

THE HISTORY & FUTURE OF THE
UNIVERSE AS REVEALED IN THE BIBLE

WAR IN THE HEAVENS

AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

JIM HARWELL

EVERY PERSON ON EARTH IS IN THE WAR BETWEEN GOD AND THE DEVIL...

It's the epic, eternal war of the universe, and humans are in it, whether they realize it or not. Journey through the heavens, history, and the Bible and learn mysteries that fully reveal this war, how it affects you, and how you can be on the winning side.

War in the Heavens is packed with insight, truth, and answers from the Bible that can change your life and eternity. Author Jim Harwell explains in a simple, easy-to-read style the battle, both sides' armies, the spirit realms, man's involvement, and much more, clarifying often misunderstood truths and portions of the Bible.

The history and future of the heavens and the earth is just like God Himself: incredible, awe-inspiring, and unsearchable. Learn the inside story of the war that affects every human being. The good news of Jesus Christ will fill your heart with hope.

JIM HARWELL is an author and evangelist based in the USA.



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The purpose of this book is to reveal the true war and conflict in the universe and how it affects us as humans.

Another purpose is to reveal and declare that God Almighty, the heavens, the universe, and the history of the earth recorded in the Bible, are all much more incredible, awe-inspiring, and unsearchable than we realize.

Contents

1	The Conflict of the Ages	11
2	The Natural Universe	15
3	Genesis 1:1	23
4	Restoration of Planet Earth	29
5	Heavenly Powers	37
6	Lucifer's Rebellion	50
7	The Fall of Man	65
8	The Five Worlds Under the Earth	72
9	Man, the Image of God	82
10	Jesus Christ, the Messiah	91
11	The Devil's Army	96
12	God's Salvation	107
13	The Future	114
	Subject Index	123

ONE

The Conflict of the Ages

In the eternal dateless past, throughout the 6,000-year history of mankind, and into the future, the real war continues . . .

God versus Satan
The heavenly host versus the devil's army
Heaven against hell
Life against death
Good against evil
Light against darkness

The purpose of this book is to reveal and explain this real war and battle in the universe, God versus Satan, and how it affects us.

Every human being is in the war, whether they realize it or not.

There is good news and even great news for

those on one side of the war. There is bad, indeed terrible, news for those on the other side.

This war started long, long ago, in fact billions of years ago—how long ago is unknown. The conflict and its history is documented in the Bible.

God Almighty created the universe and all that is in it. At some point in the dateless past, God's highest created being under Himself, an archangel named Lucifer, now known as Satan, rebelled and tried to overthrow God.

Their war will continue until it's dramatic conclusion, which was prophesied 2,000 years ago and is revealed in the Book of Revelation.

The conflict is in the unseen spirit realm but manifests in the world we live in, our natural world. We as humans have a spirit and can connect to the spirit realm, either on God's side or the devil's side.

Every person on the earth is either in God's family or, sadly, in Satan's camp.

The spirit realm is the real world that remains and lasts forever. Every person who has ever lived will actually exist forever, either in heaven or in hell.

The natural world is temporal and only lasts for this very short "vapor" of a life. In fact, the earthly life is essentially a dress rehearsal before we go to our eternal home.

This war and its history, dynamics, and importance are essentially beyond human comprehension. Yet, God has revealed it to us, and

we can understand it enough that we can experience it and even affect it. It definitely affects us, both our earthly and eternal lives.

As spirit beings, we are actually wired and programmed to be a part of it, to understand it, and to “subdue” our spiritual and natural surroundings. However, most people do not realize this and do not take advantage of these supernatural, divine, miraculous aspects of our existence. Humans are in the war whether they realize it or not.

The war involves: God Almighty, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe; Jesus the Christ His Son, the Lord; the Holy Spirit; the billions of mighty, glorious angels in the five divisions of the heavenly host, including seraphims, cherubims, living creatures, archangels, and angels.

On the dark side, there is: Satan, formerly Lucifer; his army of five divisions, made up of principalities, powers, wicked rulers on earth, demons, a pre-Adamic race still operating today, and fallen angels.

In the midst of this war is mankind, estimated to be more than 108 billion people in total, and counting. These are just the entities we know about.

It goes without saying that it’s very challenging to describe the war in the heavenlies and put into words how important it is.

It’s a mystery, yet it’s a reality.

It’s supernatural, but it affects the natural.

It transcends time, which humans need. God

is eternal both in the past and future.

It's so epic and grand in scale, it makes this earthly life seem meaningless.

It's so beyond us and our finite minds it makes us as humans seem insignificant. Yet we are central to the conflict which God has revealed to us through His word. We are the only creation God made into His own image, a truth that is central to understanding the war in the heavens.

Those not aware of this history and future of the universe miss out. A minority of people on earth are followers of Jesus Christ, and many of them are not aware of the real history and the true facts as revealed in the Bible about this war.

But God has revealed these things for a reason. As Jesus says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Two of the most important events in history are: the fall of Lucifer the archangel, now known as the devil and Satan; and the creation of man. Both events hold answers to many of the questions and mysteries related to human life and finding and knowing God Almighty through Jesus Christ.

Some primary Bible references to these events are:

Fall of Lucifer: Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Luke 10:18

Creation of man: Genesis 1 and 2

TWO

The Natural Universe

The Earth
Our Solar System
The Sun
Our Galaxy

The earth has existed for billions of years. Yes, that's a b for billion. We do not know how long the heavens have existed.

Remember that a billion is 999 million, plus another million. When we hear, "1 billion," the one (1) throws us a bit. The number "999 million" almost sounds bigger, though it's less.

Scientists estimate that the earth is about 4.5 billion years old.

Many people believe that the earth is only about 6,000 years old. However, as this book will present, the Bible confirms the scientific evidence that the earth is billions of years old, maybe older.

During that time, spirit and natural beings, creatures, and inhabitants have lived in the

heavens and on the earth for ages and ages. Mankind was created and placed on earth about 6,000 years ago.

It's all quite amazing. The true history, the reality of the present, and the prophesied future are more supernatural, stunning, and mystifying than anything we could dream up or imagine. Yet when we learn what God reveals through the Bible, we can understand it.

The Natural Universe

First, let's look at the natural universe we live in, based on what brilliant modern science has been able to reveal. The general purpose is to try to explain, as simply as possible, the size of our planet, the solar system, our galaxy the Milky Way, and so forth.

Let's first deal with the sizes of these entities and not the speed at which everything is moving.

The Earth

We humans are familiar with the earth and how big it is.

The earth is 7,900 miles in diameter (a line through its middle), or 12,700 km. The distance around the entire earth, it's circumference, is 24,900 miles, or about 40,000 kilometers. If someone drove a car at 60 mph nonstop around the earth, it would take about 17 days to complete the journey.

The earth weighs about 6 sextillion (1,000 trillion) metric tons.

The Solar System

Our Solar System consists of the sun, the nine planets, more than 707,000 minor planets, 3,400+ comets, natural satellites such as moons, and so forth.

Keep in mind that there are about 500 solar systems in our galaxy, the Milky Way, which is one of more than an estimated 100 billion galaxies in the universe. There are 10 billion observable galaxies, now that we have modern technology to see outer space.

The Sun

In our solar system, the sun is so big that the earth and all the planets are very, very tiny objects compared to the sun, the one star in our system.

The familiar drawings and models that depict our solar system—with the sun and the nine planets and their orbit path in order—are not even close to accurate in scale.

On an accurate scale, the planets would be microscopic in size compared to the sun; you would not even be able to see them. The drawings are made with good intentions to show the placement of the planets and the orbits, but they in no way reveal the size and scope of the solar

system and the sun.

How big is the sun?

The sun's diameter is 865,000 miles. It's circumference is 2,713,000 miles. Imagine trying to travel around the sun: the journey is almost 3 million miles. If someone drove a car 60 mph nonstop around the sun, it would take 1,884 days to make the trip. That's five (5) years.

The sun is so big that 1.3 MILLION earths could fit inside it. What's that again? 1.3 million earths could fit inside the sun.

The sun is staggeringly big.

How far away is the earth from the sun?

The earth is 96,000,000 (million) miles from the sun.

If someone drove a car nonstop at 60 mph (100 km/h) to the sun, it would take 177 years to get there.

The earth is quite heavy, right? As mentioned, the earth weighs 5.972 sextillion (1,000 trillion) metric TONS. Remember that a metric ton is 2,200 pounds. That earth weight figure expressed as a number is:

5,972,000,000,000,000,000 metric tons

So, how much does the sun weigh in comparison to our earth? The sun weighs 330,000 times more than the earth. That's almost something our minds cannot comprehend.

As many of us amateurs know, the sun is considered an ordinary star, one of between 100

and 400 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy alone.

The Milky Way may possibly have as many as a trillion stars.

As mentioned, in addition to the Milky Way, there are 10 billion other observable galaxies.

It seems like every fact and statistic gets astronomically bigger.

Our Galaxy

How about the Milky Way? Get ready for distances that make previous distances seem very short, if that is possible.

The Milky Way's diameter is between 100,000-180,000 light years.

One light year is 6 trillion miles. Let me repeat: just ONE light year is 6 trillion miles long. A "light year" is not a year as we know it. It's an astronomical distance of about 6 trillion miles/9 trillion km. A light year is equivalent to how far light travels in one year. It's a distance measurement just like an inch, a foot, a mile, etc. Distances in space are so large that scientists had to create a "light year" distance to keep the numbers at least manageable! So, instead of writing/saying "six trillion miles," which is 6,000,000,000,000 miles, they can write/say "one light year."

A trillion is 1,000 billions. So, imagine a billion, which as mentioned is 999 million plus another million. Then, multiply 1 billion by 1,000 to get

1 trillion.

The Milky Way's diameter is, on the LOW end, 100,000 LIGHT YEARS long, or 600,000 TRILLION miles long.

Again, these are numbers and distances that we really cannot comprehend.

Other Galaxies

And, again, the Milky Way is just one of more than 10 billion observable galaxies in our universe. That's: 10,000,000,000 (billion) galaxies.

Every galaxy is estimated to have on average about 100 billion stars. That's: 100,000,000,000 stars per galaxy.

That means that there are as many as 1 billion trillion stars in the observable universe. A trillion is: 1,000,000,000,000.

Imagine a trillion, 1 billion times.

