

THE UNTOLD STORY OF JESUS



Larry W. Wilson

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Untold
Story of
Jesus**

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Gratitude and Acknowledgment

I do not expect anyone to agree with everything written in this unusual book. However, if you find something helpful and are blessed half as much as I have been while writing it, I will be delighted. I want your admiration and love for Jesus to grow and become more exciting than words can express. This has happened to me and I want to share my joy.

I want to say “Thank You” and express my deepest appreciation for all of the wonderful people that helped to make this book a reality. I am sure that Jesus also appreciates your efforts to exalt His wonderful name. May the Lord continue to bless each of you in every way: Jane and Carson Cross, Vonnie Berryhill, Enwelu Hananayah, Marty Purvis, Eunice Leach, Randy Daniel, Bob Rose, and Rex Johnson.

Larry Wilson

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Chapter I

The Greatness of the Godhead

The story of Jesus has been unfolding for 6,000 years. Many books have been published about Him, but most of them concern His life on Earth. This book is different. Through progressive revelation, the time has now come to tell *the rest of His story*. My book focuses on the life and activities of Jesus in heaven! Jesus is the God who relates with mankind. He is called “The Word” because He speaks for the Father. Truth about the Father comes through Jesus and only Jesus; there is no other source! The Bible says **“No one has ever seen God [the Father], but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.”**¹

After more than forty years of writing, this, my final book, is dedicated to people who are willing to consider a view of Jesus that is more encompassing than what is revealed in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Of course, the four gospels are critically important, because they provide essential facts about Jesus which are not otherwise available. However, it takes the remaining 62 books of the Bible to reveal the fullness of Jesus, the great I AM, who is both the God of the Old and New Testaments. There is no one like Jesus in the universe. He has done things that no one else *could* do, and He is about to do things no one else *can* do. **“Therefore God [the Father] exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**²

When it comes to the topic of God, Jews and Moslems believe there is one God and this is the end of the matter. On the other hand, Christians have been conflicted for 2,000 years, struggling to explain the existence of *three beings*: the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, each called God, and yet, in some way, acknowledge

1. John 1:18, insertion mine

2. Philippians 2:9-11, insertion mine

that only *one* God exists. Many church groups have split over this topic, and hostilities and divisiveness continue among Protestants today.¹ Are there three separate, distinct, equally coeternal Gods or are *the three* really manifestations of one God? At the risk of alienating you, I want you to know ‘up front’ I have found the Bible teaches there are three separate, distinct, coeternal deities: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, but they function as one unit in purpose, plan, and action.

For fifty years I have been a serious Bible student and my attitude and prayer has been, “Lord, I do not care what the truth may be or where it leads, please open my eyes to understand your wonderful truths.” I discovered early on, the Bible is a difficult study if one is to avoid placing the Bible in a state of internal conflict. Let me explain using an analogy. When viewing a coastline from 2,000 feet in the air, the line between the water and the ground appears sharp and distinct. However, when viewing the ocean from sea level, there is no sharp line. It is difficult to determine where wetness ends and dryness begins.

Likewise, the Godhead can be viewed as one God or three, depending on perspective. If you can momentarily tolerate the idea that three separate deities operate together in perfect harmony, functioning as one God in purpose, plan, and action, their diversity as separate, distinct, coeternal deities will make for a very fascinating study. This process will resolve many apparent conflicts in the Bible.

The Godhead functions like a corporation where many people work together. For example, there is a president (the Father), there is a vice-president for development (the Son), and there is a vice-president for marketing (the Holy Spirit). Of course, the metaphor of a corporation does not begin to address the intricate and loving relationship among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but it is a start. The greatness and largeness of the Godhead (the officers of the corporation) is mind-boggling. Each member of the Godhead is a self-existing deity. The universe is profoundly blessed to have three deities who have characters of pure love and tender hearts. In all the universe there is nothing like them,

1. See Appendix B

which is why they are called “holy.”¹ The Godhead is infinitely intriguing, beautiful, and creative with never a dull moment. They never sleep or get tired. They love justice as much as mercy. They are generous, kind, forgiving, deliberate, and purposeful. From a distance, they appear to be one God because their union is so integrated; yet up close, they have different roles. They interact with one another at all times and their interaction is the basis for everything that exists, from beginning to end.

Impediments

A Bible student has some impediments when studying the Godhead:

First, each God is infinite...human beings are finite. The ant cannot understand man’s thoughts and ways. In like manner, finite minds cannot understand the thoughts and ways of three infinite Gods. Because each God is from everlasting to everlasting, their objectives are exponentially larger than we can imagine. They always have the “big picture” in mind.

Second, members of the Godhead have sinless natures. This creates an obstruction when trying to understand them because their response to issues and their reason for doing things are unlike ours.

Third, every person’s knowledge of the Godhead is formed by heritage, religious tradition, study, and personal bias. Therefore, changing a long-held paradigm is a huge hindrance.

Fourth, because much of the world’s population dies within the religious system into which they were born, it is difficult for a person to radically change his views about God. The likelihood of a devout Catholic converting to Islam or a Protestant converting to Hinduism is very slight.

Finally, harmonizing everything said in the Bible about the Godhead is very difficult. This, too, is an obstacle.

These five impediments have created much confusion and conflict about the Godhead, and there is no end in sight. I anticipate some

1. Revelation 4:8; 15:4

people will ridicule portions of this study because it is our nature, mine included, to reject whatever we do not already believe. **“It is easier to believe a lie that one has heard a thousand times than to believe a fact that one has never heard before.”**¹ Man’s natural rejection for views different about God (or the Godhead) is a serious deterrent. Be assured, I have not come close to discovering “the whole truth and nothing but the truth” when it comes to the Godhead. Even after the holy angels have lived in the Father’s presence for thousands (millions?) of years, they have not come close to discovering everything about the Godhead and they have fewer obstacles than we do. Finite beings cannot know the whole truth about infinite beings because their truth is ever unfolding. However, I have discovered *some truth* about the Godhead and this joy has prompted me to create this book. **“All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.”**²

Studying the Godhead is similar to a drawing I saw years ago. Several blind men were examining an elephant: touching a different part of the animal. One man felt the elephant’s trunk, another the elephant’s ear, and so forth. When they completed their analysis, the blind men could not understand why the others did not agree on the animal’s anatomy. So it is with the Godhead. Human beings are essentially blind when it comes to understanding the greatness and largeness of the Godhead. Because of our impediments, we are at different places in our understanding of the Godhead. Of course, the Godhead knows this dilemma. To encourage and teach us, Jesus said: **“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”**³

1. Robert Wilson Lynd, British writer, 1879–1949

2. Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher, 1788–1860

3. John 16:13-15

The Apostle Paul adds, “**And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**”¹ While faith is more important than knowledge, the truth about the Godhead is important because our actions reflect what we believe. If a person believes there is no God or God is not concerned with day-to-day dishonesty, why should we be careful to tell the truth? Obviously, accountability to a higher authority does affect our behavior!

Given the greatness and largeness of the Godhead and our many hindrances for properly understanding them, it should not be surprising that Jesus is the most controversial person to ever live on Earth. He is a member of the Godhead which makes it difficult to organize and harmonize what the Bible says about Him. This has led to endless conflict for the past 2,000 years.

A Few Basic Facts

There are many facts stated in the Bible about Jesus. Often, these facts are not explained and can raise more questions than answers. Some facts *appear* contradictory, but are not, because the Bible and the Godhead are not internally conflicted. *Apparent* conflicts exist because impediments exist. Those who seriously study the Bible stumble into *apparent* conflicts on a regular basis. God put *apparent* conflicts in the Bible to separate truth seekers from surface readers. Scoffers use *apparent* conflicts to justify ridiculing the Bible. Even many Christians abuse *apparent* conflicts to defend their cherished religious beliefs and ideas. Sincere students of the Bible know that when one Bible verse is used to resist or cancel the meaning of another, the result cannot be truth-full.

I need to present a few basic facts to tell this book’s story. Space does not allow for a critical explanation of each Bible verse to resolve all *apparent* conflicts; therefore, please see Appendix A for Bible verses which support the stated facts. If you disagree with these facts, study Appendix B, and please, be as charitable as possible so the story can unfold. After forty-seven years of ministry, I am

1. Hebrews 11:6

well aware that “a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.” I have come to understand some wonderful elements about the Godhead, and my mission is to share this huge and incredible story in a condensed format. The story does include a few presuppositions based on my understanding of scripture after a lifetime of Bible study. Even if you do not agree with some parts of the story, at least consider my conclusions. I hope it will somehow help you appreciate Jesus more than ever. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit for discernment.

Fact 1. The Father designed the universe and Jesus created it. Jesus is the Creator.

Fact 2. No one has seen the Father – not even the angels. Only Jesus and the Holy Spirit have seen the Father.

Fact 3. Jesus is the God of the Old Testament; the One who interfaced with prophets and people; the One who came to Earth and lived as a man so the Father could speak through Him.

Fact 4. Jesus is an equal, separate, distinct, coeternal God who lived with the Father before creation.

Please see Appendix A for Bible references supporting these four facts.

Chapter 2

The Godhead Begins

Given what Scripture says and the results posted in Appendices A and B, I believe the Bible teaches the Father is not Jesus, Jesus is not the Father, and neither of them are the Holy Spirit. The Godhead consists of three equal, coeternal, separate, and distinct members who live and function as *one* God. Jesus identified each individually when He gave the gospel commission.¹ Later, I will offer a compelling reason why Jesus commanded that everyone be baptized in the name of “the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

To be fair, I agree with those who say the Bible *appears* to teach there is one God² and I also agree with those who say the Bible *appears* to teach there is more than one God.³ Yet, this apparent conflict is not the conundrum many make it out to be. There is a reasonable explanation; just as there is a reasonable explanation for the many *apparent* conflicts God has intentionally placed in the Bible.

For example, some people cite verses supporting the idea that hell will burn for eternity, while others use verses supporting the idea that it will not. Some people present verses supporting the idea that the Ten Commandments were abolished at the cross, others offer verses supporting the idea that they are still obligatory. Many *apparent* conflicts exist in the Bible and the topic of the Godhead is one of them. After investigating this topic for almost fifty years, I believe I have found a solution which resolves the *apparent* conflict about the Godhead. It can be resolved. Subsequently, everything written in the Bible about the topic remains harmonious. Strange as it may seem, the solution requires an understanding of love. It has taken a long time for me to resolve the conflict and can only attribute this to my own impediments.

I am not being careless with my choice of words when I say, “Divine love has properties that boggle the mind.” Love is the

1. Matthew 28:19

2. Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; Ephesians 4:4-6

3. Psalm 45:7; Hebrews 1:9; John 1:1; Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 28:19

only attribute that beautifully and harmoniously resolves the conflict between the concepts of one God or three. There is no further need to clash over this topic because the Bible teaches that the three Gods function together so closely that they can *appear* to be one God. When Jesus said, **“I and the Father are one,”**¹ He did not mean that He was the Father. Instead, Jesus meant that He and the Father were “one deity” in the same way that a husband and wife can be “one flesh.”² In both cases, love enables oneness.

The phrase “God is love” has a dimension I did not comprehend for decades. I thought the phrase meant God is infinitely generous and gracious.³ However, by God’s grace, I stumbled into a completely new understanding of what the phrase meant. The members of the Godhead love one another in a way that unifies them as *one* God! They operate so closely together that they are a living and dynamic *demonstration* of love every day. The universe will observe and study them for eternity because their love for one another is revealed in their daily conduct. Witnessing their love in real time throughout eternity, and watching how three infinite deities live and work together in perfect peace and joy, will be a phenomenal experience!

A Wonderful Set of Plans

According to John chapter 1 and Hebrews 9:14, the Father was not a lone God *before* the universe was created; instead, Jesus and the eternal Spirit, two equal, separate, distinct, coeternal Gods accompanied Him. In the beginning, before anything was created, I believe three equals met to discuss plans which included creating an infinite and ever-expanding universe. They agreed on a number of important matters to establish a beginning for events in the universe. We know this is true because they stated this fact in unison! Notice how the plural is used: **“Then God said** [the Hebrew word *elohiym* is plural – meaning they spoke in unison, in agreement, with one voice], **‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.’”**⁴

1. John 10:30

2. Genesis 2:24

3. Consider John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:9.

4. Genesis 1:26, insertion mine

Each deity has the power of life within Himself, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, and whatever else belongs to deity. Since we have limited knowledge of the universe, and if we accept everything the Godhead does is purposeful and deliberate, it is reasonable to conclude that long ago they agreed to create an ever-expanding space and fill it with remarkable and fascinating gifts for their children. They wanted an infinite number of planets, stars, constellations, and even universes. **“He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.”**¹ They also wanted to populate the planets with various kinds of life: plants, animals, birds, fish, and highly intelligent and loving beings, created in their own image.

If you trust the Bible to be divinely inspired, this verse indicates human beings derive their form and likeness from three infinite Gods!² Of course, many highly educated and otherwise brilliant people reject the Bible, believing instead that human beings evolved from ocean slime, which somehow evolved into baboons, which further evolved into mankind. How could this be when we still have baboons on the earth? How would some baboons make the transformation and others not? Personally, I think demons howl with laughter when they see smart people believing this nonsense. The devil has done everything possible to disconnect mankind from his Creator, and starting with the heavenly angels, has done an amazing job of substituting fact with pure fiction. Jesus said of the devil, **“When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”**³

During their meeting regarding a future universe, the three Gods agreed to give their future offspring free will, the power of choice, and conditional immortality. Free will means that each being is self-directed. The power of choice means no member of the Godhead is permitted to override a person’s freedom to choose. Conditional immortality means eternal life is possible. If a person wants to live forever with the Godhead, he has to choose of his own free will to live within wise and righteous

1. Psalm 147:4

2. Acts 17:26-30

3. John 8:44

boundaries which the Godhead defines.¹ The three Gods agreed that each being would be given a natural propensity for rightdoing. This propensity exists within each member of the Godhead, so they placed it within their children. They also agreed to give each being intelligence, the ability to reason, and the capacity to love. Of course, they would also give their children brilliant minds, incredible memories, the ability to learn, a wide range of emotions, and amazing skills. These gifts would enable each of their offspring to live a peaceful and productive life. Each being would experience the thrill of accomplishment and know the eternally endearing joy of contentment, happiness, and social relations. Ultimately, the three Gods designed their offspring so each person would be *self-directing*, *responsible*, and *accountable* for his actions. Basically, they agreed their children would be replicas (images) of themselves,² minus, of course, the supernatural powers that belong only to deity.

Later, when the time came to create Earth, the Bible says, **“So God [again, *elohiym* is used because more than one God was involved] created mankind in his own image, in the image of God [in the image of them, *elohiym*] he created them [mankind]; male and female he created them.”**³

Jesus created angels before He created man. He created angels in the image of God because, like human beings, they are called “sons of God.”⁴ The Bible indicates angels are a higher order of being than man.⁵ Even though they can do things mankind cannot do, they also have free will, the power of choice, and conditional immortality. Because they are self-directed, each angel is responsible and accountable to the Father for his actions. We know this because one-third of the angels exercised the power of choice when they *chose* to join Lucifer’s rebellion. It is astonishing to realize no member of the Godhead violated the free will of any angel!

1. See Appendix C

2. See Psalm 82 and John 10:34-37.

3. Genesis 1:27, insertions mine

4. Job 1:6; 38:7 KJV

5. Psalm 8:5

In the Beginning, There Was Divine Love

After the three Gods agreed on matters pertaining to the creation of the universe, I believe they had an even more interpersonal discussion to determine what relational arrangement among them would best serve the upcoming universe. They could remain separate, distinct Gods who would rule the universe as a group of three executives exercising sovereign power like Julius Caesar and Pompey and as Crassus tried in 60 B.C. Another option might be to adopt the “go along and get along” kind of relationship. Or, perhaps, they could establish boundaries so each God had sovereign authority over His own domain, and allow each God to forfeit most of His rights and prerogatives so that, together, they would function as one God.

Of course, the three infinitely wise deities understood that if they chose the last option, they would never again possess their original rights and prerogatives without destroying the considered relationship. Their agreed upon solution is difficult for humans to understand and appreciate. It is overwhelming to consider *three* unlimited Gods were willing to live within self-imposed limits to function as one synergistic unit. Because each member of deity has everything within Himself that deity possesses, the three Gods created a relationship based on a principle called “love.” Each God agreed to forfeit two-thirds of His powers, rights, and prerogatives so that together, they could best serve the universe they were about to create. Using a mathematical analogy:

$$1/3 \text{ of a God} + 1/3 \text{ of a God} + 1/3 \text{ of a God} = 1 \text{ God}$$

The infinite love and wisdom within each God agreed this was the best solution for eternity. Their decision makes the phrase “God is love” more meaningful than most people can realize!

Three almighty Gods humbled themselves by forfeiting most of their rights and prerogatives to one another so they could function as one unit. Additionally, they agreed to live in a “glass house” for all eternity so their children could observe and study their behavior and love toward each other. Think about this: love has to be *demonstrated* for others to see and understand it. “God

is love” *means* nothing if God *does* nothing. The Bible teaches faith without deeds is dead.¹ Likewise, love separated from action is just a meaningless word.

Before your mind freezes with opposition to the idea of one deity surrendering His rights and prerogatives to another, consider these five examples!

First, Jesus surrendered His life to the Father on the cross so He could die the second death. **“Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”**² Many people claim, “Deity cannot die,” but Jesus said of Himself, **“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!”**³ If Jesus did not die the second death, how did He pay the penalty for sin?

Second, the Bible teaches that Jesus became the *son*, *the subject*, of the Father on the day that Adam and Eve sinned. When Jesus surrendered Himself to the Father’s will to save sinners, the Father said to Jesus, **“You are my son [subject]; today I have become your father.”**⁴ The Hebrew word for son is *ben*, it means “subject to authority.” A son is subject to his father’s authority; so we find in Psalm 2 that one deity surrendered to another!

Third, Jesus (one deity) surrendered His will to the Father (another deity) when He came to Earth. **“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”**⁵ After fasting forty days, Jesus was tempted to exercise divine power to turn stones into bread,⁶ but He refused because it was not the Father’s will.⁷

Fourth, when the Father found Jesus worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals in 1798,⁸ the Father recused Himself and surrendered His throne to Jesus. He did this to make Jesus

1. James 2:20, 26

2. Luke 24:36

3. Revelation 1:18

4. Psalm 2:7, insertion mine

5. John 6:38

6. Matthew 4:3

7. John 5:36; 10:32

8. For more information on dating, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

sovereign over heaven and Earth.¹ The Father exalted Jesus to His throne to remove any doubt that Jesus, like Himself, is deity. This is what the revelation of Jesus is all about! When Jesus appears at the Second Coming, He will be sitting at the right hand of the Father² and wearing a sash declaring He is “King of kings and Lord of lords!”³

Fifth, at the end of the 1,000 years, the Bible indicates Jesus will return sovereign authority to the Father. So, once again, the Father will be Ruler of the Universe, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.⁴ **“One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”**⁵

These five examples demonstrate how I conclude three deities surrendered their rights and prerogatives to one another. In fact, love made this surrender possible; and as long as each God is willing to love and trust the other two Gods with all His heart, mind, and soul, the foundation of the universe is secure!

This Puzzle Finally Resolved

For many years, I was puzzled by the first and greatest commandment which commands us to “Love the Lord thy God” first and foremost, with all of our heart, mind, and soul. I was perplexed with this *apparent* conflict: If God is a God of love (extremely generous and kind), how can He demand first place in the hearts of His subjects? I questioned this because love cannot be demanded, it must be given. Should it cease to be given, it no longer exists. Love can only exist through the power of choice. If God demanded everyone to love Him supremely and make this obligation the first and greatest commandment, it would seem contrary to the properties of love. The flip side of the coin is when God says, “If you don’t love Me with all of your heart, mind, and soul, I will have to destroy you.”

For years, I was puzzled. Why would God give His subjects a capacity for love, and then command that we love Him with all

1. Daniel 7:13-14; Ephesians 1:9-10; Revelation 5:7-8; 19:11-16

2. Matthew 26:64

3. Revelation 19:16

4. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

5. Ephesians 4:6

our heart, mind, and soul? This resonates of a dictator. I then wondered if God was a benevolent dictator giving us free will and the power of choice. However, dictators do not want their subjects to have free will or the power of choice. Dictators' demands are self-serving. For many years, the greatest commandment was a puzzle to me, an *apparent* conflict, until I overcame some of my impediments.

My assertion that three deities surrendered their rights and prerogatives to one another is based on this first and greatest law. One day, a Pharisee, an expert in the Law of Moses, was chosen to engage Jesus with a trick question, “**Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?**” Jesus replied: **‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.’**¹

I believe God established this *first* law (boundary) in the universe with this commandment. He created it when each God vowed to surrender and love the other two with “all of His heart, mind, and soul.” They willfully chose to surrender *two-thirds* of themselves to one another to function as *one* God. The first and greatest law of the universe defines their relationship which is the preeminent relationship in the universe. If anyone wants to become a member of the “family of God,” that person has to live within the boundaries of this commandment. No one, including the three deities, is above the law! This discovery resolved my *apparent* conflict and its ramifications are huge! In fact, this discovery proves (for me) the existence of three Gods. Otherwise, if there is only a single God manifesting Himself as three beings, the first and greatest commandment can only be self-serving and inconsistent with the principle of love. Jesus calls this law the first and greatest commandment because it has a higher priority than any other commandment, and because the foundations of the universe depend on it. Whenever the second commandment (you shall love your neighbor as yourself) is exalted over the first commandment, as Adam loved Eve more than God, ruin follows.

1. Matthew 22:36-38

A Godhead exists only because three Gods have promised to love each other with all of their heart, mind, and soul. This explains why the gospel commission includes the name of each of the three Gods. Jesus said, **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**¹ Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize new believers into the name of each God because each born-again believer becomes the fourth member of this family. *If we want to live with them, we have to love them as they love one another!* I rarely say anything profound, but the previous sentence is so profound the realization of it must become an integral part of our very being.

God’s Love Benefits Human Beings!

Three Gods chose to function as one God to benefit their offspring. If God is love, then one God loves the other two with all of His heart, mind, and soul. Moreover, each God loves His neighbor as Himself! Everything each God does is for the benefit of the other two deities or their children. All they do is righteous, deliberate, and purposeful, framed and guided by mind-boggling love and infinite wisdom. Three Gods unanimously agreed to create the first and greatest commandment because their ways are the ways of righteousness, happiness, and nobility of character. They chose to function as one God because it was the best solution! The reality of having to live forever as “limited Gods” was secondary.

Each member of deity knows that if He remains loyal and true to their covenant, each God will have and enjoy everything that belongs to deity because the other two Gods will faithfully and equally share whatever the rewards may be. Their faith and love for each other in surrendering two-thirds of their rights and prerogatives is awe-inspiring. Giving up the rights and prerogatives of deity is amazing, but Jesus dying the second death for sinners goes far beyond comprehension. Their greatness and largeness is magnified and glorified infinitely

1. Matthew 28:19-20

by an enduring love and faithfulness for one another and their children.¹

Proof Text Demands

Some people demand a “proof text” for everything said about an infinite God as though a “sound bite” is the only or best solution. Bible verses are building blocks and when properly arranged, we discover truths which are otherwise unknown. I am not opposed to the use of “proof texts” as long as they are not used to put the Bible in a state of internal conflict. I am opposed to the idea that everything God wants us to understand is *explicitly* stated. God draws us into a study of His Word by requiring that we analyze line upon line and precept upon precept. *Every truth does not require or have explicit statements.* For example, suppose two facts in Algebra are stated: $A = B$ and $B = C$. From these two facts we can deduct a new fact, $A = C$, even though there is no explicit statement saying that $A = C$.

The Bible is full of precious truth, some truths are explicitly stated; many have to be deducted. This makes studying the Bible so exciting! *Truth is proven true by the harmony that comes from the sum of its parts.* Unfortunately, some people are not reasonable, they insist on a “proof text” declaring that $A = C$ when there is none. I often find this belligerence to be a smoke screen. Some people have staked out a position and are afraid their “theological house of cards” will fall, or be found inferior, if $A = C$. An honest-hearted, mature Bible student knows when the Holy Spirit is leading him into “all truth,”² many “theological houses” have to fall and be rebuilt. I do not believe today what I believed fifty years ago! I have had to tear down many of my “theological constructs” to resolve *apparent* conflicts. This process never ends and it is so exciting! I do not fear what the truth may be, I just want to know what it is and apply it to my life!

The Jews in Christ’s day loved to spar using “proof texts” in their debates, as though eternal life depended on it;³ but for all their learning and memorization of Scripture, they missed

1. John 15:9; 2 Peter 1:17

2. John 16:13

3. John 5:39

the profound truth that Jesus was the promised Messiah! This happened because they errantly searched the Bible to support their religious bias and beliefs, not to understand God's love, ways, plans, and thoughts. They did not understand John the Baptist was "the Elijah who was to come" because there was no "proof text."¹ In fact, many Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah because Elijah did not show up. Their bigoted experience should be a siren warning us that the Bible should not be treated with arrogance; remember, when it comes to matters pertaining to God, everyone has impediments. Tread softly!

1. Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 11:14

Chapter 3

Three Roles Decided

Think about it: three separate, distinct, equal, coeternal Gods functioning as one God because of love! Just saying *God is love* is insignificant until you realize that each deity still has the power, rights, and prerogatives that come with being deity, yet, *each day*, freely chooses to forfeit two-thirds of His powers, rights, and prerogatives so, together, they can serve the universe as one. No one else in the universe would dare do this for even a minute—much less eternity!

My best deduction is that after the three Gods determined what their relationship should be, they began to discuss the changes they would have to make. Two Gods agreed to give up omnipresence so only one would be omnipresent. This may seem strange, but we see this decision in Jesus' words when He said to His disciples, **“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”**¹ Jesus is saying He and the Father surrendered the power to be everywhere at the same time to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only God using the power of omnipresence. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Jesus would be with His disciples in real time wherever they are. If one disciple was in Rome, one in India, and one in northern Africa carrying the gospel, Jesus could not be with each of them if He remained on Earth. This is why He said, **“It is for your good that I am going away.”**

Two Gods agreed to give up the power of omniscience so only one God has foreknowledge. Jesus stated He did not have foreknowledge when He said, **“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”**² Later, when Jesus was exalted to the throne, I am confident the Father told Him the appointed time.

1. John 16:7

2. Matthew 24:36

If Jesus and the Holy Spirit were to have access to the foreknowledge that deities inherently possess, an important problem arises. The Bible teaches the Father used His foreknowledge to write a book containing top-secret information before anything or anyone was created.¹ This book contains a history of the drama of sin, and information about who will be saved and lost.² The Father recorded this sensitive information before anything was created to exonerate Himself from false charges that would arise later on. Afterwards, He secured the book with seven seals so that no one could know what He foreknew until the book was opened and its contents revealed at the end of the 1,000 years.³

If Jesus and the Holy Spirit had foreknowledge, they also would know what the Father foreknew: the contents of His book. If the Holy Spirit and Jesus foreknew what was in the book, the devil would have a compelling argument against the Godhead! Satan could argue that since the Godhead already knows who will be saved and lost, the eternal destiny of angels and human beings has been predetermined. This would bolster his assertion that free will is a joke because everyone's destiny is already written down.

Many Christians believe in predestination. For them, nothing a person can do will change his eternal destiny because God has predetermined it. This conclusion places the Bible in a state of internal conflict. The Bible teaches that God's children have free will and are gifted with the power of choice. We are self-directing individuals and the Godhead will not overrule our power of choice; our eternal destiny is determined by our response to the Holy Spirit. Lucifer and his followers were cast out of heaven because they *chose* to defy the Holy Spirit and override their propensity for righteousness, violating the boundaries God had established. When it comes to eternal life or death, we have a choice!

The Bible says, **“That whosoever believes in him [Jesus] shall not perish, but have eternal life.”**⁴ This means believing in Jesus is a choice. Another verse says, **“Let the one who is**

1. Revelation 17:8

2. For more information on sin's drama, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

3. Revelation 20:12

4. John 3:16, insertion mine

thirsty come [to the Holy City, New Jerusalem]; **and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life** [also come].”¹ Still another says, “[the Lord] **is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**”² These verses are in conflict with any verse that attempts to undo what they say. Whenever a doctrine or concept puts the Bible in a state of internal conflict, we can be sure that doctrine or concept is false. No wonder the world is full of false doctrines.³

Two Gods agreed to surrender their foreknowledge and trust one God with foreknowledge throughout eternity. This kind of surrender can only come through pure love; each God loving the other two with all of His heart, mind, and soul. Who else would give up such amazing power?

Keep in mind each member of deity has free will to break His vow of love and violate the first law at any time. Of course, this would be out of character and contrary to their faithfulness, but I mention it to underscore why their enduring love for one another is so important. Love literally holds the universe together and anyone wishing to become a member of the “family of God” has to love the Godhead in the same way each member loves one another! This explains why their offspring are granted life for as long as they choose to love the Godhead with all of their hearts, minds, and souls. We demonstrate our love for God when we choose to obey and live within boundaries ordained by divine wisdom. Considering the natural propensity for love given to the angels, and which Adam and Eve enjoyed before their fall, and what history reveals the Godhead has done for sinners, who can find fault with the first and greatest commandment? The whole universe is built around it!

