

human history to its completion in a very short time, thus bringing His promises to fulfillment in the very face of mockers and scoffers!

But which of these seven interpretations is correct or at least satisfactory? And if we select one of them, we are still left with the question, "Is there time with God?" and the question, "What is eternity?"

e. A quest for the most basic conception of time

As soon as we begin asking about the most basic meaning of time, we realize that there are some conceptions of time that must be discarded, simply because they are not the most basic one. These include the following;

(1) Calendar time

As soon as we mention calendar time, we must ask, Which calendar?

The Julian calendar, authorized by Julius Caesar in 46 B. C., measured time until A. D. 1582. It assumed that the true year was 365 1/4 days long. In A. D. 730 the Venerable Bede, an Anglo-Saxon monk, announced that the Julian year was 11 minutes, 14 seconds too long. This amounted to the gain of one full day every 128 years. Nothing was done about it, however. By 1582 the error was estimated to have amounted to 10 days. Pope Gregory XIII decreed that the day following October 4, 1582 should be called October 15 instead of October 5.

The Gregorian calendar, authorized by Pope Gregory XIII, was immediately adopted in most Roman Catholic countries; but many Protestant countries did not accept it until the 18th century. The British government adopted this calendar in 1752 and decreed that the day following September 2, 1752 should be called September 14 instead of September 3. Thus 11 days were dropped. All dates before September 2, 1752 were called Old Style (O. S.). Thus George Washington was born February 11, 1732, O.S., and after 1752 his birth fell on February 22.

The Gregorian calendar, which made every fourth year a leap year and three of every four centesimal years (1700, 1800, 1900, etc.) common years, was adopted by Japan in 1873, by China in 1912, by Greece in 1924, and by Turkey in 1927.

(2) Sidereal or Solar Earth time

Sidereal Earth time is the revolution period of the earth about the sun from a given star back to the same star again.