That number is: 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

We would agree that a million is a lot. It takes 1,000 millions to get to 1 billion. It takes 1,000 billions to get to 1 trillion.

Moreover, some scientists estimate there may be as many as 100-200 billion galaxies in the universe. And every galaxy has on average 100 billion stars. The billions and trillions of stars are all similar in size to our sun.

The Speed and Age of Space

Yet, we are not even considering how fast all

of this moving.

The earth is traveling through our Solar System at 67,000 miles per hour, or 108,000 km per hour. That's 18.5 miles per second or 30 km per second. The earth is rotating on its axis at about 1,000 miles per hour, or 1,600 km per hour.

The unbelievably large Milky Way Galaxy is moving also—at a speed that makes the earth's speed look slow. It's traveling through space at 373,000 miles per second, or 600,000 km per second. Yes, that's per second.

Scientists believe that the universe is expanding at the speed of light. In modern times, as we can see from these discoveries, astronomers and scientists have made incredible advancements in their study of outer space and the universe. Through their study of stars, they even estimate some star formations are more than 12 and 13 billion years old.

Some Basic Conclusions

In reality, all of these staggering facts are way beyond our understanding.

What's a basic, obvious conclusion? We humans are a tiny speck of dust, on a speck of dust, which is traveling at 108,000 km per hour, in a solar system traveling through space at more than 600,000 kilometers per second, in a galaxy with more than 100 billion stars, alongside as many as 10 billion other galaxies and 1 billion

trillion stars, and as many as 100-200 billion other galaxies.

Compared to all this, we are tiny, helpless beings in the universe.

The natural world and the truly incredible universe we now know exists present a logical deduction. If the natural world is that amazing, then the spiritual world must be also.

And it is. That's one of the purposes of this book—revealing the spirit realm. Every person is a spirit being and will exist forever. Every person can experience the spirit realm and will spend eternity in either heaven or hell.

After learning about the natural aspects of the universe, it's basic commonsense to realize there must be a Divine Creator who designed, planned, and created it. This book will hopefully help someone meet Him. Also, the content can help deal with and answer many of the difficult issues and questions we as little humans on this tiny earth face.

One of the keys to having a relationship with God is realizing how small we are—and how big God is.

THREE

Genesis 1:1

Long, long before God created man, millions upon millions of spiritual beings, inhabitants, and creatures lived and thrived in the heavens and on the earth.

In the billions of other galaxies, there may be other planets like the earth, with life there that we do not know about.

The Creator of the Universe is much bigger than we can imagine or comprehend.

In the same way, all of His creation is also much bigger, grander, deeper, wider, broader, richer . . . and more . . . than we can fathom or discern.

We should look at it without our preconceived ideas and theories.

Perhaps one of the most important events in the history of the universe is the event that marks the beginning of the war in the heavens: the fall of the archangel Lucifer, now known as Satan. The Bible reveals this fall and much about Lucifer, especially in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 (discussed in Chapter 6).

Genesis Creation Account

Most followers of Jesus Christ believe the same basic “creation account” based on a certain interpretation of Genesis Chapters 1 and 2.

They believe that God created the heavens, the earth, and the inhabitants of the earth, including the first man and woman (and animals, fish, and birds), over the course of six days, about 6,000 years ago (discussed more on page 108).

A deeper look into the Bible reveals a much different reality—which greatly affects us and how we live, most importantly in the spirit realm.

Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 are a key. Let’s look at these verses in depth.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

(Genesis 1:1-2)

Genesis 1:1 in Hebrew:

וַיְהִי תְהוֹמָת הָאֵרֶץ וְהָאֵרֶץ תִּשְׁאָרָב תְּנֻשָּׁב

Hebrew transliterated to English:

Reshiyth (in the beginning) elohiym (God) bara (created) eth (and) shamayim (the heaven) eth (and) erets (the earth)

Bible and translation scholars agree that translation of the Bible to English and modern languages is very difficult. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, while the New Testament was written in Greek, both of them literally thousands of years ago. To make things even more challenging, Jesus and His generation spoke Aramaic, which is in the language family that includes Hebrew.

Bear with me as we study this all-important, literal, in-depth translation of Genesis 1:1-2. There is a reason for this you see shortly, including some revelations which will make many mysteries make complete sense.

The phrase "In the beginning" comes from the Hebrew "reshiyth" which means "first" or "beginning with no specific date." The word is used 53 times in the Old Testament. It can also mean "previously." The Hebrew word for "beginning with a specific date" is "techillah."

The noun "resihith" always needs a modifier, but in Genesis 1:1, "reshiyth" does not have a

definite article prefix, such as “the.” Therefore, the correct, literal translation would actually be “a beginning.”

“A beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

We can see that this account refers to “a beginning” of the world and the universe as mankind knows it, from the human perspective. The rest of Genesis and the Bible confirm the Bible is written about God’s interaction with mankind. Some have summarized the Bible as, “God’s redemption of mankind.”

Some modern scholars translate “reshiyth” as “In the dateless, eternal past.” We do not know when God created the heavens.

Reshiyth (A beginning) elohiym (God) . . .

“El” in Hebrew means “Mighty One, Diety, or God.” Elohim is the plural term for “God.” In the first verse of the Bible, the reader is introduced to the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Elohim refers to the Creator of the Universe, the Everlasting, Eternal God. El is in the Bible 238 times, while Elohim is found about 2,600 times!

Reshiyth (in the beginning) elohiym (God) bara (created). . .

“Bara” means “calling into existence.” There are three words for “create” in the Old Testament: bara, asah, and yasar. Bara literally means “to create something out of nothing,” stressing the newness of the creation.

Bara has depth of meaning. One meaning is almost literally “filling up” or “fattening,” such as the “filling up” of the heavens and the earth. Thus, some scholars believe Genesis 1:1 is a condensed version of the creation story.

Reshiyth (A beginning) elohiym (God) bara (created) eth (and) shamayim (the heavens)

“Shamayim” is plural and means “heavens.” There are actually three heavens (see page 35).

God’s Work is Perfect

The Almighty God’s work is perfect and flawless. This wonderful truth is in the Bible, as the scriptures below reveals.

God’s works are perfect . . .

“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

God’s way is perfect . . .

“As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him” (2 Samuel 22:31, Psalm 18:30).

God made and fashioned the heavens and the earth to be inhabited . . .

“For this is what the LORD says—He who created the heavens, He is God; He who fashioned and made the earth, He founded it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited . . .” (Isaiah 45:18).

He has made everything beautiful . . .

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

God's eternal power and divine nature can be seen in the natural world and spiritual world. The apostle Paul sums up this truth in his famous verse from Romans: *"For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse"* (Romans 1:20).

Doubters and skeptics may disagree. They may say, "Look at how much evil and destruction is in the world. It's obvious God's works are not perfect. And how could God allow these terrible things and tragedies to happen?" And on and on.

We will deal with those questions and objections—and more like them—as we discuss the war in the heavens.

FOUR

The Restoration of Planet Earth

In Genesis 1:1, we read that God created the heavens and the earth. We saw that God's work is perfect.

Then, in Genesis 1:2, a very different scenario is presented. Genesis 1:2 in English and Hebrew:

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:2)

Genesis 1:2 in Hebrew:

מוֹהַת יֵנֶפֶל לַע דְּשָׁחוּ, קִירוּ הָרוֹצַ תִּרְסַח הַתִּיָּה קָרָאָהּ
מִיָּמָה יֵנֶפֶל לַע תִּפְחָרֵם מִיְּהוּלָּא חוּרֹ

Transliteration to English:

*Veha'arets hayetah tohu vavohu vechoshech al-
peney tehom veruach Elohim merachefet al-peney
hamayim.*

Something happened between verses one and two. It's obvious, especially after analysis of the original Hebrew.

The earth is in desolation, ruin, and darkness.

In Genesis 1:2, the Hebrew word for "was" is "hayeh" or "hyeh," from the verb "to become." The translation in English could be "the earth became . . ."

The word for "without form" is "tohu," meaning "waste or desolation." Remember that Isaiah said that God formed the earth, not in vain.

The word for "void" is "bohu," which means "empty, in ruin."

So, in the literal Hebrew, Genesis 1:2 is: "the earth became wasted, in desolation, and empty and in ruin, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and . . ."

"The Spirit of God hovered [moved] upon [over] the face [surface] of the waters" (Genesis 1:2).

Something is very wrong.

What happened between verse 1 and 2 is a key to understanding the war in the heavenlies and the spirit realm and how it affects us in the natural realm.

Light

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the dark-

ness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.
(Genesis 1:3-5)

Notice that in the creation account of Genesis 1, God used the word "Let," which is a word of permission: "Let there be light, let there be a firmament, let the water under the sky," and so forth. The account also uses phrases like "God divided," "God gathered," and "God set." All these words are words of permission, not words of creation like the word in Genesis 1:1, "bara," which means "creating something out of nothing."

What's the first thing God does, on the first day? He restores light. Yet, later on the fourth day, in Genesis 1:14-19, God created the sun.

If God restored light on the first day, and three days total pass before He restores the sun, the moon, and the stars, what created the light on that first day?

The answer is that the sun, moon, and stars had been in existence for billions of years already. God is restoring them.

Heaven

According to the Bible, there are three heavens:

The first heaven is our atmosphere, the sky (see Genesis 1:8, below).

The second heaven is where Satan's principal-

ities, powers, and some of his angels are (see Ephesians 6).

The third heaven is the eternal home of saints, commonly called "heaven." It's the place where the apostle Paul went, which he called the "third heaven," written about in 2 Corinthians 12:2.

The creation account continues:

"Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.' 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. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.
(Genesis 1:6-8)

On the second day, God restored the first heaven, which is our atmosphere. When you look at the sky and stars, you're looking at the first heaven.

In verse 7, the Hebrew word for "made" is "asa," which means "to make, to mold, to form." God is "making, molding, and forming" the universe back into proper form.

Land and Sea

Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so. And God

called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:9-10)

We see here that God restores the dry lands of the earth. Why did He have to do that? There was a flood before Adam was created. This is not the flood of Noah in Genesis 6, discussed in Chapter 12, page 109. Later we will learn more about this pre-Adamic flood.

Plants

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

(Genesis 1:11)

On the third day, God restored plant life.

The Sun, Moon and Stars

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the

night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.
(Genesis 1:14-19)

On the fourth day, God restored the sun, moon, and stars. Again the Hebrew word “asa,” not “bara.”

