## Physical Beginnings, Spiritual Endings Rick Railston

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For those of you who could see the moon last night, it was full which indicated we are two months after the feast. It's hard to believe. The Feast of tabernacles, as we know, completed God's holy day cycle for the year. The early holy days memorialized what God has already done and the latter holy days look forward to what He will do.

Now that these days are complete, I thought it might be a good time to step back and take a look at the entirety of God's plan, to contrast how it began with how it will end.

The word "genesis" is named after the first words in Genesis 1:1, where God said, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." The English word "genesis" means the same thing. It means a beginning of something. We know God's plan for creating man and the subsequent human family began with the book of Genesis.

We also know that the end of God's plan is detailed in the book of Revelation. What we often don't do is compare Genesis to Revelation, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. We don't often do that. What we're going to see today is that the book of Revelation is a perfect compliment to the book of Genesis. It shows and absolutely proves that there is the same author of both and that is God Almighty, even though they were written 1,500 years apart. Genesis was written about 1400 BC by Moses, and Revelation was written by the Apostle John around 100 AD

So we're going to compare Genesis and Revelation through seven points today and see how something began physically in Genesis, but it concludes spiritually in Revelation.

The title of the sermon is:

## Physical Beginnings, Spiritual Endings

1st Point: In Genesis we see a physical creation and a physical recreation, but in Revelation we see a spiritual creation of the earth.

We have a physical creation and recreation of the earth in Genesis, and now we're going to see a spiritual creation of the earth created in Revelation.

Let's turn to Genesis. You may want to keep a marker in Genesis and probably in Revelation 20 and 21, because we'll bounce back and forth.

**Genesis 1:1**. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2) The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep ... (NKJV)

<u>The Hebrew Dictionary</u> by Kohlenberger and Mounce says the Hebrew word for "form" is <u>Strong's</u> 8414. It's "tohu", and it means *formless, chaos or confused*.

God created the heavens and the earth, but in verse 2 we find them formless, in chaos and confused. The Hebrew word for "void" is "bohu" and it means *emptiness*, desolation or a void associated with chaos. So we see in verse 2 that void and empty means that the earth was in a total state of chaos. We know that God is not the author of chaos and confusion. 1 Corinthians 14:33 tells us that. Therefore something had to happen between verse 1 and verse 2.

The NIV margin says it right when it says, *The earth became without form and void*. It became that way.

So we ask the question: What happened? What caused the earth to be in absolute chaos? We know that Genesis 1:1 records the initial creation of the heavens and the earth at some unspecified time in the past. It doesn't have to be six thousand years.

When the earth was created, we know that all the angels were still righteous and they were in harmony with God and they rejoiced. We find that in Job 38:4-7. We also know that following earth's creation, the angels apparently (this is a degree of speculation) but apparently occupied the earth as their first estate as Jude says in verse 6. We don't know if all the angels were on the earth, but there were certainly a large number of them on the earth.

Then we understand that things changed. Isaiah 14:12-14 reveals that Lucifer, at some point, decided to rebel and ascend to heaven to replace God. We understand that.

With that in mind, let's go to Ezekiel 28 and see why. We're just going to hit the high spots here because we have quite a few more points to cover.

**Ezekiel 28:17.** Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness: I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings, that they may behold you. (KJV)

Vanity and pride.

18) You have defiled your sanctuaries ... (KJV)

That's an interesting word. The Hebrew word for "sanctuaries" is <u>Strong's</u> 4720 and it means a *consecrated place*, or it can mean especially *a palace*. What does God mean by that? All we know is that whatever palace he had was defiled because of his vanity. Maybe God gave him the earth as a palace, or maybe he had a residence in heaven. We don't know, but he defiled it because of his pride. Then he and millions of angels ascended to heaven to try to overthrow the rule and throne of God. God and Christ cast them down and somewhere in that process of being cast down, the earth became

without form and void, in total chaos because of that event. Someday I'm sure God will rewind that and we can see exactly what happened. But we know that under the rule of Satan, the physical earth has been defiled and corrupted twice. It was corrupted between Genesis 1 and Genesis 2. It has been corrupted ever since that day 6,000 years ago. Satan has actually corrupted this earth twice. It continues to this very day.

