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GENESIS

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Introduction

When we study the Word of God it is important to understand different things concerning the Scriptures.

1. The Scriptures are the inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21). The Scriptures are “spiritually discerned, not naturally discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14). God, being Spirit, and all others being created, reveals spiritual things by using “symbolic teaching, parables, and types and shadows” to help us understand spiritual things. Those who do not understand “symbolic teaching, parables, and types and shadows,” will not understand the Gospel that Jesus and Paul preached. If you do not understand the Gospel you could be deceived like Eve was deceived in the Garden of Eden.

Satan uses people who do not receive spiritual discernment from God to deceive whosoever he can. Satan uses many different types of deception, including “putting the wrong label on a doctrine or teaching.” As an example, Born again and saved are not the same thing. Born again is “relationship to God” (becoming a true child of God by a new birth in the spirit). Saved is “fellowship with God” through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Those who do not understand this simple truth need to get their minds renewed upon the written Word of God (Rom. 12:2).

God uses many “symbolic teachings, parables, and types and shadows,” to bring understanding to those who He chooses, whose heart is right before him. As an example: In Matthew 13:10, the disciples asked Jesus this question, “**Why speakest thou unto them in parables?**” Then in Matthew 13:13 Jesus said, “**...because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.**” Then Jesus explained, saying,

in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Those who Jesus is speaking of are they whose “**...heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed...**” This is not something God did to them, it’s what they did themselves.

So it is with the Scriptures. If people close their eyes, dull their hearing, and let their heart become waxed gross, they will not understand the Scriptures. God looks at the heart of every individual, and sees what they have done about hearing and seeing what God is saying to them. Without hearing and seeing what God is saying in “symbolic teaching, parables, and types and shadows,” we will be like those Jesus was speaking about in Matthew 13:10-15.

Another example of “symbolic teaching” is in John 7:38. Jesus said, “**He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**” The Greek word for “water” is “hudor.” It means “liquid water,” and it has no other meaning. Those who insist on “word for word” translation of the Scriptures without “symbolic teaching,” will be deceived just as much as Eve was deceived. God uses “symbolic teaching” and without understanding of “symbolic teaching, parables, and types and shadows,” we will easily be deceived.

We must believe the Word of God beyond our natural understanding. If we want to understand the written Word of God, we must receive our understanding from our spirit, where God

gives us understanding by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Job 32:8 tells us, **“there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”**

2. God is Spirit... God is not “a Spirit,” He is Spirit. Spirit’s are limited by God as to what they can do and how they can do things. God is not limited by anything except His Word. God and His Word are One. You cannot separate God from His Word.

Being Spirit, God is everywhere at all times. God is not limited by position, time, or anything else. God is all powerful, greater than any other (the devil, Satan, angels, humans, etc.). No one has power over God. God only speaks of time (days, months, years, etc.), when it’s important for man to understand what God is saying. God does not concern Himself with time when time is not important to God. Time was created by God for man’s benefit, not God’s benefit. God is always “now” and time is of no importance to God, except to help people know what He is saying concerning man here on earth.

God does not give any accounting in time before Genesis 1:2. Yet, If God were to give an account in the element of time such as days, years, etc. we would be amazed at how long ago it was when God created the heavens.

3. Another thing to understand is that **“God cannot lie”** (Titus 1:2). Therefore, what God did not tell us in one part of the Scriptures, He may have made mention of it in another part of the Scriptures. We must search the complete Scriptures to understand what God is making known to us (2 Tim. 2:15).

4. The Scriptures contain the Written Word of God, which includes the words of men and spirits. Only what God said can be considered truth. For the Son of God is “Truth” Himself (John 14:6). As an example, in Luke 4:5,6, it says, **“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time...And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.”** God did not say, the power over all the kingdoms of the world was delivered to the devil. The Devil lied when he said that. Yet, Jesus (Who is the Truth) said of the devil in John 8:44, **“He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”** When we consider the complete Word of God, we find many times the Scripture says that God is over all the kingdoms of this world (See, 2 Chron. 20:6, 2 Kings 19:15, Job. 36:7, Psa. 103:19, Dan, 2:37,38, 4:17,25, Rom. 13:1.).

Jesus said, the devil is a liar and there is no truth in him. Therefore, we must take note of who was speaking and what did the one who was speaking say? We can believe God, but not everyone else (Num. 23:19).

GENESIS 1:1

In Genesis 1:1 it says, **“In the beginning God <’elohiym> created the heaven <shamayim> and the earth.”** (See also, Psa. 8:3; 33:6; 89:11-12; 102:25; 146:6; Isa. 44:24; Jer. 10:12; 51:15; Zec. 12:1; John 1:1-3; Acts 17:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:10; 11:3; 2 Peter 3:5; Rev. 4:11; 10:6).

The Hebrew word <’elohiym> is the plural form of the singular form for God. Thus signifying more than one person (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) (1 John 5:7). The Hebrew word <shamayim> is a dual of an unused singular <shameh> thus signifying more than one heaven (3 heavens total).

According to John 1:1-3, we see that the heavens and the earth were created by the Word of God. We see also that Jesus, the Son of God, who came “as a man in the flesh” is also **“the Word of God”** (John 1:14; 1 John 1-2; 5:7; Rev. 19:13). As the Word of God, He created all things. Colossians 1:16,17 says,

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In John 1:10 it also confirms this by saying **“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.”**

To understand Genesis 1:1, we must understand that God did not specify any time element between the time He created the heavens and the time He created “this present earth.” Time was not accounted for until the first day of “this creation” was complete.

There are many Scriptures throughout the Bible indicating things that happened before the creation (foundation) of “this world.” Therefore we must take into account the complete Bible when we study the Scriptures, including Genesis 1:1,2.

When we understand “time” from the Scriptures, then we will understand God’s purpose for our being on this earth today. God had a plan for every individual born into this world (already from the foundation of this world) (Eph. 1:4, Rev. 13:8, 17:8).

The LORD said to Jeremiah **“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”** God knew everyone born into this world, before they were conceived in their mother’s womb (Gen. 12:7, 15:4, 17:15,16,19, 18:10, 25:23, Isa. 49:1, Luke 1:15, 35, Gal. 1:15, Eph. 1:4, 3:11, 1 Peter 1:20).

Romans 8:29 says, **“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”** God knew “you” before you were conceived in your mother’s womb. God has what we call “foreknowledge.” God does not operate on a time basis. God always was and always will be... God is eternal, He is from eternity through eternity. All things are subject to God.

Time was first mentioned by God in Genesis 1:5. Before that, time was not mentioned, for God is and always was. Between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 there could have been billions of years, if time would have been accounted for. But, time was created on the first day of “this creation” for man’s benefit. When this world is destroyed by fire, time will be no more.

Yet, heaven and all human souls will exist forever and ever. Some will spend eternity in

heaven, others will spend eternity in hell (the lake of fire) (Rev. 20:10, 14,15, 21:1-4). In heaven there are no days, weeks, months, or years for there is no night (Rev. 23,25).

Time was created on the first day of this creation, and will no longer be counted once man leaves this earth for eternity. Therefore, it is important for man to make the most use of his time here on earth, for once he leaves this earth, his position for eternity will remain forever, either in heaven or in hell.