God Begins Creating

After four days, the work of restoration seems to be complete. On the fifth, God began creating the living creatures. He started with the creatures and fish in the sea and the birds. On the sixth day, He created the land creatures, cattle, livestock, beasts of the earth, and everything that moves on the land.

Last, on the sixth day, He created man and woman. In Genesis 2:7, we see how He created man: *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”*

Job 9 and Genesis 1

Job is the oldest book in the Bible, written about 2200-1800 BC, during the time of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Job was writ-

ten about 400 years before Genesis was written.

Job Chapter 9 has many similarities to Genesis 1. In Job 9:5-7, we read about God's anger, the destruction of the earth, and how the sun and stars did not shine:

He removes the mountains, and they do not know, When He overturns them in His anger; He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; . . .

(Job 9:5-7)

Then, starting in verse 8, we read about restoration, how God moved on the sea, and made the stars:

He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number.

(Job 9:8-10)

As we read earlier, in Genesis 1:3-19, God restored the earth, including the land, sea, and stars. In Genesis 1:2, the Holy Spirit was "moving, hovering, brooding" over the waters.

It's fascinating the Job then mentions three of the most well-known star constellations, even today, which are easily seen with the naked eye: Bear, or Ursa Major, the third-largest constella-

tion, which contains the Big Dipper; Orion, one of the most obvious and recognizable constellations, located at the equator; and Pleiades, the most obvious star cluster in the night sky, part of the Taurus constellation.

FIVE

Heavenly Powers

Just as the natural world is fascinating, awe-inspiring, and almost unimaginable, so is the spirit realm in God's kingdom. The realm of the devil's kingdom is discussed in Chapter 11, page 96.

It's good to learn about the spirit realm and understand it. It's infinitely greater to experience it. Just one moment in His presence is greater than millions of years in the highest places anywhere else.

The battles in the spirit realm are between God's heavenly armies and the devil's armies. God's army has five divisions of angels. It's a mystery and a reality that man can enter the spirit realm, either on the good or the evil side.

The Angelic Beings

The Five Divisions of the Heavenly Host

Angels are mighty, glorious, fearsome beings who carry the glory of God with them. We see in the Bible that when allowed to see angels, humans are often very afraid and even fall down as though dead (see Luke 1:13, 1:30, 2:10, Revelation 1:17). The angels have to calm them down, "Do not be afraid . . ."

There are literally millions upon millions of angels and five classifications of angels. The five divisions are: Seraphims; Cherubims; Zoa, or Living Creatures; Archangels; and Angels.

All angels are connected to God's glory and carry His glory with them. They were created in heaven and are spirit beings; God's spirit forms their being.

Before the earth was created, angels were already in existence. In Job, the LORD speaks about the angels, referred to as "stars" and "the sons of God":

*"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?
(Job 38:4-7)*

There are more than 300 references to angels in the Bible.

No one knows how many angels there are. In Revelation 5:11, John saw so many angels he could not count them, with his estimate being “100 million, and thousands upon thousands.”

The Five Divisions of Angels	
Seraphims	Isaiah 6:1-3
Cherubims	Gen. 3, Ezekiel 1
Zoa, Living Creatures	Revelation 4
Archangels	Luke 1, Daniel 10
Angels	LK 2, MT 4, LK 22

Seraphims

The first division of angels we know about are the seraphims. They are awesome, holy, glorious beings that very few humans on earth have ever been allowed to see.

Isaiah saw them in a vision. He describes God's throne and seraphim in Isaiah, chapter 6:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to

another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

The whole earth is full of His glory!"

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

(Isaiah 6:1-4)

Seraphim are connected to God's glory. Every time you see seraphs, you see a revelation of God's glory.

God's glory deals with who He is, His attributes.

His glory is also His tangible presence and glory. The Greek word for His "glory" is "doxa," which is translated "brilliant luster, radiant splendor, and dazzling luster."

Luster means "a gentle shine, radiance, brilliance, polish, and shimmer; a soft glow."

The seraphims cry out "holy, holy, holy" continually because in heaven there is a continual revelation of God and His holiness. Heaven is a glorious place beyond human description.

Cherubims

The second division of angels is the cherubims. Again, cherubims are fearsome, holy, magnificent beings that few humans have been granted to see.

The first three divisions of angels seem to be connected to God's presence in heaven and

worshipping God Almighty.

In Genesis 3:22-24, after man's fall, we read about God placing cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life:

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.
(Genesis 3:22-24)

Ezekiel 1 contains one of the most detailed descriptions of cherubim. Ezekiel explains that the cherubim he saw had the appearance of bright fire, and out of the fire went lightning. In verse 6, we read: *"they [the cherubim] sparkled like the color of burnished brass."* Every cherub had four faces and four wings. On the right side, each had the face of a man and face of a lion. On the left side, each one had the face of an ox and an eagle. Their faces and wings stretched upward in worship.

In verse 13, we read:

As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like

the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning.

(Ezekiel 1:13-14)

Satan was a cherub. Lucifer was “*the anointed cherub*” (Ezekiel 28:14), related to worship. His position had to do with God’s presence. He was in the midst of the very throne of heaven. Some translations are “*you were anointed as a guardian cherub*” (Ez. 28:14), protecting the very throne of heaven. Lucifer was walking up and down in the midst of the stones of fire in front of the throne.

Cherubims are connected to worship.

Remember that the apostle Paul wrote that he saw things that were so awesome he could not even write or talk about them.

Zoa, or Living Creatures

Zoa are also called “living creatures” and “beasts.” Zoa is the Greek word, and it is translated living creatures.

Revelation 4 contains a glorious vision John had of Jehovah God Almighty, His throne, and the throne room of heaven. John saw zoa, or living creatures:

And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunders, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:5-8)

John saw that *"seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God"* (v. 5). Therefore, zoa are connected to the work of the Holy Spirit and God's presence.

Another proof that zoa are connected to God's presence is that they are crying out *"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty"* to God Himself.

Zoa are the angels of revelation. They reveal to the heavens who God is. Two things speak of this: their eyes all around, and their cry in verse 8, *"Who was and is and is to come."*

Zoa are different from the cherubs, who are also described as living creatures. All four of the zoa have different faces. The cherubims had four faces each. Also, zoa have six wings, while the seraphim have four.

The scripture does not tell us how many there are, in all.

Archangels

There are two archangels: Michael and Gabriel. There were originally three. Lucifer was an archangel but fell. He rebelled and tried to overthrow God. This fact is central and fundamental to our understanding of the real war in the heavens and how we, as humans, fit into it.

Archangels stand and minister in God's presence. They announce the coming of the Lord. They are warring angels and are involved in warfare, which is their main role.

Paul writes about an archangel in 1 Thessalonians: *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."* 1 Thess. 4:16

The archangel Gabriel announced Jesus' first coming. He first appeared to Zacharias, father of John the Baptist, telling him, *"I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God,"* (Luke 1:19) and gave prophecy about John the Baptist. Later, Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the coming of Jesus:

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and

will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

(Luke 1:30-33)

In the Book of Daniel, Chapter 10, we see arch-angels as warring angels, involved in warfare and protection:

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

(Daniel 10:13)

Both Gabriel and Michael fought the prince of Persia in Daniel 10, and Michael came to assist him.

Michael is given the charge of protecting the nation of Israel, which is why Daniel, when writing to Israel, refers to Michael as "your prince" (Daniel 10:21).

Anything to do with the kingdom of Christ is the job of Gabriel.

Angels, or Common Angels

The fifth division of angels are the common angels. There are different types of common an-

gels, such as warring angels, worshiping angels, messenger angels, and so forth.

Common angels are connected to the church, the body of Christ on earth.

In the Gospels, the events involving angels are all very, very significant and involve Jesus Christ.

Angels appeared to shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus Christ. First an angel of the Lord appeared and told them about the birth. Then, a multitude of the heavenly host appeared, praising God:

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

*"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*
(Luke 2:13-14)

After Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights and was tempted by the devil, angels ministered to him: *"Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him"* (Matthew 4:11).

During one of Jesus' most painful, most difficult times, angels ministered to him. It was night he was betrayed before His crucifixion. He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane:

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this

cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

(Luke 22:41-44)

Jesus spoke about “12 legions of angels” during his betrayal and arrest. As you recall, one of Jesus’ followers took out a sword and tried to protect Jesus from the enemies, cutting off the ear of a high priest’s servant. Jesus said:

“Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”

(Matthew 26:52-54)

A legion is a Roman military term for “at least 6,000.” Jesus said “more than 12 legions.” So, Jesus was referring to the fact that His Father, God Almighty, could provide Jesus with more than 72,000 angels.

Some aspects of common angels

Angels are without number. They are innumerable (Daniel 7:9).

Common angels look like man (Acts 1:10). They have a head, face, body, arms, legs and so forth. Yet, they are usually much bigger than humans, often seven to ten feet or taller.

Angels are holy (Mark 8:38).

Angels are powerful (Revelation 1:18).

Angels are wise (2 Samuel 14:20). There is nothing hid from their eyes about earthly matters.

Angels are obedient to the Lord (Psalms 103:20).

Angels are joyful (Luke 15:10).

Angels care for and protect young children and always see the face of the Father (Matthew 18:10).

Angels protect the saints (Psalms 34:7). Angels have their own will (Isaiah 14:12-14).

Angels are "*ministering spirits sent forth to minister for heirs of salvation*" (Hebrews 1:14). They "*minister for,*" which is different from ministering to. The Holy Spirit ministers to us.

Angels desire to look into the things of salvation (1 Peter 1:12).

Angels:

Strengthen us during trials (Luke 22:43).

Bring answers to prayers (Acts 10); story of Cornelius.

Must not be worshiped or prayed to (Colossians 2:18).

Need no rest (Revelation 4:8). They never sleep or slumber.

Can appear and disappear (Hebrews 13:2).

Can speak (1 Corinthians 13:1).

Wear white garments (John 20:12).

Can eat (Genesis 18:8).

Can cook (1 Kings 19:5-7).

The Work of Angels

Angels guard gates (Revelation 21:12).

Angels can sing and worship (Luke 2:13).

Angels can direct preachers (Acts 27:23).

Angels can appear in dreams (Matthew 1:20,24).

Angels can bind the devil (Revelation 20:1,2).
In this passage, one angel will bind Satan.

