**The Future of Time**

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**Abstract**

The paper “The Future of Time” is a genealogical journey through the concept of time. Genealogy deals with the past, but its goal is to understand and critique current reality. Using the genealogical method, we examine central narratives regarding time in Western culture, while noting the changes that occurred to the concept of time, in an attempt to understand the future of time. The topic of time has concerned thinkers and researchers in various fields of knowledge throughout the ages. Therefore, discussion of the concept of time should not be limited to scientific and philosophical contexts but should include cultural, political, and artistic contexts as well. Each culture’s concept of time also dictates a way of thinking, as people live within the framework of time and time stands in the center of our perception of reality.

The atmosphere we experience ever since the Covid-19 pandemic broke out is often described as living on the verge of the apocalypse. Battling the coronavirus and the global climate crisis is a battle against the clock, for the future. It is a period of uncertainty and great anxiety, as well as a warning about the nature of time itself. The apocalyptic sense that the end of time is near arises primarily during periods of crisis but is based on deep cultural structures that have taken root in Western culture. Therefore, the discussion of “the future of time” is more relevant than ever. In this paper, we will examine the biblical time trajectory which lies at the foundation of Western culture – one which leads us from the beginning to the end – and is prominent also in the great narratives of the modern era. At the same time, in modern consumer that is focused on a personal and authentic timeline, a more subjective sense of time is developing. In secular life in the West, which lacks a belief in the afterlife, the general sense of time is the sense of progress until extinction – the future being different, of course, from the past.

Today we live at the border of two technologies, one mechanical and the other virtual and digital, which compels us to examine many different aspects of the new cultural reality, including the perception of time. Our cultural question of future changes in the perception of time within virtual space is only beginning. This paper does not, of course, present a complete conception of “the future of time,” but rather, it examines some of the changes the concept of time is undergoing in the digital era. We are currently witness to the emergence of alternative perceptions of time, among them a change in the experience of linear time. Western time was ‘conceived’ with the creation of the world. The creation of a virtual environment can be likened to the creation of a world. That virtual world can be very different from the real world even in its most basic presumptions.