**Scripture has been structured in a septenary fashion, patterned after and resting *upon* the opening two chapters of Genesis; and this is an evident fact which must be recognized if one would properly understand God's *redemptive* plans and purposes which He has *revealed* in His Word.**

**Septenary Structure of Scripture***Divinely established in* [*Genesis 1:1-2:3*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV)**By Arlen L. Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

God has structured His revelation to man after a particular fashion -- a fashion which He set forth in basic, minute form at the very beginning in [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV). A complete sequence of events surrounding four things is set forth in these verses:

1) **Creation** ([Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV)),

2) **Ruin** ([Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)),

3) **Restoration** ([Genesis 1:2-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-25&t=NKJV) [2b]), and

4) **Rest** ([Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV)).

And God, through beginning His Word after this fashion, established a *framework* for the whole of that which He would subsequently *reveal*.

To show this septenary structure in subsequent Scripture is quite simple. And to do so, three different, related areas of Scripture will be considered -- The *Sabbath given to Israel*, *John's Gospel*, and *Peter's second epistle*.

**The Sign of the Sabbath**

The Sabbath was given to Israel as a *sign* of "a perpetual covenant." Relative to the Sabbath, God said:

*"It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed"* ([Exodus 31:16-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+31.16-17&t=NKJV)).

When *giving* the Sabbath to Israel (*cf.* [Exodus 20:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+20.11&t=NKJV)) or *referring* to the Sabbath rest *awaiting* the people of God in Hebrews, in each instance, for a very good reason, God called attention to that *which occurred* in Genesis chapters one and two. There is a *latter* work of restoration, followed by rest, which is based on a *former* work of restoration, followed by rest; and the Sabbath was given to Israel to keep this thought *ever before* the Jewish people.

That is, the sign of the Sabbath, which concerned a *present* work and *future* rest, was based on a *past* work and *past* rest. God worked six days to *restore* a ruined creation in the opening chapter of Genesis; and on the sixth day, along with the completion of His work of restoration, He brought man into *existence* to *rule over the restored domain*. Then God *rested on the seventh day*.

But a ruin *ensued once again*. Man, an entirely new creation in the universe, *fell*; and, as a result, the restored domain was brought *under a curse*, leaving God with *two* ruined creations: *man*, and the *material creation*.

With this in mind, how did God, in the Genesis account, set about to restore these *two* ruined creations? The answer is not only clearly revealed but it is also very simple. According to Scripture, God set about to restore the subsequent ruined creations in *exactly* the same manner as He *had* restored the former ruined creation in the opening chapter of Genesis. He, in accord with [Genesis 1:2-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-25&t=NKJV) [2b], set *about* to restore the subsequent ruined creations over six days of time; and He, in accord with [Genesis 2:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.2-3&t=NKJV), would *then* rest on the seventh day.

The *latter* restoration had to occur in complete keeping with the *former* restoration. A pattern had been set in the opening verses of Genesis which could *not* change. The latter restoration had to occur over a *six-day period*. And also in accord with this pattern there had to be a day of rest following the *six days of work*.

The Sabbath was a *sign*, and a sign in Scripture always points to something *beyond itself*. The Sabbath, as a sign, *points* to a seventh-day rest which God will enter into *with* His people ("the people of God" in [Hebrews 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.9&t=NKJV)) *following* six previous days of restorative work. The Sabbath was *given* to Israel to keep the thought ever before the nation that God, in accordance with the opening verses of Genesis, was going to *work* six days to *effect* the restoration of that presently in a ruined state (both man and the material creation) and then *rest* the seventh day.

*Each* day in the former restoration and rest was *twenty-four hours in length*, but *each* day in the latter restoration and rest is revealed to be *one thousand years in length* ([2 Peter 1:16-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.16-18&t=NKJV); [3:3-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.3-8&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Matthew 16:28-17:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.28-17.5&t=NKJV)). Based on the pattern *set forth* in Genesis chapters one and two, God is going to *work* six thousand years during the *present* restoration and *then* rest the seventh one-thousand-year period.

Scripture begins by laying the *basis* for this septenary arrangement of time in the *opening* verses ([Gen. 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Gen.+1&t=NKJV), [2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Gen+1.2&t=NKJV)), this is something seen throughout Scripture ([Exodus 31:13-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+31.13-17&t=NKJV); [Numbers 19:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+19.12&t=NKJV); [Hosea 5:15-6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hosea+5.15-6.2&t=NKJV); [Jonah 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jonah+1.17&t=NKJV); [Matthew 17:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+17.1&t=NKJV); [Luke 24:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.21&t=NKJV); [John 1:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.29&t=NKJV), [35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.35&t=NKJV), [43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.43&t=NKJV); [2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1&t=NKJV); [5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.9&t=NKJV); [9:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+9.14&t=NKJV); [11:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.6-7&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 4:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.1&t=NKJV), [4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.4&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.9&t=NKJV)), and this is the *way* God concludes His revelation surrounding time immediately *prior* to the eternal ages ([Revelation 20:4-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.4-6&t=NKJV)).