Many things happened in eternity past, which we can find reference to in the Scriptures. As an example: In John 17:5, Jesus said, **“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”** Jesus was with the Father before this world was created. The word **“world,”** in the Greek is “kosmos” meaning “the orderly arrangement of the physical world even sometimes pertaining to the sun, the moon, and the stars in this universe.” Therefore, Jesus is speaking of before Genesis 1:2. In Ephesians 1:4 it says, **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”** Again, the same Greek word is used in this verse, meaning the same thing, “before the orderly arrangement of the physical world even sometimes pertaining to the sun, the moon, and the stars in this universe.” Then in Revelation 13:8 it says, **“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** The Greek word for “world” and the Greek word for “foundation” are the same Greek words used in John 17:5 and Ephesians 1:4, meaning the same thing. Therefore, we are told that **“the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world”** even before Adam was created.

There are many other Scripture verses revealing things that were completed before the foundation of the world. God had already declared them as done, finished, before Adam was created. God does not operate on a time base. God operates according to His Word, which was settled from the foundation of the world (Isa. 46:9,10; 1 Cor. 2:7).

Things Created Before This Present Earth

We know from Colossians 1:16, that everything that was created was created by Jesus (the Son of God; the Word of God). They were created by Him and for Him. Look again at what it says in Colossians 1:16, **“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”** All things **“that are in heaven, and that are in earth,”** were created by Jesus. **“By Him all things consist...”** (Col. 1:17).

This means that the angels were also created by Jesus. Everything was created by Jesus (Who is the Word of God), even those things which cannot be seen with our natural eyes. Including **“thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers...”**

From the beginning, all things were created by Him and for Him, and were, and are, subject to Him. Once we come to the knowledge and understanding that Jesus, the Son of God, and the Word of God are One in the same; then we will begin to understand the Scriptures. The complete Bible from Genesis through Revelation points to Jesus (the Word of God).

Before Genesis 1:2, the angels were created. Angels have greater strength than human beings, yet they do not have physical bodies of their own (2 Peter 2:11). Psalm 103:20 says, **“Bless the**

LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.” The Hebrew word translated to “**hearkening**” means “to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc.).” Therefore, angels obey the commandments of the LORD.

Every angel is given a commandment, as to what they are expected to do. Angels obey these commandments. Angels do not do their own will, they only do the will of God. They appear and disappear according to the commandment of God. Angels do have a free will to choose who they will obey, and before the foundation of this world, many angels disobeyed God (Jude 1:6). 2 Peter 2:4 tells us, “**...God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.**”

There is reference made to one angel, a cherub by the name of Lucifer (Isa. 14:12). In Ezekiel 28:12-20 there is recorded a “word of knowledge” given to Ezekiel to speak to Lucifer in the form of a lamentation (a weeping, sorrowful presentation--like at a funeral). A word of knowledge reveals “something of importance either present or past.”

It begins by saying, “**Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty**” (Ezek. 28:12). To better understand what is said in verse twelve we need to see also verse fifteen, which says, “**Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee**” (Ezek. 28:15).

Lucifer, called the king of Tyrus (the spiritual ruler over the city of Tyrus), was created perfect in his ways from the day the LORD created him. He was “**full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.**” Lucifer had full knowledge of what the LORD created him for, and understood what he was doing when he “sealed up the sum” (the total plan of God for his existence).

Within himself, of his own ability and willingness he rebelled against God, raising himself up to be like God. From verse 16 through verse 20 it tells us,

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

This is a word of knowledge, which reveals a past or present condition. It is reminding Lucifer of the time before he was cast out of heaven, saying, “**...I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire**” (Ezek. 28:16). Then in verse seventeen it also says, “**I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.**” Again in verse eighteen it says, “**I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth**

in the sight of all them that behold thee.”

All of these “I will’s” indicate Lucifer was given an opportunity to repent. But Lucifer did not repent. Even after he was cast down to the earth, he continued to proclaim his rebellion, saying, **“..I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High”** (Isa. 14:13,14).

Because of Lucifer’s rebellion, he was cast down to the earth, and there is no more opportunity for him to repent. In the time to come, he will spend eternity in hell. Revelation 20:10 says, **“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”**

Ezekiel 28:14 says, **“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth...”** Lucifer was an anointed cherub in the day that he was created. A cherub is a winged angel. Lucifer was anointed...he had powers greater than other angels. He deceived many other angels, and they left their calling (first estate), and were also cast out of the third heavens where the throne of God exists (2 Peter 2:4).

When Lucifer was cast out of the third heavens, he became “Satan, the Devil.” His position in heaven was lost forever, he became **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4). He was cast down to this earth, and the angels that followed him were cast out with him. They are being held until the day of judgement (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6).

Jesus spoke of the time when Satan was cast out of heaven in Luke 10:18 saying, **“...I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”** Jesus was there in heaven when Lucifer was cast down to the earth.

In Ezekiel 28:17 it speaks of Lucifer being cast down to “the ground” and in Ezekiel 28:18 it speaks of him being cast down to “the earth.” The word “ground,” and the word “earth” used in these verses are the same Hebrew word, meaning the same thing, “the earth that we live upon today.” It’s the same earth that is spoken of in Genesis 1:1, and all the way through the Old Testament. The same earth that is spoken of in Genesis 1:2. This same earth exists today and will continue until it is destroyed and we will have a new heavens and a new earth (Isa. 65:17-19; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1).

When was this earth created? When was Lucifer cast out of heaven down to this earth? When did Lucifer become the god of this world?

If we study the Scriptures the way they were written in the original manuscripts we will see what God says about the creation of the earth in the beginning. Each person must determine within themselves, if they will believe the Word of God, or the words of men. It’s a choice every person must make for themselves. Keeping in mind, Lucifer also made his own choice and it was the wrong choice...

If we choose not to believe God and His Word, it’s our own choice, God will not force anyone to believe His Word. We have a “free will” to choose what we will believe. Those who reject God’s Word are in fact rejecting God’s Son. If we reject God’s Son, there is no other salvation than through Jesus Christ, the Son of God (the Word of God). Therefore, we must **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Tim. 2:15). Believing what others say or teach could lead us into rejecting the Word of God. If we don’t believe the Word of God there is no hope for us.

This does not mean that if we do not believe what Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:5-7, we will not

enter heaven. It means that if we do not believe the Word of God we will not know the Truth, and then the Truth cannot set us free... (John 8:31,32). We will remain in bondage in certain areas of our lives that, if we would believe, we will be free of that bondage and all bondages associated with that bondage. In short it tells us, if we don't believe the truth from the Word of God we will in effect believe a lie from the devil.

In 2 Peter 3:5-7 tells us,

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

We need to study these verses, not just read them. In verse five it says, **“by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.”** If we compare this with Genesis 1:2, we see the same condition. The earth and the water in complete chaos. Yet, the earth and the water are two different things. The earth is not the water and the water is not the earth...it's that simple. Where did the water come from? There is no mention of God creating water in Genesis Chapter One. Yet, the water was there, and the earth was there at the time Peter is speaking of.