The Bible affirms that two Gods agreed to give up omnipotence so that only one God would have authority over everything.⁴ This is difficult for our sinful natures to comprehend so it is understandable why people conclude there is only one God!

1. Revelation 22:17, insertions mine

2. 2 Peter 3:9, insertion mine

3. 1 John 2:21-26

4. 1 Timothy 6:15-16

Remember, the greatness and largeness of the Godhead is an endless and difficult study. However, no study or research produces a greater blessing, because this study ends with a transformative understanding of love! Love awakens love. Even though the Godhead is unlike us in so many ways and we have many serious impediments in understanding them, each person has an ability to comprehend their love. Paul wrote, **“God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance.”**¹

Two Gods agreed to give up their ability to create so that one God would be the Creator of everything that exists; everything in the universe is held together by His power alone! **“He [Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”**²

The three Gods also agreed that only one God would be their spokesperson, and He would be called “The Word.”³ This meant the universe would hear one God speaking throughout all eternity. Also, one God would sit on the throne of the universe and the other two would submit to His foreknowledge and will. They also agreed two Gods would remain invisible for all eternity.

Note: All three Gods are actually invisible. The God we call “Jesus” lives within the *form* of a created being. Of course, His form can be seen, but the deity living within the form cannot be seen. Before coming to Earth, Jesus lived in the form of an angel and after His birth, in the form of a man, but these are only “forms.” Jesus was given a body at birth because He is invisible.⁴ We see this phenomenon in the fifth trumpet. During the Great Tribulation, the devil and his demons will be allowed to appear physically. They will be given “bodily forms” which human beings can see and touch. At the Second Coming, these “forms” will be thrown into the lake of fire,⁵ but the devil and his demons will be returned to the Abyss for 1,000 years.⁶ When Lucifer tempted Eve, he inhabited the form of a serpent. Demons can inhabit pigs and drown them;⁷ they can also inhabit human beings and give them

1. Romans 2:4

2. Colossians 1:17, insertion mine

3. John 1:1

4. Hebrews 10:5

5. Revelation 19:20

6. Revelation 20:2-3

7. Matthew 8:32

incredible strength.¹ Samson's great strength was the result of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.² I have digressed for a moment to better explain that three infinite Gods are invisible because a finite form cannot define an infinite God.

The three Gods also agreed that whatever was created belonged to the God who sat on the throne.³ The other two Gods would own nothing unless the Father gave it to them. Remember, infinite love and wisdom compelled three Gods to voluntarily surrender themselves to one another so that their children would worship them forever as One God. **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God [elohiym, plural], the Lord is one [in purpose, plan and action]. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength [this is the first and greatest commandment].”**⁴ Although no one other than the three Gods attended the meeting, we can safely assume they actually made these decisions because the Bible affirms as much. If one God is changeless, so are the other two.⁵ Their love for each other has not changed from the beginning. What we know about their relationship has endured since their relationship began. They are equals, like identical triplets, with the same nature and substance.⁶ They have chosen to live forever as Gods with self-imposed limitations so they may serve their offspring as one God. Truly, God (*elohiym*, plural) is love.

Living with Limitations

We need to consider one more point to fully appreciate the *untold story of Jesus*. After agreeing how their rights, powers, and prerogatives would be divided, I believe the three Gods cast lots⁷ to see which role each God would take on. As distinct, separate, coeternal deities, any one of the three Gods could perfectly fill any of the three roles.

1. Mark 5:4

2. Judges 13:24-25

3. Revelation 4:9-11; John 17:6; Hebrews 2:10

4. Deuteronomy 6:4-5, insertions mine

5. Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8

6. Philippians 2:6-7

7. God approves the casting of lots. See Leviticus 16:8; Acts 1:26.

Assuming lots were cast, they chose one God to serve as “Ruler of the Universe”¹ who would sit on the throne and be called “Holy Father.”² He alone would have foreknowledge,³ be forever invisible, live in unapproachable light,⁴ and own the universe including everything in it, albeit, with self-imposed limitations. The awesome glory and power which surrounds Father God would be a visible reminder of the divine power that actually belongs to the other two members of deity as well. A few of His self-imposed limits are: He does not speak for the Godhead, this is Jesus’ role; He cannot be everywhere at once, this is the Holy Spirit’s role; He is isolated from everyone, and were it not for the ministry of the other two Gods, the Father would have no communication with anyone in the universe.⁵

Another God was chosen to serve as the Holy Spirit. He also agreed to remain invisible for all eternity and to never speak of His own accord. When we consider that a deity can speak and planets and stars appear,⁶ I cannot imagine a member of the Godhead giving up the right to speak for eternity! Of course, He speaks privately with the other two Gods when they have meetings, but He does not speak on His own to created beings.⁷ Consider this scenario: When Jesus was mocked and beaten before going to the cross, the Holy Spirit said nothing. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the Holy Spirit said nothing. Knowing that the Holy Spirit loves Jesus with all of His heart, mind, and soul, how could He remain silent? The Holy Spirit’s behavior at the crucifixion demonstrates the conviction of His vow to remain silent. This is overwhelming!

You may notice most of the discussion in this book centers on the Father and Jesus, and conclude the Holy Spirit is not allocated a “fair share.” The silence and invisibility of the Holy Spirit is part of the design to which the three Gods agreed. The Holy Spirit is hidden from view most of the time so that He can exalt the Father and Jesus. His power and work were prominent during

1. 1 Timothy 6:15

2. John 17:11; Matthew 23:9

3. 1 Peter 1:1-2

4. 1 Timothy 6:13-16

5. John 1:18; 6:46; Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11

6. Psalm 33:9

7. John 16:13

the first century of Christianity, and will be prominent again for 1,260 days during the Great Tribulation.¹ The Holy Spirit is as humble as the other two Gods. When I think of the Holy Spirit's humility, I am reminded that when Jesus came to Earth, His glory and power were shrouded in the *form* of an unremarkable man.² He could have chosen to be the most handsome man to have ever lived, but, instead, chose to be homely in appearance. The humility shown by one deity is demonstrated in the other two as well.

The members of the Godhead do not lord their vast superiority over their subjects; they, in fact, serve their subjects. All they do is directed toward the well-being and happiness of their children. It should be obvious now that instead of the Holy Spirit's role being diminished, it is critical. He is the invisible link between the Father and Jesus, and the *only* connection existing between the Godhead and their children. He causes life to flourish; He makes ecstasy, joy, and happiness possible; He brings healing, spiritual gifts, conviction, courage, comfort, and strength as the Father and Jesus ordain them. If it were not for the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the Father, Jesus, and this marvelous story would be unknown! The quiet ministry of the Holy Spirit God is as much a vital part of the story as are the attributes of the other two deities.

Because the other two Gods agreed to forfeit their omnipresence, the Holy Spirit is the only God that can be everywhere at once.³ This attribute means He can actually live within billions of people at the same time! He alone knows every mind and heart, which is why He is the one who determines when a person commits the unpardonable sin.⁴ He alone hears and sees everything⁵ and transmits this information to the Father and Jesus using sounds we cannot understand.⁶ Imagine Him as a huge network of fiber optic cables carrying billions of messages back and forth between the Father and Jesus, and between the Godhead and

1. Revelation 11:3

2. Isaiah 53:2

3. Psalm 139:7-8

4. Matthew 12:31-32

5. For more information on the work of the Holy Spirit, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

6. Romans 8:26

every created being every second, *in real time!* Of course, the Holy Spirit takes this responsibility very seriously because He loves sinners just as much as He loves Jesus and the Father.

Finally, the remaining God was appointed to serve as “Creator and Speaker of the House.” Today, we call this God, “Jesus.” In addition, the *Three* agreed the Creator would live in the visible form of a created being. They wanted a member of the Godhead to live and experience life as would one of their created beings. By doing this, their offspring could observe what God would do in any situation as He had “walked in their shoes.”

At the end of the meeting, the three Gods were satisfied with their agreements, plans, limitations, and roles. A new organization was established called *The Godhead* or *Trinity*. It will endure for all eternity. Now that thousands (perhaps billions) of years have passed, time has revealed their trust and love for each other. They are truly holy, set apart, and unique.¹ It overloads my mind to think that three Gods forfeited some of their powers, rights, and prerogatives to function as “one deity.”

However, when I look at the willingness of Jesus to humble Himself, to wash the feet of His disciples, and to die a horrible death on the cross, I know this is a pure reflection of the love which the other two Gods have for us. The greatness and largeness of the Godhead is mirrored by their humility and love. Their kindness, generosity, thoughts, and ways are far beyond my comprehension. I am sure that if the Father had thought it best, He would have gladly died for repentant sinners; but, instead, He did something more difficult: He gave Jesus whom He loved with all of His heart, mind, and soul to die for all repentant sinners. There is no question He suffered pain greater than Abraham or Jephthah could have known.²

To consummate their agreement to live as one deity for eternity, I believe each God swore an oath³ to the other two. These eternal vows were needed to secure and ensure the foundation of the universe would be permanent. No home can be built if the

1. Revelation 4:8

2. Genesis 22:2; Judges 11:34-36

3. Examples: Psalms 106:26-27; 132:11; Isaiah 45:22-25; Hebrews 6:13-14; Revelation 10:6

foundation is not firm. When a man and woman exchange vows of fidelity, they are making a promise to stay within boundaries. If there are no boundaries, a commitment is not possible.

The Godhead swore to one another to live as “limited Gods” and serve as *one* deity for eternity. This union is bound by two covenants. First, each God promised to love the other two with all His heart, mind, and soul. Second, each God promised to love His neighbors (the beings that would be created) as they love themselves. For as long as three deities choose to love each other and their neighbors as themselves without reservation, the future of the universe is secure and wonderful.

Chapter 4

The Father's Five Laws

Immediately after the Godhead formed, but prior to them creating the universe, I believe the newly appointed Father declared five laws. All three Gods agreed these laws would be written in the hearts and minds of their children, and remain unchanged forever so it would be natural for them to live within their boundaries.¹

The first two commandments are: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*²

The first commandment was discussed in the previous chapter. The second commandment will be examined in this chapter. The Father demonstrated the importance and magnificence of this second law when He sent Jesus to the cross;³ and not even Abraham could have comprehended such a gift or sacrifice. Then, Jesus demonstrated the importance and magnificence of the second law when He willfully gave up eternal life so that we could possess what belonged to Him.⁴ The Godhead has demonstrated their commitment to the first two laws with unmeasurable sacrifices⁵ that prove they love their degenerate, rotten, rebellious, and sinful neighbors as much as they love themselves! Is the phrase “God is love” beginning to take on a larger dimension?

The third law may seem strange, but it makes perfect sense if you accept that Jesus is deity and the other two Gods are eternally invisible. The Father commanded: All created beings must worship ‘The Word’ who is the Creator. Everyone must worship Jesus just as they worship the Father.⁶ This law is called an everlasting gospel.⁷ Even though Jesus lives in the

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:10-13

2. Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:34-40

3. John 3:16

4. John 15:13

5. Romans 13:10

6. John 5:22-23; Hebrews 1:6

7. Revelation 14:7

form of a created being, He *was not* created.¹ He is an eternal deity just like the Father and Holy Spirit.² Worshiping Jesus is not blasphemous or inappropriate and the Father does not want anyone to think otherwise!³

The Father's fourth law says *blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is unpardonable*.⁴ This law is easy to understand because our only connection to the Father and Jesus is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. If the Father or Jesus sends a message or prompting to someone and it's rejected by the person, the Holy Spirit will retreat because the Godhead sadly respects our power of choice and will not override it. When the Holy Spirit has repeatedly tried to reach someone and finally concludes nothing further can be done to persuade that person, the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit will withdraw. The end result of this process being: a sin that cannot be pardoned because there is no other way to connect with the Father and Jesus.

However, the Holy Spirit does not give up easily! His love for us is as deep and endless as the Father and Jesus' love! Therefore, if a sinner has any desire to honor God by obeying Him and walking in His ways, he can be sure he has not committed the unpardonable sin.

Finally, the Father declared a fifth law which says, *no one may eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If anyone does, he will be put to death that same day*.⁵ According to Ezekiel 28:13, the Garden of Eden was originally located in heaven before it was placed on Earth during Creation Week. In the middle of the garden, two trees stood side by side; one was named the *Tree of Life* and the other, the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. The Tree of Life was created to sustain created beings because of conditional immortality. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was created as a visible reminder that created beings have the power of choice. At any time, anyone in heaven could eat the forbidden fruit and the Godhead would not prevent it; so the law

1. Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 26:4

2. Hebrews 9:14

3. Hebrews 1:6-8; Revelation 14:7; 1 John 1:2; John 20:28

4. Matthew 12:31-32

5. Genesis 2:17

was a dormant issue. Of course, consequences were promised for eating its fruit, but there was no point or temptation for eating forbidden fruit, so the law was largely dormant. I am sure, now and then, curious angels asked about the purpose for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but its name and purpose may have been dismissed as another one of the Father's mysteries which would be revealed in time.

I am often asked if angels have to eat from the Tree of Life to stay alive. The answer is "yes." Angels are not deity; they do not have the power of life within themselves to live. When Jesus created angels, He gave them, as He gave Adam and Eve, conditional immortality. Adam and Eve had to eat from the Tree of Life to remain alive. However, after they sinned, they were barred from it so death would overtake them.¹ This raises the question: If Lucifer and his demons no longer have access to the Tree of Life and fallen angels have conditional immortality, how do they remain alive? I believe the Father gave Lucifer and his angels a "grant" to live until the consequences of sin are completely revealed. Looking forward, we know there will be a Tree of Life in the Holy City.² Its presence there indicates that after the Second Coming, God's children will have to eat from it to live.³

The Book of Life

After declaring these five laws, but before creation of the universe, I believe the Father wrote a complete record of events that would unfold in heaven and on Earth. He secured this book with seven seals so no one could possibly know what had been written. Twice in the book of Revelation⁴ this book is called "The Lamb's Book of Life," but it only received this title after the Lamb was found worthy to receive it from the Father.⁵

The Father wrote this *Book of Life* because He foreknew a day would come when false accusations would be made against Him. To prove His innocence, He created an unalterable document

1. Genesis 3:22-24

2. Revelation 22:2

3. See Appendix C

4. Revelation 13:8; 21:27

5. Revelation 5:5-7

showing what He foreknew before the universe was created. When He finished writing the book, seven seals were placed on it so its contents could not be read or altered. The seals were necessary because the information is highly sensitive. For example, He knows who will choose or reject eternal life. Because Jesus and the Holy Spirit do not have this foreknowledge, and if this information were prematurely exposed, the devil could say “The Father wrote the names of all those who would be destroyed before they were even given life; therefore, He predetermined which angels and human beings were to die!” This accusation would ruin the Father’s effort to prove His innocence!¹

Actually, the Father’s foreknowledge and our eternal destiny have no connection. The Book of Life will prove this at the end of the 1,000 years when the seventh seal is broken and the contents of the book are exposed.

After the Father completed this Book of Life, He gave blueprints to Jesus for creating the universe and the Creator went to work creating. Many Christians do not know Jesus is the Creator of the universe and everything in it. In fact, His divine power holds the universe together.² This means, Jesus keeps the sun burning, Earth orbiting the sun, and the moon orbiting Earth. He keeps the stars and constellations in their places and knows each by name!³ Jesus also created heaven and all the angels. We see in His creative work the awesome power the other two Gods forfeited; conversely, we see in them the awesome powers our Creator forfeited!

The Bible says, “**For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.**”⁴ Jesus did all of His creative work in perfect harmony with the Father’s will,⁵ and when He finished creating heaven there was great joy and happiness. Billions of angels were alive! Because they were created in God’s image, they had a natural predisposition for

1. For more information on the Lamb’s book, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

2. Isaiah 44:24-25; Colossians 1:16-17

3. Psalm 147:4

4. Psalm 33:9

5. 1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 1:2; John 17:24

righteousness (natural compliance with the five laws) and their hearts were filled with love for the Godhead and one another.

Thoughts on the Origin of Sin

Some of the previous information may cause you to wonder if this story is fiction. Now that we are ready to discuss the Plan of Salvation and the origin of sin, I hope to connect some dots so you can understand how things came to be and why they are what they are. The following explanations are my “best guess.” I have merged many Bible facts and a few parallels from Jesus’ ministry on Earth to tell the story.

After the angels had lived in God’s presence for many years (perhaps millions), one angel, unfortunately, the highest, most beautiful, and capable ever created, became dissatisfied. He had everything, but coveted something that belonged to Jesus. The relationship between Lucifer and Jesus was extremely close. They spent much time together in perfect trust and joy and the familiarity Lucifer enjoyed with Jesus created a problem. It was a perfect example of the old saying “familiarity breeds contempt.”

This ancient phrase explains why officers and enlisted do not fraternize in military organizations. Officers are leaders, they give the orders, and ideally, they have no favorites or equals in their units. When officers and enlisted are kept separate, there is more respect for officers because there is less familiarity and their weaknesses are not as visible. When officers fraternize with enlisted, they become buddies and a sense of equality will form. If the “playing field” becomes level, the enlisted will feel and think they are just as capable and intelligent as their commander. Therefore, military leaders know that authority has to be elevated using distinctions such as dress, privileges, or wages. Otherwise, familiarity breeds contempt (rebellion).

Lucifer and Jesus were the highest ranked angels in heaven.¹ They stood beside the throne of the Father as “covering cherubs.”² Lucifer was gifted with greater abilities than any other angel.

1. For further study about Jesus being an angel in heaven, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

2. Ezekiel 28:14; Daniel 10:13; Jude 1:9; Exodus 25:17-21

He understood the power of music, was a master musician and vocalist. He directed the symphony and choir, wrote awesome anthems, and arranged complete concert productions. When the angels gathered to worship the Father, Lucifer led the music to soaring heights; but it was Jesus who spoke to the angels relaying whatever the Father had to say.

For some reason, standing next to the Father's throne during awesome convocations was not enough. Lucifer came to think, because of his high position, awesome talents, and great beauty that he should be given more respect. He wanted to be obeyed and worshiped like Jesus. Lucifer also coveted Jesus' ability to enter into the unapproachable light of the Father – something only deity could do.¹

Jesus – An Unremarkable Angel

To understand how Lucifer began to covet, you have to understand a few facts about Jesus. At the time, Jesus lived in the *form* of an *unremarkable* angel even though His manner and behavior were kingly. The angels adored and worshiped Him; in fact, they were created with a *natural propensity* to obey Him because the five laws were written in their hearts. The angels knew Jesus was especially honored and worshiped because He was the archangel and a member of deity.

At that time, there was no sin or knowledge of good and evil. The angels had no experience with temptation, no reason to doubt the Father, no idea sinners would need to be redeemed, and no hint Lucifer would become a devil. Heaven was a place of complete trust. They accepted as truth, innocently and naively as little children, whatever Jesus told them. I mention this to help you understand the angels' environment prior to *the fall*.

Externally, Lucifer *appeared* to have everything and Jesus *very* little. Jesus did not display the power, glory, and brilliance of the Father. He did not appear to have the awesome beauty, talents, and abilities of Lucifer. Of all the angels created, none looked more homely than Jesus, yet the lowly looking Jesus was a

1. John 1:18; Isaiah 14:13-14

covering cherub! The same characteristics could be said of Jesus when He lived on Earth. The wise men saw His star, His mother was a virgin, He performed all kinds of miracles, raised the dead, and claimed to be the Son of God¹ but, **“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”**²

Jesus’ homely appearance was deliberate and purposeful. The ways of God can appear strange at first. When Jesus was chosen to serve as Creator, He willingly and happily accepted the duty of living in the form of an angel. Service, humility, selflessness, honesty, truth, and kindness have far more value than talents, position, or appearance. Jesus’ life on Earth teaches us the greatest position in heaven and on Earth, for all three Gods, is that of a humble servant.³

One day, Lucifer wanted to discuss a troubling matter with Jesus. He waited until they were alone, and when the conversation was right, asked for a promotion. Lucifer wanted more authority over the angels; wanted to be obeyed and worshiped because he too was a covering cherub; wanted to be included in meetings with Jesus and the Father; wanted to be treated as an equal because, as the other covering cherub, he felt deserving. When a person is convinced he deserves what he does not have, how does he willingly descend from that perch?

Lucifer’s vanity was crushed and his ego insulted when Jesus told him that angels, which are created beings, were not permitted to worship, or receive the worship of, other created beings.⁴ Jesus explained how the first law of the universe directs all devotion to the Godhead. Additionally, the third law of the universe required everyone to worship Jesus. Lucifer quickly found himself facing the *stone wall* of God’s laws. There was no wiggle room.

After God expelled the devil from heaven, the devil has retaliated against Jesus for centuries by leading billions of people to believe Jesus is a created being and not to be worshiped. The devil gloats

1. Matthew 26:63-64

2. Isaiah 53:2

3. Matthew 23:11; Luke 18:10-14

4. Revelation 19:10

over this deception because he knows this lie mocks Jesus who is an eternal deity. The high position, incredible abilities, beauty, and glory Lucifer received did not make him a member of deity. He is a mortal and not self-existing. He does not have the infinite powers deities have. Lucifer has conditional immortality and, like us, cannot keep himself alive.¹ He will perish in the fire along with all unrepentant sinners at the end of the 1,000 years.²

Lucifer quickly ended the meeting with Jesus because there was nothing to discuss. His respect and love for Jesus declined from that day forward. The devil could not accept that he, the most beautiful and talented angel in heaven, would have to remain inferior to the lowly Jesus for eternity. The idea was an offensive thorn. Lucifer's bitterness and contempt for Jesus grew.

Lucifer was disappointed but not disheartened. Everyone in heaven knew he was more beautiful and capable than the lowly Jesus. He also knew seeking consolation and sympathy would be tricky. He could not come right out and tell his closest friends he was bitter toward Jesus. Lucifer did not want anyone to know he coveted the worship and privileges Jesus received. In their peaceful and sinless state, his friends would not have been receptive had they known what was really going on within his heart. So, the devil masked his bitterness and resentment by putting on a "happy face" while planning his next step. This "happy face" was the first deception in heaven.

The First Predator

Lucifer created an extensive plan, a coup d'état if you will, to get what he wanted. The devil sought, according to Isaiah 14:13-14, to upend heaven's order by establishing a new government with himself ruling as almighty God. His first step was to begin a whisper campaign among his closest friends. He did not dare reveal his motives in fomenting discontent so he chose to "divide and conquer." Because he is a master of gradualism, he initiated discussions designed to weaken confidence in the Father and Jesus. When circumstances were favorable, Lucifer used half-

1. Psalm 22:29

2. Malachi 4:1; Revelation 20:9-10

truths and outright lies to pose intelligent and compelling arguments against the Father and Jesus;¹ his goal was to frame their words and actions in a light so they *appeared* to be dishonest and self-serving. When he was confident he had reached a critical number of followers, he would announce “a holy war” so his forces could take over heaven. Covetousness always leads to religious insanity.

At first, the angels did not suspect Lucifer’s mission to alienate them from the Father and Jesus because they loved and trusted him. He was a mighty angel who stood next to the Father and whom all other angels admired. He was intelligent enough to understand finite beings cannot know everything about an infinite God. He also knew that the Father’s ways were not the ways of created beings² and used what was unknown about God to his advantage. As theologians go, Lucifer was brilliant and flawless; as a debater, logical and convincing.

The Father does not answer every question that can be asked. It may take thousands of years to reveal His purposes and plans. The Apostle Paul noticed this phenomenon in Romans 16:25. The Father unfolds His ways, thoughts, and truth over time because He has an endless supply. Therefore, the only way that finite beings can live with an infinite God who “remains forever strange, but wonderful” is through faith and love. These two attitudes explain how the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit live together. They have faith in each other to do what is best in all circumstances and they love one another with all their hearts! There is never a moment of distrust among them. The Father’s children have to trust that He is righteous, honest, wise and fair, and His actions always spring from infinite love and wisdom. Therefore, *faith in* and *love for* the Father are nonnegotiable. This explains why salvation comes only through faith and love!

As Lucifer descended into bitterness and outright hatred for Jesus, he seduced many angels with sophisticated arguments. When circumstances were ripe, he quietly asked surrounding angels if anyone had noticed Jesus or the Father’s actions were

1. John 8:44

2. Isaiah 55:8-9

questionable. He knew if he could get even a few to entertain his arguments, it would lead to dissension.

Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14, and Genesis 2:16-17 suggest Lucifer may have used the following two arguments with great success. The first argument being, “Does everyone know that we must not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil because on the day we do, Jesus will kill us?” Of course, the angels knew the law and after admitting so, Lucifer would ask, “If the Father is a God of love as Jesus says, why would He kill us for simply eating some fruit? Actually, I do not believe the Father is a God of love. Jesus is protecting the Father’s throne and His position as the archangel. If anyone dares to exercise ‘free will,’ consider the consequence! A death threat is not the way of love, it is the law of a tyrant who makes laws for self-serving purposes. The Father and Jesus are just interested in maintaining power over us. Have you really considered the situation we are in? If we violate any of the Father’s self-serving laws, the penalty is sudden death. Is this really fair?”¹

After some quiet discussion and thinking about Lucifer’s logic, some angels, intelligent as angels are, began seeing his viewpoint. Little did they realize, as they began to agree with his tales, the devil was becoming their archangel!

Lucifer’s second argument may have been more effective on some of the angels not convinced by his first. When circumstances were right, he would quietly ask, “Have you ever wondered about the Father’s fairness? The Father commands us to worship one covering cherub, but we are forbidden to worship the other. This cannot be fair. Think about this: Two angels have identical positions as covering cherubs. Yet, Michael has authority and I do not.² Why does the Father snub one covering cherub? I am just as qualified to lead angels as Michael. The Father is using Jesus to keep us at arm’s length. What are they hiding? The Father shows favoritism by honoring one angel and rejecting the other. Look around heaven, do you see favoritism? The Father and Jesus control heaven and they intend to keep it this way. Jesus says the Father is a God of love, but I am not feeling the love. Are you?”

1. See Appendix C

2. For further study regarding Jesus being Michael, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

Since Adam and Eve's fall, Lucifer has exhibited brilliant sophistry. His tactical maneuvers *lead the whole world astray!*¹ I am sure his arguments were much more creative, clever, and sophisticated than the two mentioned but I hope you get the idea. People who insist on "proof texts" for these two arguments often ridicule me and feel justified in rejecting them, but I did not create these arguments out of thin air. I found them by putting pieces together in such a way that when all of the known facts are considered, they make perfect sense to complete the story. After all, isn't that what a good detective does to solve a difficult case?

Given the familiarity and contrast between Lucifer and Jesus, I believe the wickedness found in Lucifer began with covetousness. He wanted the authority, worship, and privileges of the lowly looking Jesus. The Bible describes Lucifer before his fall as **"You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you. . . . Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you."**²

"How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. [This mountain is also known as Jebel Aqra and has a long history as being sacred. It is located on the border with Turkey and Syria and has an elevation of 5,633 feet. In ancient times, the Canaanites believed the "storm god" lived at the top of this mountain, from where destruction originated.]. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"³ Lucifer could not have known the purpose and importance of the fifth law or its penalty (sudden death) before

1. Revelation 12:9

2. Ezekiel 28:12-15

3. Isaiah 14:12-14, insertion mine

being cast out of heaven because the knowledge of good and evil did not exist. The devil was so sure of himself and wrongfully concluded the Father created the “sudden death law” so He would be justified if He killed an angel for disobedience. The devil thought the Father was the sole beneficiary of this law and over time, he led one-third of the angels to agree.

As will be discussed in the next chapter, the Father is not the beneficiary of this law. If He were, He would have implemented it the day Lucifer sinned. The arguments Lucifer used were a sympathetic ploy to gain support from those who loved him. He wanted them to *feel* the Father and Jesus were unfair and once their feelings were alienated, he knew their minds would follow.

Lucifer Rejected the Holy Spirit

For many years, the Holy Spirit observed Lucifer’s thoughts, words, and actions. He tried everything short of violating Lucifer’s free will to have him change his attitude and direction, but it was a losing battle. Additionally, the Holy Spirit kept Jesus and the Father updated moment by moment. Jesus confronted Lucifer many times about his behavior with truth, tenderness, and love. Each effort only made Lucifer angrier. Jesus knew this because the Holy Spirit revealed Lucifer’s thoughts to Jesus. Later, the same experience would inflame the Pharisees. They quickly saw that Jesus’ ability to know their thoughts created a no-win situation for them.¹ Yet, Lucifer could not be swayed. It would be too humiliating. He came to loathe Jesus as the Pharisees did when Jesus was on Earth. Jesus plainly told Lucifer his motives were evil and his goal of being God was impossible.

A war of wills began. Jesus defended the Father’s ways and actions with arguments that left Lucifer speechless. Lucifer was determined to eliminate the lowly Jesus who was a “know it all.” His heart was filled with contempt and hatred for Jesus. Lucifer avoided Jesus and refused to worship Him. When Jesus knew that Lucifer wanted to kill Him, He asked some of the angels who had rejected Lucifer’s arguments to speak with Lucifer, and encourage him to repent and change course. Lucifer refused

1. Matthew 9:4

because he could not bear the thought of being punished and humiliated before God and all of the angels. He *chose* to harbor the attitudes of bitterness and rebellion.