Scripture deals with 7,000 years of time -- time *extending* from the *restoration* of the earth and the *creation* of man to the *end* of the Messianic Kingdom. Scripture has very little to say about that which occurred *prior* to these 7,000 years, and it also has very little to say about that which will occur *following* these 7,000 years. Scripture has been structured in a septenary fashion, patterned after and resting *upon* the opening two chapters of Genesis; and this is an evident fact which must be recognized if one would properly understand God's *redemptive* plans and purposes which He has *revealed* in His Word.

**The Signs in John's Gospel**

The Gospel of John is built around eight signs; and, as in the sign of the Sabbath, the signs in this gospel point to things *beyond* the signs themselves.

It is the Jews who *require* a sign ([1 Corinthians 1:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+1.22&t=NKJV)); and these signs, taken from numerous signs which Jesus performed during His earthly ministry, are directed (as was His ministry in that day) to the Jewish people. Jesus performed these signs for one central purpose:

*"...that ye* [the Jewish people] *might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name"* ([John 20:30-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+20.30-31&t=NKJV); *cf.* [John 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.11&t=NKJV); [5:46-47](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.46-47&t=NKJV); [6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.14&t=NKJV), [21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.21&t=NKJV); [11:45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.45&t=NKJV)).

Seven of the eight signs in John's gospel were performed in connection with particular days, all in perfect keeping with one another, all in perfect keeping with the sign of the Sabbath, and all in perfect keeping with the septenary structure of Scripture. And all of the signs refer, after different fashions, to the *same thing*. All of them refer to *Israel's coming salvation and restoration*.

The **first** sign, in [John 2:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1-11&t=NKJV), has to do with Jesus turning the water in six waterpots to wine ("six," is man's number; the "waterpots" were made from the earth, as man; they were filled with "water," symbolizing the Word ([Ephesians 5:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.26&t=NKJV)); and, through Divine intervention, a change ensued). This sign, pointing to the *future deliverance* of Israel (seen through a marriage in Cana of Galilee, foreshadowing that time when God *restores* Israel as His *wife* [*cf.* [Genesis 25:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25.1&t=NKJV)]), occurred on the seventh day ([John 1:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.29&t=NKJV), [35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.35&t=NKJV), [43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.43&t=NKJV); [2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1&t=NKJV)), which is *when* Israel will be *saved and restored yet future*.

The **second** sign, in [John 4:40-54](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+4.40-54&t=NKJV), has to do with the healing of a nobleman's son. This sign occurred after Jesus had spent *two* days with the Samaritans, on the third day ([John 4:40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+4.40&t=NKJV), [43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+4.43&t=NKJV)). It will be *after* two days visiting "the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name," on the *third* day, that Jesus will *return* to the Jewish people and the nation will be *healed* (*cf.* [Isaiah 1:1-2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+1.1-2.5&t=NKJV); [Hosea 5:15-6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hosea+5.15-6.2&t=NKJV); [Acts 15:14-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+15.14-18&t=NKJV)).

The **third** sign, in [John 5:1-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.1-9&t=NKJV), has to do with a man being healed on the Sabbath, after being physically sick for thirty-eight years ([John 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.5&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.9&t=NKJV)). The reference (in the type) would be to the healing of the nation through the *second* generation of Israelites being allowed to *enter* the land under Joshua after thirty-eight years (dating from the overthrow at Kadesh-Barnea), referring to that time (in the antitype) when the nation will be *healed* and be *allowed* to *enter* the land under Christ, an event which will occur on the seventh day, the Sabbath.

The **fourth** sign, in [John 6:1-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.1-14&t=NKJV), has to do with bread being provided for the multitudes; and this sign occurred in connection with the Passover ([John 6:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.4&t=NKJV)). Jesus is that "bread of life" which will be provided for the nation *yet future* ([John 6:35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.35&t=NKJV)); and the Passover is the festival in [Leviticus 23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+23&t=NKJV) which has to do with the *future* salvation of Israel, when the nation will *receive* the true "bread of life." Israel has slain the Lamb (*cf.* [Exodus 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.6&t=NKJV); [Acts 2:36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+2.36&t=NKJV); [3:14-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+3.14-15&t=NKJV)), but the nation *has yet* to apply the blood (*cf.* [Exodus 12:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.7&t=NKJV), [13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.13&t=NKJV); [Zechariah 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+12.10&t=NKJV); [Romans 11:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.26&t=NKJV)).

The **fifth** sign, in [John 6:15-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.15-21&t=NKJV), has to do with Christ's departure, a storm, His return, the disciples' attitude toward Him at this time, and the geographical location in which they subsequently found themselves. It points to Christ's *departure* from Israel two thousand years ago ([John 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.15&t=NKJV)), the *coming* Tribulation, with Israel scattered among the nations ([John 6:16-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.16-18&t=NKJV)), Christ's *return* ([John 6:19-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.19-20&t=NKJV)), the Jewish people *receiving* Him ([John 6:21a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.21a&t=NKJV)), and the nation's *restoration* to the land ([John 6:21b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.21b&t=NKJV)). This is the *only* sign which does *not* refer to particular days, but the chronology must be understood in the light of the *other* seven signs.