Angels receive saints at death (Luke 16:22).
Glory to God!

Angels impart the will of God. They clarify God's will to you. They can help you plan. They can lead you. They are very involved in bringing God's will into fulfillment (Acts 5:19).

An angel released Peter out of prison (Acts 12:7-9).

Angels observe us (I Corinthians 4:9).

SIX

Lucifer's Rebellion

This chapter will cover: the rebellion and fall of Lucifer an archangel; the beginning of the war between God and the devil; the destruction of the earth and its inhabitants, which are today's demons; and the fall of innumerable numbers of angels, which are now bound with chains in the underworld.

In Chapters 3 and 4, we studied Genesis 1:1-2 and learned that God restored the earth after a catastrophic event that happened between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

Let's look at four passages of scripture that all refer to and shed light on this sudden change, from the Books of Job, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Psalms.

Job, Chapter 9

In Chapter 4 (page 35), we read in the Book of Job (9:5-7) that there was a time in earth's history that God was so angry, that He removed and overturned the mountains, He shook the earth out of its place, causing the pillars of the earth to tremble, He commanded the sun not to shine, and He sealed up the stars.

When was this?

It has not happened since Adam walked on earth. In the flood of Noah's time, God sent the great flood but did not destroy the mountains or the pillars of the earth and did not cause the sun and stars to stop shining.

Let's look at another similar Bible passage.

Jeremiah, Chapter 4

The Book of Jeremiah was written between 620-580 BC. In Chapter 4, Jeremiah writes:

I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the LORD, by His fierce anger.

"The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end."

(Jeremiah 4:23-26)

This portion from Jeremiah is a perfect picture of Genesis 1 and Job 9. The prophet reveals that there was no man, but he saw birds (v. 25). The man of God saw an earth with cities and a fruitful place that was destroyed by God's fierce anger (v. 26). God also said that the whole land will be desolate but that He would not "make a full end; not cause total destruction" (v. 26; Amplified); that is, He is not finished with the land; it is not the end; the land will continue.

Jeremiah saw destruction, such as the fruitful field becoming a wilderness. Remember that in Genesis 1, from Genesis 1:2 to the end of the chapter, we see a wilderness being restored to God's beautiful creation. In Genesis 1:2, the earth was "without form, void, empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep." Then, God restores: the light, the first heaven, the earth's land, the plants, the living things in the sea and on the land, and then He creates man.

The same events happen in Jeremiah 4 and Genesis 1. Jeremiah saw them going from positive to negative, while the Genesis account goes from negative to positive.

Isaiah, Chapter 24

Isaiah 24:1 says: *"Behold, the LORD makes the*

earth empty and makes it waste [devastates it], distorts its surface, and scatters abroad its inhabitants." This verse is remarkably similar to Genesis 1:2 and Jeremiah 4:23-26. In fact, it's virtually the same information.

Psalms, Chapter 104

In another passage, Psalm 104 refers to a flood and God rebuking it:

You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth.
(Psalms 104:5-9)

After the flood of Noah's time, it took 120 days for the waters to subside. The Psalmist in this portion is speaking of a rebuke and instantaneous removal of waters.

So, we find four passages of scripture revealing the same catastrophic, instant destruction of the earth: Genesis 1:1-2; Job 9:5-7; Psalms 104:5-9; and Jeremiah 4:23-26. There is a fifth portion

as well, Isaiah 14:17.

The Bible teaches that it takes two or three witnesses (or more) to confirm a truth (Deuteronomy 19:15 and 1 Corinthians 13:2). In other words, just one reference in the Bible to something is not enough for it to be an accepted truth; there must be two or more references to the same subject. Here we have four references to this important event.

Lucifer

A basic review of the scripture that refers to Lucifer reveals much about history.

Jesus referred to the devil in Luke 10:18. He said: *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."* That's a monumental event, to say the least! When did this happen? Let's try to find out at least when it *could* have happened.

Isaiah 14 is one of the Bible's primary references to Lucifer, who was one of three archangels God created. Michael and Gabriel are the other two archangels.

As we learned in Chapter 5 about the heavenly host, angels—especially archangels—are mighty, glorious, fearsome beings who carry the glory of God with them. We see in the Bible that when allowed to see angels, humans are often very afraid and even fall down as though dead (see Luke 1:13, 1:30, 2:10; Revelation 1:17). There are literally billions of angels in the five classifications of angels (see page 38).

It's important to note that there were three archangels. Three is the number of perfection. We know the Trinity is a central divine truth: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (see page 85). It's clear that God's creation of only three angels in the highest classification of angels, archangel, is eternally and divinely significant.

Description of Lucifer's Fall in Isaiah 14

Let's look at one of the two main descriptions of Lucifer and his fall, in Isaiah 14:9-21:

*"Hell from beneath is excited about you,
To meet you at your coming;
It stirs up the dead for you,
All the chief ones of the earth;
It has raised up from their thrones
All the kings of the nations.
They all shall speak and say to you:
'Have you also become as weak as we?
Have you become like us?
Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,
And the sound of your stringed instruments;
The maggot is spread under you,
And worms cover you.'*
*"How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
For you have said in your heart:
'I will ascend into heaven,*

*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'*
*Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.*
*"Those who see you will gaze at you,
And consider you, saying:
'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms,
Who made the world as a wilderness
And destroyed its cities,
Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'*
*"All the kings of the nations,
All of them, sleep in glory,
Everyone in his own house;
But you are cast out of your grave
Like an abominable branch,
Like the garment of those who are slain,
Thrust through with a sword,
Who go down to the stones of the pit,
Like a corpse trodden underfoot.
You will not be joined with them in burial,
Because you have destroyed your land
And slain your people.
The brood of evildoers shall never be named.
Prepare slaughter for his children
Because of the iniquity of their fathers,
Lest they rise up and possess the land,
And fill the face of the world with cities."*
(Isaiah 14:9-21)

We know that these events happened before Adam was created. How do we know that? In verse 12, it says that Lucifer *"weakened the nations."* There were no nations when the devil came and tempted Eve and Adam.

Verses 13 and 14 say that Lucifer wanted to *"ascend into the heavens," "exalt his throne above the stars,"* and *"ascend above the heights of the clouds."* Stars in the Bible very often refer to and are symbols of angels (see Revelation 1:20, Job 38:7). To do all that was just cited, he would have to be below the heavens, the angels, and the clouds. Therefore, Satan was on the earth.

Also in verse 13, Satan has a *"throne,"* so he has a kingdom.

Jesus called Satan the *"prince [ruler] of this world"* three separate times in the Book of John (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11).

What does that mean, the *"prince of this world"* and the *"ruler of this world"*? Remember that *"the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it"* (Psalm 21:1).

We can infer from the throne reference and the prince and ruler references that before Lucifer's fall, Lucifer had been given rule over the earth. The earth was his kingdom. When he rebelled, the devil was cast out of heaven to hell (see Isaiah 14:9,15), losing his rule of the earth.

Later, Adam was given rule and dominion of the earth. More on this in a moment.

The distinction Jesus refers to as *"prince"* and *"ruler"* is that the devil is the prince of the world

and the world system, which is fallen and corrupt, all caused by Satan. But the earth is still the Lord's. And when we are born again, we move out of the world and into God's kingdom.

Remember when Satan tempted Jesus, in the second test, the devil talked about his kingdom.

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours"
(Luke 4:5-7)

The devil is a liar, but here he was accurate. In the third test, the devil quoted scripture (Psalm 91:11-12), so the devil has many strategies.

Dominion and Rule Over the Earth

The topic of the rule and authority over the earth is extremely important to understand. We learn in Genesis 3 that God created man and gave him the dominion and rule over the earth that Lucifer once had. We will cover this fully in the next chapter, Chapter 7.

Adam and Eve sinned and lost the dominion. Jesus Christ came to earth and got the authority, dominion, and rule back for mankind, redeeming man. It's certainly an important topic! It's

eternally important!

Ever since he lost his throne, the devil has been trying to get it back. And, though he was cast down to hell, he does have his kingdom. Initially, it was hell (Isaiah 14:9,15) and included the angels who rebelled with him and the pre-Adamic earthly race which he enslaved, today's demons.

He has a kingdom and is trying to expand it—and trying to take over God the Father and Jesus' kingdom. After God created man and gave man dominion over the earth, the devil came and caused man to fall and lose that dominion.

Herein is another mystery. The devil is a defeated foe, because of Christ's victory on the cross. We already know the end which is prophesied in Revelation: God wins and destroys the devil and his angels (see Revelation 20:10). Yet, the devil continues to fight and "*steal, kill, and destroy,*" (John 10:10), trying to hurt God's kingdom.

Sadly and tragically, the enemy has deceived many humans into not following God and ending up in the devil's kingdom. The tragedy is that anyone in the devil's kingdom who dies will spend eternity in hell.

But it's God's desire that everyone be saved and make it to heaven, and that no one would perish (see John 3:17, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4, and many other scriptures).

The Isaiah passage about Lucifer has similarities to the three portions of Scripture (Genesis

1:2, Job 9:5-7, and Jeremiah 4:26) referring to the destruction of the earth. Isaiah 14:17 says *"who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities."*

Description of Lucifer in Ezekiel 28

Another main primary description of Lucifer is in Ezekiel 28. This passage describes his previous glory and beauty, before he fell:

*"You were the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were
created.
"You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery
stones.
You were perfect in your ways from the day you
were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.
"By the abundance of your trading
You became filled with violence within,
And you sinned;*

*Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the fiery stones.
"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your
splendor;
I cast you to the ground,
I laid you before kings,
That they might gaze at you.
"You defiled your sanctuaries
By the multitude of your iniquities,
By the iniquity of your trading;
Therefore I brought fire from your midst;
It devoured you,
And I turned you to ashes upon the earth
In the sight of all who saw you.
All who knew you among the peoples are aston-
ished at you;
You have become a horror,
And shall be no more forever."
(Ezekiel 28:12-19)*

Lucifer was the only angel with two offices. He was a cherub (v. 14 and 16) and an archangel. The only other being with more than one office is Jesus Christ the Lord.

The devil was also given rule of the earth.

This next point is vitally important. God Almighty created only three archangels. The highest angel of the three was Lucifer. Therefore, under the Trinity, which is the Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit, Lucifer was the highest created being.