Lucifer lived in God's house, an environment free of sin's curse, a perfectly wholesome atmosphere beautiful beyond words. He had the highest position any created being could hold and was endowed with the most beauty; he wore the most extravagant clothing, and was adorned with precious ornamentation revealing his high rank; he was adored and loved, and gifted with talents and capabilities far beyond any other angel; and last, he had unfettered access to the Tree of Life. Still, he became dissatisfied. Can you imagine?

Looking ahead, what does this teach us about eternity, of the knowledge of good and evil, and the wisdom of the five laws? The Father was not surprised when Lucifer became unhappy. He foreknew Lucifer would exercise his power of choice in a harmful way *before* he was created. This leads to a profound point: The Father foreknew the future pain that Lucifer would cause Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Himself, the angels, and all who would live on Earth. Yet, the Father had Lucifer created and showered him with all that infinite love could give. This is why the Father wrote the Book of Life and secured it with seven seals. At the end of the 1,000 years, He plans to make the point perfectly clear that He will not, under any circumstances or at any price, use foreknowledge for self-serving purposes. This is an awesome fact to consider.

D-Day

In time, the Holy Spirit informed the Father and Jesus all decisions had been made: one-third of the angels had embraced Lucifer's rebellion and two-thirds had rejected it. The Holy Spirit could not do anything more to change their hearts. You may think the Father was too patient and should have quashed Lucifer's rebellion as soon as it began, but rest assured, the Father is infinitely wise. He waited until all the angels could hear and make a decision about Lucifer's sophisticated arguments. They knew the five laws and had to be allowed to make up their own

minds! They had been given intellect and the power of choice so were accountable and responsible for their actions.

The Father gave the angels considerable time to ponder Lucifer's arguments because He wanted each of them to *choose* whom they would love and obey. When the last angel had made his choice, the Holy Spirit notified the Father who summoned every angel to a special meeting. When the meeting began, the two covering cherubs took their customary places. On the left side of the Father's throne, Lucifer stood with an arrogant expression fixed on his face. Jesus stood on the right side with tears and great sadness I am sure.

During this meeting, the Father did a most unusual thing. He spoke. On this occasion, "The Word" did not speak for Him because the Father *only* speaks when glorifying Jesus.¹ The innumerable host heard the Father's unforgettable voice. He affirmed Jesus was a member of deity living in the form of an unremarkable angel. He explained why Jesus had a humble appearance and Jesus, as a member of deity, was His equal. When the Father said this, Jesus was immediately glorified. A blinding radiance emitted from Jesus. He was *transfigured* before their eyes! For a few indelible moments, Jesus was engulfed with and exhibited the same brilliant light which constantly envelopes the Father.² The angels were awed; they had never seen anything like this. They had no idea the lowly Jesus had this kind of authority!

You may be wondering if there is any hint in the Bible that such an event occurred. I believe there is. Shortly before Jesus was arrested in the garden, He prayed, "**Father, the hour [for My death] has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.**"³ Jesus requested His full identity be revealed, so He could then, in turn, glorify the Father. Jesus did not make this request for a selfish reason. He asked to be glorified because if people knew He was deity sent to redeem sinners, the Father would be glorified because of the price Jesus was willing to pay.

1. Matthew 3:17; Luke 9:35; John 12:28-29

2. 1 Timothy 6:16

3. John 17:1, insertion mine

John 3:16 means: For God [the Father] so loved His neighbors that He gave up one whom He loved with all of His heart, mind, and soul.

Jesus also wanted the world to know the price of salvation: the death of a deity. He knew when sinners understood the price of salvation, its story would become *the greatest story ever told!* **“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”**¹

As He continued in prayer, Jesus made an even more precise request, **“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”**² I believe these words refer to an event in heaven that occurred “in the Father’s presence” before the world was created. This event occurred when Jesus was transfigured before the angels in a one time show of His divine power. A similar event occurred on Earth when Jesus was transfigured from the form of an ordinary man into deity before three witnesses. **“There he [Jesus] was transfigured before them [Peter, James and John]. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.”**³ Peter described the event this way: **“He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.”**⁴

The parallel between both events is simple. In each event, the Father glorified Jesus to confirm that He is deity. For 2,000 years, the Bible has declared Jesus is “God.” John wrote, **“And the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh. ... We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace**

1. 1 John 2:1-2

2. John 17:5

3. Matthew 17:2, insertions mine

4. 2 Peter 1:17-18

and truth. ... No one has ever seen God [the Father], but the one and only Son, *who is himself God* and is in closest relationship with the Father, [He] has made him [the Father] **known.**"¹

After Jesus was transfigured before the angels, the Father explained the truth about Lucifer to the angels. He stripped each layer of the devil's clever facade away, revealing his covetousness, subversion, goals, and lies. The Father, using Lucifer's behavior, provided examples of how sin makes a predator out of every sinner, and showed them how Lucifer had preyed on them. He also explained how time and again the Holy Spirit and Jesus had tried to get Lucifer to change his heart and mind. The Godhead did everything possible, short of overriding Lucifer's free will; but like Pharaoh to come, he only hardened his heart.

The Father concluded His remarks by reminding the angels, because they had free will, it was not too late to turn back. He would gladly provide atonement for their sins if any rebellious angel would repent. As Joshua would echo millennia later, the Father concluded with, **"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve!"**² The Father then commanded everyone to bow down before Jesus and worship Him as the third law of the universe required. Two-thirds of the angels dropped to their knees without hesitation, but Lucifer and his followers refused even after seeing Jesus transfigured before their eyes!

This is a sobering fact: Once rebellion against the Holy Spirit takes root in a being having free will, there is a remote possibility of repentance, but it is practically impossible. The Bible describes this about the leaders of Israel: **"Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: 'Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor**

1. John 1:1, 14, 18, insertions and italics mine

2. Joshua 24:15

understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.’ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.”¹

There was an awkward silence in heaven. Two-thirds of the angels were on their knees, one-third defiantly standing. Suddenly the silence was broken by a crackling sound, the kind lightning makes as it rips through the atmosphere. A deafening peal of thunder followed immediately, the sound wave shaking the entirety of heaven. There followed an earthquake. The unapproachable light from the Father’s throne flared into a huge arc. A giant crevice appeared. Every defiant angel was thrown into the opening and then it closed. In an instant, the rebellious angels were cast out of heaven before they could resist. The loyal angels were shocked. They had never witnessed anything like this. The cast outs were overwhelmed. Suddenly they were homeless, lost in the vast and endless darkness of space.

The Devil and His Angels Spared

The Father did not destroy Lucifer and his followers on the day they were cast out of heaven because He, having perfect foreknowledge and infinite wisdom, knew it would be best, although very painful, to allow the devil and his demons to live a while longer. The Father foreknew the devil would prey on Eve and trap her with lies. He also foreknew Adam and Eve would become sinners. Now that sin had appeared, the Father wanted the curse of sin to run its ugly and painful course.

God allowed the curse of sin to propagate so everyone in the universe could be educated on the knowledge of good and evil as eternity unfolded. He would use the actions and experiences of fallen angels as well as human beings to document the curse of sin. This knowledge would inevitably demonstrate the wisdom behind the “sudden death law.” Thus, He stayed the execution of Lucifer and his followers, and later, the executions of Adam and Eve when they sinned. Contrary to what the devil claimed, the Father is not the sole beneficiary of the sudden death law.

1. John 12:37-41

When angels were created, the Father appointed some of them to record everything that happened in real time. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to record words, thoughts, and actions of angels—including Lucifer and his demons—and later on, human beings. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent and knows every being inside and out, and sends this genuine and truthful information to these angels. Their recordings will be used when the time comes for human beings to be judged. Jesus, the Judge of Mankind, will investigate the life of each person, and based on the records provided by these angels, He will determine who is to be saved or lost. In the Bible, these recordings are called books since video did not exist and could not be described at the time,¹ even though the technology used by these recording angels goes far beyond what can be done with books, video, and audio equipment.

The Father ordained this process so once the drama with sin is completed, His ever expanding universe could have the truth about good and evil. Because new worlds with new people will be forthcoming throughout eternity, the Father will require the inhabitants of every new planet to thoroughly study the effects of sin which is documented in graphic detail. His purpose is to ensure no one having free will shall ever *choose* to sin again. The Father's long-range purposes always have a higher and greater value than an immediate solution. This is why *faith in* and *love for* God is nonnegotiable.

To be as clear as possible, the sudden death law was created to benefit the universe. Because the two laws of love are at the center of everything the Godhead does, all of God's children are given the gifts of free will and the power of choice. This means the Godhead will not prevent anyone from sinning. They did not prevent Lucifer, one-third of the angels, or Adam and Eve. Since the Godhead will not prevent a person from sinning, the Father created a sudden death law. This law has been stayed until the drama with sin is over and the knowledge of good and evil is complete. After this law becomes enforceable, it will protect the universe from the curse of sin which is like a virus, worming its way into a harmonious and holy society. By eliminating a defiant

1. Malachi 3:16; Daniel 7:9-10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12

sinner on the day he sins, the Father ensures never again will the curse of sin exist in His universe. We will discuss this point further in the next chapter.

The Creation of Earth

Shortly after Lucifer and his followers were cast out of heaven, Jesus created Earth. Although every angel had been told from the beginning Jesus was deity and the Creator of the universe, they had not seen Him create anything and had to accept it by faith. Perhaps one of Lucifer's arguments was that Jesus was not the Creator. How could he be proved wrong? This is identical to what happened on Earth. Adam did not see Jesus create the Earth or Eve. By faith, they believed Jesus was their Creator and worshiped Him accordingly.

Today, when parents conceive a child, they do not see the creation of life!¹ And after the entire Earth has been tested during the Great Tribulation,² all who put their faith in Jesus and worship Him as their Creator³ will see Him create a new heaven and a new Earth!⁴

After Lucifer was cast out of heaven, God richly rewarded *the love and faithfulness* of the holy angels. They witnessed Jesus creating Earth! How exciting! What a great privilege for them to see Jesus exercise His divine power. This point is underscored in a conversation between Jesus and Job, **“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”**⁵ Faith in God, when seen in reverse, always makes sense.

1. Psalm 139:14-18

2. Revelation 3:10

3. Revelation 14:6-7

4. Revelation 21:1

5. Job 38:4-7

Chapter 5

The Fall of Adam and Eve

From the vastness of space, the devil and his demons witnessed Earth being created. He must have been immensely embarrassed since his followers could see the inescapable proof he was a liar. Nevertheless, after they saw Jesus create so many different forms of life on a tiny orb previously covered with water, they plotted how to capture Earth. The two “lesser” beings living on it were not as brilliant, powerful, or gifted as “angel kind” and would be an easy target. Lucifer planned a quick victory to regain what had been lost.¹

I am guessing Adam and Eve lived in happiness and perfect bliss in the Garden of Eden for a period of time² before Lucifer led Eve into disobedience. Whatever the length of time, we can be sure the devil and his demons closely studied the happy pair. Lucifer loathed Jesus. He wanted to alienate Adam and Eve from Jesus and the Father, but had to be careful in his approach because Jesus had told them He would visit them frequently. Even though Adam and Eve had no children while living in the garden, Lucifer understood Adam and Eve could do something angels could not—they could procreate. Lucifer may have reasoned God gave them this ability so that one day, mankind could take their place in heaven.

Lucifer may have also reasoned if Adam and Eve became sinners, human procreation would benefit his ambition. Mankind could swell the population of *his* kingdom and increase the reach of *his* authority. The devil knew Jesus had made Adam “the prince of this world” by putting everything under his dominion.³ If the devil could bring Adam under his sway, *he*, Lucifer, would become “the prince of this world.”

After considering all possibilities, the devil decided to tempt Adam and Eve with eating some forbidden fruit. Even though

1. Psalm 8:5-8

2. Maybe 40-50 years. For more information, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

3. Genesis 1:28-29

he had not used this temptation in heaven, he wanted to put God to the test. Would God carry out His word and kill Adam and Eve on the very day they ate the fruit?¹ If God promptly killed them, one of Lucifer's primary arguments against Jesus and the Father would be validated, not only in the eyes of His followers, but in the eyes of the holy angels who had remained in heaven. Remember, prior to his eviction, Lucifer argued that "contrary to what Jesus and the Father claim, free will and the power of choice are a cruel joke because the minute anyone exercises free will, God will kill the offender!"

The devil is foolish, but no fool. He is a master strategist and planner. Lucifer was given the most brilliant mind of any angel and studied the natures and habits of Adam and Eve before setting his trap. He had one chance to get this right and if he ruined it, he knew his cohorts would have less respect for him and, worse, the rest of the angelic host in heaven would see his failure. Because Adam and Eve were merely two lesser beings living on a tiny planet in the middle of a vast universe, I believe it naive to think the devil was only interested in enticing *them* to fall. He was interested in convincing the billions of angels who remained in heaven to join in his rebellion. True, he and his followers had been cast out of heaven, but the conflict between him and Jesus was far from over.

After observing Eve, the devil set a trap for her at the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. Unlike his deception in heaven, which consisted of lies and false presuppositions, the devil knew that if he appeared before Eve as an angel, she would immediately be suspicious; surely she had been warned of his eviction. To be more subtle, Lucifer decided to entice her using a beautiful creature, a small lie, and some "magic." He may have waited several years for just the right moment because he needed to meet her when she was separated from her husband, so there would be no back-and-forth discussion between Adam and Eve about what was happening.

Periodically,² Eve would need to obtain fresh fruit from the Tree of Life because conditional immortality required they eat from it to stay alive. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was near

1. Genesis 2:17

2. Revelation 22:2

the Tree of Life in the middle of the garden. As she approached the Tree of Life, the devil called her by name from the forbidden tree. Startled, Eve turned and was shocked to see a beautiful creature talking to her! Eve had no reason or inclination to be afraid. She had no fear, and the serpent probably looked quite different from the snakes we see today. Serpents at creation may have had bodies similar to butterflies with large colorful wings which enabled them to fly.¹

For years, Adam and Eve had talked about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, wondering what it was all about. Why was its fruit forbidden? Why did it have such a strange name? Why was it located beside the Tree of Life? Eve may have been thinking, “So this is the intriguing mystery that accompanies the tree. It enhances and transforms those who eat its fruit!”

The Bible does not say the devil engaged Eve in small talk to make her comfortable or ate the fruit in front of her, but I would not be surprised if he had. We can be sure when he saw the opportunity, he sprung the trap by convincing her he had eaten some of its fruit and he was now a “beautiful and harmless creature” who could both speak and reason!

I can hear him saying, “Eve, look at me! I ate some of this fruit and now, look! I can talk, I can reason, I even know your name! This is some amazing fruit! Eat some, see what it does for you!” Using as evidence that he had been wonderfully enhanced and transformed by eating some of the forbidden fruit, the serpent said **“God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**² Eve dallied with the devil and responded, **“But God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”**³

The devil then trapped her using her own words when she repeated “you must not touch it.” The devil responded, “Eve, I

1. Genesis 3:14
2. Genesis 3:5
3. Genesis 3:3

touched it and I am not dead. I ate some of its fruit,” **“You will not certainly die** [and I am living proof that you will not die! Just think, if the fruit gave me the gift of reasoning and speech, what will it do for you?].”¹His sophistry was overpowering. The Bible says **“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.”**²

There is no way of knowing what other assurances the devil made after Eve ate the fruit, but we can be sure he encouraged her to share the fruit with Adam. Eve must have put some of the low hanging fruit into her basket, said goodbye to her “new friend,” and went looking for her husband. The devil’s trap had worked so far, but the critical part of the operation was not over. The devil anxiously waited to see what Adam would do.

Lucifer knew Adam had to *willfully* disobey God if he were to steal dominion of Earth. His ruse for Eve was the first step. To take dominion of Earth, he needed two things: First, for Adam to *willfully* sin; and second, for God to obey His own law and kill the guilty pair. If Jesus said to the Father, “She was deceived by a lying predator” and the Godhead figured out a way to avoid the penalty for sin, the devil would jump for joy. One of his chief arguments about God’s unfairness would be proven true! On the other hand, if God killed Adam and Eve, the devil’s argument about God’s unfairness would also be proven true. Adam and Eve were mere pawns in Lucifer’s brilliant scheme to win over the remaining angels in heaven.

Eve was excited when she found Adam! However, when Adam processed all that he saw, he was mortified. Before he could respond with a rebuke, Eve told him about her new friend, “a beautiful creature” who had landed in the tree, eaten some of the fruit and did not die! In fact, after doing so, it could reason and carry on an intelligent conversation! It even knew her name! She told Adam that she also ate some of the fruit and didn’t die. Adam became ill. His wife had violated the fifth law of God and he knew the penalty would be Eve’s death. Adam fully believed God would

1. Genesis 3:4, insertion mine

2. Genesis 3:6

kill Eve before sundown because Jesus had plainly said, **“For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”**¹

Adam had never known distress, vexation, or pain. His heart was devastated. After he reminded Eve that Lucifer and his followers had been cast out of heaven for their lies and deception, he told Eve that Lucifer had deceived her and she would be put to death. Eve panicked. Her exuberance evaporated as a strange and powerful foreboding punched her in the stomach. She was guilty, she had violated the fifth law, and the penalty was death.

Adam sat down, put his head in his hands and considered the options. He loved both Eve and Jesus. After some minutes in anguish, his mind was made up. Adam overcame his *natural* propensity for righteousness by reaching out his hand and deliberately eating some of the fruit. Being put to death with Eve was better than being separated from her. He did not want another woman; Eve was not only his soul-mate, she had been made from his own flesh. She was the woman Jesus had given him and he loved her to a fault.

Adam’s mistake was huge! He had placed the second commandment above the first. His love for Eve (his neighbor) was more than his love for God.² **“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.”**³ Christians today do the same thing in the name of love, not recognizing when sympathy for people is given higher priority than admonishing wrong doing, the second commandment displaces the first and ruin inevitably follows. The devil knowingly plays this card often.

Of course, the Holy Spirit saw and heard everything as it occurred. Through the Spirit’s ministry, Jesus and the Father were able to watch the drama unfold. The Godhead did not intervene because they had previously warned Adam and Eve to be on guard. They had been gifted with free will, a propensity for righteousness, and knowledge of the fifth law. Now, they had to

1. Genesis 2:17, KJV

2. Matthew 10:37-38

3. Romans 5:12

decide. The responsibility was theirs. After they sinned, a very sad Jesus entered into the Father's presence to try to find a way to redeem the guilty pair. The Father told Jesus He loved Adam and Eve long before they were created and had prepared a plan to save them and their offspring. Jesus, in turn, told the Father He [Jesus] was willing to do whatever it took to save the two sinful creatures. The Father and Jesus agreed to this alternate plan because they loved Adam and Eve as much as they loved each other.

A critical point needs to be made before moving to the next section. Eve's guilt was unlike Adam's guilt. A calculating and intelligent predator had deceived her, but Adam sinned knowingly and willfully. This is why Paul says, "**Sin entered the world through one man.**"¹ Even so, Adam and Eve did not sin *defiantly* like Lucifer and his followers. This distinction is important because the fallen angels were not offered redemption after they committed the *unpardonable* sin. Prior to their eviction, the disaffected angels refused to repent many times. They had free will; they had the power of choice; they felt the nagging of the Holy Spirit as we do; they had ample time. Had any of them shown remorse and repented, redemption would have been offered. Instead, they were bold and defiant in their rebellion. Do not underestimate the importance of these God-given gifts which enable sinless beings to overcome their *natural* propensity for righteousness! The Father has an infinite amount of love for repentant sinners, but He does not have one ounce of grace for defiant subjects.

The Plan of Salvation

Before Earth was created, the Father foreknew when, how, and why Adam and Eve would sin, so He designed a profound plan to save them. Many people do not understand the "Plan of Salvation" was set up as a living trust.² A living trust is a process for distributing wealth over time. Often, wealthy parents establish them to provide for their children in case the parents die before their children reach maturity. A living trust has three

1. Romans 5:12

2. For more information on how trusts function, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information.

parties: A benefactor, beneficiary, and trustee. The trustee has the responsibility for distributing the wealth of the benefactor to the beneficiary. Trustees have terms and conditions placed upon them by the benefactors, and if trustees are found to be delinquent in carrying them out, they are fired and replaced.

The patriarchs were the first trustees of the gospel. Unfortunately, they failed to do their job so God sent a global flood to deal with their failure. Later, God chose Israel to be the trustees of the gospel but they also failed, so God appointed a new set of trustees—believers in Jesus. Finally, at the end of the age, the 144,000 will be the final trustees of the gospel. Unlike the previous trustees, they will not fail! Their work will result in a numberless harvest of souls.

Before you can understand the Father's actions, you must understand His "Plan of Salvation." It is huge and there is nothing like it. Think of its pieces as threads in a beautifully, hand-woven blanket which create an awesome, interlinked story. Through the centuries, millions of people have heard the phrase "Plan of Salvation," but, unfortunately, think it only pertains to saving sinners.

The Father foreknew His plan to resolve the sin problem would be studied, questioned, and challenged throughout eternity; therefore, when He created the plan, He made it much more comprehensive than just saving sinners on a tiny planet in a vast universe. The Plan of Salvation includes the revelation of Jesus as a separate, distinct, coeternal God equal to the Father. It includes defeating each argument and lie Lucifer made up. Above all, the plan reveals the love the Godhead has for one another and their neighbors. It will reveal and exonerate a judiciary system which will last forever. It is regrettable more people do not understand the Plan of Salvation; unfortunately, they just want to be assured of salvation—little else matters. This perspective is like a person who wants a bright shiny gift under the Christmas tree bearing his name, but has no interest in or love for the giver.

Throughout eternity, everyone in the universe will be able to watch videos detailing Lucifer's expulsion in real time, Adam and Eve's fall, and the ensuing consequences. The immeasurable

cost of the knowledge of good and evil will be obvious. Therefore, the Father wants everyone to understand, from the beginning, He designed His five laws to protect, not hurt, His children. He will insist everyone understand the curse of sin because, going forward, anyone who sins after its curse is eliminated will be put to death *that very day*. God has promised sin's curse will not affect His precious children again. His comprehensive plan is not a temporary fix for a momentary problem; His plan will remain relevant and applicable forever.

No Magic Wand

If it were a simple matter to save sinners, an all-knowing, all-powerful, loving Ruler of the Universe could have waved a magic wand over sinners and pardoned them in an instant. However, almighty God *could not* do this. I know it sounds strange that He cannot do certain things, but it is true. To do so would have created many problems:

Problem #1. The angels wondered, **“If God’s fifth law is unforgiving and unchangeable, how does he justify sparing Adam and Eve from death when the law requires death on the day they ate the forbidden fruit?”** When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, the angels naturally expected God to kill them that very day. Remember, at this point, the angels did not understand the long-term effects of sin. They knew nothing about its consequences, other than one-third of their peers being banished from heaven.

Problem #2. The angels also wondered, **“Once a sinless nature is transformed into a sinful nature, how does the reverse occur?”** I am sure this question was raised after one-third of the angels were cast out of heaven because the nature you are given *is not* a matter of choice. God *gave* a sinless nature to Adam and Eve at creation, but it was the curse of sin that transformed them. It even contaminated their offspring. Once lost, how does a sinner regain a *natural* propensity for righteousness?

Before we can understand why the Plan of Salvation was designed this way, we have to address these two problems. Remember,

Lucifer framed God's fifth law, which forbids eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, as God's way of justifying the immediate execution of anyone who disobeyed and one-third of the angels eventually believed Lucifer's lie.

The Father's Foreknowledge

The Father foreknew before Creation that sin would occur in heaven and on Earth and was prepared. Although Lucifer and the angels had free will, the Father foreknew the choices they would make. Understand, He did not influence or manipulate their free will, but He did have a plan in advance to remove them from heaven after they committed the unpardonable sin. The Father also foreknew Adam and Eve would exercise their free will and sin; therefore, He prepared the Plan of Salvation in advance for them and their offspring.

The issue of the Father's foreknowledge confuses a lot of people, but it should not be puzzling. Moses said, **"This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.' Pharaoh said, 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go.'"**¹ The Father knew in advance what Pharaoh would do. When the Lord confronted Pharaoh with His demands, the Bible says *The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart*. This does not mean the Lord overrode his power of choice, it means He confronted Pharaoh head-on and Pharaoh did not like being challenged. Pharaoh had free will, exercised it, and chose to be stubborn.

Before He delivered the nation of Israel from slavery, the Father foreknew they would complain and gripe endlessly about His provisions for them. He foreknew they would wander the wilderness forty years. Still, He led them to the gates of Canaan within two years of the Exodus. This teaches us that even though the Father foreknows everything, He does not treat us according to His foreknowledge. Instead, He treats us according to His great love for us. It is amazing to think that the Godhead will not override our free will. This is how much they respect the gifts they gave to us!

1. Exodus 5:1-2

Allowing the Curse of Sin to Flourish for a Limited Time

Long before sin occurred in heaven, the Father decided when it appeared, He would permit the curse of sin to flourish until His purposes were accomplished. Here are four reasons:

1. By allowing sin to exist for thousands of years, He has been able to give billions of holy angels a profound and thorough education in jurisprudence. Angels have been attending law school for 6,000 years and now understand elements of the Father's character, love, and government which were previously unknown to them. They have witnessed the interaction of the Godhead with all kinds of situations and events occurring on Earth; witnessed the birth, life, and death of Jesus; the predatory evils of Lucifer and his cruel demons; endless cycles of man's inhumanity to man (war); and everything else the curse of sin produces.

Currently, the angels are witnessing the judgment of the dead¹ and soon, they will witness the judgment of the living! By giving billions of angels a *front row seat* in the theater of sin's curse, the Father has prepared a huge host of witnesses who will serve new planets and new beings as the universe expands throughout eternity. The holy angels now have a comprehensive knowledge of good and evil, so their services will be priceless for billions of years to come! Of course, their education has been expensive; but, because of love, the Godhead was willing to pay the price.

2. According to His foreknowledge, the Father predetermined the curse of sin would endure until the number of the redeemed *equals* the number of fallen angels. If this theory is true, the Father would then make heaven whole again. Of course, if the Father had wanted more angels, Jesus could have created more of them; however, I think the Father has a higher and better purpose than numbers. I think He gave mankind the gift of procreation for a very specific reason. When He completes His purpose, one-third of heaven will consist of "a kingdom of priests," people formerly called "sinners!"²

1. For more information on the judgment of the dead, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

2. Revelation 1:6

By replacing Lucifer and his followers with “ex-sinners,” heaven will have many saints who have experienced the curse of sin and have overcome it through *faith*. In the future, if a person loses faith in the Father and is tempted to sin, the Father can send one-third of heaven to help avert the problem. No better “fire extinguisher” could be provided than to send those who actually experienced the sorrow, illness, suffering, and death that sin causes. No one has a more convincing testimony than those who suffered because of sin and struggled with their sinful nature for a lifetime. Since God has no grandchildren (every sinner has to be “born again”), I conclude mankind’s gift of procreation is a one-time phenomenon. This gift was to produce the correct number of saints to repopulate heaven and the Father foreknew it would take 6,000 years. After the drama with sin is completed, I believe all future beings will be original creations by Jesus Himself, as were the angels. This feature will immediately make every new being a “son of God.”¹

3. So every imaginable instance of evil could be documented and recorded. The Father intends all new children, created billions of years from now, to observe what beings with freewill chose to do when controlled by the sinful nature. When future beings have a complete knowledge of good and evil, the penalty for sin will be immediate. Anyone who insists on sinning will die the day he sins. This “act of God” will cauterize sin so its curse cannot spread. The knowledge of good and evil will be studied intensely for all eternity. In the process, those who participate in the study will understand the Father is righteous because the records demonstrate Him to be righteous, not because Jesus said He was.

God’s children will comprehend He is a God of love because the records will prove it, not because He claimed to be. Everyone will see in the drama of sin an infinite display of love, the generosity of the Father’s mercy, and the reach of divine justice.

4. So finite beings can understand the nature and character of an infinite Godhead. The Godhead has endured much suffering

1. Romans 8:14; John 1:12; Mark 12:25; Revelation 2:17

because of the curse of sin. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the Father and Jesus have witnessed every abuse. They have witnessed every instance of man's inhumanity to man. They have heard every lie, witnessed every theft, rape, abuse, murder, and torture in *real time*. The curse of sin has caused them heart-wrenching pain and sorrow for millennia. And, of course, Jesus Himself has suffered this cruelty at the hands of His created beings.

I have wondered how the Godhead could endure the violent, evil, and sick drama unfolding on Earth day after day. Things happen that are too awful to view. The Godhead feels the anguish every human being feels. Their misery cannot be calculated, but, knowing the price salvation would require, the Father has accepted the risk of being grossly misunderstood for a few thousand years to allow the curse of sin to flourish for a limited time. He knows once His created beings have a complete knowledge of good and evil, no questions about the curse of sin will go unanswered. There will also be no questions about the purposes of His five laws.

I have digressed on some of the Father's purposes for allowing the curse of sin to endure to help you understand just how enormous the knowledge of good and evil is in scope. Only after we understand these concepts will the humble role Jesus took to save sinners make sense.