Let's go back to verse 3 of Genesis 1

**Genesis 1:3**. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4) And God saw the light ... (NKJV)

This is important because this sets a principle throughout the Bible.

4b) ... that it was good ... (NKJV)

God says, "Light is good. That's a good thing."

- 6) Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."
- 7) Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.
- 8) And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. (NKJV)

We see here the beginning of the recreation of the earth. Paul speaks about this very thing in Romans 8:19. He's talking about this creation, but personifying the creation, the creation isn't happy. It is suffering.

**Romans 8:19.** For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. (NIV)

The creation is waiting for that. It's waiting more now and there is more expectation now than when Paul wrote those words.

- 20) For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one [God Almighty] who subjected it, in hope.
- 21) that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. (NIV)

This tells us that until the children of God are revealed at the last trumpet, the earth is in bondage to decay, and we see that all around us. We know that the whole world has been groaning because of the decay that has been brought on by Satan after the sin of Adam and Eve. But in this point, God promises to change that. The good news is all of this will be changed. God promises to change this satanic decay that the earth is suffering from right now, the atmosphere, the water, the soil, the suffering of people.

**Revelation 21:1.** Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

2) I [John] saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (NIV)

What a difference from the chaos and confusion.

So in Genesis we see that God created and then recreated a physical earth that has been subject to decay since the sin of Adam and Eve, but in Revelation we see God creating a spiritual earth, one where He and Christ will rule and His children will rule in perfect harmony. Things will be built and not torn down.

That's the first point.

2nd Point: In Genesis, Satan appears. In Revelation, Satan is removed.

He is out of the picture. Now we will read the very familiar account of Satan coming on the scene in the first five verses of Genesis.

**Genesis 3:1.** Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made ... (KJV)

God created the being who later became Satan, by his own choice. God didn't create a Satan. He did that himself, but the lesson we need to take today is that Satan is very subtle more than any other being. We cannot outsmart Satan. It's only with God's help.

- 1b) ... And he said unto the woman, Yea, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- 2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. (JKV)

Then Satan told the first lie.

4) And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die:

Satan is the father of all lies. When people lie, they have a father, and their father is Satan.

5) For God knows that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (KJV)

I'm sure he made all of these promises. If you just eat this, your life is going to change and you will be like God. We see from this account and we know that Satan is the father of everything that is evil.

Let's turn to John 8:44. Christ is talking to the Pharisees. They are human beings and He is telling them, "You have a father, but that father is a spirit being and you don't even know it.

**John 8:44.** You [Pharisees] are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do ... (KJV)

That's an important concept, because we're either going to be close to God or Satan will be in the picture. If we have a relationship with Satan or if we're close to Satan, we will follow his lusts. That's a promise.

44b) ... He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (KJV)

He is the father of all lies. He is the father of all evil.

The good news when we compare Genesis to Revelation is that Satan is going to be dealt with. The father of all sin is going to be dealt with.

**Revelation 20:1.** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2) And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, (KJV)

We know that is temporary.

3) And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more ... (KJV)

Then we will go to verse 10. We know God releases him for a period of time, but in verse 10 we get to the crux of the matter.

10) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are ... (KJV)

The NIV says "had been thrown" or some translations say, "Where the beast and the false prophet were."

10b) ... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (KJV)

We see that certainly there's going to come a point where the devil will be cut off from God and mankind and spirit beings forever, never to return. Could he possibly be destroyed? The Catholic view of that is that he's tormented forever and ever. It's like being on a hot griddle forever.

<u>Thayer</u>, in his commentary, says the Greek word "forever" is <u>Strong's</u> 165, and it's "aion" and it has two meanings. The common meaning, we understand, is *an unbroken age, or an eternity, time that is unbroken*. When you say forever and ever, that's the concept we come up with. But it has a second meaning. It means *a defined period of time*. It could be that Satan is tormented for a period of time, but we also see through scripture that spirit can be destroyed.

**Matthew 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. (KJV)

The Greek word for "spirit" is "pneuma", so spirit can be destroyed.

Once again, we have a time to look forward to, because in Genesis Satan pops up and nothing is the same. However, in Revelation, Satan is removed and dealt with and never more to bother God, his throne, Jesus Christ or His children. What a blessing.