Looking at 2 Peter 3:6 it says **“Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.”** The Greek word used for “perished” is “apollumi,” meaning “to destroy fully, literally or figuratively.” The Greek word used for “world” in this verse is “kosmos,” meaning “orderly arrangement, i.e. decoration; by implication, the world (in a wide or narrow sense, including its inhabitants, literally or figuratively).”

Now let us consider the flood at the time of Noah. Was the world at Noah's time completely fully destroyed, including its orderly arrangements, the mountains, the hills, the rivers, the seas, the fish, and all it's inhabitants? It doesn't say that in Genesis, Chapters Seven and Eight. The trees remained, the mountains remained, Noah and his family remained, only “flesh” was destroyed, not the earth itself. In Genesis 6:7 it says, **“And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”** That was all that was destroyed at the time of the flood in Genesis, seven and eight.

Therefore, Peter could not be speaking of the flood at the time of Noah. Peter must have been speaking of a flood before Genesis 1:2. Whereby Genesis 1:2 says, **“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep...”** This is a description of the same condition that Peter described in 2 Peter 3:5,6.

GENESIS 1:2-25

In Genesis 1:2 it says, **“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”** The earth was already there, the water was already there, the condition was, it **“was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”** Without form and void means it was worthless, of no value in it’s condition.

How many times in the Bible does it tell us that God created something and it was worthless and of no value? As we look at different places in the Bible where it tells us about how God created certain things it says, **“And God saw the light, that it was good..”** (Gen. 1:4). Then in each of the following verses, Genesis 1:10,12,18,21,25, it says, **“and God saw that it was good.”** Then in Genesis 1:31 it says, **“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.”** Even when it talks about God creating Lucifer, who is now Satan, it says in Ezekiel 28:15, **“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”**

There isn’t any place in Scripture where it tells us that God created something and it was not good. Everything God created was good in the day that God created it. Therefore, finding in Genesis 1:2 a world that was **“without form, and void..”** indicates that something happened between the time God first created the heavens and the earth and the time mentioned in Genesis 1:2, when God began this present creation.

Everything God determined that man should know concerning what happened before Genesis 1:2 is revealed in other places throughout the Scriptures. Yet, many will not know what is revealed elsewhere in the Scriptures unless God reveals it to them. Some will think they know, but their understanding will be darkened by the god of this world. To understand what God is making known to man, it must be revealed by God from our spirit. In Job 32:8 it says, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”** All understanding of truth from the Word of God comes by the Holy Spirit giving us understanding from our spirit (not our mind). In 1 Corinthians 2:11 it says, **“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”** Man does not know the things of God, unless they are revealed to him by the Spirit of God. It says in 1 Corinthians 2:9,10

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Then it goes on to explain in 1 Corinthians 2:12-14,

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Man does not have the ability to know things concerning what God has not revealed to us in His

Word, except he receive it from God. Man's wisdom and knowledge is limited by God... Yet, the Word of God tells us, **"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him"** (James 1:5).

God will give to us wisdom if we ask for it "in faith" not wavering. Yet, faith only operates according to the Word of God, not according to the words of men. God controls faith, it is a gift from God, and only operates in accordance to the Word of God.

People can believe and receive without faith. Jesus even said, **"all things are possible to him that believeth"** (Mark 9:23). Man has the power to believe, and all things are possible to them that believe (according to the Word of God). What God has not permitted will not come to pass. God is in control of this creation and no man has power over God (the created is subject to the Creator). Even Satan, who is "the god of this world," cannot do anything unless he is permitted to by the LORD (Job 1:8,12, 2:1,6,7). Satan is also a created being and subject to the LORD who created him.

In Genesis 1:3 it says, **"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."** Light came by God speaking His Word. Psalm 33:9 says, **"For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast."** The instant God spoke His Word it happened. It didn't take twenty-four hours for God to create light. ***"As fast as God spoke, it was done."***

God is not like man. It doesn't take God time to do anything. As soon as God speaks, it's done. There is no account of time for God to accomplish something. We could say, God is not concerned by time, He created time for man.

Genesis 1:4 tells us, **"And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."** The light that came was two-fold (two types).

First, it was physical light that overcame the darkness during the daytime. Light always dispels darkness. Darkness cannot dispel light. Darkness is the absence of light, when there is no light darkness appears. When light comes darkness leaves, for it is overcome by the light.

Secondly, the Light that came was also "spiritual," it was "the Word of God." When the Word of God comes, the wickedness of Satan is overcome (by the Word of God). In 1 John 1:5 it says, **"...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."** Darkness was present before God said, **"Let there be light..."** Darkness was there because the Word of God was not present before that.

There was in the beginning of the first day, an absence of the Word of God, therefore when the light (the Word) came the darkness was overcome. This indicates that the works of Satan was evident before the first day of this creation. Satan had been cast down to the earth before the first day of this present creation.

The Scriptures do not give us a time element as to when Lucifer was cast out of the heavens, and became Satan, the "god of this world." There was no "time element" mentioned in eternity before the first day of this creation.

In Ezekiel 28:15, it says, **"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."** The word "day" in this verse does not pertain to a certain 24 hour period of time. The word "day" used in Ezekiel 28:15 represents a "point of time" or "a moment." This same definition applies to the use of the Hebrew word for "day" in Genesis 2:17, **"for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."**

In Genesis 1:5 it says, **"And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."** It was dark when God began establishing time for man, the first day started in the evening and ended as evening began the second day.

In Genesis 1:6,7 it says,

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

As God spoke His Word, it was done. No indication that it took all day for God to do what He did on the second day. God divided the waters (liquid from gases). The liquid waters filled the ocean, seas, rivers, etc. besides it became moisture in the ground. Chemist's call this H₂O. The gases, which became a part of the air above the earth became the firmament.

Then verse 8 says, **“And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”** The firmament is where the birds and insects fly, as well as any other objects that have the ability to fly. It includes everything above the earth surface where there is air. This is also called the first heavens above the earth.

There are three heavens total. The second heavens is between the first heaven and the third heaven where the throne of God is. The third heavens is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 12:2, **“I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.”**

In Genesis 1:9,10, it says,

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

The waters under the heaven are the liquid waters.

Verse 11 says, **“And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.”** The words **“and it was so,”** indicate that as fast as God spoke His Word it was done. It didn't take all day for God to do this.

Every seed would reproduce after his kind. Apple seeds will not produce banana trees, they are not the same kind. The same applies to grass and herb seeds. They will each produce after his kind. Man has been able to produce varieties of different plants and trees, but they are still limited to each **“after his kind.”**

Genesis 1:12,13 says,

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Genesis 1:14,15 says,

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

During the first three days of this creation, the LORD was the Light that divided the evening from the morning making each day an individual day. It was not until the fourth day that the sun, moon, and stars were created.

Notice, God only tells us things He wants us to know, things He believes are important for man to know. By this, we are not to add anything to what God tells us or take anything away from what God tells us. Yet, we must understand, He is speaking of **“the firmament of the heaven”** which does not necessarily include all of the expanse of the heavens. The Hebrew word translated “firmament” only includes “the visible arch of the sky.” That word did not necessarily include what man is able to see today, through high power telescopes.