Jesus Became the Son of God on a Specific Day

Remember, when Adam and Eve sinned, Jesus dropped everything. He quickly entered into the Father's presence to enquire if saving the guilty pair from eternal death was possible. The following four points describe what I believe the Father told Jesus would be necessary to save repentant sinners:

1. He wanted to save the entire world.

Because Adam and Eve's sins were not defiant, unlike Lucifer and his angels, the Father had a plan to turn lemons (sin) into lemonade (eternal happiness). Not only did He love Adam and Eve, He also loved each of their offspring. When the Bible

says, **“For God so loved the world,”**¹ this means the Father foreknew each of us by name. He so loved all twenty one billion of us who would live on Earth (or whatever the number) to give up **“His only begotten Son.”**² This should not be surprising, since the Lord said to Jeremiah, **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”**³ King David also commented on this fact, **“Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book [the Book of Life] before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!”**⁴ The Father loved us so much He was willing to do something more difficult than dying. He was willing to crush His own heart by sacrificing His dearest and most beloved “Son.”

Some people attempt to use the phrase **“Begotten Son”** to prove that Jesus is a created being, maintaining Jesus is called *begotten* because the Father *created* Him. This position puts the Bible in a state of internal conflict.⁵ The phrase, “His only begotten Son” is a title of endearment meaning the Father loved Jesus more than any father can love a child. When Jesus said to Nicodemus **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,”** He used language from Scripture which Nicodemus immediately recognized. Jesus was referring to this passage in Genesis: **“Then God said [to Abraham], ‘Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.’”**⁶ Using Abraham in the analogy, Jesus wanted Nicodemus to understand that His dying to save sinners would cause the Father more pain than even Abraham experienced offering Isaac as a burnt offering.⁷

1. John 3:16

2. John 3:16, KJV

3. Jeremiah 1:5

4. Psalm 139:16-17, insertion mine

5. See Fact #4 in Appendix A

6. Genesis 22:2

7. See Appendix B

2. The plan required more of Jesus than giving up eternal life.

Jesus would have to come to Earth and live as a human being, born to a people who were renowned for stubbornness toward God and hostility toward their neighbors.¹ He would have to live in poverty and say whatever the Father would have Him say; bear extreme suffering and experience whatever pain Lucifer and his demons could inflict on Him. The devil's cruelty would be cloaked in "man's inhumanity to man." Jesus would be charged with blasphemy and crucified for repeating words given Him to speak; He would be severely tempted and have to overcome each temptation, greater than any human being would ever experience; and He would have to live a sinless life and die as a felon.

God's plan would accomplish many goals, including the salvation of repentant sinners. Because His laws are unchangeable, the plan called for the death of Jesus. If Jesus were willing to forfeit eternal life (by *loving* His neighbors enough to give them the eternal life that belonged to Him), the Father would stay Adam and Eve's execution by *transferring* their guilt to Jesus. Only then could the Father *transfer* the eternal life donated by Jesus to the repentant sinners.

3. The plan included specific actions if Jesus were successful in carrying out the requirements.

The Father would:

- (a) Resurrect Jesus on the third day
- (b) Restore everything Jesus forfeited to save repentant sinners
- (c) Give the redeemed to Jesus as personal property
- (d) Appoint Jesus as Judge of mankind determining who should be redeemed
- (e) Reveal the deity of Jesus

1. Exodus 33:5; Nehemiah 9:16; Jeremiah 9:7-9

God will unveil to the universe the unremarkable Jesus, who once lived in the form of an ordinary angel and later, in the form of an unremarkable human being, as His equal by placing everything in heaven and on Earth under His authority. The Father will relinquish His throne at an appointed time so Jesus can bring the Plan of Salvation and sin's drama to a close.

4. If Jesus accepted the challenge, he could not deviate from the plan or use divine power at any time.

Jesus must not act on His own will at any time. Any deviation from these terms would ruin and terminate the whole plan.

Jesus listened carefully to the Father, and because of His love for the Father and human beings, Jesus totally surrendered Himself to the Father. When Jesus began His ministry on Earth four thousand years later, He announced: **“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”**¹ Later, He responded to the Jews who were offended and furious with His words, **“For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.”**² **“My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.”**³

Jesus subjected Himself to the Father's plan *on the very day* Adam and Eve sinned. This is why the Bible describes Him as, **“The Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”**⁴ Jesus became a subject of the Father that day. The Hebrew word for son is *ben* which describes someone who is subject to authority (like a son). As a member of deity who had previously forfeited two-thirds of Himself, Jesus emptied Himself completely by surrendering the remaining one-third of Himself to the Father. Jesus loved and trusted the Father with all His heart and the Father loved Jesus as a father would love his only son. The love of the Father and His Son opened heaven's storehouse of love and made it possible for repentant sinners to be redeemed.

1. John 6:38
2. John 12:49
3. John 7:16
4. Revelation 13:8

Jesus is called “Son of God,” for good reason. Notice what Jesus said in Psalm 2: **“I will proclaim the Lord’s [Father’s] decree: He said to me, ‘You are [now] my Son [subject]; today I have become your Father [Master]. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession [your inheritance – Hebrews 1:2]. You will break them with a rod of iron [your rulership will never be overthrown – Revelation 12:5, 19:15]; you will dash them [your enemies] to pieces like pottery.’ Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord [Jesus] with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. Kiss [worship, submit to] his Son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”**¹

The Apostle Paul penned an eloquent description of Jesus’ humility to Christians in Philippi saying, **“Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God [the Father] something [important] to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross [as a felon]! Therefore God [the Father has appointed a time when He will – Ephesians 1:9-10] exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**² Contrary to those who insist the name “Jesus” is not the name of the “Son of God,” a day is coming when the humble name “Jesus” will be above “every name.” And rightly so; the Father gave Him that name!³

1. Psalm 2:7-12, insertions mine

2. Philippians 2:5-11, insertions mine

3. Luke 1:31

Jesus Appeared to Adam and Eve

When Jesus arrived in the Garden to confront Adam and Eve with their sin, He did not arrive with a gleaming sword to strike them down as the law required. Instead, He was deeply grieved they would have to endure the curse of sin for the rest of their lives and following generations would have to suffer as well. On the other hand, He was relieved to tell them the penalty for their sin had been “stayed” because the Father deeply loved and wanted to save them. Jesus explained there was a plan to save repentant sinners and He had submitted to the requirements of that plan. He explained the plan was comprehensive and its components would be revealed over time. He told them He had promised to give up His eternal life so it could be *transferred* to repentant sinners; that they and their offspring would have to regularly offer animal sacrifices to demonstrate their faith in the plan and His promise.

The Father designed this process so they would be aware of the pain He would experience when He had to take the life of Jesus, the Lamb of God. Additionally, the Father wanted the faithful to experience the anguish and sorrow that will fill the hearts of the Godhead at the end of the 1,000 years when the penalty for sin is implemented.¹ This will be an extremely excruciating day because they love and know each angel and human being intimately.

Jesus also told Adam and Eve they now had a “sinful” nature, and it would be a struggle to be unselfish. They would be unable to consistently obey the two laws of love because the curse of sin was dominate within them; they would say and do evil things, sometimes accidentally and sometimes willfully.² Previously, they had a *natural* propensity for loving God and each other, but this *natural* propensity for *obeying* the Holy Spirit had been transformed into a *natural* propensity for *rebellion*.³

Finally, Jesus warned the guilty pair that maintaining faith in God and His plan for their salvation would become increasingly

1. Revelation 20

2. Romans 7:18-23

3. Galatians 5:17

difficult. Because they could not enter the Garden of Eden to see and visit with Him, their knowledge of Him would begin to dim. God's ways and laws would disappear within a few generations unless they were careful to keep the hope of salvation alive. The Holy Spirit would do everything possible to keep this hope alive, but Lucifer and his demons would prey on them and their offspring by constantly inventing new and attractive ways to do evil.

Then, Jesus called the beautiful creature Lucifer had used as his masquerade so that He could put a curse upon it. **“So the Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity [hatred] between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers [notice the enmity between the offspring of the serpent and the woman, e.g., those dominated by the sinful nature and those dominated by the spiritual nature]; he [the Savior] will crush your head [will eventually destroy the devil], and you will strike his heel [the serpent would attempt to bring about the death of Jesus].’”**¹

“To the women he said, I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire [you will be inclined to go along with] will be for your husband, and he will rule [you will be subjugated by his physical strength] over you.”²

“To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, “You must not eat from it,” Cursed is the ground because of you; *through painful toil* you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’”³

1. Genesis 3:14-15, insertions mine

2. Genesis 3:16, insertions mine

3. Genesis 3:17-19, italics mine

After making these pronouncements, Jesus, the Creator, built an altar and killed the first flawless lamb. As they stood there observing the blood and lifeless body of their pet, Adam and Eve were dismayed. They had never seen death or experienced the loss of anything they loved. Their hearts were crushed because they knew they were responsible. Eating the forbidden fruit was so simple, but saving sinners is not. Jesus then skinned the lamb. The Bible says **“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”**¹ This necessary act was as practical as it was prophetic. Adam and Eve had tried to cover their nakedness with leaves, but the covering needed for salvation cannot be *manmade*. The plan required a flawless robe of righteousness which could only be *transferred* to repentant sinners through the flawless blood of the Lamb.

1. Genesis 3:21

Chapter 6

The Transfer Doctrine

Many Christians believe Jesus died *in our place* and this concept puzzles billions of non-Christians. They wonder what kind of God do Christians worship. Why would God require the death of an innocent man so guilty people can go free? Incidentally, the ancient idea that to avoid God's wrath required the death of an innocent person was the basis for sacrificing children to Molech in Bible times. No justice system on Earth advocates the idea that one man can take the place of another when punishment is involved. All just legal systems are based on personal responsibility and accountability. Nevertheless, many Christians improperly think the Father sent Jesus to the cross because, to redeem sinners, an innocent man had to die in our place.

Of course, the Bible teaches Jesus died for us, but He did not die as a *substitute*; that is, Jesus did not die in *our* place. Now wait! Hear me out. I understand why the death of Jesus *seems* to be a substitutionary death, but the idea places the Bible in a state of internal conflict. This makes the idea unacceptable.

The Father does not head a government where the penalty for doing wrong is paid by the innocent so the guilty can escape. Instead, God has a legal system where each person is responsible and accountable for his own actions. God told Ezekiel: **“The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child.”**¹ The Bible offers an explanation for the death of Jesus and it may surprise you. It surprised me. Before we delve into the critical importance of the transfer doctrine, I need to address two topics.

Two Types of Guilt: Third-Party and Outstanding

Many people are astonished to learn the Plan of Salvation includes Lucifer and his demons. Not for the purpose of salvation, but included nonetheless. Lucifer and his followers were called

1. Ezekiel 18:20

to repentance many times, but willfully refused every overture before they were cast out of heaven. If the angels had repented, the Father would have implemented a Plan of Salvation for them also. After they defied the Holy Spirit and committed the unpardonable sin, there was nothing further the Father could do but cast them out of heaven.

When God implemented the Plan of Salvation for mankind, He included Lucifer and his followers because they have a significant amount of responsibility for the curse of sin on Earth. Lucifer and his followers are predators and have preyed on mankind since the day Adam and Eve sinned. Each day, they continue to heap greater guilt on themselves in addition to what they amassed in heaven.

The actions of Lucifer and his followers are recorded each day because the Plan of Salvation includes “third-party guilt.” If an adult causes a minor to commit a crime, in the eyes of the law both are guilty, but the adult has greater guilt because he used his position of authority and/or influence to corrupt a minor. When a predator causes the delinquency of a minor, the predator’s guilt is sometimes called third-party guilt because three parties were involved: A victim, a predator, and a minor. Even though the minor and adult are both guilty of breaking the law, the adult will receive greater punishment because he has greater guilt.

Third-party guilt is important within the Plan of Salvation because God sees everything the devil and his demons are doing. He observes them using their superior powers and abilities to prey on mankind. The demons are accumulating an enormous amount of guilt and they will suffer unbearably in Hell as a result. Jesus stated the “third-party guilt” principle in Matthew 18:6, **“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea”**

There is another type of guilt that needs to be discussed. When a person commits a sin against his neighbor, he actually commits two sins. He sins against his neighbor and against God who

commands us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. If the sinner repents and makes restitution to his neighbor, he still has “outstanding guilt” because he violated the second commandment of love. A sinner cannot make restitution for “outstanding guilt.” The penalty for sin is death. The law is unforgiving and changeless, but God has made a way to eliminate the guilt. I call this process the “Transfer Doctrine.” God illustrated this doctrine in the earthly temple services given to Moses.¹

To eliminate “outstanding guilt” in ancient Israel, a person had to first restore his victim through restitution. After making amends for his wrong doing, he had to present himself before the Altar of Burnt Offering² and confess his sin to God. Thus, through the blood of a flawless lamb his “outstanding guilt” was *transferred* to the horns of the altar. Once the blood of the lamb was sprinkled on the horns, it served as a record of the transaction.

The “outstanding guilt” recorded on the horns of the altar contaminated the temple. Therefore each year, God required the temple be cleansed of all guilt (restored to a sinless condition) on the Day of Atonement. At the end of the cleansing service, the temple’s accumulated guilt was transferred to a goat, often called the “scapegoat.”

After the guilt was transferred to the scapegoat, the temple was free of guilt and the goat was led far into the wilderness to slowly die of starvation. This scapegoat represents Lucifer. He is the father of sin and is responsible for it; therefore, he has third-party guilt. He led Eve to sin and set up circumstances so Adam would also. Therefore, the curse of sin came through the devil; worse still, ever since influencing Adam and Eve, Lucifer and his demons have been actively deceiving all people.

Mankind was created inferior to the angels;³ therefore, when it comes to angelic predators, humans are considered *minors* in God’s sight. Of course, human beings can sin without demonic

1. Hebrews 8:1-5; 10:4

2. Matthew 5:23-24

3. Psalm 8:5

influence because we have free will and a natural predisposition to do so. The carnal nature causes everyone to sin sooner or later.¹ The devil and his demons are not “directly” involved in every willful sin. James wrote, “**Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**”² However, the devil and his demons indirectly have guilt in each sin because man’s sinful nature stems from the fall of Adam and Eve. Remember, if an adult leads a child to commit a crime, *both* are guilty in the eyes of law, but the adult has greater guilt. If a child commits a crime on his own, he is guilty in the eyes of the law. His standing as a minor or juvenile is taken into consideration and a judge often grants leniency an adult would not receive. Jesus is a righteous judge. He understands these matters and deals with guilt accordingly.

All children, and people having diminished intellectual abilities, will be saved³ because God does not acknowledge guilt for those who do not know right from wrong. His grace and assignment of third-party guilt ensures Christ’s righteousness and eternal life will be transferred to them. Condemnation is only attributed after a person knows right from wrong and chooses to do wrong: “**If anyone, then, knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.**”⁴

What Is A Repentant Sinner?

The Bible defines a repentant sinner as a person who appropriately loves God and his neighbor. Before Jesus began His ministry on Earth, the Father sent John the Baptist to tell Israel what a repentant sinner was: “**John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near....*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*’**”⁵ True sorrow for sin requires action beginning with love for God and neighbors. It produces

1. Romans 7:17

2. James 1:14-15

3. For more information on the age of accountability, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

4. James 4:17

5. Matthew 3:1-2, 8, italics mine

faith, humility, and restitution. The experience of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, is included in the Bible because his testimony is a perfect example of a repentant sinner! Jesus said so!¹

A repentant sinner is humble, loves honesty, and obeys the prompting of the Holy Spirit; lives by faith, and does what is right in God's sight without regard for the consequences; shows sorrow for sins by providing restitution as needed and forsaking sin as the Holy Spirit convicts; confesses sins and through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, overcomes them. Such a person is a *repentant sinner* in God's eyes. A person can become a repentant sinner within a few minutes. The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts and motives within each heart. One thief *became* a genuine repentant sinner while hanging on the cross. Jesus assured that thief he would be saved on the basis of his repentance and faith in God. If you want the assurance of salvation, you can have it right now if you will become a repentant sinner! **“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”**²

Repentant sinners commit two types of sin: accidental and willful. Accidental sin occurs when the sinful nature suddenly grabs the “wheel” and sin happens without premeditation. After more than twenty-five years of living as a repentant sinner, Paul wrote about this phenomenon: **“Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me [the sinful nature] that does it.”**³ James provides a great description of willful sin: **“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone [to do evil]; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”**⁴

John speaks about both types: **“If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death [accidental sin], you should [remember your own weaknesses and] pray [for them]**

1. Luke 19:1-10

2. Acts 17:30

3. Romans 7:20, insertion mine

4. James 1:13-15

and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a [willful] sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that [because God will not override anyone's free will. Willful sin separates us from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, it destroys a life of faith]. [Of course,] **All wrongdoing** [whether accidental or willful] **is sin** [and the penalty is death], **and there is sin that does not lead to death** [because repentant sinners are quick to provide restitution and humbly confess their failure for accidental sin]."¹

The Godhead loves all sinners equally.² There are no favorites.³ They love rebellious sinners as much as they love repentant sinners. After all, repentant sinners were first rebellious sinners! **“For God does not show favoritism. All who** [willfully disobey the Holy Spirit] **sin apart from the law** [not having knowledge of God's laws] **will also perish apart from the law, and all who** [willfully disobey the Holy Spirit] **sin under the law** [having knowledge of God's laws] **will be judged** [condemned] **by the law.”**⁴

Jesus taught: **“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. *He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.* If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore** [guiltless in regard to the second law of love], **as your heavenly Father is perfect** [guiltless in regard to the second law of love].”⁵

The Angel's First Question

Now that we have briefly discussed two types of guilt and the biblical definition of a repentant sinner, we can address the two questions which puzzled the holy angels, presented in the previous chapter. Their first question was: “If God's fifth law is unforgiving

1. 1 John 5:16-17, insertions mine

2. Romans 5:10

3. Acts 10:34

4. Romans 2:11-12

5. Matthew 5:44-48, insertions and italics mine

and unchangeable, how does he justify sparing Adam and Eve from death when the law required it on the day they ate the forbidden fruit?" The solution is found in the "Transfer Doctrine."

The "Transfer Doctrine" teaches that starting with Adam and Eve, the curse of sin is *transferred* to succeeding generations through the contaminated blood of sinful ancestors. Cain, the firstborn of Adam and Eve, became a murderer because the curse of sin was transferred to him through the blood of his parents. The Father foreknew all of this so He based the salvation of repentant sinners on the sinless blood of Jesus!

One reason the Father sent Jesus to Earth was to produce the holy righteousness sinners need for salvation. Therefore, the Father required Jesus to experience and overcome every temptation sinners would face.¹ Furthermore, He required Jesus to overcome temptations far beyond what any human being would experience to eliminate future questions and doubts about the standard of righteousness Jesus had to achieve. If Jesus achieved the standard of righteousness the Father required, the Father could legitimately "justify" a repentant sinner by transferring the righteousness of Christ to him. A justified sinner is a sinner who appears before the Father just as though he *never* sinned. This is what justification is all about.

Additionally, the Father required Jesus to forfeit His eternal life for three days so Christ's eternal life could be *transferred*. The Father needed a transfer medium to transfer the righteousness and eternal life of Jesus to all repentant sinners. Since the curse of sin is transferred through blood, the Father ordained that guilt, righteousness, and eternal life are also transferred through blood! Keep in mind the following:

1. Everyone, except Jesus, has sinned.²
2. All created beings since Adam and Eve have inherited this sinful nature through the blood of their parents.³

1. Hebrews 4:15

2. Romans 3:23

3. 1 John 1:10

3. The curse of sin is transferred from generation to generation like a fatal virus.¹
4. Sinners die because the consequence of sin is the first death. Unrepentant sinners are also condemned to die a second death² at the end of the 1,000 years because the penalty for sin is eternal death.³

Consider these passages: **“Therefore, just as [the curse of] sin entered the world through one man, and [the penalty of] death through [his] sin, and in this way death came to all people [Jew and Gentile alike], because all [who have a sinful nature will sin or have] sinned. . . There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . . For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed [a righteousness which no sinner can produce] – a righteousness that is [given to repentant sinners who are willing to live] by faith from first to last [from beginning to end], just as it is written: ‘The righteous [in God’s sight are those who] will live by faith.’”**⁴

Jesus Is the Judge

Each Christian should know the Father does not judge sinners. Instead, He has assigned this task to Jesus who has walked in our shoes and been tempted in all points as we are.⁵ Jesus knows all about pain and suffering. He has also been tempted in ways that go beyond the human experience; therefore, we have a judge who knows all about the curse of sin and what life on Earth is like.

When Jesus passes judgment on a sinner,⁶ He cannot transfer His righteousness and eternal life because He deeply loves the sinner. Instead, He has to follow a legitimate process which the

1. Jeremiah 13:23; Luke 11:13

2. Revelation 20:6, 14

3. Romans 6:23

4. Romans 5:12; 3:22-23; 6:23; 1:17, insertions mine

5. John 5:22-23; Hebrews 4:15; 2:18

6. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Father established. Jesus is the focus of great attention. Millions of angels and twenty-four elders (people who formerly lived on Earth) are sitting silently around Jesus in a great courtroom.¹ Each eye is trained on Jesus as He thoroughly and carefully examines each life's record. The angels and twenty-four elders are observing and expecting Him to be fair and consistent because the future of the universe is at stake! The angels do not want a repeat of Lucifer's rebellion nor sinners living in heaven again, so they carefully watch Christ's deliberation of whether a sinner was rebellious or repentant.

If there is evidence in the record showing a person was a repentant sinner, after presenting the evidence to the angels and elders, Jesus transfers the sinner's *outstanding* guilt to the scapegoat. Jesus does not condemn anyone for being contaminated with a sinful nature. Lucifer is the father of sin. This is why Lucifer receives whatever third-party guilt he deserves.

The phrase "outstanding guilt" indicates even after a repentant sinner provides restitution and makes all known wrongs "right," he still has guilt in God's eyes because a condemned person cannot provide restitution for breaking one of God's laws. If restitution for outstanding guilt were possible, Adam and Eve would have made restitution to save themselves from the consequences and penalty of sin. Each sinner has outstanding guilt and this guilt is transferred to the one responsible for sin through the sinless blood of the Lamb.

After transferring both the outstanding guilt of the repentant sinner and whatever third-party guilt is involved, Jesus' righteousness is transferred to the repentant sinner through His perfect blood! Jesus' perfect blood is what makes the transference of guilt and the cloaking of His righteousness possible. Only after a repentant sinner is declared free of guilt, can he be clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. At this point, the sinner is fully justified in the Father's eyes. Then, the eternal life that formerly belonged to Jesus is transferred to the sinner. To God be the glory!

1. Daniel 7:9-10; Revelation 4

**“And they cried out in a loud voice:
‘Salvation belongs to our God, who
sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”¹**

The “Transfer Doctrine” explains how God resolved the angel’s first question. He justifies repentant sinners through the blood of the Lamb, transferring their guilt to Lucifer and giving Christ’s righteousness to them. Paul explains it beautifully:

“But the gift [of salvation] is not like the trespass [which Adam committed]. For if the many [“the many” refers to the many people who lived on Earth since Adam] died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment [that came upon Adam] followed one sin and brought [immediate] condemnation [on him and his offspring], but the gift [of God] followed many trespasses [that is, God waited for the fullness of time] and [through the righteousness of Jesus, God] brought justification [to all repentant sinners—all who lived before the cross and who shall live after the cross]. For if, by the trespass of the one man [Adam], death reigned [over all mankind] through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people [Jew and Gentile alike], so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people [Jew and Gentile alike].”²

The Angel’s Second Question

The second question that puzzled the angels was, “Once a sinless nature is transformed into a sinful nature, how does the reverse occur?” The Father’s solution is a two-step miracle. The first is called “rebirth” and the second is called “the sealing.” Whenever the Father is able to draw a sinner close to Himself through the

1. Revelation 7:10

2. Romans 5:15-18, insertions mine

ministry of the Holy Spirit, and that sinner realizes his true condition before God and his desperate need for the righteousness of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will perform a miracle and give that repentant sinner a new nature and a new life.

The sinner will suddenly begin to hunger for God's Word and thirst for spiritual matters and become a completely different person. He will receive insight and understanding and a life he never knew existed! He will love God and his neighbor and abandon his past ways to seek a life that is pleasing to God. He will study and cherish the Bible and discover the peace and joy of humility and service. He will regard the world's material things of little value and spiritual things as precious and eternal.

The Bible teaches that our natural propensity toward God is hostile. If a person is far from God, he will not notice the hostility. He will think that all is well. However, once a person attempts to come close to God, he will discover the hostility within himself is huge! Paul wrote, **“Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.”**¹

A *natural* propensity for righteousness is given to every born-again person and this is when the trouble begins. A born-again person is not just a good neighbor, he is a repentant sinner. He will quickly discover he has two natures constantly warring against each other for supremacy and his sinful nature will ambush the spiritual as often as possible.

Even though the sinful nature remains within a born-again believer, we must, and can, overcome temptation! **“For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children**

1. Romans 8:5-8

of God.”¹ Jesus will give each repentant sinner the power to overcome temptation as He overcame temptation! If you question the need to overcome temptation, read the testimony of Jesus sent to the seven churches in Asia Minor!^{2,3}

Because every born-again Christian has two natures, he has to live and remain a repentant sinner. The problem is, sooner or later, all born-again Christians will sin, sometimes accidentally and sometimes willfully.⁴ The curse of sin is so deep within us that it is impossible to live without sinning. Therefore, born-again Christians have to live in the perpetual state as a “repentant sinner” which is humbling and contrary to the carnal nature. When a repentant sinner falls short, he makes restitution as needed. When he does wrong, he makes it right as quickly as possible. Whenever the Holy Spirit brings guilt to a person, he recognizes the problem, confesses his sin to those he wronged, and remedies it. He then confesses his sin to God and Holy Spirit driven guilt disappears! This continuous cycle in a Christian’s life is called “sanctification.” The word describes a developmental process—the process of becoming like Jesus. **“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”⁵**

To keep repentant sinners on track and living with the challenge of being and remaining a repentant sinner, which is contrary to our flesh, the Father has provided a wonderful gift! **“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”⁶** Paul indicates each repentant sinner receives the Holy Spirit **“as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”**

1. Romans 8:13-14

2. Revelation 2 and 3

3. For more information on the seven churches, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

4. Romans 7

5. 1 Peter 2:1-3

6. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, italics mine

Jesus will judge the living during the Great Tribulation. The judgment of the living is unlike the judgment of the dead, because the living are still living! So, they continue to have free will and the power of choice! Judging the dead is different since they have been sealed by death. The Father has provided a wonderful solution to this problem because He knows that as long as the sinful nature remains within a repentant sinner, he will eventually sin and the penalty for sin will condemn him to death.

What Fulfills the Deposit?

When a sinner becomes repentant, he is given the Holy Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Paul describes this phenomena in Hebrews 8: “[God says a time is coming when] **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**”¹

God revealed to Paul a time was coming when He would remove the sinful nature of repentant sinners. This would happen by writing His laws in their hearts and minds. When God does this, repentant sinners will be restored to a state like Adam and Eve before they sinned! Until that time arrives, the Holy Spirit is given “as a deposit.” To keep repentant sinners from growing weary and discouraged by the unrelenting war between their two natures, Paul wrote, “**So Christ himself gave [His people] the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, *attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.***”²

1. Hebrews 8:10-12, insertion mine

2. Ephesians 4:11-13, insertion and italics mine

If you look, you will see the Christian community has not arrived at “unity in the faith” or “in the knowledge of the Son of God.” Christians are more divided than ever! You will also notice the Christian community has not attained “to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” because each born-again person still sins when his nature gets the best of him. Thankfully, this sad condition is not permanent. Paul wrote to the new believers in Ephesus saying, **“When you believed [in Jesus], you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who *is a deposit* guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.”**¹

Just before the Great Tribulation begins, Jesus will select and empower 144,000 individuals as servants.² They will consist of men and women.³ The 144,000 will be the first to have their sinful natures removed. Thereby, the *deposit* of the Holy Spirit will be made full. They will be first to **“reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, *attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*”**⁴ For this reason, they are called “firstfruits” of the coming harvest in Revelation 14:4!

A few days prior to Day One of the Great Tribulation, the first living people to be judged will be the 144,000. As Jesus passes judgment on each in this group, He will remove the sinful nature of that person. Each member of the 144,000 will begin their service having natures like Adam and Eve before they sinned! They will have no propensity for sin. The *deposit* of the Holy Spirit will be given to them in full measure and their lives of struggling with the two natures will be over. Their new condition will be sealed⁵ and they will be in perfect unity in their knowledge of the Son of God; they will have attained to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ through the fulfillment of His promise to, write My laws in their minds and hearts.

The good news for all who will not be among the 144,000 is those firstfruits will be a living demonstration of what Jesus is preparing

1. Ephesians 1:13-14, insertion and italics mine

2. Revelation 7:1-8

3. Joel 2:28-29

4. Ephesians 4:13

5. For more information on the sealing, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

to do for all repentant saints during the Great Tribulation! When Jesus appears at the Second Coming, an astonishing event will occur: **“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, *we shall be like him*, for we shall see him as he is.”**¹ Note, the saints **“shall be like Him.”**

Long ago, God promised to transform His people and *the deposit* of the Holy Spirit has been a foretaste of what is coming. God promised Ezekiel, **“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”**²

One final point needs to be made. Paul explains how Jesus deals with billions of repentant sinners who have died before the time for their sinful nature to be removed. When the dead in Christ are resurrected, **“This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”**³

This is how God resolves the angel’s second question, “Once a sinless nature is transformed into a sinful nature, how does the reverse occur?” God performs a miracle in every repentant sinner in two phases. First, there is the miracle of rebirth and second, the deposit of the Holy Spirit. For those who live during the judgment of the living, there will be a sealing: the removal of the sinful nature so all of God’s children rise up to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Jesus Severely Tested

Jesus was born with a sinless nature, the same nature given to Adam and Eve when they were created. As the “second Adam,”⁴

1. 1 John 3:2, italics mine

2. Ezekiel 36:26-27

3. 1 Corinthians 15:53-54, NKJV

4. 1 Corinthians 15:45

Jesus had to face temptation and succeed where Adam failed. Moreover, the Father foreknew Lucifer would claim Jesus had a huge advantage over people having a sinful nature. So, to make Christ's victory over sin and to create the righteousness needed to save repentant sinners, the Father substantially raised the bar! He required Jesus to face temptations that go *far beyond* any temptation human beings will ever face.

