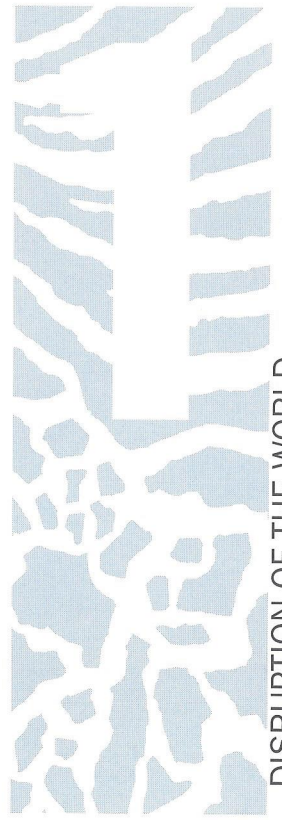


GOD IS SPIRIT

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BEFORE
THE
EONIAN
TIMES



DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD



RE-CREATION
GARDEN OF EDEN
ADAM AND EVE
NOAH

THE FLOOD

GOD ALL IN HIMSELF

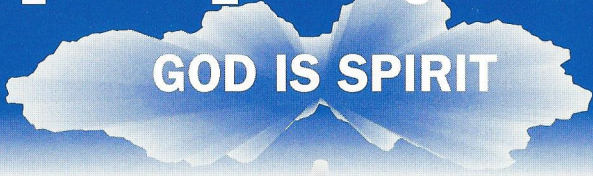
2nd EON (Gen.1:2 to Gen.7:10)

This period begins with the re-creation of the world in six days. On the sixth day *'the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (C.V.: became a living soul).'*

By eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil Adam and Eve became mortal; and they were expelled from the Garden of Eden.

About 1650 years after this the Lord saw *'that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his hearts was only evil continually.'* But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

God closes the second eon with a flood of water. When Noah and his sons, and his wife and the wives of his sons placed their feet on the earth once more, the period in which we now live commenced: the **third eon**.

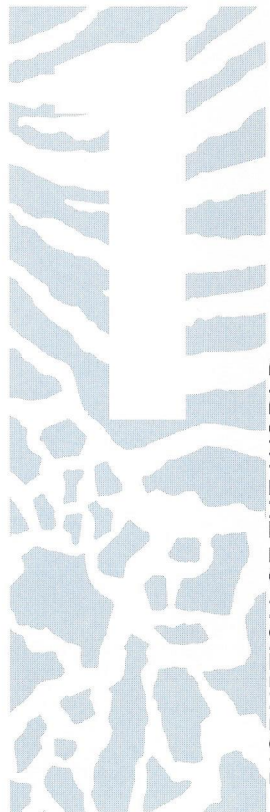


GOD IS SPIRIT

Image of the invisible God



BEFORE
THE
EONIAN
TIMES



DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD



THE FLOOD



CROSS GOLGOTHA
ISRAEL
ON ONE SIDE
PAUL'S CALLING
CHURCH, THE
BODY OF CHRIST
THE BODY
OF CHRIST
SNATCHED AWAY

RETURN OF CHRIST

GOD ALL IN HIMSELF

3rd EON

This period runs from the Flood (Gen.8:15) until *the visible coming of the Son of Man* on the Mount of Olives (Mt.24:27-51).

The centre of this period is the Cross of Calvary and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus on the third day! There God conciliated *'in Christ the world with Himself'* (2 Cor.5:14-21).

After this Israel is gradually put to one side. Temporarily! Paul is called as *'Apostle of the Gentiles'* and, until the *rapture* (C.V.: *to be snatched away*) of the Church (Gk: *ecclesia*) it is *not Law, but Grace* which reigns.

The Church, the Body of Christ, which is called out by Paul through his evangel, has a *prior expectation* than Israel!

This Church is called out of the gentile nations and will be snatched away at the sound of the trumpet of God (1 Thess.4:15-18) and will go to meet the Lord in the air: *'that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places'* (C.V.: *that now may be made known to the sovereignties and authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God'* (see Eph.3:6-13).

After this, at the visible Coming of Christ for Israel, *the Day of the Lord* is inaugurated with dire judgements. The prophets of old spoke about this *Day of the Lord*, and so did our Lord Jesus Christ. When the *'Son of Mankind'* places His feet upon the Mount of Olives, and the promised Kingdom of the Heavens breaks through here on earth, the **4th eon** begins.

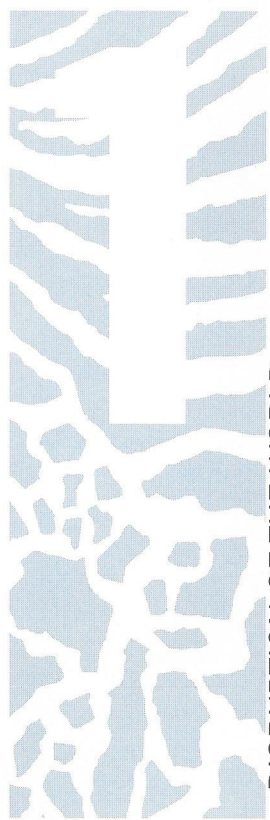


GOD IS SPIRIT

Image of the invisible God



BEFORE
THE
EONIAN
TIMES



DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD



THE FLOOD



RETURN OF CHRIST



RESTORATION
OF ISRAEL
SATAN BOUND
1000 YEARS
CONCLUSION:
JUDGMENT
GREAT WHITE
THRONE
2ND DEATH

INCINERATION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

GOD ALL IN HIMSELF

4th EON

During this period, which will last for about 1000 years, the law will go out from Zion. Israel will then at last be *'a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light'*, who once were *'no people'* yet now are *'God's people'* (C.V.: *'a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a procured people, so that you should be recounting the virtues of Him Who calls you out of darkness into His marvelous light, who once were not a people, yet now are the people of God'* - 1 Pet.2:9-10).