Genesis 1:16-19 says,

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

The rule over the day and the night by the sun and the moon was given by God. We could call that “delegated authority.” In other words, it was not eternal existing power or authority. When Joshua commanded the sun and the moon to stand still in Joshua 10:12,13 they obeyed the voice of Joshua. It says,

Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Notice, Joshua spoke to the LORD and the LORD caused the sun and the moon to stand still. Also, darkness came in the daytime when Jesus was on the cross. Matthew 27:54 says, **“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.”** The sun, moon, and stars are created objects and are subject to the Creator. They must obey the commands of the LORD our God.

The time is coming when **“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come”** (Joel 2:31, Acts 2:20). Then there is also the time coming as recorded in 2 Peter 3:12,13,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Peter is not the only one who spoke of this time. It is also spoken of in Isaiah 65:17, 66:22, Revelation 21:1,27. The earth that now is, will be destroyed according to the Word of God. It was created in it’s condition it is now on the first days of this creation, and will eventually be destroyed and a new heavens and a new earth will take it’s place in eternity.

Genesis 1:20,21 says,

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters

brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

Keep in mind, God is God and there is none like Him. Psalm 33:9 says, **“For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”** It didn’t take God all day to create moving creatures that have life, fowl and great whales...

Notice something about the **“great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind...”** these fish that were created that day did not perish in the flood at the time of Noah. They continued to live throughout the flood. Only the flesh of creatures that were **“upon the earth”** were destroyed. Not those who were in the waters. This helps us to understand that the flood Peter was talking about in 2 Peter 3:6 was not the flood at the time of Noah.

Notice also, as with other creatures that were created in Genesis, Chapter One, each one was to reproduce **“after their kind--after his kind.”** People cannot reproduce fish or fowl, and fish and fowl cannot reproduce people. Notice also, angels and demons cannot have sex with women and produce people. Angels and demons are not the same kind. They do not have physical bodies, or the ability to have sex with human beings.

Notice also in Genesis 2:19, talking about the fowl as well it says, **“out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air...”**

In Genesis 1:22,23 it says,

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Then it says in Genesis 1:24,25,

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

Now look also what it says in Genesis 2:19, **“And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.”**

Hereby, we see that the living creatures created on the sixth day were all formed out of the ground. So was the fowl of the air formed of the dust of the ground already on the fifth day. These were all created differently than those things which were created by God speaking His Word only. First God spoke His Word **“And God said...,”** then He formed them.

GENESIS 1:26-31

Looking at Genesis 1:26, it says, **“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”** This verse lays out the plan of God for mankind. There is much to learn from this verse as well as the next two verses. We need to study them carefully.

Genesis 1:27 says, **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”** Here is where most Christians make their biggest mistakes. In both verses the word translated “man” from the Hebrew word “adam,” is Strong’s number 120. The correct meaning of this word is “mankind,” not one man by the name of Adam. Strong’s number for one man by the name of Adam is number 121. This information alone should eliminate most of the error that is taught by the religious sector of the Christian’s today. Once we overcome this error then it is much easier to overcome a lot of error in the teachings of men.

Notice also, in regards to the creation of “mankind” in this verse it says, **“...in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”** Adam was not by-sexual. He was not male and female at the same time. But, “mankind” was male and female in the day that God created “mankind.”

Notice also in Genesis 1:26 it says, **“let them have dominion...”** Them is plural, not singular. This helps us to understand that God did not give Adam (one man) dominion on this earth. God gave “mankind,” male and female dominion.

How simple it is, yet how many have believed the teachings of men over the Word of God. It was necessary for the translators to use the word “them” and not the word “him,” for the word for man included male and female. How simple it is, yet many have believed what men have taught without simply reading what it says in these two verses.

At this point it is important that we understand God and His Word. One way to begin to understand the Word of God is to look at Job 32:8, which says, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”** Mankind, of their own ability cannot understand the Word of God, for it is spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:14). Even the devil does not understand the Word of God. The understanding of the truth of the Word of God is that which God reveals to those He chooses to reveal it to, based upon their will to believe God. Those who do not desire to believe God, He will not reveal His truth to them.

In 1 Corinthians 2:8 it tells us that the spirits of this world did not understand the Word of God concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus. **“...for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”**

Even for man, 1 Corinthians 2:14 it says, **“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

Understanding of God’s Word comes from our spirit, not our mind. Understanding is given to us “by inspiration,” not by intellectual knowledge. Today, under the New Covenant God teaches us by the anointing within us. 1 John 2:27 says, **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in**

him.”

Those who try to understand the Word of God from their intellectual knowledge will not understand it. It is not possible for people to understand the Word of God without the help of the Holy Spirit, Who gives us understanding by inspiration. Those today, who do not receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior will not understand the Word of God.

Yes, many may have great intellectual knowledge of the Word of God. They may even memorize much of the Scriptures, but their understanding of spiritual things will be darkened. Many of the spiritual truths from the Word of God will be foolishness to them.

A second important part of understanding the Word of God is in using the complete Scriptures to understand individual verses. Those who have tried to understand individual verses without considering other verses have fallen into great error.

The written Word of God and God are the same (John 1:1). Without understanding God you will never understand the Word of God. Without understanding the Word of God you will not understand God. They are one in the same...

Going back to Genesis 1:26 it says, **“And God said, Let us make man in our image...”** What is the image of God? The image of something is how you imagine it to be based upon what you perceive in your mind based upon what information you have.

As an example, if you had seen a picture of the Washington Monument you would have an image of what it looks like. Then, if you went to Washington DC and saw the Washington Monument with your eyes, you would know that what you saw was the Washington Monument. You already had an image of the Washington Monument from the picture you saw before you went to Washington DC.

The image is not the actual thing, but only an image of the actual thing. This image is perceived in your mind, based upon what it was that gave you that image or how you received that image.

Someone can describe to you what the Washington Monument looks like. And if the description they give you is in detail enough, when you see the Washington Monument in Washington DC with your own eyes, you will not need to ask anyone if it is the true Monument or not. You will know by the image you have received that it is what they said it is.

The true image of God is revealed in His Word. It's not as to whether God is Spirit or not. For you cannot imagine what a spirit looks like, no matter how you try. You will be deceived if you think you can get an image of God by thinking what a spirit looks like or even thinking the image of God is that God is Spirit. The image of God has nothing to do with the fact that God is Spirit.

If you study the Word of God, which reveals the image of God, you will get an accurate image of God. In Colossians 3:10 it says, **“...put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”** Ephesians 4:24 says it this way, **“...put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”** This tells us that the image of God is **“righteousness and true holiness.”** The new man, is created in the image of God (1 Cor. 15:49). Therefore, it is telling us to put on the new man... Put on the new man means “change your attitude to agree with what the Word of God says about you.” What does the Word of God say about those who are born again (a new man--in Christ Jesus)?

The image of God includes all that it says about God, starting with **“righteousness and true holiness.”** From there we can continue on in the Scriptures and add to this other verses that express

the true image of God, such as 1 John 4:18, which says, **“...God is love,”** this is an important part of the image of God. Then we could go to Galatians 5:22,23 which says, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,...Meekness, temperance...”** These are the fruit of the Holy Spirit... Fruit, means “what is produced by something or someone after His kind” (Gen. 1:11,12).