Jesus grew up as an ordinary child. He had to grow into the realization He was the Son of God.¹ He had no visions or dreams we know of. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, and His parents, Jesus discovered His identity and declared *His faith* at the age of 12!² It appears from Scripture memories of His preexisting life as a member of the Godhead were largely kept from Him while on Earth.

According to the Bible, the first time the Father acknowledged Jesus to be His Son was at His baptism at the age of 30.³ Immediately following, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to contemplate His mission. There was no food and it was late November. After Jesus fasted forty days, the devil appeared before a physically weakened Jesus. The devil is no fool. Lucifer knew his life and the lives of his fellow demons were at stake. If Jesus did not fall for one of his three temptations, Lucifer knew torture and death by fire was his assured future.⁴ Therefore, he put much thought into his approach and first temptation for Jesus.

The devil began an assault that, on the surface, appeared harmless by tempting Jesus to use a “tiny bit” of divine power. The devil knew this was forbidden, but wanted Jesus to *prove to Himself* that He was a member of deity by turning a few stones into bread. After all, Jesus was cold and weak from hypothermia and starvation!

I think the devil created the first temptation knowing self-preservation is one of the strongest motives for human beings. He

1. Luke 2:52

2. Luke 2:42-49

3. Matthew 3:17

4. Matthew 8:29

knew King David and his men ate the holy bread in the tabernacle without incurring guilt,¹ and thought Jesus might justify turning stones into bread to keep from dying. The devil knew Jesus could have easily turned the stones into bread by speaking the word. Lucifer hoped Jesus might use this as an excuse to briefly and innocently step outside the human limitations which the Father had imposed on Him, to prove to Himself He was indeed a member of deity. This temptation suggests that Jesus did not have memories of His preexisting life in heaven. Of course, the devil knew who Jesus was, but Jesus only knew that He was the Son of God through faith! All in all, this was a very clever temptation which Jesus immediately perceived.

The first temptation Jesus faced in the wilderness proves He was not and is not a human being like us. Jesus is a member of deity who had the *form* and limitations of humanity for thirty-three years. **“So it is written: ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam [Jesus], a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.”**²

Just before His crucifixion, Jesus willingly endured a cruel beating when He could have easily “broken out” of the limitations of humanity and “turned the table” on His enemies. He could have escaped the cross because He had the power within Himself to stop the torture and destroy His enemies. I believe the *third greatest* temptation Jesus faced happened *almost every* day of His adult life. Would He stay on Earth and remain within the limitations of humanity? Would He, in a careless moment of righteous indignation, use divine power for personal benefit? Would He endure ridicule and loneliness? What friend could understand the thoughts and feelings of Jesus? Have you noticed when Jesus chose His disciples, not one was a childhood friend? At all times and under all circumstances, the Plan of Salvation required Jesus to remain submissive to the will of the Father and incredibly, He did! The life and faith of Jesus is a profound study. His life and teaching show us how patience, love, faith, grace, and

1. 1 Samuel 21:6; Mark 2:25-26

2. 1 Corinthians 15:45-47, insertion mine

God's laws work together in perfect harmony. The life of Jesus also reveals the great gulf that exists between being filled with the Holy Spirit and being controlled by the sinful nature.

While on the Cross

Before His death, Jesus told His disciples **“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”**¹ Jesus went to the cross believing He would be resurrected on the third day. This thought, I am sure, was of great comfort. However, while Jesus was hanging on the cross, the Father did something odd that totally shocked Jesus. The Father disconnected Himself from Jesus as though Jesus were a wicked man. **“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become [have] the righteousness of God.”**² When the Holy Spirit withdrew the Father's presence from Jesus, Jesus was shaken to His core. He cried out, **“In a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ (which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’).”**³

The Father sent Jesus to the cross to test Him: Would Jesus fulfill the *first* law of love? Did Jesus love the Father with all of His heart, mind, and soul? Would He do what the Father wanted Him to do? This was *the greatest* temptation Jesus faced. The Father wanted Jesus to perish on the cross so His blood would *transfer* the divine righteousness of Jesus and the eternal life that formerly belonged to Jesus to repentant sinners. As Jesus hung on the cross, He proved to the Father and the holy angels that He loved the Father with all of His heart, mind, and soul, and was willing to die.

The Father also sent Jesus to the cross because He wanted to know if Jesus would fulfill the *second* law of love. Did Jesus love sinners as much as He loved Himself? This was the second greatest temptation Jesus faced. Would Jesus be willing to perish *forever* so repentant sinners could have His eternal life? The Father

1. Luke 9:22

2. 2 Corinthians 5:21, insertion mine

3. Mark 15:34

tested Jesus with this law when Jesus was at His weakest. When Jesus was about to perish, the Father unexpectedly and suddenly *transferred* the guilt of sinners to Jesus. The Father made Jesus a sinner and Jesus was traumatized by the process! Immediately, Jesus realized He was about to die the death of a wicked man (the penalty for sin is the second death) from which there is no hope of resurrection. True, Jesus had predicted His resurrection on the third day, however, while He was on the cross, when the Father and the Holy Spirit separated themselves from Him, Jesus entered a state that He had never known. Unexpectedly, He faced the second death, the same death that will be imposed on Lucifer and wicked people at the end of the thousand years. According to the Father's infinite wisdom, this extreme test was imposed on Jesus during His final moments because it was the best way to know how much Jesus loved sinners. Jesus cried out to the Father with anguish in His voice, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

The Father sent Jesus to the cross for a third reason. He wanted Jesus to experience the horror of the second death from which there is no hope of resurrection. If Jesus is to serve as judge of mankind, the Father wanted Him to experience this before condemning anyone to the second death. When Jesus cried, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** I am sure all heaven stood still and the silence was suffocating. The holy angels did not understand what was happening. Even Lucifer and his demons paused to see what the Father was doing. After a few moments, **“Jesus called out *with a loud voice*, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”**¹

Notice that Jesus cried out “with a loud” voice. Given the horrible beating and trauma He had endured and the fact He was unable to carry His own cross, how could He speak with a loud voice in the last minute of His life? Jesus cried out with His divine voice, the same voice that days earlier had raised Lazarus from the dead.² The Father had approved the use of divine power to raise Lazarus so everyone would know Jesus has the power of life within Himself.

1. Luke 23:46, italics mine

2. John 11:43

Hanging on the cross, deity did what only deity could do. A member of deity perished because another member of deity required it. Jesus' last words were words of *incredible faith*, **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”** When we consider Jesus willingly went to the cross, was unexpectedly separated from the Father by the guilt of sin, and felt sure there was no hope of resurrection, it is mind-boggling to realize He refrained from using divine power to immediately save Himself! His love for the Father and sinners vetoed that temptation.

Even though Jesus did not understand what the Father was doing, He did not become angry; neither did He retaliate or accuse the Father of misconduct. As the darkness of eternal death hopelessly closed in, Jesus maintained complete faith in the Father. He knew the Father was watching every twitch He made and accepted the Father's will by putting His life into the Father's hands. A member of deity perished that day. One member of the Godhead—the Creator Himself—*willingly died on a cross*.

Jesus infinitely demonstrated the first and second main commandments.¹ No wonder Paul would later write, **“Therefore God [the Father has] exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**²

Can Deity Die?

For centuries Christians have argued the question, “Did deity really perish on the cross?” Catholics and many Protestants believe deity cannot die. They believe Christ's *humanity* died, but cannot accept *deity* died because they do not believe Jesus is a fully separate, distinct, equal, and coeternal God who existed with the Father from the beginning.³ Their explanation for the Trinity puts the Bible in a state of internal conflict. This is unacceptable.

1. Matthew 22:37-39

2. Philippians 2:9-11, insertion mine

3. Fact 4 in Appendix A

Before we proceed, consider this question: “Which death makes salvation more expensive: The death of a human being or the actual death of a deity?” I have framed this question to highlight an important point: Prior to His birth and living in the *form* of a man, an infinite and coeternal member of deity lived in the *form* of an angel as Michael, the archangel.¹ The Bible says mankind was created lower than the angels.² Therefore, even if Christ’s humanity were all that died on the cross, the death of a volunteer angel would have had greater value than Christ’s humanity.

The Father designed the salvation of repentant sinners so that it required an unimaginable price, the life of a self-existing member of deity. No one took Jesus’ life; He gave it up willingly.³ This elevates the Plan of Salvation to the highest possible price and it makes the transfer doctrine unassailable. The death of a deity elevates the love of the Father and Jesus to a higher plane than finite beings will ever comprehend; and as eternity unfolds, the infinite price paid for repentant sinners will grow in understanding as everyone sees more of the greatness and largeness of the Godhead! The voluntary and willing death of a member of deity proves Jesus wholeheartedly agrees; the Father’s five laws are unforgiving and changeless.

The death of a member of deity is in complete harmony with the whole of Scripture which teaches Tritheism (the existence of three separate Gods).⁴ Jesus said, **“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”**⁵ Jesus also said, **“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me [men may attempt to kill me, but they cannot because I am deity], but I lay it down of my own accord [I can do this and am willing to do this]. I have authority [permission from the Father] to lay it down and authority [permission] to take it up again [if I want to]. This command I received from my Father.”**⁶

1. For more information on Jesus/Michael, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

2. Psalm 8:5

3. John 10:18

4. For more information on the Trinity, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

5. John 5:21

6. John 10:17-18, insertions mine

Finally, sixty-five years after His ascension, Jesus appeared to John on the isle of Patmos. He spoke as God¹ and said plainly of Himself **“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades [the grave].”**² He clearly states that He was dead! True to His word, the Father not only restored Jesus to life,³ but He also restored everything Jesus once had and more! Jesus prayed, **“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.”**⁴

1. Revelation 21:7

2. Revelation 1:17-18, insertion mine

3. Romans 6:4; Acts 10:40

4. John 17:6

Chapter 7

The War in Heaven

Many Christians do not realize God cast Lucifer and his angels out of heaven twice! They were cast out before Earth was created and on Resurrection Sunday. The Bible does not mention any war when Lucifer and his followers were cast out the first time; the Father simply cast them out by the power of His word.¹ Their exit happened so fast they had no time to respond. **“Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.”**²

After Adam and Eve sinned, Lucifer became the prince of this world. As such, he and some of his angels were permitted to attend administrative meetings in heaven concerning Earth. At one meeting, Jesus and the devil had a discussion about Job. **“One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the Lord, ‘From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.’ Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.’ ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’ Satan replied. ‘Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.’”**³

When the loyal angels saw Lucifer’s attempt to kill baby Jesus at birth, they knew Jesus was on a dangerous mission. Later,

1. Luke 10:18
2. Ezekiel 28:17
3. Job 1:6-11

when the devil offered the world to Jesus if He would bow down and worship him,¹ the heavenly angels realized Lucifer coveted the worship that belonged to Jesus. They immediately recognized his lies and the arguments he had used to conceal his true motive. After the holy angels witnessed the cruelty Lucifer inflicted on Jesus before going to the cross, outrageous indignation filled heaven! If there had been an ounce of sympathy remaining among heaven's angels for Lucifer and their fallen friends, it vanished at the cross.

Dethroning the Prince of This World

Have you ever wondered why Jesus ascended to heaven early on resurrection morning only to return to Earth that afternoon?² Or, what the devil and his angels were doing in heaven that morning? After He was resurrected, Jesus was immediately summoned to heaven to publicly and legitimately dethrone Lucifer as “the prince of this world.”³ Lucifer and his powerful demons had done everything possible to keep this from happening, but Jesus had decisively defeated them, “fair and square.”

Imagine the following proceedings with me. Jesus' triumph was cause for a victory parade heaven had not ever witnessed! Billions of holy angels lined both sides of the golden boulevard that entered the Holy City and led to the Father's throne. The angelic host on one side of the street sang out and the other group responded with adoration and praise:

“Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty – He is the King of glory.”⁴

1. Luke 4:7

2. Luke 24:13-31

3. John 12:31

4. Psalm 24:7-10

When the procession accompanying Jesus reached the Father's throne there was a pause and, for the fourth time since Jesus was born of Mary, the Father spoke. He bestowed His approval of Jesus saying, **"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."**¹ The rejoicing that followed this declaration was greater than anything that had ever happened in heaven. Spontaneously, the joyous angels erupted, singing the processional over and over. Jubilation and applause followed. Jesus' victory could not be celebrated enough.

Finally, the Father signaled for silence. heaven stood still. The Father spoke from His unapproachable light and called Jesus to His throne. Jesus ascended and knelt before the Father who spoke again: "Jesus has secured the salvation of sinners; overcame each temptation; lived a perfect life; suffered beyond the pale that sin imposes; proved on the cross He loves Me with all of His heart, mind, and soul; and proved He loves His neighbors as Himself. Therefore, on the basis of His love, faith, patient endurance, and infinite sacrifice, Jesus has redeemed Earth and is hereby declared King of Earth."

The Father continued: **"Your throne, O God [the Father calls Jesus, "God" because Jesus is a coeternal member of deity], will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions [you lived among the angels as one of them and among human beings as one of them, from now on I am setting you above your companions as their King] by anointing you with the oil of joy."**²

When the Father finished speaking, heaven's arches burst with joy! The Father was thrilled to give Jesus the Earth as His personal kingdom for eternity,³ and the holy angels knew He deserved it. The declaration "King of Earth" is significant because it meant the 4,000 years of Lucifer's authority as "prince of this world" was terminated. What was stolen from the first Adam was redeemed by the second.⁴

1. Matthew 3:17, KJV

2. Psalm 45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8-9, insertions mine

3. Revelation 1:5-6; Daniel 7:14; John 17:6

4. Romans 5:12-19

The sight of Lucifer and his followers was deeply offensive and disgusting to the holy angels. Their former friends were despicable beyond words. The devil realized he no longer had diplomatic access to heaven. His title had been revoked. He was embarrassed. His doom was sealed. He had lost everything except his hatred for Jesus and the Father, and his fellow angels who would also suffer their master's fate. The tables had turned so suddenly. On Friday afternoon, they were thrilled to see Jesus die. They did their best to seal His tomb. About 40 hours later, Jesus had been declared, "King of Earth." Lucifer could do nothing to change this fundamental reality.

After Jesus' coronation, the Father invited Jesus to sit on a specially prepared throne located at the right hand of His own throne. After taking His seat, every eye was eager to see what would happen next. Jesus turned to His adversary and declared the charge of treason. Punishment was eternal banishment from heaven. After this announcement, Jesus commanded the devil and his followers to leave heaven. Lucifer and his angels rebelliously resisted. When the sinful nature is stripped of its selfishness, all that remains are hateful resistance, lies, and revenge.

"Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down'"¹

I believe after evicting Lucifer, Jesus entered into the Father's unapproachable light for a personal meeting to confer on matters they had agreed upon when Adam and Eve sinned. Afterward, Jesus and the Father embraced. Jesus then returned to Earth for forty days. Jesus needed to prepare His disciples for their future,

1. Revelation 12:7-10

and the Father wanted people to see for themselves that Jesus was, in fact, alive.¹

Resurrection Sunday Time Line

Shortly before His death, Jesus predicted Lucifer would be expelled from heaven: **“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out [of heaven].”**²

Following is the time line presented in the Bible:

The Father resurrected Jesus before sunrise.³ Jesus waited near the tomb for Mary so she could tell His disciples of His resurrection, but He did not have time to visit: **“Jesus said [to Mary], ‘Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’”**⁴

Jesus returned to Earth that afternoon. **“Now that same day [of His resurrection] two of them [the disciples of Jesus] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.”**⁵

After Jesus disappeared at the table, these two disciples returned quickly to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. **“They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, ‘It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’”**⁶

Later that night, while the disciples were hiding, Jesus appeared: **“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of**

1. 1 Corinthians 15:6

2. John 12:31, insertion mine

3. John 20:1; Acts 2:24, 32; 4:10

4. John 20:17, insertion mine

5. Luke 24:13-16

6. Luke 24:33-34

the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’”¹

Jesus remained on Earth for forty days. The Father wanted to ensure that Jesus’ resurrection would not become buried within the lies of the Jews.² Years later, Paul wrote, **“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”**³

When Jesus ascended to heaven the second time, Jesus was given, once again, a hero’s welcome because He arrived with some firstfruits from the grave. **“This is why it says: ‘When he ascended on high, he took many captives [from the grave] and gave gifts to his people [on Earth below, 1 Corinthians 14].’”**⁴ The Bible does not say outright the captives Jesus took to heaven were those resurrected when He died, but I believe this to be the case: **“At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.”**⁵ I also think the twenty-four elders which John saw in vision⁶ were selected from among the people who ascended with Jesus.

1. John 20:19-21

2. Matthew 28:11-15

3. 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, insertion mine

4. Ephesians 4:8, insertions mine

5. Matthew 27:51-53

6. Revelation 4:4

King and High Priest!

A theocracy is a form of government where church and state are combined. Earth's history proves this type of government has no practical difference from communism. Looking back a thousand years, history of the Catholic Church, Anglican Church, and Ottoman Empire are perfect examples of what happens when the power of state is controlled by religious leaders. Communist dictators are no different than religious dictators. Modern examples of the Taliban and ISIS demonstrate this. To keep Israel from developing a church/state, God kept the two powers separate. The king could not serve as a priest or high priest and a high priest could not serve as king. A couple of kings tried to fulfill both roles and God punished them for it.¹ God forbade Israel from establishing a church/state because He knew the sinful nature of man. Lord Acton was correct when he wrote in 1887, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

The kingdom the Father gave to Jesus will be a theocracy when He establishes it on the new Earth. Jesus will be its King and High Priest. The church and government will be on His capable shoulders. He is a member of deity and knows how to manage a kingdom according to the Father's five laws. Jesus' kingdom will be a joy for everyone because He is a God of infinite love, just like the Father.

Apostle Paul desperately wanted his kinsmen to abandon the Levitical priesthood and receive Jesus as their high priest. He wrote: **"Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. . . no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God [the Father] said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.' [Psalm 2] And he [the Father] says in another place [in Scripture], 'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.' [Psalm 110:4] During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers**

1. 2 Chronicles 26; 1 Kings 13

and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son [subject to the Father as are we], though he was, he learned [experienced patient endurance through] obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect [after He had overcome every temptation], he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.”¹

Paul used Melchizedek, a well-known person in Jewish history, to help Jewish converts understand how Jesus could legitimately be both king and high priest: “This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means ‘king of righteousness’; then also, ‘king of Salem’ means ‘king of peace.’ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he [the Son of God] remains a priest forever. . . . and what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life”²

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. . . . But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.”³

The conflict between Jesus and the devil is not over. Three great wars between them are yet future. The first war will occur

1. Hebrews 5:1-10, insertions mine

2. Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-16, insertion mine

3. Hebrews 4:15; 10:12-13

during the Great Tribulation and lasts 42 months.¹ This war will kill many, if not most, of God's saints.² The second war is called Armageddon.³ The third and final war will occur at the end of the thousand years.⁴ Of course, the devil and his forces will be defeated and ultimately destroyed; therefore, their only remaining interest in these coming wars is the collateral damage they cause. Demons are delighted with the prospect of destroying as many people as possible. Their game plan is simple: inflict as much carnage, torture, pain, sorrow, suffering, and death as possible.

The War in Heaven Dated

The Bible indicates that the war described in Revelation 12:7-9 occurred on Resurrection Sunday.^{5,6} Many Christians erroneously think this war occurred before Adam and Eve sinned, but according to Scripture, this is not possible. Here is why:

When Jesus cast Lucifer out of heaven, a powerful declaration was heard throughout heaven's court: **"Then I [John] heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now [at this time] have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah [anointed one].'"**⁷ Using His Commander-in-Chief powers as Michael the archangel, Jesus and His angels drove Lucifer and his angels out of heaven's court, and a victorious Jesus took over as Earth's representative in heaven's court. The angel continues: **"For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."**⁸ Consider this sentence again. Lucifer is called the accuser "of our brothers and sisters." The angels call the saints "our brothers and sisters!"

Think about this. If the war in Revelation 12:7 occurred *before* Adam and Eve sinned, there would be no "brothers" for Lucifer

1. Revelation 13:5

2. Revelation 9:15; 6:9

3. Revelation 16:12-16

4. Revelation 20:7-10

5. April 9, A.D. 30

6. For more information on God's timing, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

7. Revelation 12:10; Matthew 28:18, insertions mine

8. Revelation 12:10

to accuse. Lucifer's accusations began after Adam and Eve sinned. Lucifer taunted God from time to time, that His government was unfair because He granted grace and redemption to repentant sinners, but not to himself or his rebellious angels. These accusations were baseless because God tried many times and waited patiently for the devil and his angels to repent but they would not. Twice in the Bible, Lucifer is rebuked for promoting baseless arguments.¹

Revelation 12:10 is a punctiliar declaration: "**Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God.**" This declaration could only be made after the price for man's salvation had been paid. When Jesus walked out of the tomb, the devil and his angels realized their fate and they had no intention of yielding to an honorable defeat. The devil would not give up his seat in heaven's court as "the prince of this world" to anyone, particularly someone he loathed. The only way the devil would surrender his position was through force, and that is exactly what happened. Jesus and His angels fought and forced the devil and his angels out of heaven!

Consider the next verse and notice that the last word is "short." This word is significant in this context because Lucifer's demise is coming. If Lucifer was 100,000 years old when he was cast out of heaven on Resurrection Sunday, another 3,000 years (counting from the death of Jesus to the end of the 1,000 years in Revelation 20) is "short" indeed. "**Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them** [because Jesus has prevailed and the devil has been cast out of here forever]! **But woe to the earth and the sea** [the whole world], **because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his [remaining] time is short.**"²

The Bible indicates the war in Revelation 12:7-9 took place *after* Jesus was born. Study the chronology that is declared in this text: "**When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman *who had given birth to the male child.***"³ We can easily chart verse 13.

1. Zechariah 3:2; Jude 1:9

2. Revelation 12:12, insertions mine

3. Revelation 12:13, italics mine

 The Time Line of Revelation 12:13



- A. The birth of Jesus
- B. The death of Jesus
- C. The devil cast out of heaven
- D. The beginning of the 1,260 years
- E. Deadly wound inflicted on papacy

There is no wiggle room. Verse 13 says *after* the devil was cast out of heaven, he chased the woman who had given birth to the male child. Therefore, the war in Revelation 12:7 had to occur between 4 B.C. and A.D. 538 (the beginning of the 1,260 years).

There is one more passage in Scripture that we need to consider. A few hours before His arrest and death, Jesus went to the temple and said, “**Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name! Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.’ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, ‘This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now [at this time] is the time for judgment on this world [that is, the moment of truth has now come to see who will win the contest for Earth]; now [at this time] the prince of this world will be driven out [of heaven. He will lose his seat in heaven’s court as Earth’s representative].**”¹

John 12 reveals three facts. First, Revelation 12:10 is a punctiliar announcement, “**Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.**”² This declaration could only be made after the price for salvation had

1. John 12:27-31, insertions mine
 2. Revelation 12:10, italics mine

been paid, and the devil had been permanently cast out. When God clothes a repentant sinner with the perfect life of Jesus, the devil cannot say a word. In theological terms, the angel said, "Justification has silenced the accuser of our brothers and sisters."

Second, Revelation 12:13 allows no wiggle room. The war described in Revelation 12:7-9 occurred between 4 B.C. (the birth of Jesus) and A.D. 538 (the beginning of the 1,260 years).

Third, shortly before His death, Jesus predicted in John 12:27-31 the prince of this world "**will be driven out** [of heaven]." Putting these three facts together, the following passage makes perfect sense: "**At this, she [Mary] turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her [in a familiar voice], 'Mary.' [She knew that voice.] She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher'). Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'**"¹

Jesus returned to the Father so He could take His rightful place and permanently drive the devil out of heaven. The Father had promised to give this world to Jesus if He would carry out the Plan of Salvation and Jesus was eager to receive His inheritance. Even though Jesus gave up His life and had obeyed the Father's will perfectly, Lucifer was unwilling to yield his position to Jesus. His loathing and hatred for Jesus produced the second war in heaven.

When we consider the long conflict between Christ and Satan, this warning is easy to understand: "**But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.**"²

1. John 20:14-17, insertions mine

2. Revelation 12:12

Let us review Lucifer's failures:

- Lucifer and one-third of the angels rebelled against God. Failed.
- Lucifer deceived Eve. Adam also fell. Lucifer became prince of this world. Success.
- Lucifer led the antediluvians to defy God. Success.
- Lucifer led the Israelites into apostasy over and over. Success.
- Lucifer tried to kill Jesus at birth. Failed.
- Lucifer tried to tempt Jesus (at His weakest moment) to worship him. Failed.
- Lucifer tried to keep Jesus in the tomb by sealing it with a huge stone. Failed.
- Lucifer tried to keep his position in heaven's government. Failed.
- Lucifer tried to keep the truth about Christ's resurrection a secret. Failed.
- Lucifer tried to destroy the woman for 1,260 years, because he loathed Christ's gospel. Failed.
- Lucifer has instigated endless wars, pain, sorrow, illness, and death. Success.
- Lucifer will attack the saints in an upcoming war. Success.

Jesus is waiting for the time to arrive when He will say, **“There will be no more delay!”**¹ With God, timing is everything.

Ultimately, God will annihilate Lucifer and his demons with fire and the universe will finally have peace.

1. Revelation 10:6

Chapter 8

Jesus Exalted

After Jesus produced the righteousness needed to save repentant sinners, He was summoned to heaven to be declared “King of *Earth*.” Centuries later, after being found worthy, the Father exalted Jesus again by declaring Jesus to be “Ruler of *heaven* and *Earth*.” The Father, with this declaration, relinquished His throne and sovereign authority to Jesus. For the past 200+ years, unknown to millions of Christians, Jesus has reigned on the throne of the universe as “King of kings and Lord of lords.” This is an important part of the *untold story of Jesus*, but it does not affect our prayers because praying to the Father is always appropriate.¹ Since 1798, the Holy Spirit has merely redirected our prayers to Jesus because Jesus *temporarily* rules the universe. This is the Father’s will!²

Jesus will continue to reign as almighty God until the end of the 1,000 years. After creating a new heaven and a new Earth, Jesus will give sovereign authority back to the Father so the Father may once again be, “King of kings and Lord of lords.”³ I realize the exaltation of Jesus is a new topic for many Christians, so a healthy amount of skepticism is expected and an open mind is required. Consider these four passages from the Bible:

1. Daniel saw Jesus given authority, glory, and sovereign power: **“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man** [This vision was given ~600 years before Jesus was born. The significance for us is Daniel saw Jesus as a *son of man* long before Jesus entered the *form* of a man.], **coming with the clouds of heaven** [Daniel is not describing the Second Coming. This setting occurred in heaven when the little horn on Earth had fulfilled 1,260 years of power. Because He is the archangel and a member of deity, Jesus is surrounded by a host of holy angels which

1. Matthew 6:9

2. Ephesians 1:9-10

3. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

looked like the “clouds of heaven” to Daniel.]. **He approached the Ancient of Days [the Father] and was led into his presence.** [After He was found worthy - Revelation 5.] **He was given authority, glory and sovereign power;** [and a time will come when] **all nations and peoples of every language [will worship] worshiped him. His dominion [will be] is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom [of priests - Revelation 1:6] is one that will never be destroyed.”¹**

2. John also saw Jesus given power in 1798 that He did not possess previously. Notice seven attributes of power given to Jesus after He was found worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals: **“In a loud voice they were saying: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive [1] power and [2] wealth and [3] wisdom and [4] strength and [5] honor and [6] glory and [7] praise!’ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea [Psalms 145:21, a phrase indicating universal praise – obviously people on Earth or under the Earth (in their graves) knew nothing about this event], and all that is in them, singing: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’ The four living creatures said, ‘Amen [so be it],’ and the [24] elders fell down and worshiped.”²**
3. Bible scholars believe Paul wrote the book of Ephesians about A.D. 62. Paul knew, at the time, the Father planned to give Jesus sovereign authority at a future time. Consider Paul’s words: **“He [the Father] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times [when the years] will have reached their fulfillment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”³**

1. Daniel 7:13-14, NIV 1984 edition, insertions and italics mine

2. Revelation 5:12-14, insertions mine

3. Ephesians 1:9-10, NIV 1984 edition, insertions mine

4. Paul also knew a time would come when Jesus would return the sovereign authority the Father had given Him: **“Then the end will come, when he [Jesus] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he [Jesus] has destroyed all dominion, authority and power [at the end of the 1,000 years]. For he [Jesus] must reign [as almighty God] until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”**

“For he [the Father] ‘has put everything under his [Jesus]’ feet.’ Now when it says that ‘everything’ has been put under him [Jesus], it is clear that this does not include God [the Father] himself, who put everything under Christ [when He was found worthy in 1798 and given sovereign power]. When he [Jesus] has done this [destroyed death, the last enemy], then the Son himself will be made subject to him [the Father] who put everything under him, so that God [the Father] may be all in all [the Sovereign Ruler of the universe once again].”¹

Now that you have considered the *transfer* of sovereign authority between the Father and Jesus, you can easily resolve an *apparent* conflict! In 1 Timothy 6:15, Paul says the Father *alone* is “King of kings and Lord of lords, but, in Revelation 19:16, John saw Jesus wearing the title “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” at the Second Coming. This *apparent* conflict is resolved by the *transfer* of sovereign authority in 1798. When we know all the bits and pieces the Bible teaches, it makes perfect sense just as it reads!