Lucifer was the seal of perfection. He was in Eden, amidst the fiery stones on the mountain of God, which is before God's throne in heaven. In Exodus 24 and in Revelation 4:6, when Israel and John saw God, they saw these "*fiery stones*," like a sea of glass and like a sapphire stone, clear as crystal.

Lucifer was created with musical instruments in his being (v. 13). He was in charge of worship in heaven.

He was anointed. He was established.

Remember in Isaiah, we saw that he was a king and had a kingdom. There were kings and nations on earth long before man was created. Remember that God told Adam to "replenish [fill] the earth." God told Noah the same thing (Genesis 9:1).

Lucifer had and still has dominion over a third of the angels. Michael and Gabriel each also have dominion over a third of the angels.

In verse 15, we see that Lucifer was in this state for an unknown period of time. The length of this time is a mystery.

Lucifer had sanctuaries (v. 18). Therefore, he was a priest.

His influence and power were immense.

Then, "*iniquity*" was found in him (v. 15). While ruler of the earth, he wanted to "*be like the Most High*" (Isaiah 14:14). He was jealous of God's position. He rebelled and took a third of

the angels with him. God cast Satan out of heaven, as Jesus referred to in Luke 10:18.

When Satan fell to earth, he corrupted the earth. He was now God's enemy and is still today. Satan has been and is still trying to stop God's plans.

Satan has been trying to stop God's plans since the devil was cast out of heaven. We see this in many places in the Bible. An example was when the Messiah Jesus was born; the enemy tried to kill him. The devil worked through King Herod to have all the children under two years old near the baby Jesus, slain (see Matthew 2:13-23).

After the devil was cast out of heaven, he enslaved the race on the earth, the pre-Adamic race, which are today's demons. The demons are servants of Satan and hate him. They are under his command and do his work. Demons are one of five divisions in the devil's army (see page 100). Their real home is the Pit, one of the five places in the underworld (see page 78), though they try to live on the earth still to this day, attempting to live in and influence and control humans.

Jesus Christ saw the devil "*fall like lightning from heaven*" (Luke 10:18). Lucifer's fall was sudden, instant, and dramatic.

Five passages of the Bible refer to a sudden, catastrophic destruction of the earth. Before it was destroyed, the earth was a fruitful land and had nations, cities, a race, creatures and perhaps more.

Later, as we see in Genesis 1 and 2, God re-

stored the earth.

Are the fall of Lucifer and this destruction of the earth related?

Whether these epic events are or not, we do know that of all God's creation, there is only one He made in His own image.

SEVEN

The Fall of Man

The creation of man is a key to understanding mysteries of the spiritual realm.

Why? Because man is the only creation God made in His own image. Human beings are the image of God. God wants every person on the earth to be in His family and spend eternity in heaven.

The fact that man is God's image is why the devil hates man, wants to deceive man, and wants man to end up in hell. The devil hates God and therefore hates man. Genesis 1:26-28:

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth

and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

(Genesis 1:26-28)

It is important to note that God said, "Let us," which refers to the three Persons of the Trinity.

God gave man "dominion, rule, reign, complete authority" over all the living things on the earth and in the sea. He also commanded man to "subdue" the earth, referring to the rebellion of the devil.

This dominion and rule is truly important to understand.

We saw that Lucifer, when he was an archangel, was given rule of the earth. He rebelled and was cast out of heaven.

Now, God created a being, Adam, and gave Adam rule of the earth. The Lord was and is still the owner of the earth. Psalms says, "*The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness*" (Psalms 24:1). He appointed Adam to have dominion over the earth. It would be like the owner of a house giving someone else authority over the house, to live there and take care of it.

This dominion and rule is a secret and key

to understanding the way the spiritual world works. Adam was in God's kingdom. Satan tempted Eve and Adam, who sinned, causing their spirit to die. God had told man that if he ate from the forbidden tree, "*in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*" (Genesis 2:17). God meant that their spirit person would die.

Adam and Eve were the first people to be born again backwards. What? Today, man can be born again through Jesus Christ, literally becoming a new creation because their spirit person becomes alive. Adam's spirit man was alive, but when he ate the fruit, his spirit man died.

And who tempted man to sin? Satan. Ever since Adam was created, the devil has been trying to expand the devil's kingdom, trying to take what God wants to give to humans, even to this day.

God wants to save all people, yet tragically, many (even most) are not saved. In the same way, God wants to heal all people, yet many are not healed.

The Lord God

Genesis 2:7 holds a key to these mysteries also:

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

This verse is the second time in the Bible that

the word "LORD" or Jehovah is used. It is the first time it is used in connection with a specific creation. All previous references to God in connection with a created entity were "God," which is the name "Elohim."

There are 12 primary Names of God (see page 122). There are many more names of God found in the 66 books of the Bible.

The name Elohim is God's name which is connected to His creation and His eternal nature and power.

The name Jehovah is God's name connected to God's covenants with man.

In the rest of Genesis 2, we see that God created a garden for man, with trees that would bear fruit. Two trees were mentioned specifically, one of which God commanded Adam not to eat from. God let Adam name all the animals. Then, God created a helper for Adam, who would later become Eve.

The Fall

In Genesis 3, we see that the devil came back to the earth, a place he previously had rule over, to try to get his dominion back. Sadly and tragically, he got his authority back by causing Eve and Adam to sin. This fall of man is the cause of much of the world's suffering.

While much on the earth is a mystery, we do know that there are three main causes of all things bad:

The fall of man
The devil
Man himself

In 1 John, we get insight into what caused Eve and Adam to sin:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

(1 John 2:15-16)

The Lord places five (5) curses after the fall:

1. Curse on the serpent (Genesis 3:14)
2. Curse on the woman (Genesis 3:16)
3. Curse on man, his body (Genesis 3:17)
4. Curse on the ground (Genesis 3:18)
5. Curse of death (Genesis 3:19)

God's Curse on the Devil

God placed a curse on the enemy and a promise of his destruction eternally through Jesus Christ.

*And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.
(Genesis 3:15)*

The devil's first plan, to invade heaven, failed. After Adam was created, he tried to get his authority back on earth.

The Devil's Plan to Pollute the Seed to Stop the Coming of the Messiah

After the prophecy about the woman's seed bruising Satan's head, the enemy came up with another plan. He would try to pollute the seed of the earth to stop the coming of the Messiah. We read about it in Genesis 6:1-6:

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore

children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.
(Genesis 6:1-6)

By keeping the Messiah from the earth, the devil would keep the dominion over the earth which he received from Adam.

Satan's wicked, fallen angels slept with women, producing giants. We do not know how long this went on. At some point, the only man found carrying the pure Adamic seed was Noah.

So the LORD said:

"I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God."
(Genesis 6:7-9)

The enemy's plan and the flood of Noah's time is explained in more detail in Chapter 12.

EIGHT

The Five Worlds Under the Earth

Where are the main beings involved in these events now?

God the Father and His Son Jesus are in heaven, amen. Their Spirit is over all the earth.

God sent Satan to Sheol (Isaiah 14:9,15), also called hell and the grave, where his own demons said, *"Have you become weak like us? You who weakened the nations . . ."* (Isaiah 14:10,12). Today, Satan is mainly in the second heaven but visits the earth.

God judged the angels who slept with women, sending the fallen angels to the underworld, where to this day they are still chained (see 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6). God sent them to Tartarus, one of the five worlds under the earth, yet the

authority of those angels is still in the second heavens.

Sheol? Tartarus? The Pit? What are these places? They are the worlds under the earth. There are five of them:

Sheol – the place where humans who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior go upon earthly death; also called hell; located in the center of the earth

Paradise – the place where pre-Christ saints went after dying

The Pit – the home of demons

Tartarus – the place where millions upon millions of angels are kept in prison, in chains

Lake of fire – a literal massive lake of fire; no one is there right now; hell will eventually be thrown into it

The apostle Paul writes about *“those under the earth”* in Philippians:

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

(Philippians 2:9-11)

The Five Underworlds and their Inhabitants

Sheol, or Hell

Sheol is the place most commonly referred to as hell. In modern Bibles, the Hebrew word for “sheol” (used 65 times in the original Bible) is usually translated either “hell” (31 times) or “the grave” (also 31 times). The Greek word for hell is “hades,” found 11 times in the Bible.

Millions upon millions of souls are in Sheol right now, suffering in excruciating, continual torment and torture. Sheol is a place of fire, with flames of fire, waves of fire, hot coals, burning, and smoke. Those in hell suffer from the fires of hell continually, with no relief. They are experiencing eternal death, but they cannot actually die.

They have an eternal spirit; a soul which is their mind, emotions, and will; and a body with flesh that continually burns and falls off their skeleton.

There is loud wailing and weeping, horrible odors, worms crawling in the peoples’ bodies, and many other torments. They have no relief, no comfort, no water, nothing good. In hell, people have all their senses, which are a lot stronger in the afterlife, both in hell and in heaven.

Hell is located in the center of the earth. It is shaped like a human body lying on its back, with arms and legs stretched out. There are

many different parts of hell, such as the arms, belly, heart, head, legs, and so forth.

In the Bible, hell is referred to as “under” and “beneath” (see Isaiah 14:9, Ezekiel 31:16, Job 11:8, and many others). There are deep depths to hell (see Deuteronomy 32:22). Hell has gates and has deprived people of their years (see Isaiah 38:10). If someone dies without knowing God through the Savior, that person immediately goes to hell (see Job 21:13).

In recent years, Jesus has revealed much about hell through His people. For a detailed description of hell, see the book *Divine Revelation of Hell* by Mary Baxter.

Paradise

Paradise was the place that pre-resurrection saints went when they died. Today it is empty.

It's description is just like it's name: it's a place of beauty, rest, peace, joy, and love.

Before Jesus died and was resurrected, there was no way for saints to go to heaven, so they went to Paradise. Remember Jesus told the thief on the cross, “*Today, you will be with Me in paradise*” (Luke 23:43). Before we discuss that, some background information is needed.

When Jesus Christ died, it was . . . well, that event really cannot be put into human words.

God sent His Son to the earth to die for mankind. It's beyond human comprehension. The God Who created the universe, the earth, and

mankind, sent His Son to die and redeem mankind . . . it's truly a mystery that He would do this.

For all eternity, the sacrifice of Jesus will be honored, proclaimed, revered, celebrated, extolled, and much, much more.