You see how Genesis and Revelation tie in because there is a beginning and an end and the reason that is so is because there is one author, one God, one planner.

3rd Point: In Genesis we see darkness established, but in Revelation we see darkness is removed forever.

Let's go back to Genesis where God created darkness. Notice how He did it.

**Genesis 1:3.** And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

- 4) And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- 5) And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. (KJV)

We see here that God created the darkness, but understand the scientific definition of darkness is the absence of light. Darkness is not anything of itself. It is the absence of light. That is the scientific definition. The spiritual definition is exactly the same. Darkness is the absence of God and Jesus Christ. When they leave a person, there is nothing left but darkness. We know that Satan is the author of spiritual darkness.

Let's go to Acts 26, and we will read this from the NIV. We're breaking in where Christ is speaking to Paul on the road to Damascus. Paul has been struck down and Christ is getting across a very fundamental principle to him, this man who fought Christ and kicked against the pricks. Here Christ says something to Paul that shocked him.

Acts 26:17. I will rescue you from your own people ... (NIV)

Paul was a Pharisee of the Pharisees.

17b) ... and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them [Gentiles]

18) to open their eyes and [notice the point] turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (NIV)

We see here very clearly at the beginning of verse 18 that Christ equates Satan with darkness. The world has been in darkness ever since Genesis. It has been in darkness since that time because, as we will see, Adam and Eve rejected God, they listened to Satan, they removed themselves from the presence of God and Christ which is light. Guess what was left ... darkness.

There is going to come a time when there will be no darkness forever more. There is going to be a time when we'll never see anything dark. There will always be light.

**Revelation 21:22.** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

- 23) And the city [New Jerusalem] 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 honor into it.
- 25) And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day ... (KJV)

They would shut the gates to keep intruders from coming in and using the darkness to infiltrate the city. Since there is no darkness, the gates shall not be shut at all by day:

25b) ... for there shall be no night [no darkness] there. (KJV)

Think of that. It is something to look forward to. We see here in this third comparison that physical darkness was established by God by the removal of light. With Satan being equated with darkness, the prince of darkness, the one who has deceived the world into darkness and mankind has been in darkness ever since. In Revelation we see the darkness and Satan, being equated with darkness, are removed.

4th Point: In Genesis, because of the choices man made, mankind was cursed. However, in revelation we see very specifically that the curse will be removed.

In Genesis 3:17, God is talking to Adam after their sin.

- **Genesis 3:17.** And unto Adam he said, because you have hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;
- 18) Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field:
- 19) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till you return unto the ground; for out of it you were taken: for dust you are, and unto dust shalt you return. (KJV)

We see here that God cursed the ground and we have to contrast that to before the sin in the Garden of Eden when the ground was not cursed. They had everything they needed. They could pick fruit off trees, they could eat vegetables. They didn't have to work and labor in order to eat. The climate was perfect and it was an idyllic time. But now because of their sin, because of the choices they made, the ground is cursed.

In reality, the curse goes far beyond just the ground. At that point, after they listened to Satan and said, "God, we're not going to listen to You. We're going to listen to Satan." Guess what happened. Their minds were cursed also. They became carnal. They became physically minded because of their choices and human beings have suffered ever since. We know in Romans 8:7:

**Romans 8:7.** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (KJV)

Once that decision was made, their minds were cursed. Their minds became carnal. We've had to deal with human nature ever since. We have, frankly, the same choices they did every day. Do we follow God or do we follow my human nature, my carnal mind which is the mind of Satan? We battle the same human nature every day, and God watches us to see if we're going to do what they did or through the power of God's holy spirit, through the mind of Christ we can say "No" and follow God. The beautiful thing is that in the future, that curse is going to be removed.

Let's go to Revelation 22:3. This couldn't be any more plain.

**Revelation 22:3.** And there shall be no more curse ... (KJV)

No more curse on the ground or on man.

3b) ... but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [referring to New Jerusalem]; and his servants shall serve him: (KJV)

So in Genesis we see that because of choices the first two human beings made, the ground was cursed and they were cursed. Their minds were cursed. In Revelation we see that the curse is removed permanently.