Using “fruit” as the bases, God is speaking “symbolically,” of that which is produced by a plant in the form of a seed “after his kind,” which in turn will reproduce another in the exact likeness and image. Galatians 5:22,23, is speaking of the fruit, that the Holy Spirit will cause to manifest in those who are children of God.

As we continue in the Scriptures we will find many other examples of the image of God. Such as in Job 43:12 where it says, **“Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.”** In John 14:6, Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life...”** Truth is a part of the image of God. Psalm 25:10 says, **“All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.”** God’s mercy is included wherever His truth is applied. Truth and mercy work together. Another important part of the image of God is **“that God is no respecter of persons”** (Acts 10:34). This is taught clearly by James. (See James 2:1-11).

By God’s image, we know Him. His image is shown to us in His written Word. When we know His written Word, His image is revealed to us from our spirit. As it tells us in Job 32:8, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”**

Our knowing God is not by intellectual knowledge of God, but by **“the inspiration of the Almighty,”** from our spirit. Spiritual things are revealed by the Holy Spirit. They are spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:14).

Going back to Genesis 1:26, it said, **“And God said, Let us make man...after our likeness...”** What is the likeness of God? Notice that before God said “in His likeness” He said “in His image”? You cannot know the likeness of God if you do not know the image of God. The image of something comes before the likeness of something.

If you want to explain to someone who has never seen an apple, the likeness of an apple (what an apple is like), you will first need to give them “an image” of an apple. You may need to give them an image of an apple tree first, or at least a fruit tree. Then you can explain the likeness of an apple after they have an image of an apple.

Simply putting it, if they know what an orange is, you can then use that to give them an image of an apple. Once they understand the similarity of the two, then you can use the image you have given them to tell them the difference between an orange and an apple.

We cannot understand the “likeness” of God without understanding the image of God. But, once we know and understand the image of God, it’s simple to understand what the likeness of God is. By God’s image, we know that He is God, the creator of heaven and earth. We know that God and His Word are One (John 1:1, 1 John 5:7). We know also that God created the world and all that there is within “by His Word” (Psa. 33:6, John 1:1-3, Heb. 11:3).

As we study the account of creation in Genesis 1:1-25, we see that “God spoke His Word” and it was so. Thereby, we can plainly see that the “likeness of God” is the way God does things. All things are accomplished by His Word. Not just by His Word, but by speaking His Word. God speaks, and it is done... Therefore, the likeness of God is how God does things, by speaking His Word.

So, what is the image and likeness of God that man was created in? The image is,

“righteousness and true holiness, ...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,...Meekness, temperance...God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment...mercy and truth...etc.”

The likeness of God is how God does things. God speaks His Word in faith and it comes to pass. God believes what He says and it happens just as He said it. God **“calls those things which be not as though they were”** (Rom. 4:17).

This is the way mankind was created in the beginning. Adam and Eve lived and expressed the image and likeness of God until they sinned in the Garden of Eden. When sin entered into mankind, Adam no longer lived in the image and likeness of God. Sin and death came upon them and some of the things Adam and Eve did in Genesis 3:1-17 show us that they did not continue in the image and likeness of God.

In the last part of Genesis 1:26, it says, **“And God said...and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”** Why did God say, **“let them have dominion...”**? God was very specific as to who would have dominion.

First of all, on the sixth day God created all the living creatures that moved upon the face of the earth. Each of these were created by forming their bodies from the elements of the earth (dust of the ground). Everyone of these living creatures were made of a part of the earth. Their bodies came from the earth. They belonged to the earth, for they were of the earth. Man also was of the earth, for his body was formed from the dust of the earth. 1 Corinthians 15:47 says, **“The first man is of the earth, earthy...”**

Out of all these creatures, God chose man to have dominion **“over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”** God did not give any of the other creatures dominion upon the earth.

The earth belonged to God, for He created it himself. In Isaiah 45:12,18 it says,
**I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.
For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.**

God did not give dominion to any other creature.

God did not give dominion to any creature that was not created in the image and likeness of God. To have dominion upon earth, a person must operate in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, Satan could not get man’s dominion for he cannot operate in the image and likeness of God. Satan could not get man’s dominion because he does not have a body of flesh and bones formed from the dust of the ground. Satan could not get “Adam’s dominion” because dominion was not given to Adam alone, it was given to “all mankind, male and female.”

No other creature created by God could have dominion upon earth, for they cannot operate in the image and likeness of God. Even human beings who do not operate in the image and likeness of God do not have dominion on earth.

This is why the flood came at the time of Noah, there were none operating in the image and likeness of God at the time. Only Noah was found to be righteous at the time of the flood, therefore,

Noah and his family were saved. All others were destroyed in the flood.

Abraham, being a prophet, said in Genesis 18:25, **“That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”** God will not destroy the righteous with the wicked...

There were certain requirements laid out in Genesis 1:26 concerning dominion.

1. Those who were given dominion had to have a body formed from the dust of the ground.
2. They had to operate in the image and likeness of God.

The devil could not have dominion on the earth, because he could not meet these two requirements. Angels could not have dominion on earth, they could not meet these two requirements.

Even God could not have dominion without sending His Son in the likeness of man (with a human body of flesh and bones). Psalms 8:4-8 and Hebrews 2:6-9 explains this. Psalms 8:4-8 says, **What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.**

Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

In verse six it says **“...and the son of man...”** Adam was not the son of man. Jesus is the Son of Man. Hebrews 2:6-9 explains that Psalm 8:4 is speaking of Jesus. When Jesus became a Son of Man, he lived in the image and likeness of God, therefore He had dominion on earth.

Sin did not stop man from having dominion on earth, for the price for sin was already declared as paid by the blood of the Lamb, Who was **“slain from the foundation of the world”** (Rev. 13:8). Therefore, God would not destroy the righteous with the wicked. When the flood came, Noah was saved...

Those who teach that Satan got Adam’s dominion are totally wrong. The Scriptures prove them wrong over and over again. Satan is a liar, and many have believed the lies of the devil. Satan could not get Adam’s dominion for dominion was not given to Adam alone, but to all mankind, male and female.

God operates from His position in eternity, declaring things that be not as though they were... Isaiah 46:9,10 says,

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Isaiah 55:11 says, **“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”** By the foreknowledge of God, everything was established before man was created. God’s plan was set in motion and it could not be changed. Satan does not have power over the Word of God, and cannot change it.

Genesis 1:27,28 says,

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Then Genesis 1:29,30 says,

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

God did not give man authority to eat the flesh of animals or fowl in the beginning (before the flood of Noah). Man, beast, fowl, and every thing that creeps upon the earth were given plants to eat. That does not mean it was not possible for man to eat the flesh of animals or fowl, but God had not given them permission to eat flesh. After the flood of Noah's time, man was given permission by God to eat flesh (Gen. 9:2,3).

Genesis 1:31, **“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”** Everything God created in these six days was very good.

Why did God create man? Isaiah 43:7 says, **“Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”** Man was created for God's glory, not for man's glory, and not for Satan to use for his glory.

By the foreknowledge of God He created man... Romans 8:29,30 says,

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

God had a plan for man before the foundation of this world. Satan could not change God's plan, for it was settled before Adam was created.