Why Was Jesus Exalted?

When the time arrived to enter the final phase of His plan to save repentant sinners, the Father assembled the angels and conducted a search to see who was qualified to bring the sin problem to a close. After scrutinizing everyone in the universe, Jesus alone was found worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals. After He received the book, it became known as, “The Lamb’s Book of Life.”²

1. 1 Corinthians 15:27-28, NIV 1984 edition, insertions mine

2. Revelation 13:8; 21:27

The Father gave Jesus sovereign authority over heaven and Earth because Jesus needs it to accomplish the objective that goes with opening each of the book's seals! The Father recused Himself from ruling the universe and took "a back seat" for these four reasons:

1. Before anything was created, the Father foreknew sin would occur and, according to His plan, Jesus would play the central role in saving sinners. Because Jesus lived in the form of an angel in heaven and then a pauper on Earth, the Father predetermined everyone would eventually see that Jesus is actually a deity like Himself. The exposure of *all that Jesus is* began unfolding in heaven in 1798.

Soon, Jesus will open the fourth seal. This act and the ministry of the 144,000 will dramatically reveal Jesus is almighty God. This process of breaking the seven seals is called the "revelation of Jesus Christ" and the details are outlined in the book of Revelation. At the end of the 1,000 years, there will be a glorious climax to the revelation of Jesus. At that time, and only at that time, everyone who has ever lived on Earth will be alive. Jesus will appear on a great white throne with the Father before an innumerable host of people and angels. Both Gods will be glorified with the brilliance and sovereign power that normally attends the Father. Jesus will be seated beside the Father who will announce Jesus is no longer the Son of God. He is an almighty God: a self-existing member of deity like Himself. The Father will also declare Jesus as His equal in every way; therefore, everyone will be required to bow down and worship the Creator for who He is! This declaration is the third law of the universe!

**"It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge [that Jesus Christ is an Almighty] God.'"¹
"Therefore God [the Father] exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and**

1. Romans 14:11, insertion mine

every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord [sovereign], to the glory of God the Father.”¹

Can you imagine the loathing, the cursing, the grief, and the shame this announcement will cause? Lucifer and his demons will be required to bow before Jesus! Millions of wicked people will be aghast when they see who Jesus really is! What will they say when they see those they hated, persecuted, and put to death standing around Jesus? Imagine the consternation of those who crucified Jesus and the fear that will fill the hearts of those who put the 144,000 to death when they see the 144,000 glorified with Jesus and the Father. What a day of reckoning that will be when false religions of the world are confronted with the truth about Jesus!

It is important to understand *why* the Father wants Jesus fully exposed as a member of deity. The Father is not a dictator driven to consolidate His power and protect His throne. Instead, the Father wants the universe to know He has an equal who can rule from the throne just as well as Himself. What does this say of the Father’s humility? What does this say about the trust and love He places in Jesus?

2. The Father transferred sovereign power to Jesus in 1798 so Jesus could open two seals prior to 1844. Jesus broke the third seal on The Lamb’s Book of Life in 1844 and since that time, has been going through the books of records, carefully investigating the life of each person who lived on Earth.

Maybe the first person to be judged was Abel since he was the first person to die. As Jesus examines each life’s record, He considers all facts: What a person believed to be right and wrong; what a person believed God’s will was; a person’s honesty, integrity, and love for God and man; and the person’s choices, actions, words, thoughts, and motives. Jesus looks for evidence proving a person is a repentant sinner. For the past 175+ years, billions of angels have been present in heaven’s courtroom, closely watching Jesus decide each case. Now that they have a working knowledge of good and evil

1. Philippians 2:9-11, insertions mine

and have lived a few thousand years observing the curse of sin on Earth, they are called to witness the “judgment seat of Christ.”¹

The Father wants the holy angels to understand His judicial system and government. He wants them to see how law, grace, faith, and love work together; to see His fairness and generosity for saving sinners. He also wants the angels to see why He cannot save some human beings. Therefore, any concern or question about the judgment of an individual is addressed. As they witness Jesus passing judgment, they know how much is at stake. They have observed the curse of sin on Earth for six thousand years. The reality and importance of heaven and eternal life mean everything to them. The Father is educating them with everlasting concepts they will not forget. This courtroom is their schoolroom. This education will allow the holy angels to testify throughout eternity about the love, grace, mercy, and justice of the Father.

Even though He is the Son of God, Jesus was not exalted to the position of “judge” on the basis of nepotism. Jesus was exalted on the basis of hard-earned qualifications:

- A. On the basis of His love for the Father, Jesus forfeited His remaining rights and prerogatives in order to save sinners. Jesus became “the son” (the subject) of God when Adam and Eve sinned and He willingly came to Earth to do the Father’s will.
- B. For no other reason than love for sinners, Jesus was willing to perish forever so repentant sinners could have the eternal life that once belonged to Him.
- C. Jesus faced temptation beyond what mankind will ever experience. In all cases, He was victorious. He produced the required righteousness every sinner needs for salvation and the Father has promised to transfer

1. 2 Corinthians 5:10; Daniel 7:9-10

Christ's righteousness to repentant sinners through the blood of the Lamb.

- D. Jesus demonstrated infinite love for the Father when He endured being mocked and beaten before going to the cross. He then demonstrated infinite love for sinners by staying on the cross and dying the second death, even though the Father shocked Jesus by forsaking Him.
 - E. Because Jesus suffered beyond anything sin can impose on an ordinary person, no one is more qualified to judge mankind. Because He is our Creator, no one is better qualified to be our judge. Because He was willing to lay down His eternal life and cease to exist, no one is better qualified to own the people He redeems. Finally, no one is better qualified to be king and high priest over an eternal kingdom than Jesus who saves to the utmost.¹
3. The Father stepped aside in 1798 so the curse of sin could be brought to an end by one who had experienced its miseries in His own body. Jesus was born on Earth and lived among sinners. He knows the human condition because He has walked in our shoes. The Father humbly stepped aside because He knew Jesus was qualified and could bring the Plan of Salvation to a close in such a way that would *never* raise any cause for accusation, scandal, or suspicion. Each act of the Father and Jesus in this drama (including the annihilation of angels and human beings) is legitimate, transparent, and righteous. It has to be because highly intelligent beings will scrutinize each detail for eternity.
 4. By giving His sovereign authority to Jesus, the Father proved to the universe He abides by the first commandment. He loves and trusts Jesus enough to give His throne to Him. This is the same love and trust Jesus put in the Father while on the cross. Their actions are so profound! The Holy Spirit is left out of the story intentionally. The silence of the third member of the Godhead reveals the reluctance of all three to be visible. Think about it. The Father is also invisible

1. Psalm 2:8; John 17:6; Revelation 1:6

even though He lives in unapproachable light. No one can see Him but the other two Gods. The Father does this to give His children an estimation of the powers that belong to all three deities. Like the Holy Spirit and the Father, Jesus is also invisible. He does live in the lowly form of a created being so the Godhead can fellowship with their children, but were He to reveal Himself as He really is, no one could look upon His brilliance.¹ The Godhead does not lord their abilities or powers over their creation. They reveal what is needed only when it is needed.

The Holy Spirit

There are a few examples in the Bible of how the Holy Spirit has proved He loves the other two deities and His neighbors as Himself. One in particular stands out. When the Godhead formed, the God who became the Holy Spirit also gave up two-thirds of His rights and prerogatives. He agreed to remain invisible forever and to never speak on His own; but to speak only what He was given.² When Jesus was beaten and hung on the cross, the Holy Spirit was outraged. He felt the same as anyone would when a loved one is treated cruelly; but the Holy Spirit surrendered His righteous indignation to the will of the Father at the cross. He could have instantly killed everyone participating in the crucifixion of Jesus, including Lucifer and his demons, because each member of deity has the ability to give life and take it.³ He could have destroyed them all with a single command, but He loves and trusts the Father to the point that, like Jesus, He complied with the Father's will and remained silent.

We know the Holy Spirit was present at Calvary. He was able to connect the heart of one thief to Jesus! He also connected with a Roman soldier! **“And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’”**⁴ The Holy Spirit has been present on Earth from the beginning,⁵ and has witnessed our every thought,

1. Exodus 33:20

2. John 16:13

3. Exodus 12:12; Acts 5:3-11; Romans 8:10

4. Mark 15:39

5. Genesis 1:2

word, and deed. He has seen every abuse and heard every cry, and yet, refused to act on His own. We are so blessed three deities love each other with all of their heart, mind, and soul and their neighbors as themselves. What a joy it will be to witness and study their amazing love and unconventional actions for eternity.

Jesus Received Sovereign Power

The Father gave Jesus sovereign power over heaven and Earth and recused Himself from the throne in 1798 for these four reasons: First, the Father foreknew there would be no better way to expose Jesus as a separate, distinct, equal, coeternal God than by giving Jesus sovereign authority to complete the Plan of Salvation. Second, the Father recused Himself from the throne so Jesus could be the sole judge of mankind. The Father ordained mankind be judged by “a man”¹ who has been tempted in all points just as we are.² Third, the Father gave Jesus His throne because He knows Jesus is better qualified to complete the Plan of Salvation than Himself. This shows the Father’s incredible humility! Finally, the Father recused Himself from the throne to demonstrate to the universe He loves and trusts Jesus with all of His heart, mind, and soul; the same totality Jesus demonstrated for the Father and mankind on the cross. At the end of sin’s drama, Jesus will return the sovereign authority so the Father “may be all in all.”³

1. Acts 17:31

2. Hebrews 4:15

3. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

Chapter 9

God of the Old Testament

One reason I titled this book *The Untold Story of Jesus* is because most Christians do not realize Jesus is the God who spoke for and represented the Father throughout the Old Testament. Jesus walked with Enoch,¹ walked with Noah and sent the flood,² visited with Abraham and Sarah,³ and introduced Himself to Moses at the burning bush.⁴ He is the one who passed over Egypt at midnight,⁵ met with Moses on Mt. Sinai,⁶ and delivered Israel out of Egypt.⁷ Jesus *spoke* the Ten Commandments from the mountain on behalf of the Father.⁸ He *spoke* to and through the Old Testament prophets. Jesus is the God who interfaced with mankind and spoke for the Father! He is called the “Word”⁹ and the “Word of God”¹⁰ for good reason. He is the God of the Old Testament.

To demonstrate this, consider the following four passages and, notice the phrase, “the First and the Last”:

1. **“When I saw him [that is, when John saw Jesus], I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid. *I am the First and the Last*. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades [the grave].’”**¹¹
2. **“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is *the First and the Last*, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions**

1. Genesis 5:22

2. Genesis 6 & 7

3. Genesis 17 & 18

4. Exodus 3:1-6

5. Exodus 12:12

6. Exodus 33:19-23

7. Exodus 12

8. Exodus 20

9. John 1

10. Revelation 19:13

11. Revelation 1:17-18, insertion and italics mine

and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not [see Romans 2:28, 29], but are a synagogue of Satan.”¹

3. **“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the First and the Last*, the Beginning and the End....I, Jesus, have sent my angel [Revelation 17:1; 19:9-10] to give you [John] this testimony for the [seven] churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David [I am both the Creator and son of David], and the bright Morning Star [I have dethroned Lucifer who once was the morning star - Isaiah 14:12, now I am the bright morning star].”²**
4. **“This is what the Lord [Jehovah] says—Israel’s King and Redeemer [John 12:13], the Lord [Jehovah] Almighty: *‘I am the First and I am the Last; apart from me there is no God.’*”³ Notice the English title “Lord” is used instead of “Jehovah.” This substitution exists throughout the Old Testament because early English translators wanted to substitute an English title for the Hebrew title “Yahweh or Jehovah.” The highest title in old English for someone having all authority is “Lord.” Today, we understand the Hebrew word “Yahweh” or “Jehovah” actually means, “self-existing, eternal God.” This is important to understand because Jesus and the Father are sometimes identified as “the Lord” in the Old Testament. Here are two instances:

 - A. **“The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against *the Lord* [Yahweh, Jehovah, the Father] and against his anointed [Jesus, His Son].”⁴ Clearly, in this passage, “the Lord” refers to the Father.****

Please read through the following passage several times and notice Jesus is given three titles: “The angel of the

1. Revelation 2:8-9, insertions and italics mine
 2. Revelation 22:12-13, 16, insertions and italics mine
 3. Isaiah 44:6, insertions and italics mine
 4. Psalm 2:2, insertions and italics mine

Lord [Michael],” “the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah],” and “God [Elohim].”

- B. “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord [Jesus in the form of an angel] appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, ‘I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.’ When the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah] saw that he had gone over to look, God [Elohim] called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God [Elohim] said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ Then he said, ‘I am the God [Elohim] of your father, the God [Elohim] of Abraham, the God [Elohim] of Isaac and the God [Elohim] of Jacob.’ At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God [Elohim].”¹

The Title “Jehovah” Begins

Later on, “God [Elohim] also said to Moses, ‘I am the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah, Sovereign God]. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah] I did not make myself fully known to them. I also established my covenant with them *to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners.*”² This passage contains three points that need our attention:

First, progressive revelation is declared. God revealed a new title to Moses that was previously unknown. (Paul also observed progressive revelation in his day.³) The patriarchs before Moses usually called God, “Elohim,” or “El Shaddai,” (meaning the Almighty). Now that the time had come to deliver Israel from

1. Exodus 3:1-6, insertions mine

2. Exodus 6:2-4, insertions and italics mine

3. Romans 16:25-26

Egypt and knowing this event would mark the beginning of a relationship with the offspring of Abraham which would endure forever, Jesus introduced a new title, “Jehovah,” which means “self-existing, eternal, sovereign God.”

Second, the covenant established with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was unilateral. The Father promised them He would do certain things that would occur long after their death; therefore, His promise was one-sided. Bilateral (two-sided) covenants become null and void if one party is unfaithful or dies (marriage), but a unilateral covenant remains in effect until the party making the covenant dies.

Since the Father promised a *unilateral* covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the covenant cannot end until it is fulfilled because the Father lives forever. Do not confuse the unilateral covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with the *bilateral* covenant given to Abraham’s descendants. This bilateral covenant would become null and void if the descendants were unfaithful.¹ In fact, the Bible teaches the Father terminated the bilateral covenant with Abraham’s biological offspring when Jesus was on Earth for that very reason.² Afterward, through Jesus, the Father initiated a new bilateral covenant³ because His unilateral covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob could not be cancelled. As a result, the Father redefined the seed (sperm) of Abraham so all He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be fulfilled: **“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**⁴

Third, in Exodus 6, *Elohim* (God) told Moses He had appeared to Abraham and Jacob. Either Jesus or the Father actually appeared to these men. We must rule out the Father because Jesus said, **“No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.”**⁵ Paul said the Father is invisible, **“The Son is the image of the *invisible***

1. Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28

2. Matthew 23

3. Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:8; Ephesians 2

4. Galatians 3:29

5. John 6:46

God, the firstborn [the preeminent One] over all creation.”¹ Paul also said of the Father, “**who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.**”² John added, “**No one *has ever seen* God [the Father], but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.**”³

Therefore, to avoid placing the Bible in a state of internal conflict when reading Exodus 6:2, the God who appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the God who spoke to Moses was Jesus. You may think this is a distinction without a difference because the Father spoke through Jesus. After all, He is the “Word.” The distinction is warranted because the God who spoke to Moses is the same God who would later be born of Mary, *the Holy One of Israel, Israel’s King and Redeemer*.

If we did not have the New Testament, it would be easy to ignore some of the *apparent* conflicts in the Old Testament and conclude the God of the Old Testament is the Father. However, the Bible contains more than one testament because the Father had more to say, more truth to reveal. The Father sent Jesus to Earth to speak for Him. He wanted to reveal the God of the Old Testament to the Jews and to reveal another member of deity. Sadly, Israel did not want more truth. For the Jews, it was impossible, outrageous, and blasphemous that a mere man, a poor man, an unremarkable person both in appearance and education should stand before them and claim to be equal with God!⁴ Ultimately, Jesus was crucified for blasphemy. What does their response to Jesus say about the impediments we have when understanding the Godhead?

Israel’s King and Redeemer

Let us review what Isaiah wrote: “**This is what the Lord [Jehovah] says—Israel’s King and Redeemer [John 12:13], the Lord [Jehovah] Almighty: *I am the First and I am the Last; apart from me there is no God.*”⁵**

1. Colossians 1:15, insertion and italics mine

2. 1 Timothy 6:16

3. John 1:18, insertion and italics mine

4. John 10:33

5. Isaiah 44:6, insertions and italics mine

Consider these four impressive points the Lord declared:

First, Isaiah 43 reveals Israel's King and Redeemer: **“This is what the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah] says—your Redeemer, *the Holy One of Israel*: ‘For your sake I will send to Babylon and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians, in the ships in which they took pride. I am the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah], your *Holy One, Israel’s Creator, your King.*”**¹

Second, Luke 1 reveals the Holy One of Israel: **“‘How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’ The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So *the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*”**²

Third, when Jehovah said in Isaiah 44:6, **“Apart from me there is no God,”** He was not speaking about the Godhead. If we are to keep from putting the Bible in a state of internal conflict,³ we must understand His declaration to mean *He is the only God* who interfaces with mankind on Earth. He is saying all other “earthly gods” are imaginary and have their origin in man’s imagination.

Fourth, seven hundred years after speaking to Isaiah, Jesus appeared to John and said: **“*I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!*”**⁴ Also, Jesus said to the church at Smyrna, **“These are the words of him who is *the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.*”**⁵

At the end of His visit with John on Patmos, Jesus said, **“*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End...I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches.*”**⁶ Jehovah, King, almighty God, and Redeemer who is “the First and Last” in Isaiah 44:6 can only be Jesus.

1. Isaiah 43:14-15, insertions and italics mine

2. Luke 1:34-35, italics mine

3. Example, Psalm 45:7; Hebrews 1:9

4. Revelation 1:17-18, italics mine

5. Revelation 2:8, italics mine

6. Revelation 22:13, 16, italics mine

Some people will say Jesus is speaking on behalf of the Father; others will say He is speaking about Himself. How can Jesus say He is “the First and the Last” if the Father and Holy Spirit were with Him in the beginning? This can seem confusing, I know, but there is actually a simple solution. The phrase “the First and the Last” could be understood in two ways: the singular or the plural. To state something in the singular, we could say, “the first child in line was a girl and the last was a boy.” In this example, a girl is first and a boy is last. If the phrase is spoken in the plural, we could say, “the first battalion of soldiers to arrive at the war front was the 75th Ranger Regiment and the last battalion was from the 25th Infantry. A battalion typically consists of 300 to 800 soldiers, so everyone in the 75th Ranger Regiment could say in this example that he was with the first soldiers to arrive at the front.

Because the Godhead consists of three deities, John says of Jesus, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”**¹ Each member of the Godhead can claim to be “the First and Last” because *Elohim* is plural. Three Gods existed before anything was created and each God will continue to exist should everything disappear! Tritheism does not put the Bible in a state of internal conflict.

Paul says that Jesus existed before anything was created: **“He [Jesus] is *before* all things, and in him all things hold together.”**² Moses said of Jesus, **“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”**³

Jesus is a self-existing deity who has no beginning or end! **“God [Elohim, Jesus] said to Moses, ‘I Am [from everlasting to everlasting, self-existing, this is] Who I Am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I Am has sent me to you.’”**⁴

1. John 1:1-2

2. Colossians 1:17, insertion and italics mine

3. Psalm 90:1-2

4. Exodus 3:14, insertions mine

The Father Wanted Israel to Live With the God of the Old Testament!

A larger book than the one you are holding could be dedicated to the topic of *Jesus, the God of the Old Testament*. I have briefly touched on the topic in this book because the fact plays an important part in the *untold story of Jesus*. It was the Father's original plan that Jesus, the God of the Old Testament, should come to Earth and permanently live among Abraham's descendants. This is a truly fascinating story; here is the short version:

According to Genesis 1, Jesus created the Earth in six days, but contrary to what many people believe, He was not finished on the sixth day! He created another day—the seventh day—as a gift for man.¹ He made the seventh day holy to ensure mankind would not forget or ignore it.² This act made the Sabbath unlike the other six days of the week. By making the seventh day holy, the Creator put mankind on notice it was obligatory to observe the seventh day. At that time, God's laws were written in the hearts and minds of Adam and Eve, not on stone. Nevertheless, God's Sabbath was a special delight each week. After Adam and Eve sinned, God's purpose for His Sabbath became even more important! Because the Father foreknew the natural hostility the sinful nature would have toward God's authority, He codified Sabbath observance in the Ten Commandments.³

When Adam and Eve sinned, Jesus created three curses: one on the serpent, one on Eve, and one on Adam.⁴ Consider the curse on Adam, specifically the italicized portion: **“To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; *through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.* It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. *By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you***

1. Mark 2:27-28

2. Genesis 2:1-3

3. Exodus 20:8-11

4. Genesis 3:14-19

will return.’”¹ The ground was cursed because of Adam’s willful sin. It does not produce as it once did; in fact, it requires *painful toil* to keep “thorns and thistles” from ruining crops. Keep this curse in mind for the next few paragraphs.

Jump forward in time about two thousand years. When God called Abraham out of Ur, God had a glorious plan in mind—far greater than Abraham could imagine. To start, God needed a man of faith who was childless. He also wanted to use the man as an example. God planned to give the man a choice piece of land and bless him with many children. God wanted to use Abraham to establish a *temporary* “kingdom of God” on Earth!

God planned His temporary kingdom would be an ideal place to live until the time came to establish a permanent kingdom. His temporary kingdom would reduce “the painful toil” required to grow food because the territory would be a land that “flowed with milk and honey.”² God’s temporary kingdom would have plenty of water and fertile soil, *the curse of painful toil* would be greatly reduced and, just as important, His kingdom would be a very safe place to live. “Jerusalem would be a city without walls!”³ The Father purposed to invite the whole world to come and live in His kingdom. All who loved God and trusted Him would gladly be accepted. However, I am a little ahead of the story.

When God called Abraham to leave home and live in Canaan, Canaan was filled with wicked and violent tribal nations. Since Canaan would later become the home of the “faith-full,” it was only appropriate the founder of God’s temporary kingdom on Earth be a faith-full man. The Father tested the depth of Abraham’s faith when He called Abraham to leave Ur. God did not tell Abraham where He wanted him to go. We can be sure Abraham was ridiculed, but, nonetheless, packed up whatever he could carry, left most of his family behind, and set out. Later, God revealed to Abraham His plans for Canaan. Paul makes His anticipation obvious: **“By faith Abraham, when called**

1. Genesis 3:17-19, italics mine

2. Numbers 13:27

3. Zechariah 2:4; Ezekiel 38:14

to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”¹

God called Abraham to journey to an unknown place as an example for his descendants. Living by faith *always* consists of traveling into the unknown. Additionally, faith *in God always* comes with a price! However, with God, the higher the price, the greater the reward! (Consider the reward that will come to Jesus when the saints go marching in through heaven’s gates!) The land of Canaan had everything the Father needed for a temporary kingdom. It was strategically located between large nations to the north and south with natural boundaries for safety. The Mediterranean Sea lay to the west, vast deserts lay to the east and south, and the Euphrates River formed a natural boundary in the north. God wanted His kingdom to be a model kingdom—a testimony to the world. To save as many people as possible, the Father would provide a stark contrast between a government dedicated to righteousness and governments run by corrupt, self-serving people.

The Father did not plan to “steal” the land from the Canaanites when He called Abraham out of Ur; a righteous God does not cheat or steal. He does nothing in an underhanded way even though He is Sovereign and owns everything! The Father would work out His plan using principles consistent with the laws of love. Notice what Jesus said to Abraham: **“As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the Lord said to him, ‘Know for certain that for *four hundred years* your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however,**

1. Hebrews 11:8-10

will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the *fourth* generation your descendants will come back here, *for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.*”¹

When dealing with nations, God follows a principle which I call “the full cup principle.”² The idea behind the full cup principle is God gives all nations a measure of grace and when a nation becomes wicked and violent to the point that extended mercy has no redeeming effect, God destroys the nation. The Father loves oncoming generations the as He loves present generations; this is why He purged the Earth of evil people in Noah’s day. Therefore, when evil people become wicked and defiant, God protects oncoming generations from their influence and harm by destroying them. Over the course of four hundred years, the Amorites and other tribal-nations in Canaan were destined for destruction because they squandered the grace given them by doing evil.

After the Exodus, God gave this warning to Israel, **“Do not defile yourselves [with sexual immorality] in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. But you [Israel] must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the foreigners residing among you must not do any of these detestable things, for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.”**³

Unfortunately, from the time of the Exodus, Israel’s constant rebellion and faithlessness frustrated God’s efforts to establish “the kingdom of God.” In fact, the very first generation made God angry and He sentenced them to death. They had to wander in the desert for forty years. God said: **“For forty years I was angry**

1. Genesis 15:12-16, italics mine

2. For more information on the full cup principle, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

3. Leviticus 18:24-28, insertions mine

with that generation; I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’ so I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my *rest*.’”¹

Notice this very important point! God referred to Canaan as His *rest*. God’s temporary kingdom on Earth was to be *rest* from “the painful toil” imposed on Adam’s descendants. God is all about rest. Night comes before light because God gave us rest before work. The first full day of life for Adam and Eve was the seventh day, a day of rest! Counting from the year of the Exodus, God set up every seventh year as a year of rest! Consider God’s generosity to Israel! **“You may ask, ‘What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not plant or harvest our crops?’ I will send you such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years. While you plant during the eighth year, you will eat from the old crop and will continue to eat from it until the harvest of the ninth year comes in.”**²

After Adam and Eve sinned, the seventh day Sabbath became a weekly “prophetic signpost;” a day of *rest* pointing forward to the rest God would give His people in His temporary kingdom. This would point forward to the eternal rest coming with God’s permanent kingdom. After the Exodus, God became more emphatic about His plan to give His people rest from the painful toil that the curse of sin imposes. He established a seventh year rest and a Year of Jubilee as “prophetic signposts” pointing toward the establishment of the temporary kingdom of God.

The Father sent many prophets including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah to encourage and nudge His rebellious people forward into His glorious plan and desire to establish His kingdom on Earth. Over and over, *conditional* promises and prophecies were given because God’s covenant with Israel was bilateral: *If* you will be My people, I will be your God,³ but Israel’s defiance and rebellion eventually terminated the Father’s covenant and plan. Because the Father had made a unilateral

1. Psalm 95:10-11, italics mine
2. Leviticus 25:20-22
3. Leviticus 26:3-12

covenant (non-conditional) with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (who was renamed “Israel” after wrestling with Jesus), the Father implemented a new bilateral covenant (conditional) when Jesus was on Earth. The new covenant ignores biological origin. This covenant is open to people of all nations who are led by the Spirit! **“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”**¹ Thus, when he is resurrected “at the last day,” Abraham will discover that through Christ, he is actually the father of *many* nations! **“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**²

Plan A / Plan B

Contrary to what is widely taught and broadcast around the world by Christian evangelists, the Father’s original plan for Israel (Plan A³) was not, could not, and will not be fulfilled. When it became clear Israel had rejected the Son of God, by hanging Him on a cross and crucifying Him as a felon, the Father divorced Himself from the biological descendants of Abraham for their unfaithfulness. He did this because His covenant with Abraham’s descendants was bilateral (two-sided). Afterward, He created a new covenant in which every repentant sinner is counted as Abraham’s “seed” (Greek: *sperma*).⁴ This may be shocking to realize at first, but nothing is said in the Old Testament concerning a Second Coming except the book of Daniel, which concerns a coming in Plan B. There is a simple reason for this silence: A Second Coming was not needed under Plan A. Many pastors and scholars fail to understand this point and merge promises and prophecies that pertain to Plan A with promises and prophecies that pertain to Plan B. The result is endless confusion. Plan A is significantly different from Plan B and keeping them separated is imperative.

It was the Father’s original plan (Plan A) that when Jesus was sent to Earth, He would die for our sins and after His resurrection, Jesus would remain on Earth to establish God’s *temporary* kingdom. The Father planned Jesus would rule from David’s

1. Romans 8:14

2. Galatians 3:29

3. For more information on Plan A / Plan B, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

4. Galatians 3:29

throne¹ in Canaan until the time came to destroy the wicked and create a new heaven and a new Earth.² Once a new heaven and a new Earth were created, the *permanent* kingdom of God would then be established on the new Earth.