5th Point: In Genesis, mankind is cut off from the tree of life. Man was cast out from the presence of God. In Revelation, mankind is offered the tree of life and restored to God's presence.

God makes everything right. He makes the tree of Life available to everyone and He comes and lives with mankind. Turn to Genesis 3:22-24.

**Genesis 3:22.** And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

- 23) Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.
- 24) So he drove out the man ... (KJV)

This wasn't a suggestion. This wasn't a little pat on the fanny. He drove him out. It would be interesting to see how that actually happened. Did He have some angel appear and scare them half to death where they ran out of the garden? We don't know, but he was driven out.

24b) ... and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (KJV)

It's going to be interesting to see how long the Garden of Eden lasted after that event and how long that sword stayed there and how long the cherubim stayed there. Was it a few days or weeks or centuries? We don't know. Some day we will find out.

But we see here very clearly that two things happened. Mankind was cut off from the tree of life and both the man and the woman were literally driven away from the presence of God. That pretty much sums up the last six thousand years of human history. Remember Isaiah 59:2 where it says:

**Isaiah 59:2.** But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (KJV)

That's exactly what happened. There was a separation of their own making and they were driven away from the garden and denied access to the tree of life.

However, in Revelation, that's all going to be turned around.

**Revelation 21:2.** 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 ... (KJV)

Men have not been driven away from the tabernacle of God. The tabernacle of God is with men.

3b) ... and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. (KJV)

Now instead of being driven away, God comes to live with them and we will forever be with God and Jesus Christ.

Then to rectify the situation with the tree of life, all mankind will come to have access to that tree.

**Revelation 22:1.** And he shewed me a pure river of water of life [not death], clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2) In the midst of the street of it [New Jerusalem], and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life ... (KJV)

The tree of life is back. It's in New Jerusalem.

- 2b) ... which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
- 14) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (KJV)

Mankind now has access to the tree of life. Let's understand that for human beings to have true joy, it is only possible in the presence of God.

Psalms 16:11 is a wonderful scripture. I'll read it out of the New King James. Joy doesn't come from physical things. Joy comes from being in the presence of God.

**Psalms 16:11.** You will show me the path of life ... (NKJV)

Yes, indeed, God has done that.

11b) ... In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (NKJV)

We get a taste of that in this physical life when we're close to God and when we're thankful for what we have, for our calling, for the opening of our mind to see God's word, the power of the holy spirit to the sacrifice of His Son to allow us to obey God's word and to have the love of God that can be shed to others, our mates, our brothers and sisters in the church, our family. We get a glimpse of that when sometimes we're praying or when we see a sunrise or sunset or something that God has created. We have this welling up of joy because you're seeing something from the very God of the universe and you know Him, you know who He is, you know God's plan of salvation. We just get a little taste of that. We're told here in Psalm 16, but looking forward to Revelation, we will be in the very presence of God and there will be joy forever more, because there's not going to be anything negative. There's no darkness, there's no Satan, there's nothing that cannot be done right and good. What a joy that will be. But if true joy can only be had in the presence of God, then by definition of that, one cannot experience true joy if one is not in the presence of God. You can't experience true joy. Some people may think they can, and it might be a human happiness, but it's not the joy that God and Christ are talking about.

If you can't experience true joy except in the presence of God and God is not present at this time, that pretty much sums up the state of mankind for the last six thousand years; misery, suffering, evil. You read the news or look at the television and there's nothing but suffering. Yes, occasionally somebody does something good, and that is wonderful, but 99.9 percent of it, if you look at the entire earth at any given moment, it is suffering and miserable. There is no joy, because God is not present. Satan is.

So in Genesis we see that man was driven from the presence of God with no access to the tree of life. In Revelation we see just the opposite. That relationship is restored and man has access to the tree of life and, in fact, God and Christ come and dwell with mankind. Man is in His presence and, therefore, experiences true joy for an eternity. What a plan. This plan couldn't be invented by a human being.

6th Point: In Genesis we see that God's government is rejected by the first two human beings. In Revelation we see that God's government is reinstituted.

God and Christ rule the world. In Genesis, Adam and Eve rejected His rule over them when they accepted the word of Satan and rejected the word of God. We also see in Genesis the beginning of Babylon. Babylon was Satan's replacement government for God's government. It started at the very beginning.