Ephesians 1:4,5 says,

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Before the foundation of this world, God had already chosen those who would receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior, to inherit eternity in heaven.

In Revelation 4:8-11 it says,

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne,

who liveth for ever and ever,

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Then in Revelation 5:9-14 says,

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

God's plan from the foundation of the world (before man was created) included people in heaven before the throne of God giving praise, and glory, and honor, to God, and to the Lamb, Who was slain from the foundation of the world.

All who are "in Christ" and remain "in Christ" until the end will spend eternity with God and the LORD in heaven. The number of them will be more than anyone can count.

GENESIS 2:1-6

This second chapter of Genesis gives certain details concerning the six days of creation. Genesis 2:1-3 says,

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

It didn't take God long to create this earth as it is today. In less than one week all was completed. When God had completed His work of creation of this earth, He rested. It's not that God needed a rest, for there is no indication that God gets tired. But God was speaking according to His foreknowledge of things to come.

By God's foreknowledge, He knew that Adam and Eve would sin and the curse would come (Gen. 3:17). God knew that man, under the curse, would continue "to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil," trying to obtain salvation by His own works. Therefore, God began to set an example for man by resting on the seventh day. That man also, should cease from his own works, and let God work through man to obtain Salvation.

God ceased from His work on the seventh day of creation. Therefore, to remind man that man should also cease from his own works and enter into rest. In Exodus 20:9-11 it says,

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

This was a part of the Law of Moses for the children of Israel until Jesus came and fulfilled the law. The Law was "a type and shadow" of better things to come. Once Jesus fulfilled the Law of Moses for the Israelites the Law of Moses was no longer in effect, for a better covenant was established upon better promises (Heb. 8:6,13).

In Hebrews 4:1-11 it explains this rest that God referred to in Genesis 2:2, and Exodus 20:9-11. Hebrews 4:1 says, "**Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.**" Then in Hebrews 4:2 it goes on to say, "**For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**" In Hebrews 4:4 it says, "**For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.**" Then verse six says, "**Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief.**" Then in verse ten it explains, "**For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.**"

Under the new covenant, God is not telling us we should keep the Sabbath day... God is telling us we should "*cease from our own works, and by faith, let God do His works through us...*" God is not pleased with those who think they can do better than He can. God wants to work through

us by His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, not by the works of men working in their own ability.

In Hebrews 10:38 it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”** God has no pleasure in those who think they can please God by their own ability. God is only pleased when we live by faith, not faith in what we can do. But, faith in what God can and will do when we put all our confidence in Him.

God has already done everything that needs to be done to complete our salvation. It’s not what we can do that God is interested in. It’s what God can do in us and through us “according to His Word” that God is interested in.

God has no pleasure in people who think they can do God’s will of their own ability. God is only interested in those who live by faith in Him and His Word. As He said in Hebrews 10:38, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”**

Keeping the Sabbath day is a work of men, not of God, and those who believe they must keep the Sabbath day are operating according to their own ability, not by faith.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us, **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** God is not pleased by anything man does if it is not done by faith.... If faith is not the means by which we serve God, then God is not pleased by what we do (Heb. 10:38).

In Genesis 2:4-6, God gives us a sequence of certain things that happened during the six days of this creation. It says,

**These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,
And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.**

But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

This sequence of day by day creation included each day. In verse five, God mentions the plants and herbs that He created. Up until the sixth day, there was no man to till the ground. Also, the process of rain coming down from clouds that formed in the firmament had not yet completed its cycle.

In verse six, God is only talking about the time from the third day when He created the plants and herbs until the sixth day when He created man. On the sixth day, God had already planted a garden in Eden and put man in the garden to till the ground.

During the third, fourth, and fifth day, the rain clouds were in the process of forming, by mist rising from the earth and forming clouds that would condense and pour out rain upon the earth. Once the process had started, it continued, even until today.

This process needed to get started before rain could pour out from above. (God could have created rain clouds, if He so desired on the third day--but He didn’t). That was God’s choice, how He wanted to do it. God chose to start a process whereby the moisture (in this case in the form of a mist) would come up from the earth, condense and form clouds, and then pour out rain where it was needed.

This process still continues today. If you live near a lake or river, many mornings you will find a mist rising from the water, and forming into clouds as they rise above the earth surface. That’s

the way God created it to be, and it is still the same today. Many times today, we call this mist a fog... Fog comes up from the ground, it does not come down from the sky. As it comes up from the earth, it gets everything wet (waters the plants) (Gen. 2:6). For some reason, these highly intellectual, educated, men today cannot figure this out.

This process had started on the third day, but was still in the process on the sixth day, when God created man. It's sad that so many Christians use their natural minds (by which the god of this world gives them ideas) and come up with all sorts of ideas that do not agree with the Word of God.

There is no place in the Scripture where it says it did not rain until the flood of Noah. Christians should listen to their spirit, where God gives us knowledge from (Job 32:8). It's not good to come up with our own ideas and say it's God... We are told in 2 Corinthians 10:5 to cast down reasoning and every thought that does not agree with the Written Word of God... If God intended for us to believe it did not rain until the flood of Noah's time, He would have told us.

Yet, God already told us in Genesis 2:5,6 what happened before it rained the first time. There was no need to say any more concerning rain. It's sad that so many Christians listen to the voice of the devil, and add to and take away from the Word of God, doing that which God told them not to do (Deu. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18,19).

GENESIS 2:7

It says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”** The physical body of man was formed of the dust of the ground. It is made up of the elements of the earth. Every element of the physical body can be traced back to the earth. This is why the medical field uses elements to make medicine to heal the sick. They use elements of the earth to replace lacking elements in the human natural body.

The body of man came from the earth, therefore, man is earthly, of this earth. In 1 Corinthians 15:47 states, **“The first man is of the earth, earthy...”** The physical body of man came from the earth, and when man dies physically, his body will return to dust (the earth) (Gen. 3:19, Ecc.12:7).

Man was given dominion on earth, being that he was of the earth--man belonged to the earth and the earth belonged to man. Psalm 115:16 says, **“The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.”** Those who are in Christ are ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).

Concerning “the soul” of man: Genesis 2:7 is written in Hebrew. Sometimes it is easier to understand what God is telling us by taking into account what He tells us also in 1 Corinthians 15:45-48. These both speak of the creation of man in the beginning, whereas 1 Corinthians is written in Greek. Both, the Hebrew and the Greek are inspired by God, and **“God cannot lie”** (Titus 1:2). Therefore, what God tells us in Genesis 2:7 and what He tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:45-48 must agree...

Using the Greek text in 1 Corinthians 15:45-48 helps when it comes to understanding the creation of man. Especially, when Satan wants men to teach that “man is a spirit.” For in the Greek text of 1 Corinthians 15:46 it specifically says, “the first man was not spiritual.” The King James Version says, **“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural...”** If God says Adam (man) was not spiritual it would be wise to believe God rather than men. **“God cannot lie...”**

Genesis 2:7 says, **“and man became a living soul.”** English versions of the Bible do not give us a clear understanding of what this verse is talking about. In the Hebrew the word for “soul” is “nephesh” meaning “a living breathing creature.” This same word is used to identify animals and all living, breathing creatures. To understand what “a living soul” is we need to examine all three languages, Hebrew, Greek, and English.