Here is a brief sketch of Plan A to show how Scripture could have been fulfilled. **“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government [of the temporary kingdom of God] will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”**³

It was not the Father’s plan for Jesus to die on a cross. Under Plan A, Jesus was supposed to die in the temple on the Altar of Burnt Offering.⁴ I believe the Lamb of God was to be sacrificed at the *very same* location and in the *very same* way Abraham was instructed to kill Isaac! Consider this point: Isaac’s death was necessary to transfer Abraham’s sin with Hagar to an earthly altar of burnt offering in the same way that Jesus’ death was necessary to transfer our sins to the Altar of Burnt Offering, **“Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.’”**⁵

God called Abraham to give “his only son” up because the Father would have to give up Jesus, the Son He loved most! Moreover, God chose and directed Abraham to the *exact* place where Abraham built an altar for a burnt offering.⁶ Fifteen hundred years later, when the time came to build the temple, God directed King David to purchase a specific location on Mount Moriah for His temple.⁷ **This is not a coincidence. God directed Abraham and King David**

1. Jeremiah 33:17

2. Isaiah 65:17

3. Isaiah 9:6-7, insertion mine

4. Zechariah 13:6; Zechariah 12:10-14

5. Genesis 22:2

6. Genesis 22:9-12

7. 1 Chronicles 21:18

to build altars for burnt offerings at the very same place on the same mountain!¹

The Father wanted Israel to enthusiastically receive Jesus as its King and the Savior of the world when He was sent to Earth. The Father wanted to delight Israel with the fact the Messiah was the God of the Old Testament who actually spoke the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai; the same God who created Adam and Eve; the God who appeared to Abraham and talked with Moses from the burning bush! This is what the Father planned, but it did not happen because Israel was unfaithful.² Israel did not become a nation of “born-again Abrahams” and the Father could not use that nation of rebels for His glorious purposes.³

Israel’s Priests Failed to Do Their Job

The Levites failed to prepare the nation of Israel for the kingdom of God in two ways. First, the priests failed to demonstrate the transforming power of God’s Spirit in their own lives. They had a form of Godliness, but were not repentant sinners. Second, they failed to educate the people the kingdom of God would only be open to those who were “born again!” Think about this: Who other than born-again people would be happy living in the kingdom of God where a sinless and righteous God is sovereign? Nothing is more annoying and grating on the sinful nature than being constantly rebuked. Can you imagine what politics would consist of in Washington D.C. if Jesus ruled as Sovereign King? Ever since the day Adam and Eve sinned, the sinful nature has depended on lies and accusations (political fig leaves) to cover its nakedness and shame. Jesus said, **“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil *hates* the light, and will not come into the light *for fear* that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.”**⁴

1. Genesis 22:2-9; Deuteronomy 12:11

2. Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28

3. Exodus 19:4-6

4. John 3:19-21, italics mine

The Importance of “Sevens”

God’s measurement of time is based on “sevens.” At first, this is confusing because we do not measure time as God does. Basically, God counts a “seven” as a week of seven days. So, seven “sevens” amount to 49 days. The timing of the feast of Pentecost was counted from the Sunday following Passover.¹ After seven “sevens” had passed, the feast occurred on the 50th day which was always a Sunday. God used this template for counting large spans of time. By making a day of the week represent one year in His Jubilee Calendar, a “seven” can represent “seven years.” Next, a Jubilee cycle consisted of seven “sevens,” that is, a period of 49 years. The Year of Jubilee (the 50th year) was counted as both the last year of the old cycle and the first year of a new cycle. This method of counting was used for Pentecost and the Year of Jubilee² to ensure the weekly cycle of years was not broken. God’s Sabbath years always aligned with the year of the Exodus in the same way His seventh day Sabbath always aligns with the first day of Creation.³

Many Christians understand God gave Israel a second chance when He gave them seventy weeks after the Babylonian exile, but they do not understand *why* He gave them ten Jubilee cycles (490 years) of probationary time. Consider the following four reasons:

1. The limit of God’s patience is sometimes summed up as “seven tens” or 70. For example, the Babylonian captivity occurred and lasted 70 years when Israel had violated 70 Sabbath years!⁴ Also, notice Jesus’ response to Peter: **“Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”**⁵ I understand why translators say “seventy times seven,” but there is a better meaning and translation than 490 times. Jesus responded with an expression based on common

1. Leviticus 23:15-16

2. The 50th day is also the 1st day of the week.

3. To download these charts in PDF form, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

4. 2 Chronicles 36:21; Leviticus 26:32-35

5. Matthew 18:21-22, NASB, 1995

knowledge at that time. Each Jew knew about the 70 weeks. Luke says at the time of Christ, **“The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.”**¹ Their expectation was based on a prophecy in Daniel 9 which predicted the arrival of the Messiah in A.D. 27.² When Jesus responded to Peter, Peter understood Jesus to say, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy weeks.” A literal translation of this passage reads, “Seventy *Sevens*.” A ‘seven’ was a common expression for a week. God had given Israel 490 years to repent after the Babylonian captivity and Peter understood Jesus to mean, “It is not about the number of times you forgive him, give your enemy time to repent.”

2. At the Exodus, God required Israel to observe every seventh year and the Year of Jubilee as a Sabbath year. Israel obeyed the Lord for a while but over time the Sabbath years were largely forgotten. So, before Israel could violate the 71st Sabbath year, God raised King Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Jerusalem. According to Ezekiel 4, the northern tribes³ violated God’s Sabbath years for 390 years and the southern tribes violated God’s Sabbath years for 40 years. Altogether, God saw Israel violate 70 Sabbath years because there are 70 Sabbath years in 430 years. This explains why the Babylonian exile was the 70 years God had promised at the Exodus: “[If you do not keep My laws and Sabbath years] **Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.**”⁴ God’s promise was fulfilled. **“The land enjoyed its Sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.”**⁵

1. Luke 3:15

2. For more information on Timing in Daniel, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

3. Jeremiah 25:9-11

4. Leviticus 26:34-35, insertion mine

5. 2 Chronicles 36:21; Jeremiah 25:9-11

3. The Father has deliberately placed special significance on “seven tens” which denotes “fullness or completion.” For example, the Day of Atonement, the most solemn day in Israel’s religious calendar, took place on the 10th day of the 7th month. The temple was cleansed of the record of sin on that day. This indicates completion. Additionally, the composite beast in Revelation 13:1 has “seven tens,” seven heads and ten horns. This beast represents a crisis government which will form during the Great Tribulation. There are seven religious systems in the world represented by the seven heads. During Lucifer’s rule over Earth, he will divide the world into ten sectors and appoint ten kings (ten horns) to rule under him.¹
4. Each “Great Day” within the Jubilee Calendar contains 70 weeks.² It is no coincidence the 70 weeks in Daniel 9 happen to be the “Great Day of Tuesday.” From the Exodus to the dedication of Solomon’s Temple was 70 weeks. From the dedication of Solomon’s temple to the decree to restore and rebuild the temple was another 70 weeks. From the decree to restore and rebuild the temple until God’s mercy on Israel ran out was still another 70 weeks! Additionally, when we combine the genealogical record given in Scripture, Bible history, and the prophetic time periods given in Daniel and Revelation, the duration for sin appears to be “seven tens.” Seven “Grand Days” of ten centuries (7,000 years).

Sixty-Nine Weeks of Waiting

When the time drew near for Jesus to appear and begin His ministry, the Father raised John the Baptist to “prepare a people” for the Messiah’s arrival and to begin the process of “establishing God’s kingdom.”³ John the Baptist received Holy Spirit power to deliver a gospel of sanctification which is a very difficult gospel to preach because it is ever at odds with the desires of the sinful nature. John taught that membership in the coming kingdom of God required genuine repentance, a total commitment to God’s two commandments of love, and baptism.

1. For more information on the 7 headed beast, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

2. For more information on the Jubilee Calendar, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

3. Matthew 11:10-11

Jesus said sinners have to make wrongs right before asking God for forgiveness because God wants to know if we love the person we violated before He will transfer our guilt! True restitution requires loving the victim. **“And the second [commandment] is like it [the first]: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”**¹ We have to confess our sin to the person we wronged. James wrote, **“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”**² John wrote, **“If we confess our sins [to our victims and to God], he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”**³

John’s gospel tested his listeners with genuine repentance and they did not like it. **“John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? *Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.* And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have [the righteousness of] Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce *good fruit* will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’”**⁴

Like Jesus, John also called Israel’s leaders a “brood of vipers.”⁵ They were poisonous! They were attempting to nullify John’s gospel by teaching *they* were the offspring of Abraham, and did not need baptism because God had “credited righteousness” to Abraham.⁶ They reasoned if God regarded Abraham as a righteous man without baptism, the same applied to his offspring. This is why John said, **“And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have [the righteousness of] Abraham as our father.’”**

The “good fruit” John wrote about was repentance, reformation, and restitution. God requires all three because the restitution

1. Matthew 22:39, insertions mine

2. James 5:16

3. 1 John 1:9, insertion mine

4. Luke 3:7-9, insertion and italics mine

5. Matthew 12:34; 23:33

6. Genesis 15:6

process is life changing.¹ True restitution is based on sorrow for committing the sin and love for the victim. When a person becomes convicted of his guilt and the reality of the penalty for his sin (being thrown into the fire at the end of the age), and becomes convicted he should *choose to love* his victim as he loves himself, God requires action. A repentant sinner shows his love for the person he violated by humbling himself, asking for forgiveness, and providing restitution. Jesus said that before we ask God to forgive us, we *have to ask* our brother or sister to forgive us: **“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar [that is, if you are offering a sin offering to God at the Altar of Burnt Offering for your sins] and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”**² This matter cannot be more plainly stated.

John’s gospel required baptism because baptism is a public declaration that an inner transformation has taken place. It should indicate a person has “crossed over” from a life dominated by the sinful nature to a new life dominated by the Spirit.³ However, in John’s day, the necessity for baptism created a huge problem. It made the threshold for entering the kingdom of God humiliating because baptism was beneath the dignity of a Jew.

Israel understood that as a nation, it was baptized with the “baptism of Moses”⁴ when it crossed through the Red Sea. However, since the Exodus, baptism was reserved for Gentiles. If a Gentile wanted to become a citizen in Israel, he/she had to be baptized. This act was even accompanied with a new date of birth! Baptism was necessary for the Gentiles because it washed away their sinful past. John’s baptism offered the same “washing away the past” and this requirement was offensive to the Jews. It made their traditions, the righteousness of Abraham, and the tenants of Judaism inferior. To be clear, John did not baptize Jesus to wash away His sins. He had none.⁵ Jesus was baptized *to show that being a biological descendant of Abraham was not sufficient to enter God’s kingdom.*

1. Matthew 3:8

2. Matthew 5:23-24, insertion mine

3. Mark 1:14

4. 1 Corinthians 10:2

5. Hebrews 4:15

The Kingdom of God

When Jesus began His ministry, one of the first things He announced was the time had come to establish the kingdom of God.¹ However, we now know the opportunity was not realized and the kingdom of God was not implemented. The God of the Old Testament—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel—was rejected, hung on a cross, and recalled to heaven! If Israel had cooperated with the Holy Spirit during the 490 years of grace and had become the nation which the Father wanted, there would have been enough “born-again” people to establish God’s kingdom in Canaan! If Jesus had established the “kingdom of God,” world history since that time would be vastly different.

Paul understood after Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah and Jesus returned to heaven, the temporary kingdom of God could not be established on Earth. He also understood how the temporary kingdom of God, the permanent kingdom of God, and God’s seventh day Sabbath are related. Carefully consider his words: **“Therefore, since the promise of entering his [permanent] rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it....For somewhere [in Scripture] he [Moses] has spoken about the seventh day in these words: ‘On the seventh day God rested from all his works.’... There [also] remains, then, a [weekly] Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s [weekly] rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that [permanent kingdom of] rest, so that no one will perish by following their [our forefather’s] example of disobedience.”**²

Why do we need to enter God’s rest? The curse of sin imposes “painful toil” on everyone. At the appointed time, God will establish a permanent kingdom of God and repentant sinners will live in a land of rest, flowing with milk and honey. Now that you have considered God’s plan, I am sure these words of Jesus will mean so much more: **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you**

1. Mark 1:14-15

2. Hebrews 4:1, 4, 9-11, insertions mine

and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”¹

Plan A Details

There are a few details about the *temporary* kingdom of God which I would like you to consider. I believe these details were established when Jesus was on Earth. I include them so you can see how Plan A and the Old Testament align. Once you grasp the concept that *Plan A pertains to the Israel that came out of Egypt* and *Plan B pertains to the Israel that is made up of repentant sinners*, your appreciation for this topic will make the Bible clearer and more exciting than ever!

According to the Father’s original plan, Jesus would have remained on Earth after His death and resurrection, and established the kingdom of God on Earth. His headquarters would have been in Jerusalem and Jesus would have ruled from the throne of David. Isaiah 9 states the government would have been on Jesus’ shoulders. Consider what life in the *temporary* kingdom of God on Earth would have been:

“I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; *the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child*; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

“They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they [be overrun by their enemies, My people will not] build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to

1. Matthew 11:28-30

misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them.

“Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will [still] be the serpent’s food. They [serpents] will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,’ says the Lord.”¹

After God’s kingdom was established, the twelve tribes would have carried the gospel of Jesus throughout the world. Christ’s kingdom would have grown and expanded.

“In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple [the temple is described in Ezekiel 40-45] will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’ The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”²

Under Plan A, there would come an appointed time for the end of the world. When that time arrived, a *testing gospel* from Jesus would be proclaimed throughout the Earth by the twelve tribes. The message would be very similar to the message given to Noah and Abraham! “Leave your homes, if necessary, leave your families, leave everything behind and come to Jerusalem for the Lord is about to destroy the wicked!” The honest-in-heart, repentant sinners would have heard the message. They would have obeyed the Holy Spirit conviction and left their homeland.

“At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the Lord, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor

1. Isaiah 65:19-25, insertions and italics mine

2. Isaiah 2:2-4, insertion mine

the name of the Lord. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.”¹

“On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.”²

“For this is what the Lord says: ‘To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever. And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.’ The Sovereign Lord declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel: ‘I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.’”³

After each person made his choice whether to leave home or not, the wicked would have been destroyed.

“I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he

1. Jeremiah 3:17

2. Zechariah 14:6-9

3. Isaiah 56:4-8

fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”¹

“Therefore, son of man [Ezekiel], prophesy and say to Gog [a title given to Lucifer]: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘In that day, when my people Israel are living in safety, will you not take notice of it? You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.’”

“‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘You are the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel. At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused,’ declares the Sovereign Lord. ‘In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground.’”

“‘‘I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains,” declares the Sovereign Lord. ‘Every man’s sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and

1. Zechariah 14:2-4

I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.””¹

“And I, because of what they [Gog and the wicked] have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations.

“And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the Lord – on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,’ says the Lord. ‘They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the Lord in ceremonially clean vessels. And I will select some of them [foreigners] also to be priests and Levites,’ says the Lord.

“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,’ declares the Lord, ‘so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,’ says the Lord. ‘And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.””²

I hope these passages give you a framework for understanding Plan A. Unfortunately, these promises and prophecies did not, and will not, come to pass because the original covenant with Israel terminated for unfaithfulness.³ A new covenant (Plan B) which has parallels with Plan A, was implemented.⁴

1. Ezekiel 38:14-23, insertions mine

2. Isaiah 66:18-24, insertion mine

3. Matthew 23

4. For more information on Plan A / Plan B, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

Plan B Details

The kingdom of God is still coming; but, unlike Plan A, the kingdom of God under Plan B will be permanent. Consider these details:

1. Plan B has a high priest from the tribe of Judah. Plan A had a priest from the tribe of Levi.¹
2. Jesus serves in the “true temple” located in heaven.² Plan A no longer has a temple (and it never will) because the Lord sent the Romans to destroy Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Jesus gave temple mount to the Muslims to keep the temple from ever being rebuilt.
3. Plan B’s capital city is the New Jerusalem. Abraham anticipated this city. Plan A’s capital city was Jerusalem until it was destroyed.³
4. Plan B has nothing to do with Zionism or modern Israel. The kingdom which the saints will inherit is not located in the Middle East. Instead, it will be Earth made new.⁴
5. The requirements for repentant sinners under Plan B are unlike the requirements for those who lived under Plan A. (The Levitical code was abolished at the cross.) Those seeking to live under Plan A today cannot do so because there is no temple.⁵
6. Paul says Plan B has a better set of promises and prophecies than those under Plan A.⁶
7. According to the new covenant (Plan B), God considers repentant sinners as the seed of Abraham and heirs of the promises given him.⁷
8. According to the new covenant, a Jew is neither a race nor a religion. **“A person is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly [as the result of the circumcision of the flesh], nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who**

1. Plan B: Hebrews 7:11-12 | Plan A: Hebrews 7: 13-21

2. Hebrews 8:1-2

3. Plan B: Revelation 3:12; Revelation 21:2 | Plan A: Hebrews 11:8-10; John 14:2-3

4. John 18:36-37; Matthew 5:5

5. Plan B: Luke 22:20; Hebrews 12:22-24 | Plan A: Deuteronomy 12

6. Hebrews 8:6

7. Galatians 3:28-29

is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God."¹

1. Romans 2:28-29, insertion mine, compare with Deuteronomy 30:6

Chapter 10

Jesus' Story Will Soon Be Told

Our heavenly Father reveals truth progressively for at least two reasons: First, knowledge is additive. Some elements have to be known before other elements can be understood. Second, an infinite Father constantly releases more truth because He wants to draw finite beings closer to the Godhead. The gulf between deity and created beings is too wide to measure; therefore, the doorway into the Godhead is through humility and truth.

Jesus was sent to reveal humility and truth. He said, **“I am the way** [to the Father who sent me] **and** [I have spoken] **the truth and** [I offer] **the** [fullness of] **life** [that comes only from the Father]. **No one comes to** [know] **the Father except through me.”**¹ This is a very bold statement and some Christians use this verse, especially the last sentence, inappropriately. They think the last sentence means salvation is only possible for those who know and believe in Jesus. If so, are billions of people who lived on Earth *before* Jesus was born lost? Are billions of people who have died since the cross without hearing about Jesus also lost? No, of course they aren't. The Father's Plan of Salvation is not limited by knowledge. It is our response to the Holy Spirit that determines our eternal destiny.

Paul wrote the Jews were first to have access to the truth about God because: **“Theirs is the adoption to sonship** [God chose Abraham and the descendants of Abraham]; **theirs the divine glory** [Shekinah glory, the glory of a self-existing God filled the Most Holy Place in the temple], **the covenants** [given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob], **the receiving of the law** [at Mt. Sinai], **the temple worship** [the services were designed by God] **and the promises** [given through the prophets]. **Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all** [gods], **forever praised! Amen.”**² Paul elevated the Jews over the Gentiles theologically.

1. John 14:6, insertions mine

2. Romans 9:4-5, insertions mine

His primary reason being: The Messiah “is God over all [gods].” Jesus is a self-existing deity. The great “I AM.” Whatever gods the Gentiles may have and worship are imaginary.

Even though the Jews “had everything,” knowledge did not change their hearts. Similarly, Christians have a spiritual advantage over the rest of the world’s religious systems regarding truth because Jesus “is God over all [gods].” Jesus was sent to Earth to reveal more truth about the Father. Those who believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life are more enlightened than those who do not know. However, the majority of people who will be saved will not be Christians! God’s grace for repentant sinners is not based on knowledge; it is based on faith – doing what is right without regard for the consequences.

For the past 2,000 years, Christians have remained a minority within the world’s population. The Father foreknew this before the world was created and made provisions for it. Everyone who receives salvation will be indebted to Jesus because His blood made the transfer of salvation possible! To be clear, the Bible teaches and the Jews have proven salvation is not determined by having access to, or even possessing, truth. Each person’s salvation is determined by his response to the Holy Spirit. Truth’s purpose is to sanctify us through enlightenment.¹ **“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”**² Truth draws us nearer to God. It sets us free from ignorance and darkness.³ The truth about the Godhead brings peace, assurance, contentment, and happiness. God’s love is the most amazing and precious attribute we can understand. There is no room for fear, doubts, or suspicion when we properly know the Godhead.⁴ Truth is so exciting for those who want it and find it. And the confounding thing about truth is this: It is almost impossible to share it with those who are not searching for it!

The Father wanted Abraham’s descendants (and then the world) to understand His love and ways. He wants everyone to know of

1. John 17:17

2. Psalm 25:4-5

3. John 8:32

4. 1 John 4:18

His intense and boundless love for all sinners, rebellious and repentant, so He sent His equal, “The Word,” to represent Him. He sent One who has actually seen the Father, One who could perfectly demonstrate Him in every way. Jesus confirmed this point when He said to Philip, **“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”**¹ This comment does not mean Jesus is the Father as some people insist. Jesus meant He and the Father are identical in character, substance, and nature. If we insist Jesus is another *form* of the Father, we put the Bible in a state of internal conflict; and, the minute we do this, truth becomes obfuscated. Truth is quickly and easily obscured when opposing statements in the Bible remain in opposition. Truth is easily mangled by foolish notions. When people search the Scriptures to prove what they already believe, truth always takes a back seat. If we do not allow Bible truth to correct our thinking, there is no point in having a Bible. I think most Christians regard the Bible as a book of traditions instead of a book loaded with progressive revelation. We can believe whatever we want about God. Lucifer is an excellent example of this freedom and the consequences of rejecting truth.

Life Is About to Change

Currently, millions of Christians worship an icon called “Jesus.” That is, they worship a being they know little about and are content with what little they know. Sure, His name is well known, His birthday is celebrated (Christmas), His death and resurrection are observed (Easter). Christians know He worked some miracles and He promised to return. However, there is so much more to Jesus than these few details. Be forewarned: His icon is about to disappear and the reality of a living Sovereign called “Jesus” will soon be revealed!

Earlier in this study, I wrote Jesus was found worthy to receive the book sealed with seven seals in 1798. At that time, He was given sovereign power enabling Him to perform the task of breaking each seal. I understand the first three seals have been broken² and their effects can be identified, but since most Christians have

1. John 14:9

2. For more information on the first three seals, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

no idea what the seven seals represent, they cannot associate the effects with the breaking of each seal.

However, when Jesus breaks the fourth seal, God's wrath will be released and life on Earth will change drastically for everyone! I believe (time will tell) when the world is engaged in a nuclear exchange, Jesus will act. He will stop mankind from annihilating one another with even greater "fire power" than nuclear missiles. When Jesus uses His judgments to step into the fray of political hatred and war, the fourth seal will be opened and the Great Tribulation will begin.

When the fourth seal is opened, four horrific events will occur in rapid sequence.¹ The first event is a firestorm that will destroy one-third of the Earth, followed by two asteroid impacts. The fourth event will be volcano eruptions which cover the Earth with darkness. These deadly disasters will end life on Earth as we presently know it. Jesus, the Creator of everything on Earth (including mankind), will mortally wound Earth's ecosystems and the planet will not recover.

The Bible indicates these horrific circumstances are coming. The clergy of the world's religious systems are not preparing their subjects for God's wrath, and the world's political leaders do not have a clue. When the Great Tribulation begins, the infrastructure created by man will fail. The coming wrath is more encompassing and distressing than words can express. Each person on Earth will be dramatically affected. For perspective, consider this: If the population of Earth is eight billion people, two billion people (25%) will die during the first four judgments. One-third of Earth will be burned by fiery meteorites. God's wrath will be so extensive, so pronounced, so overwhelming, and so encompassing that most of the survivors will be afraid to speak for fear they might further offend an already angry God. When Jesus breaks the fourth seal, He will crush man's religious arrogance and break up the political gridlock that has overtaken the world.

The wrath of a sovereign Jesus will be so "out of character" for the icon called "Jesus" that most Christians will turn bitter. Little

1. For more information on the fourth seal, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

do they realize Jesus sent the flood in Noah's day! Jesus will terrorize the whole world with God's wrath and in the process, He will accomplish several purposes. Consider this:

First, 144,000 servants will speak for Jesus. During the Great Tribulation, they will proclaim four messages in chronological order. The first message will be inflammatory for most of the world. They will tell the world Jesus Christ is the Creator ruling heaven and Earth with a rod of iron. He is almighty God, the Judge of Mankind, and He commands everyone to worship Him on His holy seventh day Sabbath!¹ When you consider more than two-thirds of Earth's population does not believe Jesus is deity and 99% of the world does not regard Saturday as a holy day, the first message given by the 144,000 will be as confrontational as the destruction that just occurred!

Second, the clergy and political leaders of the world will react to God's wrath by uniting and creating a worldwide crisis government, which the book of Revelation calls it Babylon. World leaders will create this government² because they will conclude God is angry with the whole world because of its decadent and degenerate behavior. They will create laws forbidding any behavior offensive to God and implement severe penalties for breaking the laws. Therefore, anyone found violating laws, which the crisis government imposes on the world, will be severely punished. Some of these laws will regard worshiping God. Catholic and Protestant countries will establish laws regarding worship on Sunday. Muslim countries will establish laws regarding worship on Friday. Israel will establish laws regarding worship on Saturday. Meanwhile, the 144,000 will proclaim Jesus will save any repentant sinner if the sinner will place his faith in Him and obey His commandments. This will set up a worldwide test of faith because Jesus' demands will be contrary to the demands of the crisis government and, either way, the penalty for rebellion will be severe.

1. Revelation 14:7

2. Represented as a beast in Revelation 13:1

The Judgment of the Living

Each survivor will learn about Jesus and His generous offer of salvation after He breaks the fourth seal! Jesus will speak through the 144,000 who will give the “testimony of Jesus.” The Bible teaches salvation comes through faith alone. Ever since Jesus opened the first seal in 1798, the Holy Spirit has been advancing this message throughout the world. By placing the entire world in a dire situation, and after the world’s religious and political leaders set up their opposition to God’s truth (the crisis government), all of the survivors will be challenged to obey the Holy Spirit and put their faith in Jesus. Through the 144,000, survivors will hear the gospel of Jesus; this sets up the judgment of the living. Because free-will beings have the power of choice, their resolve must be tested. This testing will involve four steps:

First: Enlightenment – The survivors must hear God’s demands.

Second: Decision – The survivors must intelligently and thoughtfully consider God’s demands and decide a course of action. Holy Spirit influence to stand for Jesus will be heavy.

Third: Testing – Persecution will test the faith of each person who chooses to obey Jesus.

Fourth: Sealing – Jesus will reward the faith-full with the *sealing*: the awesome transformation Jesus gave the 144,000. (The sealing is presented in Chapter 6.)

Prostitutes like Rahab and demon-possessed people like Mary Magdalene will be freed of their slavery to sin! Jesus not only saves, He also transforms repentant sinners! After a person is sealed, he will have no further interest or attraction for sin. He will be like Adam and Eve before they sinned, having no propensity for sin!

Today, our world is full of antagonistic politics, cultures, religions, and gospels. Long ago, the Father devised a way to cut through the world’s chaos and gridlock with “justifiable” destruction to humble and silence the survivors. The Father devised a way to expose and give His third law enforcement. This third law demands everyone worship Jesus, the Creator, as they worship the Father! By placing

the whole world in dire circumstances and empowering 144,000 individuals to speak the “testimony of Jesus,” the world will wake up to the fact Jesus is almighty God. Once this truth sees daylight, the *untold story of Jesus* can be told and will be heard around the world!

Jesus Is Looking for Honest-Hearted People

God’s method for judging people from every walk of life illumines a profound fact. Anyone who conscientiously does the good he knows he should do is honest hearted. Each time a person’s knowledge of “good” expands, God challenges his/her honesty again. As attorney Richard J. Humpal said, “When a man who is honestly mistaken hears the truth, he will either quit being mistaken or cease being honest.” God is constantly challenging our faith to see if we will be joyful in an environment where righteousness is *the way* of life and progressive truth never ends. An honest-hearted person will embrace God’s truth regardless of the consequences because he loves God and His truth. Jesus said, **“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”**¹

A truth-loving person, even if he died having only one percent of God’s truth, will be happy for eternity with God and the holy angels. This is because his attitude toward an infinite God is appropriate. Such a person is teachable and will happily continue to learn throughout eternity because his knowledge of God’s truth will forever expand. Jesus said, **“But whoever lives by the truth comes [keeps on coming] into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have [learned and] done has been done in the sight of God [God’s power].”**²

The third law of the universe is so simple a child can understand it.³ It commands all created beings to worship our Creator,

1. Matthew 13:44-46

2. John 3:21, insertions mine

3. Revelation 14:6-7

Jesus Christ. Jesus declared with His own mouth in the Ten Commandments that His holy day is Saturday, the seventh day of the week.¹ The 144,000 will proclaim the third law, an everlasting gospel, throughout the world with great power and authority for 1,260 days. The Holy Spirit will convict each person of sin, righteousness, and judgment to make sure he/she understands the testimony of the 144,000 to be truth that comes from the lips of Jesus!² The honest in heart will respond to this enlightenment just like steel responds to the pull of a magnet. Everyone on Earth will hear the four messages from the 144,000. This *untold story of Jesus* will separate the sheep from the goats!

