

## GOD and Time

In this universe, all things grow old: people, houses, stars...even definitions. In other words, all things experience *time*. Whether they're *aware* of it or experience it in the same way as humans is another matter.

In a flight of fancy, it is possible to imagine that plants experience time differently than humans. However, in order to make sense out of such a concept, we must also imagine that tree-time and human-time have something in common...a way of relating to one another. Therefore, let us also imagine that trees go about their business as if an entire year, to us, is the occurrence of a single day, to them.

In the springtime, the trees wake up and put on their many shades of green clothing. In the summer, they feed themselves (or are fed), laze about, wave "hi" and "bye-bye" to whatever the wind chooses to bring or take away. In the autumn, they ready themselves for bed by throwing their "clothes" down on the ground (much like some little children I know!); and, finally, in winter, they sleep...snug and warm beneath a blanket of snow.

This time-relationship can be expressed as follows:

1 year (to humans) = 1 day (to trees).

If this seems a bit too fanciful, then we might ask ourselves why the Israelites were told to give the land and its plants a sabbath...which, to humans, would be one day off every week...but for trees, would be one year off every seven years.

*“The Lord then spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, “When you come into the land which I shall give you, then the land shall have a sabbath to the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop, but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard. Your harvest’s aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year.” [Lev. 25:1-5]*

It would seem that GOD “invites” us to look at *time* in a variety of ways.