The **sixth** sign, in [John 9:1-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+9.1-41&t=NKJV), has to do with the healing of a blind man, on the Sabbath day ([John 9:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+9.14&t=NKJV)). This points to Israel's *future* deliverance from her blindness ([Romans 11:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.25&t=NKJV)), which will occur on the seventh day, the Sabbath. Or, as in [Luke 24:13-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.13-31&t=NKJV), it will occur *after* two days (dating from the crucifixion), on *the third day* ([John 9:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+9.21&t=NKJV)).

The **seventh** sign, in [John 11:1-44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.1-44&t=NKJV), has to do with the resurrection of Lazarus. This resurrection occurred *after* Jesus had been out of the land of Judaea *two* days, *on* the *third* day ([John 11:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.6-7&t=NKJV)), after Lazarus had lain in the grave *four* days ([John 11:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.17&t=NKJV)). This points to Israel's *future* resurrection ([Ezekiel 37:12-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.12-14&t=NKJV); [Daniel 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+12.2&t=NKJV)), *after* two days, *on* the third day; and at this time Israel *will have been* in the place of death four days, dating *four* millenniums *back* to Abraham.

The **eighth** sign, in [John 20:1-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+20.1-29&t=NKJV), has to do with the resurrection of Christ. This resurrection occurred *after* two days, on the third day. God's firstborn Son had been *raised* on the third day, pointing to *all* of God's firstborn Sons -- *Christ*, *Israel*, and *the Church* (*following* the adoption) -- being *raised* up to live in God's sight on that coming third, seventh day, the Messianic Era.

(See [Signs in John's Gospel Links](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Signs%20in%20John's%20Gospel%20Links) and [The Eight Signs in John's Gospel](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#The%20Eight%20Signs%20in%20John's%20Gospel) in this site, and also [Signs in John's Gospel by Arlen Chitwood](http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/SJG.pdf).)

**The Structure of 2 Peter**

2 Peter parallels Jude in the sense that *both* deal with the Word of the Kingdom and apostasy after a *similar* fashion.

Both epistles begin the *same way*. The first chapter of 2 Peter is taken up with *that* which is stated in one verse in Jude ([Jude 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.3&t=NKJV)). Then the matter of apostasy is dealt with throughout most of the remainder of *both* epistles. However, there are things dealt with in the first and third chapters of 2 Peter, showing the septenary structure of the epistle, which are not dealt with at all in Jude.

Peter exhorts his readers to make their *"calling* [pertaining to the kingdom] *and election* ['selection' for a position of power and authority in the kingdom] *sure"* ([2 Peter 1:1-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.1-15&t=NKJV)); and Jude states the same thing in [Jude 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.3&t=NKJV) when he exhorts his readers to *"earnestly contend for* ['strive with respect to'] *the faith"* (*cf.* [1 Timothy 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+6.12&t=NKJV); [2 Timothy 4:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+4.7-8&t=NKJV)). Then the thought of apostasy relative to "the faith" comes into view in both epistles.

However, Peter does something which Jude does not do. Before beginning his dissertation on apostasy he calls attention to that which occurred on the Mount in [Matthew 17:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+17.1-8&t=NKJV) ([2 Peter 1:16-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.16-18&t=NKJV)), which has to do with the Son of Man *coming in His kingdom*, after six days, on the *seventh day* (*cf.* [Matthew 16:28-17:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.28-17.1&t=NKJV)).

Then toward the end of his epistle, Peter, unlike Jude, moves from thoughts surrounding apostasy to thoughts surrounding the existence and subsequent destruction of the heavens and the earth at *two* different times:

1) At a time following the creation of the heavens and the earth ("the heavens of old" and "the world that then was [the world existing at the time of 'the heavens of old']" [[2 Peter 1:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.5-6&t=NKJV)]).

2) At a time following the restoration of the heavens and the earth ("the heavens and the earth which are now" [[2 Peter 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.7&t=NKJV)]).

The destruction of the former is seen in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV) *("But the earth had become without form, and void; and darkness* [the sun had ceased to give its light] *was upon the face of the deep* ['the raging waters']"); and the destruction of the latter -- a destruction by fire -- is seen in succeeding verses in [2 Peter 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.10&t=NKJV) ff.

Peter then draws the entire matter to a climax by stating that *"one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"* ([2 Peter 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.8&t=NKJV)). Understood contextually, the verse is self-explanatory. *"The heavens and the earth, which are now"* ([2 Peter 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.7&t=NKJV)) must cover the *entire* septenary period from chapter one ([2 Peter 3:16-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.16-18&t=NKJV)), else [2 Peter 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.8&t=NKJV) would be meaningless. *And each day in this period is revealed to be one thousand years in length -- six millenniums of work, followed by one millennium of rest, in perfect accord with the opening verses of Genesis.*

See [The Septenary Arrangement of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#The%20Septenary%20Arrangement%20of%20Scripture) in this site.