The concept of Babylon is dual. Yes, Babylon was a physical city. No question, it existed. But also it is symbolic of a governmental system based on a false religion designed to replace God – Babylon the Great. That has been referred to down through the centuries, down through the millennia, Babylon the Great, government in place of God.

Let's begin with the city of Babylon. In Genesis 9, God commanded Noah and his sons to do what? He commanded them to disperse and repopulate the earth. He also said, "You don't have to fear another flood. I put this rainbow in the sky to remind you that I will never again bring another flood. You don't have to fear the animals coming after you and your children. I will take care of you and protect you." Guess what? A man named Nimrod immediately went out and built eight cities. Talk about rebellion against God. Instead of repopulating the earth as he was told, he built eight cities.

**Genesis 10:8.** Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9) He was a mighty hunter before ... (NKJV)

That word can also mean *in front of*. In other words, he placed himself in front of God, in place of God or above God, however you want to refer to it.

- 8b) ... the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before [or in front of] the LORD."
- 10) And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. (NKJV)

He wasn't content to stay in the land of Shinar. He built four cities in Shinar.

- 11) From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah,
- 12) and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

He built a total of eight cities. God said, "Don't do that. Repopulate the earth and spread out." Nimrod did exactly the opposite.

**Genesis 11:1.** Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

- 2) And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.
- 3) Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.
- 4) And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." (NKJV)

God said, "Be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." They say, "We're going to build a city so we don't get scattered. We want to be in a city." Nimrod clearly established a system that was contrary to God's commandments. We know who was influencing Nimrod. Nimrod promised protection from the animals, ignoring God's promise of safety from animals. He promised protection in case of another flood, in spite of the fact that God gave them a sign, but they didn't believe the sign. In fact, for millennia after Babylon when the tower was still there and there are histories that clearly show that they waterproofed the inside of the tower because they didn't believe God. They used bitumen that basically waterproofed the whole structure.

This is just my speculation, the Bible is silent on the subject, but the reason they built a tower was because they wanted to ascend to heaven and have a repeat of what Satan tried to do in the beginning. Satan inspired Nimrod to build the tower so they could go to heaven and conquer God. That's my speculation.

The Irish were Druidic and that whole area was about as pagan as you could get. They had an ancient ceremony once a year where the Irish archers would take their bows and arrows and shoot them straight up toward heaven. The tradition was when the arrows fell down, they had blood on the tip. It doesn't take much of a stretch to tell you the meaning of that. It was symbolic of going up to God's throne, shooting God with arrows, His blood is on the arrow and it falls back to the ground. That has been an Irish tradition for centuries. It speaks to the fact that, I believe, they built the tower because they were trying to go up and throw God off of His throne. It was pure rebellion against God. Nimrod put himself in place of God. That concept of putting someone before God, whether it's a spirit being in the case of Satan or a physical human being or a pope or minister or any other human, this exists to this day. This whole concept likely predates Nimrod.

Let's go to 1 John 3 and see this. The idea of replacing God obviously started with Adam and Eve, but it continued on with their offspring before Nimrod.

1 John 3:11. For this is the message [the margin says "commandment"] that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,
12) not as Cain who was of the wicked one [that can only mean Satan] and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. (NKJV)

We see that this inspiration of the serpent didn't stop with Adam and Eve. It carried on with their children, and generation after generation.

There is a monument in Ireland called New Grange that is dated to be 5,200 years old. If that dating is correct, it is pre-flood. It's pre-Nimrod. It is a massive structure that took decades to build, because it has hundreds of stones, each one is multiple tons and there are hundreds of those. To carve those and move them and build this structure took enormous effort. This monument was used in sacrificial worship. On the day of the winter solstice, a ray of sun would shine on this monument. There was a portal and the ray of the sun on the day of winter solstice would go right down the center of the monument where sacrifices would be made to the sun god. This shows that sun worship was extant before the flood. This tells us that long before the flood, people were putting the sun, Satan or whatever in place of God just as Adam and Eve did.