SOUL= Hebrew "nephesh," Greek "psuche," English "psyche."

English definition = to blow.

Psyche; noun = 1. The human soul. 2. The intellect. 3. The mind, considered as a subjectively perceived, functional entity. Bases ultimately upon physical processes both with complex processes of its own; it governs the total organism and its interactions with the environment. Psychic; adjective = of the soul, spiritual. 1. Having to do with the psyche, or mind. 2. Beyond natural or known physical processes. 3. Apparently sensitive to forces beyond the physical world.

Once we understand in English what the Hebrew and Greek are talking about we can better understand what the Bible means when it says man was created “a living soul.”

In the Greek there are two words used for “life” and it is very important to understand the difference between them. The Greek word “psuche” and the Greek word “zoe” are both translated “life” in the English. There is a major difference between these two words, and they must be understood to know what God is revealing to us today.

Psuche in the Greek is “soul life, a living soul or living creature.” Man was created in the beginning as a “living soul” (Gen. 2:7, 1 Cor. 15:45-47).

Man is “a living soul,” living in a body of flesh and bones. Therefore, man in the flesh is called “psuchikos” in the Greek, meaning, “natural man; a living soul with a body of flesh and bones.” The soul and the body are not the same thing, but the soul was breathed into the body of flesh by the breath of the LORD God. As Genesis 2:7 says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”** If anyone tells us man became “a living spirit” they didn’t get it from the Holy Spirit, they got that idea from man.

Our soul contains our mind, our will, our intellect, our reasoning, and our knowledge of things pertaining to this world. Our soul is able to contact the world and the things of this world as well as the spiritual realm and the things of the spiritual realm. Our soul can communicate with God or Satan, angels or demons. Man is a living soul; “psuche” in the Greek.

The life of a “living soul” manifests in this world when it has a body of flesh and bones to manifest through. Therefore, when Jesus said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh..”** in John 3:6, He was talking about a human being born into this world. That which was born of the flesh included “a living soul.”

Every living soul is an “independent” living creature. They each have a life of their own, separate from the lives of anyone else. Their life is dependant upon their own existence. That is why it is important to understand the difference between the Greek words “psuche” and “zoe.”

Zoe, in the Greek is the very life of God. It “is not” separate from God. It is God’s life extended into the lives of others. It is God living His life in others. This is totally different than “psuche.”

Jesus said in John 5:26, **“as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.”** The same life that the Father has in Himself, He has given the Son to have in Himself. In John 1:4 it says, **“In him was life (zoe); and the life (zoe) was the light of men.”** Jesus said in John 10:10, **“I am come that they might have life (zoe), and that they might have it more abundantly.”** “It’s not a life like God,” it’s “the very life of God.” It’s not natural life, it’s not soul life, it is “spirit life.” It’s God, “Who is Spirit,” living His life in us.

Zoe (Spirit life) does not operate from our soul, our mind, will, intellect, reasoning, etc. It operates from our spirit where God dwells. God does not dwell in the spirits of those who are not born again, therefore they do not have “zoe” (spirit life). Jesus said in John 3:6, **“...that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** That is to say, “zoe” (spirit life), is not “psuche” (soul life).

This is very important to understand, for “zoe,” the very life of God, does not operate from our mind, where our “psuche” operates from. These two, “psuche” and “zoe” are almost opposites of each other. One is soul life the other is spirit life.

“Zoe” (the very life of God) operates from our spirit, which is in our belly. Jesus said, **“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”** (John 7:38).

Concerning the spirit of man: the Hebrew word for spirit is “ruwach,” meaning “wind,” or breathe, (by resemblance breath). Yet in Genesis 2:7 it says “**...and breathed into his nostrils the breath <nshamah> of life...**” The Hebrew word “nshamah” means “a puff, such as wind, angry or vital breath, divine inspiration, intellect. or (concretely) an animal.” In many translations of the Bible they translated the word “nshamah” to “spirit” twice. Once in Proverbs 20:27, where it says, “**The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.**” There does not seem to be any question concerning this Scripture verse. It agrees with Job 32:8, and many other verses. But, this verse and many other verses do not say man became a spirit. Genesis 2:7 says, “**and man became a living soul.**” We cannot take what God said and say it means something other than what God said.

Without question, at the time of Genesis 2:7, the LORD God did breathe a spirit into man. Zechariah 12:1 says, “**The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.**” The LORD did form “a spirit in man.” The whole Bible teaches that “**there is a spirit in man**” (Job 32:8).

Just plain common sense tells us that if the spirit of man is “**in man,**” then man is not the spirit. That’s just simple plain English, which even little children understand. If the water is in the bottle, then the water is not the bottle and the bottle is not the water, it’s that simple.

Satan uses the minds of men to change the Word of God, and say it means something other than what God said. This is what he did to Eve and has continued to do since that time. Christians ought to have enough common sense to know not to believe the devil.

The spirit of man was given to man by the LORD God for God to use to help man and give man understanding. Job 32:8 explains this by saying “**But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.**”

When Jesus made mention in Matthew 10:28 of souls and bodies spending eternity in hell He did not say anything about the spirit of man. The reason is that the spirit of man does not go down to hell, only the body and soul. Yet for some there is confusion, not understanding the Word of God.

The spirit of man belongs to God and when man dies on this earth the spirit of man goes back to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, “**Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.**” The physical body of man came from the earth, it belongs to the earth. When it dies it returns to dust.

The spirit of man and the “spiritual body” of man are not the same thing. In 1 Corinthians 15:44 it tells us, “**There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.**” The spirit is the spirit and the body is the body. Man has two bodies, a natural body and a spiritual body. These two bodies resemble each other, with the exception that the spiritual body is not made of natural substances (elements of the earth). Angels also have spiritual bodies, which are not made of natural substances.

Many Christians have seen both their natural bodies and their spiritual bodies. God can open our eyes to see into the spirit realm, and then we can see our spiritual body. Even if our natural body is missing a leg or foot, our spiritual body still has a leg or foot. Some people who have lost a leg still feel movement in their missing leg. The doctors cannot explain it, neither can men understand it in their natural mind, but it happens. Their spiritual body still has two legs and two feet.

When most Christians go to heaven they go in their spiritual body, not their natural body. Yet, their spiritual body is not their human spirit, it’s a body given to man by God that is not

physical, but made of spiritual substance.

This spiritual body, made of spiritual substance can and does go down to hell when a person who is not born again dies. Therefore, in hell man does have a body that looks just like the physical body they had on earth. And that spiritual body, made of spiritual substance can experience torment and pain. But, it cannot be destroyed by fire or any other means. It is made of spiritual substance and remains spiritual substance. Jesus told of a certain rich man and a certain beggar named Lazarus who was carried away into Abraham's bosom...the rich man, in hell, was in torment..(See Luke 16:22-31). It says in Luke 16:24, the rich man “**...cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.**” In his spiritual body he was in torment by the flames.