Israel will carry out the assignment for which the Lord called His people way back in Ex.19:6! *'Yet the nations are to glorify God for His mercy, according as it is written'* (Rom.15:9-13-C.V.).

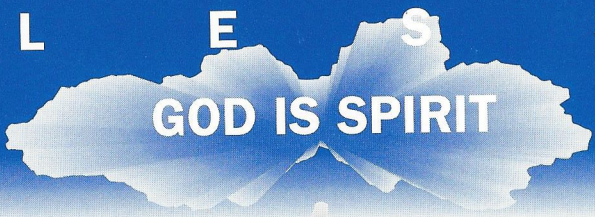
The Lord Jesus says about this 4th eon: *'many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob'* (C.V.: *'many from the east and the west shall be arriving and reclining with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob'* - Mt.8:11).

Looking forward to this period Ezekiel foretold: *'My servant David shall be king (C.V.: a ruler) over them; for ever'* (i.e. *'for the eon'* - Ezek.37:24,25).

Satan will be bound for 1000 years. At the end he will be let loose and, note well, again will go out to mislead the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, and they will ascend across the breadth of the earth and besiege the settlements of the saints and the beloved city (Jerusalem). Then God acts swiftly! The devil is cast into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet are, who are being tormented day and night for the eons of the eons, i.e. the remainder of the 4th and 5th eon.

The 4th eon ends with the burning up of heaven and earth. Then the Judgement before the Great White Throne will take place. The dead will rise and be judged. Death and the realm of the dead will be cast into the lake of fire, the so called second death. Because of this *the second death now becomes the last enemy*.

T I M E L E S S E N S E S S



GOD IS SPIRIT



Image of the invisible God

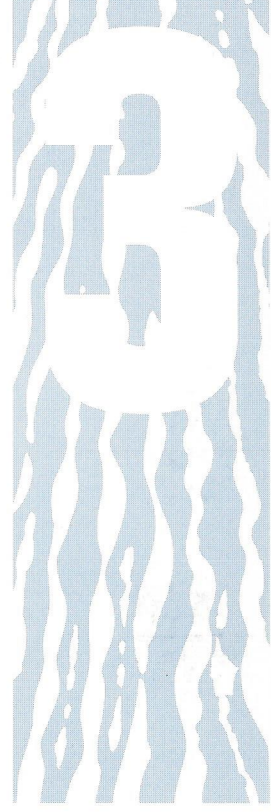
BEFORE
THE
EONIAN
TIMES



DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD



THE FLOOD



RETURN OF CHRIST



INCINERATION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH



NEW HEAVEN
AND EARTH
NEW
JERUSALEM
2ND DEATH
AS LAST ENEMY
ABOLISHED

AFTER
THE
EONIAN
TIMES

GOD ALL IN ALL

5th EON

John saw *'the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down (C.V.: descending) out of heaven from God, prepared (C.V.: made ready) as a bride adorned for her husband'* (Rev.21). That city does not *float*, but has a solid foundation. Then there will be no more night. The sun and the moon are no longer needed. The Lord God will illuminate her. Nothing abominable or cursed will be there any more. The description of the 'new creation' is breath taking!

Yet the glory of this new creation is not complete. Because of *'the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death'* is still there, regrettably it throws a dark shadow across the completeness! In this lake are *'the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, ... murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars'* (C.V.: *'the timid, and unbelievers, and the abominable, and murderers, and paramours, and enchanters, and idolaters, and all the false'* - Rev.21:8).

Many a believer who reads this says: 'See'. But they overlook the fact that God's Word denotes this fiery lake as *'the second death' - twice over!* 'Death' does not mean 'another way of living' but it is a *state of perceiving nothing at all*. All of those who are in 'the second death' have no conscious perception whatsoever.

Do you know what else is cast into this lake of fire? Death and the realm of the dead! This is it which makes the second death to be the *last* enemy!

John does not breathe a word about what is going to happen to this last enemy. That is why many believers do not know this either! The Lord did not let John speak the liberating word, but it was given to Paul to pronounce this last and final word of complete redemption. Not in the book of *Revelation*, although this is at the back of our Bible, but in the chapter about the resurrection, in the fifteenth chapter of the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. In this passage is revealed the consummation of 'God's Plan of the Eons', when Christ hands over the Kingship to God the Father! Then He will have dethroned all might and power. The *last* enemy being dethroned is Death. Happily you will know now which death this is! Not the first, but the second, the lake of fire!

After dethroning this last enemy the Son Himself will subject Himself to Him, Who subjected everything to Him, so that God will be *ALL IN ALL!*

What a stupendous consummation of the interruption of timelessness, 'GOD'S PLAN OF THE EONS'. Marvellous isn't it?

After this the restored, indescribable glory for all creation becomes in all respects, *TIMELESS!*

T H E N E W C R E A T I O N

FOR
HE MUST
BE REIGNING
UNTIL HE SHOULD
BE PLACING ALL HIS
ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET.

THE LAST ENEMY IS BEING
ABOLISHED: DEATH. FOR HE SUBJECTS
ALL UNDER HIS FEET ... WHENEVER ALL
MAY BE SUBJECTED TO HIM, THEN THE SON
HIMSELF ALSO SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO HIM WHO
SUBJECTS ALL TO HIM, THAT GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL.

GOD ALL IN ALL

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