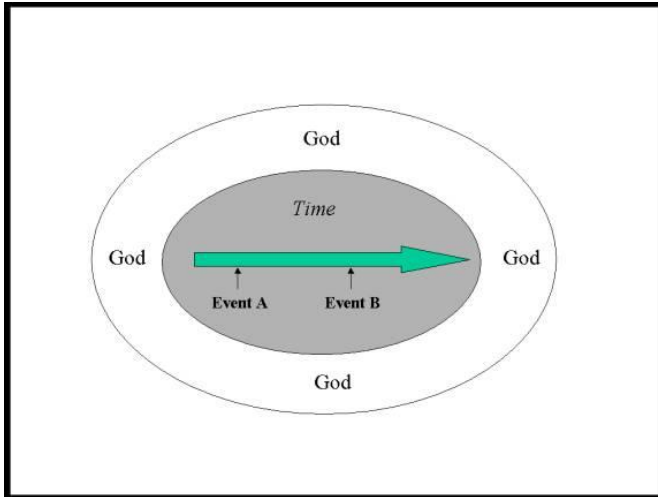


TIME



What about the future? Can someone know the future? It might surprise you to know that one might indeed know the future, but if one can know the future are there any limitations?

Time is thought of in two ways, it is thought of as linear or as cyclical, the one is opposed to the other. Time can be only one, it is either linear or it is cyclical, it cannot be both.

So first then, we will make a statement. That statement is that time is linear. To say that time is linear is to say that time moves from event to event in a line. The concept of cyclical time is that time has a beginning that leads back around to the end, and the cycle starts all over again. This is incorrect and springs from an Eastern point of view promoting reincarnation.

Reincarnation is a pantheistic religious system, which just plain isn't true, violates what scripture teaches, and in my opinion isn't anywhere near good science. Physical processes known to science such as the "Second Law of Thermodynamics require that time move from the past through the present and into the future - irreversibly. "Linear," "one-dimensional" time is the time frame of the physics of the macroscopic world.

The observations of the physical world undergird the statement that time is linear. This is important when one considers foretelling or predicating the future. Why, you might ask? Well, I will tell you a story.

It was in the autumn of a splendid year, when I walked along my back porch and talked with the Lord. I was praying when the thought came to me that I should ask God (Father), when my earthly father would die. You might ask, why would I ask, such a thing? Well, I was in my twenties, my father had been disabled a good number of years and I lived out of town. I felt guilty for not visiting him any more often than I did. My logic was that, if I knew how much longer he had, I would take the time to see him.

Might I add, I had heard of someone who had prayed this way and God had answered him, so knowing God is no respecter of persons, I preceded to do the same.

Are you on the seat of the chair? You should be..... God spoke, he said, "at this time next year your father will die". I said, "thank you". Well, what do you say to God when he speaks? So knowing this I told myself I would see my father much more often.

TIME

As the year progressed, I became busy, and forgot entirely what the Lord had said. Didn't mean to, but did none the less. I was enthralled in life when the call came that my father had fallen and it didn't look good. I quickly hurried to drive to Brunswick, Ga. where my father lay in ICU. Later the next day he died. While he took, and for a short time thereafter, his last breaths, I admonished him to accept the Lord Jesus. I could image his spirit leaving his body and being sucked down to the neither parts of the earth ⁱⁱⁱ(Hell). 2Pe 2:4 says, "Chains of darkness" await those who are partakers of Hell. As he took his last breaths, I exclaimed "it's not too late"! Call on Him, even now! Being on your way down feeling the pull – call to Him! He will save you. Even now it's not too late!

When I recovered from the trauma of watching my father's last breaths and fearing where he might be headed, I composed myself. While resting, the words of the Lord came back to me, "at this time next year your father will die". I looked out the window, sure enough it was autumn! My heart sunk! All my promises to myself had been to naught, I had not acted one bit different. I had not spent one extra minute with him, despite my big intentions. I had felt low before, but this was a new low, I couldn't raise my head. In time I healed.

When I had recovered myself over the next few days, enough to spend some time talking with the Lord, he brought up the situation. He explained that there was indeed something he desired me to learn in this ^{iv}experience. Now what the Lord was to teach me is this, first that He (God) sees the future, and second that the future is not ^vchangeable, time is indeed linear and He sees the events of time unfolding from His position of timelessness as ^{vi}(Dan 7:22) "the Ancient of days".

We will discuss this further but we must consider this first (Rom 9:21), "Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor"? He knows all things, and the basis of this foreknowledge is His ability to see "all things" including the future from His timeless perspective. This illustrates the sovereignty of God over man and said another way, "Hath not the potter power over the clay from the same lump to make something beautiful, honorable or to make something (a person, a vessel) of dishonor, fit to be thrown away and burned?"

TIME

^{vii}I speak illustratively of the "potter's" authority over the clay. I suggest that a person must make an acknowledgment of the absolute right and authority of God over the clay, or a denial of the absolute right and authority of God over the clay. You cannot have it both ways, God either controls the present and the future or He does not! This is where big words such as, predestination, sovereignty, and providence are used, but for our discussion it is enough to know that God (sees, knows, and controls) the present, past, and future and we may very well be as Shakespeare said, "merely actors upon the stage."

The point of this part of the discussion is to illustrate that God sees and knows the future. And, that that future is shaped by Divine foreknowledge, predestination, sovereignty, and providence. We cannot change our future! Yes, we have free will, but He sees the future. Because He is in a timeless "present" His perspective sees our past, present, and future as a present happening. This is why God knows the future; in His present (if we can use a descriptive of time as a comparison) He sees everything past, present, and future as a constant happening. God is always in the "present" it just happens that His present includes our past, present, and future!

He can tell anyone that He likes what is in their future.

So, on with the story, although God having told me what was going to happen with my father it did not give me, one – the ability to change it, or two – the ability to act any different.

Well, as Paul Harvey used to say, "Now you know the rest of the story".

Your input is welcome. Please contact us with any considerate challenges or enhancements that you feel will forward this eBook. You can contact me at: www.finaltrumphetblast.com Submissions that advances the value of this E-book will be added to future updates. When you send your input, you agree to have all, or part, of your writings incorporated without a claim to financial or copyright considerations in which you're writings might appear in future updates. CK Quarterman

ⁱ In general, the Judaeo-Christian concept, based on the Bible, is that time is linear, defined chiefly in terms of a line. God is outside of time. He is, "...**the high and lofty one, who inhabits eternity.**" (Isaiah 57:15)

ⁱⁱ The Second Law can be stated in several forms, but basically it refers to the tendency of things to rot, rust, decay and fall apart with the passage of time. As we use energy, the total amount of available energy available to do additional work decreases inexorably. Orderly systems proceed to break-down in the direction of chaos, and the "information content" of things decreases with the passage of time.

TIME

ⁱⁱⁱ Luk 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Also, Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Main: 2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

^{iv} It wasn't, that he desired us not to ask Him about the things we are concerned about. Actually, quite the opposite, He desires intensely that we ask things of Him. Just like a father He likes to answer us His children, howbeit, sometimes in His own time.

^v Rom 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

^{vi} Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Dan 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire. Dan 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

^{vii} The sovereignty of God rests upon God's *oneness*, God's *self-existence*, God's *self-sufficiency*, and God's *creatorhood*. http://www.the-highway.com/sovereignty_Murray1.html