You see, God's government was rejected at the time of Adam and Eve and continues to this day. The point is that with Babylon, Satan inspired a system of false worship to obey him instead of God and it has existed ever since Adam and Eve's decision and continues to this day, but the good news is that it will end. It will stop. There is an end to it. We are promised the restoration of God's government. That is a promise.

Let's go to Revelation 11:15. This is a day we all look forward to. The seventh angel blows a trumpet. What a day.

**Revelation 11:15.** Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world [Babylon] have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (NKJV)

All of man's efforts at self-governance, all of man's efforts at ruling other human beings will be wiped away with the blowing of that trumpet.

In addition to that, we're promised the very destruction of Babylon. Let's go to Revelation 18.

**Revelation 18:1.** After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. (NKJV)

Can you imagine this? Here's an angel coming down and it lights up the earth.

2) And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying ... (NKJV)

I'm sure the whole earth hears this.

- 2b) ... "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!
- 3) For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." (NKJV)

Economic systems, education systems, financial systems, governmental systems are all part of Babylon the Great.

21) Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. (NKJV)

What a time! It is gone.

So we see here in Genesis the beginning of the Babylonian system because of the rejection of God's government. But in Revelation we see that Babylon is destroyed. The Babylonian system is destroyed and God's government is reinstated, reconstituted on earth once and for all. It's done, finished.

## 7th Point: Death was instituted because of sin in Genesis. In Revelation, death is abolished forever.

No more death. In Genesis 3, God said that they could freely eat of any tree except the tree in the middle of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When they took of the wrong tree and violated God's law, then sin entered into the world. When sin entered into the world so did the death penalty. Romans 6:23: *The wages of sin is death.* Once they took of the fruit that they shouldn't have taken, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, everything changed. They were subject to death because the tree of life was no longer available to them.

Death came by man and the choices man made.

- **1 Corinthians 15:20.** But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [died].
- 21) For since by man came death ... (NKJV)

Through Adam and Eve's choice.

21b) ... by Man [Jesus Christ] also came the resurrection of the dead.22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. (NKJV)

Because of the choices they made in the past, every human being that has ever lived has been required to die, even Jesus Christ. He had to die. But one day, in the future, death will go away forever. It will no longer be found.

I read this scripture often because, given the suffering in the world today, you just ache for this day to come.

**Revelation 21:4.** And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain ... (NKJV)

People are suffering today.

4 continued) ... for the former things have passed away. (NKJV)

Death, sorrow, suffering, pain and crying are gone forever.

We see in Genesis that death was instituted because of sin. Pain and suffering came because of that too.

We see in Revelation that death is abolished forever.

So we see seven comparisons between Genesis and Revelation. We see that everything is completed in Revelation in the spiritual sense that began in Genesis in a physical sense. We see God's plan throughout; one author, one planner. It speaks to the glory of God and the majesty of His plan that the book of Genesis chronicles the creation of the physical earth, all of creation including human beings, animals, etc. It chronicles the physical creation and the recreation, but it is so perfectly complemented by the book of Revelation which chronicles the spiritual creation of God's family, of God's earth. As I said, they were written 1,500 years apart, but yet they fit so perfectly. It could not be the work of human authors.

Let's close with one final scripture. I'll read this from the Complete Jewish Bible. Talk about joy. Even when we have our own personal trials we can think about this because it gives us joy and hope.

**1 John 3:1.** See what love the Father has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children. For that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it has not known Him ... (CJB)

That is so true, because of Satan.

2) Dear friends, we are God's children now and it has not yet been made clear what we shall become. We do know that when He appears we will be like Him because we will see Him as He really is. (CJB)

There is a day that we will be like God and we will see Him and we will see Jesus Christ face to face.

You see, the creation in Genesis was a physical type of a spiritual creation, a spiritual reality that we see in the book of Revelation. God has offered us entrance into His family for the rest of eternity. One day we are going to stand before God and we will see Him in all His glory and we will see Jesus Christ at His right hand. We will see them on their throne above the sea of glass. That is a reality.

So, think of the book of Revelation this way. In a sense, maybe the book of Revelation is a type of Genesis for us, because it marks the beginning of the rest of forever for us. It marks the beginning of the rest of our forever. So in that sense, it is a Genesis for us, a spiritual Genesis, as the sons and daughters of God Almighty.