Summary

The stage is set. Earth's cup of sin is full and overflowing. Most of its people do not anticipate they are about to be participants in a catastrophic drama. Jesus is holding back the "four winds" of wrath until the appointed time. Soon, Jesus will select and seal the 144,000³ and God's wrath will begin. Holy Spirit power will be poured out around the world. Jesus will speak through His servants and the survivors will consider a gospel that is contrary to almost everything they believe. There is good news! The Bible says there will be an innumerable group of people who find salvation during the Great Tribulation.⁴

Jesus will be exalted as almighty God, the Creator of heaven and Earth, the Savior of the world, the God of the Old Testament, Michael the archangel, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, and a coeternal member of deity. No one in the universe compares to Jesus because no one has done what He has done. This small book is my attempt to tell a small part of His story. When John closed his gospel, he wrote what I would like to say again: **"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."**⁵

1. For more information on the Sabbath, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

2. John 16:8; Revelation 14:12; 19:10

3. Revelation 7:1-4

4. Revelation 7:9-14

5. John 21:25

Appendix A

Four Important Facts

As you consider the Bible verses below each fact, notice how the details in one verse will dovetail into another verse like completed words providing clues for uncompleted words in a crossword puzzle. Read each verse in context if you are not acquainted with the verses.

Fact 1. The Father designed it and Jesus created it. Jesus is the Creator of the Universe.

Revelation 4:9-11 **“Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever [the Father], the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created [that is, you commissioned the creation of] all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.’”** (insertions mine)

Hebrews 1:2 **“But in these last days he [the Father] has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he [the Father] made the universe.”** (insertions mine)

John 1:3, 10 **“Through him [Jesus] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.”** (insertion mine)

Colossians 1:16-17 **“For in him [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and [as an heir] for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”** (insertions mine)

Fact 2. No one has seen the Father, not even the angels. Only Jesus and the Holy Spirit have seen the Father.

1 Timothy 6:15-16 **“God [the Father], the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and *who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.* To him be honor and might forever. Amen.”** (insertion and italics mine)

John 6:46 [Jesus said,] **“No one has seen the Father *except the one who is from God; only he* has seen the Father.”** (insertion and italics mine)

Colossians 1:15 **“The Son [Jesus] is the image of the *invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*”** (insertion and italics mine)

John 1:18 **“No one has ever seen God [the Father], but the one and only Son, *who is himself God* and is in closest relationship with the Father [Hebrews 12:2], has made him known.”** [insertions and italics mine]

Ephesians 2:18 **“For through him [Jesus] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit [who has instant access to the Father].”** (insertions mine)

Fact 3. Jesus is the God of the Old Testament. He is the God who interfaced with prophets and others. He was sent to Earth to live as a man so the Father could speak through Him.

Exodus 6:2-3 **“God also said to Moses, ‘I am the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah, that is, eternal God, self-existing]. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah] I did not make myself fully known to them.’”** (insertions mine)

Isaiah 44:6 **“This is what the Lord [Yahweh, Jehovah] says – Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God [who speaks for the Father].”** (insertions mine)

Revelation 2:8 **“These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.”**

Revelation 22:12-16 **“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what**

they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.... I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

Hebrews 1:2 “**But in these last days he [the Father] has spoken to us by [through] his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.**” (insertions mine)

John 3:34 “**For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit [to Him] without limit.**” (insertion mine)

John 6:38 “**For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.**”

John 12:49 “**For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me *commanded me to say all that I have spoken.***” (italics mine)

John 14:24 “**Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear *are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.***” (italics mine)

John 17:8 [Jesus prayed to the Father] “**For I gave them [My disciples] *the words you gave me* and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.**” (insertions and italics mine)

Fact 4. Jesus is an equal, separate, distinct, coeternal God who lived with the Father in the beginning. They are self-existing deities. Neither has lived without the other being present.

Jesus has the same nature and substance as the Father. They are separate and distinct members of the Godhead having different roles. According to Hebrews 1:3, they are the equivalent of identical twins. The invisible Father speaks through a visible Jesus, this is why Jesus is called “the Word.”

John 1:1-2, 14 “**In the beginning was the Word [before anything was made, Jesus was appointed to speak for the Father], and the Word was with God [the Father], and the Word was [also deity, that is, a]**

God. [The Father has never lived alone, separate from Jesus because] **He** [Jesus] **was with** [lived with] **God** [the Father] **in the beginning.** **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us** [so that the Father could speak through Him]. **We** [disciples] **have seen his** [Jesus'] **glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**" (insertions mine)

John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God [the Father], but the one and only Son, *who is himself God* and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known." (insertion and italics mine)

Psalms 90:1-2 "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

Hebrews 1:3 "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and *the exact representation of his being*, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." (italics mine)

Philippians 2:5-7 "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage [when Jesus was on Earth, He did not parade His authority as a coeternal member of deity]; rather, he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." (insertion mine)

1 John 1:1-2 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard [with our ears], which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life [a title given to Jesus because He was sent to Earth to speak the truth, words that lead to eternal life – John 6:68]. **The Life** [sent from the Father] **appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you *the eternal life***, [another title indicating Jesus is deity] **which was with the Father** [from the beginning] **and has appeared to us.**" (insertions and italics mine)

Appendix B

Christ, Antichrist, and Anti-Christ

This may sound strange, but the title “Antichrist” is not found in the book of Revelation or in any Bible prophecy! The word *antichrist* is mentioned four times in the Bible and all references were made by the apostle John. Jesus perhaps warned His disciples about the devil’s appearance before He ascended because it seems in 1 John, early Christians anticipated the Antichrist would appear before Jesus returned.

John lived into his nineties and, at the turn of the first century A.D., he was the last survivor of the original twelve disciples. It is believed that nine of the twelve suffered a martyr’s death. Jerusalem had been in ruins for about thirty years and the Apostle Paul had been dead about thirty-five years. John found Christianity in alarming disarray when he was released from prison on the island of Patmos. Roman persecution had decimated and scattered the flock. There was no organization. Conflicts, divisions, and heresies of all kinds abounded. The implosion of Christianity just sixty-five years after Jesus ascended explains why He spoke so forcefully to the seven churches in Asia Minor while John was on Patmos. Shortly after John was granted freedom, Bible scholars believe he wrote the gospel of John and three short epistles which also bear his name. Consider John’s words:

“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They [many self-proclaimed experts speaking about Jesus] went out from us, but they did not really [represent Jesus or] belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us [in spirit and in truth]; but their going showed that [they are anti-Christ and] none of them belonged to us. But you have an anointing [from the Holy Spirit and] from the Holy One [a title used for Jesus

throughout the Bible to indicate His divinity¹], **and all of you know the truth** [about the deity of Jesus]. **I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar?** [The anti-christs or me?] **It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ** [the Holy One sent from the Father]. **Such a person is the antichrist** [the anti-Christ]—**denying the** [the testimony of the] **Father and the Son. No one who denies the** [divinity of the] **Son has the** [approval of the] **Father; whoever acknowledges the Son** [is also a God] **has** [the approval of] **the Father also.**”²

To appreciate John’s remarks about the Antichrist, you need to understand why he calls those “anti-Christ” **“who went out from us.”** A thorny issue existed among Christians at the turn of the First Century. The controversy had to do with whether or not Jesus is a separate, distinct, self-existing God who lived with the Father in the beginning. Regardless of the position early Christians took, each position had serious repercussions.

Many of the early Christians were converts from Judaism. Judaism was strictly monotheistic;³ therefore, many Jewish converts refused to accept Jesus was a separate, self-existing God. If He were, there would be more than one God – and this is problematic within the paradigm of monotheism. On the other hand, if early Christians believed Jesus was a separate, distinct, self-existing God who lived with the Father in the beginning, this made Christians polytheistic⁴ and this was unacceptable for monotheists.

One consequence of this debate centered around worship. If Jesus is a separate, distinct, self-existing God, early Gentile converts reasoned worshipping Him would not be blasphemous.⁵ However, Christian monotheists refused to worship Jesus as a self-existing, stand-alone God, because worshipping any other God than Jehovah was forbidden by the first commandment. The apostle Paul tried

1. Psalm 22:3; 89:18; Isaiah 1:4

2. 1 John 2:18-23, insertions mine

3. Believing there is only one God

4. Believing there is more than one God

5. John 20:28; Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:52

to clarify this matter when he wrote the book of Hebrews. He said the Father required the angels to worship Jesus and the Father even calls Jesus “God,”¹ but his words had little effect on Hebrew believers.

Of course, the devil saw to it that the debate over the nature of Jesus was both theologically inflammatory and socially divisive. Over time, Christian groups fragmented as anti-Christians (as John calls them) misled believers. The conflict between Jewish and Gentile converts dragged on for two centuries and as Christianity grew, so did their differences and conflicts. Finally, at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, a solution was announced and made into a creed (nonnegotiable statement of belief).

Roman Unity

The Roman emperor, Constantine, called for the council. He wanted the schism over the deity of Jesus to end because it was affecting his political goal and he wanted to unify a fragmented empire. Constantine was as shrewd as he was pragmatic. He grew up in a culture that worshiped hundreds of gods; there was a separate god for everything. He knew Christianity was growing as it had become widespread throughout the region and was centralized around the worship of one or two Gods (the Father and/or Jesus). Given the superstitions and confusion hundreds of gods posed, Constantine realized fewer gods were better than constantly trying to appease many gods. Moreover, he found Christian leaders in Rome wanted order and unity in the faith in the same way he wanted order and unity in his empire. Eventually, he concluded “one God and one Emperor” was the best way forward. He therefore called for a council to end the conflict among Christians as to whether there was one God or two. He summoned theologians from distant locations, especially those who were antagonizing church leaders in Rome. When the council convened, Constantine gave the clergy from Rome preference because they shared his goal, as well.

One cannot discuss the nature of Jesus and avoid the polarizing issues of monotheism and polytheism. After a few months (yes,

1. Hebrews 1:6-13

months) debating the relationship between the Father and Jesus, and the nature of Jesus, a solution was reached. The clergy from Rome won. Monotheism was orthodox (within boundaries), polytheism was unorthodox (violating boundaries).

I conclude, from a study of early church history, early Christians in Rome were heavily influenced toward preserving monotheism because of their Jewish heritage and Mithraism. Mithraism was an Indo-Iranian religion that moved into the Roman Empire around 45 B.C. It was well received in polytheistic Roman culture because Mithra was the god of friendship and order. About 120 years later, when Jewish converts to Christianity arrived in Rome, they found Mithraism paralleled Judaism in many ways. Mithraism had one God as did many Jewish converts to Christianity. Mithraism had a high priest, a temple and was worshiped on Sunday. Jehovah had a high priest, a temple (until A.D. 70) and was worshiped on Saturday. Mithraism had been well received by the Romans, whereas Judaism was hated and Jewish converts were put to death if caught. Records from that time period clearly show early Christians in Rome compromised their beliefs to keep from being identified by the Romans as a sect of Judaism. For example, they abandoned the holiness of the seventh day and adopted Sunday as a day for worship and celebration, a century-old practice established by Mithraites. By the time Constantine came to power, Christianity had swallowed up Mithraism and it disappeared in the fourth century. This background helps to explain why the clergy in Rome were determined to preserve monotheism at the council of Nicaea.

When the council convened, clergy from other parts of the Roman empire wanted to recognize three separate, distinct, self-existing Gods: "the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (tritheism). Still others like Arius from Alexandria, Egypt, who had a large following in northern Africa, supported monotheism. However, he insisted that Jesus had to be recognized as a being created by the Father. Arius' solution annoyed and frustrated the council members from Rome because if one God created another God, the result would be

two Gods, and clearly, this was contrary to monotheism. Given Constantine's threat of exile and excommunication when the council convened, monotheism prevailed at the council and this led to the creation of a creed which defies explanation or reason.

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God,] Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father . . . [But those who say: ‘There was a time when He was not;’ and ‘He was not before He was made;’ and ‘He was made out of nothing,’ or ‘He is of another substance’ or ‘essence,’ or ‘The Son of God is created,’ or ‘changeable,’ or ‘alterable’ – they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.]”¹

The first five words of the creed were designed as a testing statement. If a person did not accept the first five words of the creed, he was an unorthodox Christian. There was no need for further discussion. Then, to obfuscate the problem, the council approved three words in the middle of the creed which defy reason and make no sense: “begotten, not made.” Because the meaning of this phrase is not rational and cannot be explained, a threat of condemnation (excommunication) was added to the creed (which is not often published today, but the sentiment remains).

What does begotten mean if not made? For example, the Bible says, **“And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech. . . Shem was an hundred years old and begat Arphaxad . . . And [later] Shem . . . begat sons and daughters. And Arphaxad . . . begat Salah: And [later] Arphaxad . . . begat sons and daughters.”**² What does the word “begat” or “begotten” (its past perfect tense) mean if it does not mean “made” or “created?”

1. For more information on the Nicene Creed, see: wake-up.org/untold-story-information

2. Genesis 4:18; 11:10-13, KJV, insertions mine

One Word Theology?

One night, Jesus spoke to a Jewish leader saying, “**For God so loved *the world* that he gave his only begotten Son.**”¹As you will see, the phrase, “His only begotten Son,” has to be understood as a common or contemporary phrase, not a theological statement, to keep from having the gospel of John in a state of internal conflict. As a common or contemporary phrase, it meant endearment. In ancient times, “my only begotten son” was a well-worn phrase used by proud fathers. Jesus used the phrase because Nicodemus was well acquainted with Genesis 22. In this chapter, God spoke to Abraham and He called Isaac “your only son,” and the “son whom you love.” Actually, Ishmael was Abraham’s first-born son, whom Abraham loved, but Ishmael had been sent away from home. Therefore, Isaac was Abraham’s *only* remaining son at home; he was a miracle child, a son whom God had literally sent! Jesus drew a parallel between Abraham’s love for Isaac and the Father’s love for the world. This is why He used a common expression, “his only begotten son.” Jesus wanted Nicodemus to understand the Father gave up far more than Abraham when the venerable patriarch put his *only* begotten son on the altar! Clearly, Abraham was the father of Isaac; therefore, begat Isaac. Some people insist on using one word in John 3:16 to defend a theology that puts the Bible in a state of internal conflict. We will see shortly that John says the Father did not begat Jesus and this fact destroys monotheism.

“Team Rome” (Constantine and church leaders from Rome) went into the council wanting to preserve monotheism and to establish order and uniformity. They succeeded. Constantine was thrilled and made good on a promise to send anyone refusing to accept the creed into exile. Fifty-six years later, the First Council of Constantinople in A.D. 381 updated the Nicene Creed because, at that time, the Roman Emperor Theodosius and church leaders in Rome needed to rein in some disorderly Christians in the east. The Grecians denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit. They reasoned if there were one God, the Holy Spirit could not be a God. Therefore, the Nicene Creed was updated in an effort to better defend and determine who was orthodox and who was not.

1. John 3:16, KJV, italics mine

The Gospel of John

This brief history on the origin of the Nicene Creed (A.D. 325) is important to understand why and how John's words (written two hundred years before the council) were twisted for political and expedient purposes. After John left Patmos, he dove "headfirst" into the controversy surrounding the nature and substance of Jesus. John considered anyone denying the divinity of Jesus as anti-Christ.

His *very first* sentence in the gospel of John declares, "**In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God.**"¹ John then says something in his second sentence that eliminates the idea that Jesus is a created being: "**He [Jesus, "the Word"] was with God in the beginning.**"² Many people think this sentence is just a repetition of verse one, but it isn't. John wants us to understand the Father has *never* lived alone. Jesus and the Father were together in the beginning because both deities are separate, distinct, and self-existing. Jesus was neither begotten, made, nor created by the Father. He is a self-existing God who was with the Father in the beginning. Jesus, like the Father, is from everlasting to everlasting.³

When John was on Patmos, Jesus revealed to him that one of His titles is, the "Word of God."⁴ Later, when writing his gospel, John used a shortened form of this title. He is the only Bible writer to call Jesus, the "Word." John teaches us in his Epistle that Jesus was the Father's Witness on Earth and existed from the beginning, before anything or anyone was created. Jesus was appointed to speak for the Father. This role explains the title, the "Word of God."

Why is it necessary for one God to speak for another God? Jesus said: "**No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.**"⁵ Paul explains why no one

1. John 1:1, insertion and italics mine

2. John 1:2, insertion mine

3. Psalm 90:2; Revelation 1:8; 22:13

4. Revelation 19:13

5. John 6:46

has seen or can see the Father, “[He] **lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.**”¹ Paul adds, “**The Son is the image of the *invisible* God.**”² John explains it this way: “**No one has ever seen God [the Father], but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.**”³ The angels have not seen the Father. They see His glory and glorious form at times, but His features cannot be seen. The Father is a visible representation of the infinite power and glory that each God has explaining why He lives in unapproachable light. Two Gods, the Father and the Holy Spirit, will remain invisible for eternity. The Father’s invisibility requires a visible agent; otherwise, a voice without a source is a voice without ownership. Therefore, one God (Jesus, the “Word”) lives in the form of a created being and through Him, the Father speaks so that the Father’s truth can be traced back to its source. The Father rarely speaks in the Bible. When He does, the Father briefly exalts Jesus.⁴

When we consider the gospel and epistles of John, study Paul’s statements on the nature and substance of Jesus, and have a proper understanding of the book of Revelation, which explains all that Jesus is, the New Testament proves Jesus is the God of the Old Testament.

He is the God who interfaced with the patriarchs and prophets of old. He is a separate, distinct, self-existing God who was with the Father in the beginning! When Jesus told Moses His name is, “I AM,” He revealed to Moses exactly who He was. The title means “self-existing.” All three Gods have no beginning. All three are “the First and the Last” because they are self-existing from everlasting to everlasting. Yes, they have different roles, but they are one in purpose, plan, and action! Each God has all the powers and prerogatives that belong to deity, but they have surrendered powers and prerogatives to one another so that they function as one. The result of their union is a living demonstration of love.

1. 1 Timothy 6:16, insertion mine

2. Colossians 1:15, italics mine

3. John 1:18, insertion mine

4. Psalm 2:7-12; 45:6-7; Matthew 3:17 and Mark 9:7

When the Bible says, “God is love,” the phrase means much more than God is very kind and generous. The phrase means three Gods love one another with all their heart, mind, and soul, and their neighbors as themselves! They have proven their love through the Plan of Salvation and they will continue to demonstrate their love for their children throughout eternity!

If anyone wants to become a member of the “family of three Gods,” that person has to love as they love. This explains why the two greatest commandments require everyone to love God first and most and then his neighbor as himself.¹ This is how they live. Great confusion exists on this topic today because monotheism and other impediments are difficult to overcome. The only way to keep the Bible free of internal conflict is to conclude three separate, self-existing Gods exist. They are separate beings with separate wills. They subjected themselves to one another in love from the beginning so they can eternally demonstrate love in action. If faith without works is dead,² then love without *ongoing* evidence is meaningless. Ask any married person! If two separate and distinct people can live together as one flesh because of love,³ three separate and distinct members of deity can live together as one God because of love.⁴

There are two points you should remember from this discussion. First, you should understand the controversy among early Christians over the nature of Jesus and the consequences of monotheism and polytheism, and need to know why John dove into this matter in his gospel. This is why John used the word, “antichrists” to identify people who diminished the self-existent nature of the great “I AM.” Second, anyone diminishing an eternal self-existing God called “Jesus” is knowingly or unknowingly anti-Christ. The devil has done everything within his power to rob the Holy One of His identity. This is the most egregious case of identity theft in history and it will continue until the Antichrist and the antichrists are destroyed. Be watchful for it!

1. Matthew 22:37-40

2. James 2:17

3. Genesis 2:24

4. Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:26

Appendix C

Types of Immortality

Some people question whether the redeemed will have conditional immortality. Please consider two passages from the Bible:

1. Paul wrote: **“For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’”**¹

2. Jesus also said, **“And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”**²

Do the words of Paul and Jesus produce an internal conflict? How do immortality and blasphemy against (insulting) the Holy Spirit (which is a matter of choice) “in the age to come” fit together? Will the saints receive “self-existing” immortality or “conditional” immortality? These are good questions and they deserve good answers.

The Bible teaches God’s children are given immortality *for as long* as they are willing to obey the Holy Spirit and abide by God’s rules.³ God gave Lucifer and one-third of heaven’s angels immortality, but they lost it because of rebellion against the Holy Spirit and God’s laws. God gave Adam and Eve eternal life, but they lost it because of wrongdoing. The words of Jesus in Matthew 12:31-32 leave no wiggle room regarding the unpardonable sin “in the age to come.” Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is possible in this age and in the age to come because God’s children are gifted with “free will” and “the power of choice.” The presence of sin in the

1. 1 Corinthians 15:53-54

2. Matthew 12:31-32, italics mine

3. Romans 8:14; Revelation 21:7-8

universe proves that God will not overrule a person's "free will" and "the power of choice."

The Curse of Sin

The curse of sin is a "force, a compelling disorder" that affects and mutates everything God has established on Earth – down to the cellular level. The curse of sin brings illness, pain, sorrow, death, deformity, a sinful nature, and many other negative consequences. Everyone, the innocent and the guilty, suffers because the curse of sin imposes the "order of death and deformity" on each living thing – even the animals and plants are affected!

When Paul wrote the last enemy to be destroyed is death,¹ he used personification to describe the curse of sin. He means the last enemy to be destroyed is the wretched disorder we live in. John also used personification to describe the curse of sin. He wrote, "**Then death and Hades [the grave] were thrown into the lake of fire.**"² In another passage, John did not use personification. He plainly says, "**No longer will there be any curse [of sin].**"³ John also wrote about the elimination of "the old order" (the curse of sin) which imposes death, crying, sorrow, and pain. "**There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for *the old order of things* has passed away.**"⁴

These passages show Bible writers used personification and literal phrases to describe a condition that is not visible, tangible, or animate because "the curse of sin" is a force, a compelling disorder affecting each living thing, even the unborn.

The Sudden Death Law

The "sudden death" law⁵ God gave to Adam⁶ explains several elements which are not obvious at first. For example, Jesus

1. 1 Corinthians 15:26

2. Revelation 20:14, insertion mine

3. Revelation 22:3, insertion mine

4. Revelation 21:4, italics mine

5. Described in Chapter 4 of this book

6. Genesis 2:17

became the “Lamb of God” and the “Son of God” on the day Adam and Eve sinned.¹ Jesus was given these titles because He became the Father’s sacrifice as well as man’s intercessor that same day.

The “sudden death” law required Adam and Eve to be immediately executed, but they were not slain because Jesus volunteered to intercede on their behalf. He surrendered Himself to the Father’s will to save mankind. Therefore, the Father stayed the demand of the law until “higher purposes” could be accomplished: purposes such as the knowledge of good and evil, the Plan of Salvation, and the redemption of repentant sinners on Earth.

The “sudden death” law is an eternal law designed to protect the universe from evil. After God’s purposes for staying the demands of the law are completed, should anyone having a sinless nature *choose* to sin, which will be an act of defiance and blasphemy towards Holy Spirit, he will be put to death that same day.

In the unlikely event that a person would blaspheme the Holy Spirit in the age to come, he will be immediately annihilated because he is a defiant sinner. The curse of sin, that is, the force/disorder that hurts the innocent, will not develop further because the virus of sin will be destroyed the day it occurs. This is the grand purpose for the “sudden death” law.

The “sudden death” law will forever protect the universe from sinners/predators. Sin always makes a predator out of a sinner. Think of the heartache and misery the universe could have avoided if the devil had been annihilated the day he sinned! However, even though the Father foreknew the choices which the angels would make, an infinitely wise God spared the rebellious angels for a while because the knowledge of good and evil was unknown. Now that the universe has witnessed and experienced 6,000 of years of the curse of sin on Earth, there is no purpose or reason to stay the death penalty after the wicked are destroyed.

1. Psalm 2:7-12; Revelation 13:8

Because God is love and changeless, all of His future children, even those on future planets, will be given a sinless nature, “free will,” and “the power of choice.” Sin will always be possible, but going forward, highly unlikely because of the knowledge of good and evil.

Clearly, sin happened within Lucifer. How does an angel living in a perfect place, having the best position possible, an innocent mind, and a sinless nature choose willingly to sin? *His experience proves sin can happen within perfection.* This is the power and nature of “free will” and “power of choice.”

Two Types of Immortality

The Bible does not use the terms “conditional immortality” or “self-existing immortality,” but it teaches both concepts. For example, we find in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, that God’s covenant with the descendants of Abraham was conditional while His covenant with Abraham in Genesis 17 was unconditional. Even though the terms conditional and unconditional are not mentioned when discussing these covenants, we clearly see God’s use for both. The same applies for immortality.

When Paul declared that God “alone” has immortality,¹ he spoke about a feature that is unique to deity. Deity is self-existing. This is the sentiment Jesus declared when He spoke to Moses saying, **“I Am, That I Am.”**² Self-existence is the meaning of the following phrases Jesus used: “I am the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.” Only deity, according to Paul, is immortal in a self-existing way. Everything else “borrows” life from our Creator. **“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory...sustaining all things by his powerful word.”**³ No created being has life within himself. **“For in him we live and move and have our being.”**⁴

It is clear from Scripture, angels and mankind cannot keep themselves alive.⁵ We know the angels were granted conditional

1. 1 Timothy 6:16

2. Exodus 3:14, KJV

3. Hebrews 1:3

4. Acts 17:28

5. Psalm 22:29; Revelation 20:10

immortality because the evil angels will be destroyed at the end of the 1,000 years. Beings that have self-existing immortality cannot be destroyed. The holy angels have to eat from the Tree of Life to stay alive.

When Paul wrote, “**this mortal shall have put on immortality,**”¹ he did not specify self-existing or conditional immortality, but a simple deduction is possible. The saints cannot be given an attribute reserved for deity. No one will ever exist outside of our Creator’s sustaining power. At death, the life sustaining power returns to God who “loaned” it. The Bible says of Adam, “**Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the *breath of life*, and the man became a living being.**”² And, the Bible says of mankind at death, “**And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit [breath] returns to God who gave it.**”³

Summary

Each living thing, great or small, depends upon the Creator for life (this is conditional immortality). The Tree of Life is front and center in John’s view of the Holy City because the meek (the saints) will inherit the Earth.⁴ “**On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree [the shade provided by the leaves] are for the healing of the nations [the reunification of mankind, long separated by cultures, languages, and religions].**”⁵

The Tree of Life in the Earth made new will be a necessity and will be for all future planets. All of God’s children will have to eat its delicious fruit to receive everlasting life. Therefore, our Creator will make eternal life available for everyone! None of God’s children can have self-existing immortality, an attribute belonging to deity!

1. 1 Corinthians 15:54, KJV

2. Genesis 2:7, italics mine

3. Ecclesiastes 12:7, insertion mine

4. Matthew 5:5

5. Revelation 22:2, insertions mine

Wake Up America Seminars Website

We encourage you to visit our website for further study. Most of the materials including many books Larry Wilson has produced during his forty years of ministry are available for free at *www.wake-up.org*.

Additional Materials Referenced in This Book

wake-up.org/untold-story-information

Free Videos

wake-up.org/video-series-list

or

youtube.com/wuaseminars

We would like to receive comments about this book or questions you may have. Please send your comments to us at the email or physical address below. Thank you.

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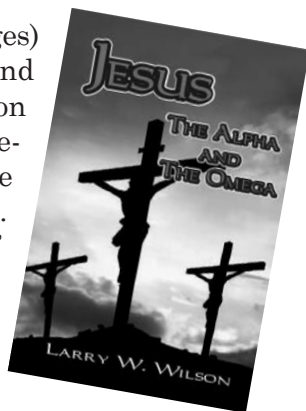
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About the Author

Larry Wilson, Director of Wake Up America Seminars, became a born again Christian after returning from a tour of duty in Vietnam. His understanding of the gospel, the plan of salvation, and the atonement of Jesus Christ has thrilled his soul ever since. He has spent over 40 years intensely studying the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

In 1988, he published the first edition of his first book *Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled* and since then, has written several books (over 950,000 books in circulation throughout the world). Along with writing books, Larry Wilson gives seminar presentations, produces video programs which have been broadcast from various locations throughout the United States, and is a guest on radio talk shows.

About the Organization

Wake Up America Seminars (WUAS) is both a non-profit and a non-denominational organization. With God's blessings and the generosity of many people, WUAS has distributed millions of pamphlets, books and tapes around the world since it began in 1988. WUAS is not a church and is not affiliated or sponsored by any religious organization. WUAS does not offer membership of any kind. Its mission is not to convert the world to a point of view. Although WUAS has well defined views on certain biblical matters, its mission is primarily "seed sowing." It promotes the primacy of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, His imminent return, and is doing its best to encourage people with the good news of the gospel. People of all faiths are invited to study the materials produced by WUAS.

Nearly fifty years ago as a new Christian, I well remember the day, time, and place I first read the gospel of John. I read it in one sitting and I was shocked! Subsequently, I read the four gospels several times, each time in one sitting. This had a powerful impact that transformed my life. My admiration and love for Jesus shifted from simple gratitude to total surrender, and resulted in a life of serving Him.

This is a story of love! Jesus loved sinners so much He was willing to suffer all the consequences for saying anything the Father wished Him to say. For this reason, Jesus was accused of blasphemy and crucified. I hope the Untold Story of Jesus will surprise you as much as reading John's gospel surprised me! I do not expect anyone to embrace everything in this book, but I hope it will make you want to know more about the love of Jesus than you ever imagined

Larry Wilson, Founder and Director of Wake Up America Seminars, has written many books on Bible prophecy including Jesus The Alpha and The Omega, Daniel Unlocked for the Final Generation, The Lamb's Book of Life, Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled, Jesus' Final Victory, No More Delay, and A Study on the Seven Trumpets, Two Witnesses, and Four Beasts. Over 950,000 books authored by Mr. Wilson have been distributed throughout the world.

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