God's children, which He made into His own image, sinned and fell. The Holy God cannot look upon sin. There had to be a perfect sacrifice for man's sins. Jesus is that sacrifice.

Right after Jesus died, some truly incredible things happened.

The veil in front of the Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom.

The Holy of Holies in the Temple and the Tabernacle was the place where the holy, sacred Presence of God dwelt. The construction and building of the Tabernacle is described in Exodus 25. The construction and building of the Temple is described in 1 Kings 6.

The veil in front of the Holy of Holies was a very large, thick curtain that took as many as 300 men to move and put in place. Scholars estimate the veil was between about 30-40 feet tall, 30-40 feet wide, and about four to six inches thick.

What does the tearing of the veil mean? After Jesus died, that Presence became available to all people, not just the High Priest or the select few.

We read in New Testament about more amazing things that happened after Jesus died.

Between His death and His ascension into heaven, Jesus went to the underworld. He went to Paradise and released the saints there to go to heaven. We read about their release in Matthew 27. Note that the phrase “fallen asleep” refers to people who were dead:

*“Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.
(Matthew 27:51-53)*

In the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), we learn about Paradise, though the story does not actually use the word Paradise. In the translation from Greek to English, the dynamics of the Greek word “kolpos” are the reason there are various translations for the actual place the beggar Lazarus went when he died.

The word “kolpos” is intended to convey “a position synonymous with intimacy.” It is also used in John 1:18 describing Jesus Christ’s intimacy with the Father.

In the Lazarus Parable, various Bible versions translate the word and phrase “kolpos” in such ways as: “with Abraham”, “in the arms of Abraham,” “Abraham’s side,” “Abraham’s bosom,”

and so forth, all describing Paradise.

The Pit

The Pit is the home of demons. Right now, millions upon millions of demons, the pre-Adamic inhabitants of the earth, are in the Pit, also called “the deep” and “the abyss.”

Many demons are traveling from the Pit to the earth to try to influence and deceive men and women as well as cause problems on the earth. They try to find humans to live in, which will be their “house” (see Matthew 12:43-45). If they do not find one, they have to return to the Pit.

Demons are just one of five divisions in the devil’s army, summarized starting on page 99.

In Luke 8:26-39, we read about Jesus casting demons out of a man. The demons actually begged Jesus not to send them to the Pit (see Luke 8:30).

In Revelation 9:1-12, there is a scary description of the end times when demons will be released from the Pit. The demons are commanded twice not to destroy men, because demons would destroy everything if they could. In verse 11, we read that the one in charge of them is Satan:

And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

(Revelation 9:11)

Remember that Satan and Satan's army are continually trying to deceive mankind into not following God through Jesus Christ, into not becoming children of God. Satan hates God and is trying to win the war in the heavenlies. His main way of doing this is to influence men and women not to follow Jesus Christ, with the ultimate goal of causing humans to end up in hell, where people will be stuck forever in horrible torment and fire, with the devil.

Hell was created for Satan and his angels, not for human beings. Jesus said:

*Then He will also say to those on the left hand,
'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting
fire prepared for the devil and his angels: . . .'*
(Matthew 27:41)

Satan, his angels, and his demons will spend eternity in hell. Tragically, Satan is deceiving many human beings into also going to hell.

God wants every person to make it to heaven. But He cannot make anyone choose Him or follow Him. How can this be?

Remember the key fact: God made man into His own image and likeness. God gave every person a complete free will to decide every aspect of his or her life, including the god he or she serves. Though God the Father and God the Son want every person to be saved and make it heaven, God cannot make anyone become a child of God. It's a mystery, yet it's a reality.

When a human is a child, before the age of accountability, which is usually around five or six years old, they actually are a child of God. If a child under that age dies, they go to heaven, where they grow up into adults.

So, the devil knows he can influence people, and he and his armies continually try to do this.

Tartarus

Tartarus is the abode of fallen angels that slept with women.

In 2 Peter 2:4ff, Peter connects “hell,” which in this passage is the Greek word for Tartarus, to the flood. We learned earlier that the flood in Noah’s time was because angels had polluted mankind’s seed to the point that God in anger destroyed all mankind except Noah and his family.

In Jude 1:6,7, we read that the angels “*left their habitation*” and slept with women, with “*strange flesh*,” like Sodom and Gomorrah did (see Genesis 19).

In 1 Peter 3:18, we read that Jesus, after he died, went to Tartarus, after He went to Paradise. We also read here about the angels’ disobedience during the time of Noah. The words “spirits in prison” below is “angels in Tartarus” in the Greek:

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,

being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine long suffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

(I Peter 3:18-20)

He preached to the millions of angels who slept with women, who joined forces with Satan and rebelled against God. They polluted the entire human race except for Noah and tried to stop the Messiah from coming. They thought they had succeeded and that they would one day get out of Tartarus. They have been chained there for thousands of years. Jesus proclaimed to them that He made it and prepared them for Judgment Day.

The Lake of Fire

As we read earlier, the Lake of Fire was created for the devil and his angels. There is no one there right now.

Isaiah 66:24 says that the Lake of Fire will last eternally.

One day, all the inhabitants of the five worlds will be thrown into the lake of fire. The other four worlds will be destroyed. The lake of fire will be there forever.

NINE

Man, the Image of God

God's creation is unspeakably wonderful and inexpressibly glorious.

Every good and perfect gift comes down from Him, the Father (James 1:17).

What are the causes of all the evil and suffering on earth? The primary causes are the devil and the fall of man; and the devil was the original cause of the fall.

There is no evil or suffering in heaven, God Almighty's home. How do we know that's His home? Jesus said, "*In My Father's house there are many mansions*" (John 14:2), referring to heaven.

Those who have seen heaven, the third heaven, all give the same report: it is too wonderful to put into human words.

It's the same with God's presence and His glo-

ry: He is too wonderful to put into any human language. King David wrote, *"On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, will I meditate"* (Psalm 145:5).

One may ask, where is this in the New Testament? It is Jesus' most frequently taught and preached subject, "the kingdom," which is God's presence and glory.

People may ask, "Why do some people end up in hell? Why does anyone end up in hell?"

The answer to that is in this chapter. Remember, we know some answers and partial explanations, but some things are a mystery and may always remain a mystery.

Back to God's creation. When we analyze and examine God's creation, we begin to see a pattern.

The three heavens and God Himself are too wonderful, glorious, and unsearchable to put into human words.

The universe we are in (as we saw in Chapter 2) is stunning, mind-boggling, and mystifying, to say the least!

The earth has a history going back billions of years, with ages, eras, and inhabitants that existed long before humans were here. The limited knowledge we have about those times and beings is fascinating and amazing. Human research has uncovered much, including various ages, prehistoric animals and dinosaurs, and a lot more. Think of what we do not know about.

The spirit realms, where the war in the heav-

ens is mainly fought, are way beyond our finite understanding. The spirit world includes God's armies and the devil's armies, both of which have millions and even billions of beings. The spirit realms affect what happens in our natural realm.

Above the earth are the heavens. Below the earth, there are five worlds, where millions and billions of fallen angels, demons, and, believe it or not, humans are.

It's all quite sobering and humbling.

And the pattern is clear. All of God's creations are awe-inspiring and mystifying. Though some would doubt it, His creation, mankind, is the same.

The Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven

Amazingly, God tells us we can know and understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus told His disciples: *"To you it's been given to know the mysteries [also: secrets] of the kingdom of heaven . . ."* (Mathew 13:11a).

Jesus said they could "know" the mysteries and secrets. The Greek word for "know" is "gnonai" which means "to come to know, to learn, to realize, to perceive."

In the next verse, Jesus states the law of abundance: "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken

away from him" (Matthew 13:12).

Jehovah God Almighty is in heaven and His presence is over all the earth. Yet, Jesus tells us that He cares intimately about every person. Jesus said *"the hairs upon your head are numbered,"* (Matthew 10:30) and that *"not a sparrow falls to the ground apart from His will"* (Matthew 10:29). He knows everything about a person. He knows everything that's going on, even with animals and birds.

How can that be true? Welcome to the mystery. The honest answer is that we cannot comprehend it with our minds. However, with our spirit, we can do more than comprehend Him. We can know Him and become His child, which is what makes mankind different from the rest of God's creation.

While the stunningly large universe and unsearchable spiritual world around us may make a person feel small and insignificant, the truth of man being God's image has the opposite effect. Man is perhaps one of God's highest creations. Man is so important to God that He sent His only Son to die for mankind.

The Trinity

The Trinity is a holy, divine, eternal truth. The three-in-one God is a wonderful, glorious reality.

God is a three-in-one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Why is He like that? Again, it's a mystery. We

cannot comprehend it with our minds. We can try to explain it, grasp it, write about it, talk about it. But God wants men and women to do more than just “explain” Him. He wants to have a relationship with a person.

We will spend all eternity in awe of the Trinity, in awe of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our limited words here are just words.

Another initial answer to why God is three-in-one: He just is! He’s God. Who are we to question Him in any way? Rather, we should fear Him (see Luke 12:5).

We should be absolutely grateful we even have the opportunity to know Him.

The “three-in-one” concept is actually very common.

The sun is a three-in-one entity: 1.) the actual star and its gases; 2.) the light we all see; and 3.) the heat and warmth we all feel. And there are hundreds of billions of stars just like the sun.

Water is a substance that can occur in three different states or forms: liquid, solid (ice), and gas (water vapor).

Electricity is found in three forms: the power station; the power going through the lines; and the manifestation of the electricity in the form of light, power for a home, and so forth.

But in reality, it’s only through our spirit that we can grasp the Trinity and God.

Which brings us to this holy, divine, eternal truth: God made man into His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-28).

Man: a Three-in-One Being

Man is the image of God. Like God, man is one being with three “parts”: spirit, soul, and body.

In all of God’s incredible, stunning creation, the fact that He would make man into His own image is . . . another mystery.

Man as God’s image is a key to the answers for many of the difficult questions people present about spiritual things and about the world, such as “Why do people end up in hell?”

Answer: man has a free will, just like God does. God cannot make someone receive Him and follow Him. Every person chooses the god he or she serves.

Moreover, if someone does not choose to follow God through Jesus Christ, they have chosen to be in the other camp. There are two families on earth: God’s family, and the devil’s family.

Man Has a Spirit, Soul, and Body

Every person on the earth is a “trinity,” with a spirit, soul, and body.

God gave us a spirit for God-consciousness; a soul for self-consciousness; and a body for sense-consciousness.

Even people who do not believe in God are a trinity.

Someone can doubt the Trinity. Someone can believe that there is not a three-in-one God. But

what they believe does not change the truth of the Trinity.

One secret about God's creation of man is that God wants to enlarge His family and kingdom.

As we have seen, He is a super-abundant, super-creative God! And that's a super-understatement! God wants to fellowship with you through Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *"Behold, I stand at the door [of your heart, your being]. To him who opens the door, I will come in to him and fellowship with him, and he with Me"* (Revelation 3:20).

Every person born on the earth is actually in His family automatically. When a person gets to the age of accountability, which is around five or six years old, he or she chooses what family he or she is in, by their actions, decisions, and so forth. Sadly, many people choose many other paths instead of a simple, normal, natural walk with God.

Every person has a spirit and is therefore an eternal being. Every person will spend eternity either in heaven or in hell.

Man as God's image sheds light on why the devil would try to deceive men and women (starting with Adam and Eve), causing them not to follow God. The devil hates God and therefore hates man, because man is made in God's image. The devil is still today trying to deceive those on the earth.

Mystery: God Came to Earth as a Man

Perhaps one of the greatest, highest, deepest . . . (add every positive superlative here . . .) mysteries is the fact that God Almighty would come to earth as a man, live, and die for the world.

In fact, He did something even more sacrificial. He sent His only Son to the earth to live and die for the world.

Those who make it to heaven will spend all eternity learning about and experiencing that mystery.

Just like so many other topics in this book, this truth is beyond our human comprehension and too wonderful for us to understand.

Spiritual Warfare

Much can be learned about spiritual warfare by studying the fall of man.

The devil tempted Eve in three subtle ways, two of them with questions (Genesis 3:1,4). He placed doubt and disbelief, and he then created disobedience in her. Eve entertained three desires. Thus, we see three forms of temptation the devil uses. John writes about these three desires in 1 John:

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 John 2:16)

When the devil tempted Jesus, the devil also presented questions to Him. Jesus knew to use the word against the devil and replied all three times, "It is written . . .", with the accompanying reference to God's word.

Eve did not know God's word, which was God's command to Adam, "*Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*" (Genesis 2:16). God was speaking of spiritual death, the death of Adam's spirit, if he ate from the forbidden tree.

Today, Jesus offers us the opportunity to live forever. Jesus said: "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world*" (John 6:51).

In Genesis 3, we read that the Lord placed five (5) curses after the fall:

1. Curse on the serpent (Genesis 3:14)
2. Curse on the woman (Genesis 3:16)
3. Curse on man, his body (Genesis 3:17)
4. Curse on the ground (Genesis 3:18)
5. Curse of death (Genesis 3:19)

Jesus the Messiah redeemed man from the curse.

TEN

Jesus Christ, the Messiah

There are more 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Son of God. Four of them are in the Genesis accounts we have been looking at, in Genesis 3 and 4.

First Prophecy about the Messiah: Her Seed

After Adam and Eve fell (Genesis 3:6,7), and God communicated with both Adam and then Eve (Genesis 3:8-13), God placed a curse on the enemy and a promise of destruction eternally through Jesus Christ, in Genesis 3:15: *“And I will put enmity, between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*

“Her seed” refers to the Virgin Birth of Christ

and the promise of the coming Messiah.

Second Prophecy about the Messiah: Curse of Thorns

God then places a curse on the woman (verse 16), on the man (verse 17), and on the ground (verse 18). God spoke to Adam about the ground: *"Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field."* Genesis 3:18

When Jesus Christ was crucified, He wore a crown of thorns, which was a symbol of the curse God placed on the world. Jesus became the curse for us.

The crown of thorns caused Him to bleed from His head, one of seven times Jesus shed His precious blood. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for the world.

Third Prophecy about the Messiah: the First Sacrifice in the Bible

After man fell, Adam and Eve realized they were naked and were ashamed. Losing the presence of God and sin cause humans to lose God-consciousness and become self-conscious. They got fig leaves to cover their body.

In Genesis 3:21, we read that God made them a different covering: *"Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."* The clothing for Adam and Eve was the first shedding of blood. The Father Himself per-

formed this. It was prophetic of the time when Jesus would offer Himself, pouring out His blood for the sins of the world.

Fourth Prophecy about the Messiah: Abel's Sacrifice

Many know the story of Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve's first two sons, found in Genesis 4. Abel was a keeper of sheep, a shepherd, while Cain was a tiller of the ground, a farmer. Both brought an offering to God: Cain brought fruit of the ground, while Abel brought the first offspring of his flock.

God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's offering (see Genesis 4:4-7). Why? The offering of an animal was symbolic and prophetic concerning God's offering of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. God's respect had to do with blood.

Adam and Eve had another son, Seth. Through Seth's lineage, Jesus Christ was born.

The Eternal Privilege of Being Born Again

We see the results of the fall of man. Sin entered man's universe. Adam and Eve's nature changed. Man's spirit was now dead. Their relationship with God was broken. Man lost his dominion over the earth. Satan got his rule and dominion back and is the "*prince of this world.*" (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11).

Adam and Eve were the only two people to be

born again backwards. They went from alive in God to dead in sin. People on the earth today are eternally privileged to be able to be born again through Jesus Christ. They can repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive a new life. They can move from death to life and live forever. They can receive eternal life, which is knowing the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent (John 17:3). They can receive blessings which are beyond human comprehension.

When Jesus returns to the earth at His Second Coming, He will restore the kingdom of God and remove the devil and his armies. Glory to God forever!

The Name "Jesus Christ"

The name "Jesus" in Hebrew literally means "God saves."

The English name "Jesus" comes from the Greek name "Iesous," which is a rendition of the Hebrew "Yeshua." The name is related to the Hebrew verb root "rescue" and one of its noun forms, yesua, "deliverance."

In the New Testament, which was written in Greek, Christ in the Greek is the word "christos," which means "anointed."

In the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew, the word for "Messiah" is "mashiach," which also means "anointed." So, the Greek

word for Christ, "christos," is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word for Messiah, "mashiach."

Therefore, His name could properly be written and spoken as, "Jesus the Anointed One."

ELEVEN

The Devil's Army

Just as God's Angelic Army has five divisions, Satan's army has five divisions. The devil copied God.

In Ephesians, the apostle Paul explains the battle we as children of God are in. He also explains how we are to fight, taking up the whole armor of God.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole ar-

mor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints . . ."

(Ephesians 6:10-18)

The Five Divisions in the Devil's Army

Spirits – demons

Principalities – Chief rulers of the highest rank

Powers – Authorities under the Principalities

Rulers of the Darkness of this World – men in Satan's camp; men who are possessed by demonic powers

Wicked Spirits in Heavenlies – fallen angels

Spirits are demons.

Principalities in the original Greek is "Arkas," or "chief rulers of the highest rank."

Powers is the Greek word "Exousias" or "authorities." These powers are under the Principalities, or chief rulers, executing their will.

Rulers of the Darkness of this World are also called "World Rulers of Darkness." These are men on earth who are possessed by demonic powers. This world, this "cosmos", binds them to the natural. These are men who are demon led and demon moved.

Wicked Spirits in Heavenlies, or Spiritual Wickedness in High Places, are the fallen angels which rebelled with Lucifer. They number in the millions upon millions.

The Armor of God

Believers in Christ are commanded to do seven things with the armor of God, which affect seven areas of a believer's life, as taught by Paul in Ephesians 6:13-18.

First, the seven pieces of the armor:

1. Gird loins (waist) with truth – your mind
2. Breastplate of righteousness – your being, your heart
3. Gospel of peace on your feet – your walk
4. Shield of faith – your actions
5. Helmet of salvation – your nature, character
6. Sword of the spirit – the word of God
7. Prayer – prayer and supplication

These Seven Pieces of the Armor Affect These Seven Areas of a believer's life:

1. Mind
2. Heart, Being

3. Walk
4. Faith, Actions
5. Nature, Character
6. Sword, Word of God
7. Prayer

The Armor	The Believer
Gird waist with truth	Your mind
Breastplate of r'ss	Your being, heart
Gospel of peace on feet	Your walk
Shield of faith	Your actions
Helmet of salvation	Your nature, Your character
Sword of the Spirit	The Word of God
Prayer	Prayer & supplication
Ephesians 6:13-18	

Practical Application: Armor and Believer

1. The "loins" is the mind. Get word in your mind. Read, hear the word.
2. The heart is your spirit man, your innermost being. Get the word into your spirit man.
3. The feet is your walk. The word must affect

your walk, your actions.

4. The shield of faith is your trust and reliance in and on God, your victory.

5. The helmet of salvation is your nature and character, what you believe. The word makes you balanced and stable.

6. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God, which is united with the Spirit of God and gives life, and it affects all areas of a person's being.

7. Pray with all prayer and supplication.

Demons

As we learned, demons are a pre-Adamic race. Satan enslaved them when he rebelled and fell.

Demons are not fallen angels, as many believe. Angels are heaven-bound. Demons are earth-bound, and their home is the Pit.

They are slaves to the devil and hate him. There is a hierarchy in the devil's army. Spirits do what the beings above them command them to do.

Rest assured: if someone is sincerely walking with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit protects them from demons. The safest place to be is with Jesus Christ.

Demons operate in the natural world around us, here on the earth. They are disembodied spirits that seek bodies to dwell in. They do not have bodies. They did possess bodies but lost them in their fall and destruction.

While demons abode is the Pit, they also can

live in human beings on earth, in a human's body. In fact, they would rather live in a human, because the Pit is apparently an awful place. When Jesus was about to cast the demons named "Legion" out of a man, they begged Jesus not to send them to the Pit (Luke 8:26-39).

Demons cause a lot of strife, evil, and wickedness on the earth. Demons influence, oppress, and even possess people, with the intention of causing evil.

Remember Jesus' statement: *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy"* John 10:10. Satan's ultimate goal is to deceive people into not being children of God and ending up in hell, where he can torment them forever. In "A Divine Revelation of Hell," Jesus said: "Satan feeds on evil. He glories in pain and suffering and gains power from it" (p. 99).

So, what are demons really like? Jesus revealed the answer to this in Matthew 12.

Humans are spirit beings, who have a soul, and live in a body, which is our "house" on earth. Paul wrote about this earthly house – and about the house believers have in heaven: *"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens"* (2 Corinthians 5:1). Jesus spoke about these houses also (see John 14:2).

Jesus also spoke about man's body or earthly house when he taught about demons. Notice in the following teaching, that demons say they

“will return to my house”:

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

(Matthew 12:43-45)

This passage reveals 12 truths about demons:

1. “he walks” – they can travel
2. “through dry places” – they can seek and search; they have some intelligence
3. “seeking rest” – they get tired; there are different levels of strength in demons; some can be strong, others weaker
4. “find no place” – they can see
5. “he says” – they can speak
6. “I will” – they have a will, they can decide; they are personalities
7. “I will return” – they can think
8. “from where I came out” – they have a memory
9. “found it...” – they can examine
10. They are persistent
11. “takes seven other spirits” – they can plan
12. They work together

Authority Over All the Power of the Enemy

Jesus gave His people authority over all the power of the enemy. This is a truly glorious promise! Jesus said:

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."
(Luke 10:19)

Jesus' promises are glorious and powerful!

Authority to Trample on Serpents and Scorpions

What does He mean by "*trample on serpents and scorpions?*" Three different passages of scripture explain this phrase, in the Books of Revelation, Psalms, and Malachi.

Revelation is a prophetic book about the end times. In Revelation 9, we read about the Tribulation and the horrible, terrible suffering on earth that demons will inflict. The specific scene is at the sound of the 5th and 6th Trumpet. A star falls from heaven to the earth, and he is given a key to the bottomless Pit (verse 1). Remember that stars represent angels. This star is the

devil.

He releases *“locusts”* that looked like *“horses prepared for battle”* (verses 3 and 7) onto the earth, who proceed to torment those *“men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads”* (verse 4). The locusts are demons, who are given authority to torment people for five months but are commanded not to kill them. The torment is so bad that *“men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them”* (verse 6).

In verses 3, 5, 10 and 19, we see that these creatures' bodies are compared to scorpions and serpents. Three references are made to scorpions in verses 3, 5, and 10 : *“Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power . . . Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man . . . They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months”* (Revelation 9:3,5,10).

Then, there is a reference to serpents in verse 19: *“For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm”* (Revelation 9:19)

So, we see that when Jesus gave His followers authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, he was giving them authority over demons, even the seemingly unstoppable ones. He then gives His followers authority over *“all the power of the enemy”* (Luke 10:19).

In Psalm 91, there is another reference to trampling on a serpent; this reference is to a child of God hidden in Jesus Christ being able to do trample on serpents. Psalm 91:13 says: *"You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot."*

Jesus was familiar with Psalm 91. After all, Jesus is God Almighty, so He certainly knows it, as He is the author!

Even the devil knows about Psalm 91. When the devil tempted and tested Jesus three times, the enemy quoted scripture. In the second temptation, the devil quoted Psalm 91:11-12: *"For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone"* (Matthew 4:5-7).

The "cobra" and "serpent" in verse 13 refers to demonic forces.

In the wonderful promise of healing in Malachi, God also promises that those who fear His name will "trample the wicked": *"But to you who fear My name, The Sun of Righteousness shall arise, with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. 3 You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this," says the LORD of hosts*" (Malachi 4:2-3).

Who can trample on the enemy? Those who fear the Lord.

In addition to that, how do believers keep the

enemy and demons away and stay protected?

In Leviticus 19, God commanded Moses not to allow mixtures in the camp of Israel, such as with cattle (do not allow a horse to mate with a donkey) or cloth (do not mix linen with wool). Anything that is a mixture cannot produce of itself.

Today, God commands that we not mix the holy and unholy, lies and truth, or light and darkness.

God specifically said not to be involved in anything demonic, such as psychics, mediums, or familiar spirits (Leviticus 19:31, Deuteronomy 18:10-13).

In Joshua 7, the Lord forbids Israel from keeping anything demonic, from anything that has the look, taste or speaks of the demonic. It's the story of a man Achan who took a coin which had an emblem of a Babylonian image, which is demonic. It crippled the entire nation of Israel, which could not defeat a small nation. God said He would not be among them unless they destroy that accursed thing.

In Acts 19, when people burned their demonic things, the word grew among them, and there was revival.

TWELVE

God's Salvation

After the fall of man, the human race became subject to the kingdom of darkness (Ephesians 2:2). Jesus Christ died so that mankind could be saved from that kingdom and death and enter into God's kingdom and eternal life, which is knowing God and His Son Jesus (see John 17:3).

Why is the fall of Adam and Eve so important? We get insight from the apostle Paul, who calls Jesus Christ the "last Adam." Paul writes:

And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being" [Genesis 2:7]. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so

also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

(1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

God created the first man, Adam, in His own image. After the fall, the Most Holy God had to send another man to redeem mankind. Thus His Son Jesus is called the “second Man” from heaven.

The Second Flood, in Noah’s Time

Many have believed that there is one main flood, the flood during Noah’s time. In reality, there are actually two floods: the flood before mankind was created, which we discussed in Chapter 2; and the flood of Noah’s time.

What happened to cause the second flood?

In Genesis 6, we read all about it. Man had multiplied on the earth, and . . . well, it’s quite unbelievable. The following is a shortened summary:

The devil knew from God’s prophecy (Genesis 3:15) that the devil was in trouble and that one day the woman’s seed would destroy him. So, the enemy came up with a plan. He sent his fallen angels to pollute the seed of the Messiah. Angels married and procreated with women,

producing giants. God was sorry that He had made man, who had become polluted with angelic seed, and He was grieved in His heart. So God developed a plan to save mankind and the line of Christ through Noah.

"Sons of God" in verse 2 are angels; the explanation of this is below. Genesis 6:1-12:

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have

made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.
(Genesis 6:1-12)

This is all epic and almost beyond comprehension! Sound familiar?

Sons of God, Elohim

The name "Sons of God" appears five times in the Old Testament, and all five refer to angels. The verses are: Genesis 6:2,4; Job 1:6; Job 2:1, Job 38:7, and Daniel 3:25. The translation is "sons of Elohim."

In the New Testament, the phrase "sons of God" of course refers to born again men and women. The translation is "sons of Jehovah."

The important distinction is between the two: Elohim and Jehovah. The name "Elohim" is always used in connection with creation and power. The name "Jehovah" is always used in connection with relationship and covenant.

Explanation of the Pollution of the Messiah's Seed

Angels coming down from heaven to earth?

What's really going on here?

In the first prophecy about the Messiah, God told the devil, "*He [the Messiah] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel*" (Genesis 3:15).

The "bruising of the head" is a mortal wound, referring to Jesus crushing Satan on the cross. The "bruising of the heel" is prophetic of Jesus being bruised on the cross. Isaiah 53:5 states: "He was bruised for our iniquities."

The devil's plan was to try to block the woman's seed on earth, which he knows will destroy him. He sends his fallen angels to have sex with women, polluting the Messianic seed.

Many years later, after the Messiah was born, the devil tried to stop God's plan then as well (see Matthew 2).

How could angels actually come to the earth and have relations with women? In Jude 1:6 (below) we read that the angels did not keep their first estate but left their habitation, which likely means they "disrobed" themselves of their spiritual state and took on physical bodies. The angels materialized in the physical. (See Hebrews 13:1)

God chose to destroy man to keep and preserve the human seed which would be the ancestral line of Christ. The only one found carry-

ing the pure Adamic seed was Noah, *“a just man and perfect in his generations”* (Genesis 6:9).

The Fallen Angels are Reserved in Chains, Even Until Now

Jude confirms that the angels were punished because they went after strange flesh. The angels were sent to Tartarus, one of the five underworlds:

“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

Jude 1:6-8

Angels Sent to Tartarus; God Saved Noah

Peter also writes about this in 1 and 2 Peter:

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher

of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; . . ."

2 Peter 2:4-5

Peter also writes:

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison [Greek: angels in Tartarus], who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine long suffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."

1 Peter 3:18-20

God saved the line and the seed of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

THIRTEEN

The Future

It's beyond human comprehension that God knows the end from the beginning.

In Isaiah 46 we read:

*Remember the former things of old,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things that are not yet
done,
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,'
(Isaiah 46:9-10)*

He tells us in the Book of Revelation what will happen in the end times.

The first two chapters of Genesis and last two chapters of Revelation form a complete story, with eternal implications for all of mankind.

The following scriptures are from Genesis 1 and 2 and Revelation 20, 21, and 22.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

(Genesis 1:26-28)

This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for

food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:4-7)

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up

the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

(Revelation, Chapter 20:7-15)

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 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, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with

fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth to-

paz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

(Revelation, Chapter 21)

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Amen.*

(Revelation, Chapter 22)

Twelve Names of God

Elohim – The Creator, the Mighty One – Genesis 1:1

Jehovah Elohim – Father – Genesis 2:4

El Shaddai – Nourisher, Provider – Genesis 17:1

Adonai – Lord – Genesis 15:1-2

Jehovah Jireh – Provider – Genesis 22:14

Jehovah Rapha – Healer – Exodus 15:26

Jehovah Nissi – Victory – Exodus 17:15

Jehovah Mikkadesh – Holiness – Leviticus 20:7-8

Jehovah Shalom – Peace – Judges 6:24

Jehovah Rohi – Shepherd – Psalm 23:1

Jehovah Tsidkenu – Righteousness – Jeremiah 23:6

Jehovah Shamah – the Lord is there – Ezekiel 48:3

Abbreviated Subject Index

- The creation account, 34, 115-116
- Hebrew translation of Genesis 1:1-2, 25,29
- Restoration of the earth, 30-34
- Creation of man, 67, 115
- God's plan to save the Messianic seed, 71,108-113
- The three heavens, 31-32
- God's armies, the heavenly host, 38-47
- Angels and their nature, 47-49
- Four prophecies of the Messiah, Genesis, 91-93
- Jesus Christ, explanation of the name, 94-95
- Armor of God, 98-100
- Armor of God in Ephesians, 96
- The future, from the Book of Revelation, 116-121
- Twelve Names of God, 122
- Five curses after the fall, 69, 90
- Lucifer in the Bible, 54-58, 60-63
- Satan's plan to pollute Messianic seed, 70-71
- Satan's army, 97-98
- Demons and their nature, 100-102
- Why do some people end up in hell? 83
- What are the causes of evil and suffering? 82

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