Normally, when a Christian dies and goes to heaven, they leave their natural body here on earth and go to heaven in their spiritual body. In 1 Corinthians 15:44 it says, “**It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body...**” As long as we remain on earth, we belong to the earth and the earth belongs to us. Although, when a person is born of the flesh, they receive a natural body of flesh and bones, they also have a spiritual body made of spiritual substance “**There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.**”

When we are born of the flesh, we receive our natural body of flesh and bones. This natural body of flesh and bones is the one that turns back to dust when we leave this earth. The spirit of man goes back to God who gave it (Ecc. 12:7). It tells us in Proverbs 20:27, “**The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.**” The spirit of man belongs to God and He uses it to communicate with man.

In Genesis 2:7 it says, “**And the LORD God formed man...**” This word “man” is the Hebrew word for “mankind.” Even though the LORD only formed one physical body at that time, He placed in that body every individual person who will ever walk upon this earth. Now, that will not calculate in the minds of those who do not understand spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:14). But, if you study the Scriptures you will see evidence of this.

In Hebrews 7:9,10 says,

And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

How did Levi pay tithes while he was in the loins of Abraham? Even Isaac was not yet born when Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec. Abraham was already dead when Levi was born. When Abraham was one-hundred years old, Isaac was born. When Abraham was one-hundred-sixty years old Jacob was born. Abraham gave up the ghost and died when he was one-hundred-seventy-five. Jacob, at that time was only fifteen years old. By the time that Levi was born to Jacob, Abraham was already dead.

Now let's go a little further. In Matthew 1:1 it says, “**The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**” How can Jesus be the son of Abraham? How can Jesus be the son of David? In Genesis 22:18 the LORD said to Abraham, “**And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**” What does it mean by “**in thy seed**”? The seed of Jesus Christ was already in Abraham when he lived on this earth (Gal. 3:16).

What about Jesus Christ being in David? Psalm 132:11 says, “**The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.**”

What does it mean by **“Of the fruit of thy body...”**? Look at the prophecy to King David in 2 Samuel 7:12, **“And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.”** Jesus was in David’s bowels already when the Prophet spoke this. From King David, the seed of Jesus went through David’s son “Nathan; a brother of Solomon (1 Chronicles 3:5)” all the way to Mary, the daughter of Heli (Luke 3:23). The flesh of Jesus came from Mary, the soul and spirit of Jesus came from the Holy Spirit. Jesus already existed in the spirit realm before He was born of Mary.

That applies also to every person born in the flesh. The physical body of man comes from the seed of the woman. Our physical bodies, which belong to the earth come from the flesh of our mother. The souls of all mankind were already in Adam (man) when the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into man the breath of life.

You were in Adam, the day that Adam was created. You were there all the time, just like Jesus’ flesh was in Abraham and David when they were living (He was the seed of the woman). Your “living soul” is the seed of the man (the first man). You were in Adam in the beginning. Just like Levi was in Abraham when he paid tithes to Melchisedec (Heb. 7:10).

The LORD said to Jeremiah **“ Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”** (Jer. 1:5). How did the LORD know Jeremiah before he was formed in the womb of his mother? Jeremiah was also in Adam the day that the LORD God created man.

The seed of man (Jeremiah) passed all the way from Adam to Jeremiah. The seed of the woman (Jesus) passed all the way from Eve, to Abraham, to David, to Mary, to Jesus...

What happens when a person is born again? Jesus said,

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

You are not a body, and you are not a spirit, “you are a living soul.” By the Word of God, which God cannot lie... you are translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God’s Son (Jesus Christ) (Col. 1:13). By the Word of God, which God cannot lie...you are born again. 1 Peter 1:23 says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** You are born again of the Holy Spirit, Who places you in Christ Jesus. Therefore, you are born again of the Spirit by the Word of God. Jesus is **“the Word of God”** (John 1:1, 1 John 5:7).

As you were in Adam in Genesis 2:7, you are born again in Christ Jesus (born from above). Colossians 1:13 says, **“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”** In Christ, you are a new creature... 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** Your old spirit is passed away, and you now have a new spirit in Christ.

Ezekiel 36:26 says, **“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”** You are still a living soul, but you now have a new spirit, a spirit in which the fulness of God dwells (Col. 2:9,10). You are no longer in Adam, but now you are in Christ. Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any**

man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

You are born again of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and you are a new creature in Christ. You changed positions, from the flesh of man to the Spirit of Christ.

The part of you that is completely new, is your spirit. You still have your old physical body of flesh and bones. You still have your same living soul. Your physical body is still mortal. Your living soul is still corrupt. Only your spirit is new at this time.

But, praise God, you are on your way. The day is coming when this mortal shall put on immortality, and this corruption shall put on incorruption, and we will be forever with the LORD! Look what it says in 1 Corinthians 15:51-57,

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The victory is not in us, the victory is in Jesus Christ... But, we are in Christ, therefore the victory is ours **“in Christ Jesus.”**

In the meantime, before this mortal puts on immortality, and this corruption puts on incorruption, we must do what it tells us in Romans 12:1,2,

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

God sees the end from the beginning... Therefore, God says we are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Our spirit is already new, and God dwells in our spirit. When God is finished with us, we will be completely new (spirit, soul, and body). We will be forever with the LORD, being born again from above in Christ Jesus.

We are born again of “incorruptible seed, which is the Word of God,” and God cannot lie... (Titus 1:2). In 1 Corinthians 15:35 it says, **“But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?”** While we are still on this earth we still have our natural body of flesh and bones, when we go to be with Jesus we go in our spiritual body. In 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 it says,

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

But keep in mind, 1 Corinthians 15:22 says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** Therefore, Jesus said, **“...You must be born again”** (John 3:7).

GENESIS 2:8-15

It says in Genesis 2:8,9,

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The English translations of these verses are not good. Where it says, “...and there he put the man...” is incorrectly translated. The Hebrew word used for man is Strong’s Number 120, meaning “mankind in general--male and female.” The addition of the English word “**the**” totally changes the meaning of the context. There was only one physical body at that time, but we were all “in man” at that time, including Eve. This was done on the sixth day of creation, the same day that Eve was taken out of Adam (Gen. 2:21,22).

In the Hebrew text, there were no paragraphs, verses, etc. It was a continuous writing in the Hebrew. It was the translators who divided the text into Chapters and Verses. It would have been better had they ended verse nine following the words “**and good for food.**” Then started the next verse with the words, “**The tree of life...**” the subject actually changed in the middle of verse nine.

The first part of verse nine pertains to the flesh of man, the second part of verse nine pertains to the living soul. The first part of verse nine provided for the natural things for man on this earth. But the second part of verse nine pertains to the eternal existence of man.

The trees in the first part of verse nine were physical trees for the physical needs of man upon this earth. They were natural trees which you could see with your natural eyes. Some bare fruit for man to eat. Others produced wood and other things for man to use in the natural.

In the second part of verse nine, the Tree of Life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil were not physical trees. You could not see them with you physical eyes. They were in and among all the other trees.

God used the word “trees” symbolically. This is done very often in the way God reveals spiritual things to people. We will find this type of teaching by the Holy Spirit very common in the Scriptures. Those who do not understand “symbolic teaching, types and shadows, and parables” will not understand the Word of God.

God used the word “tree” in the second part of verse nine “symbolically.” A tree begins from a seed. The seed is planted. The seed grows and matures. The maturing of the seed produces a tree. The tree then produces fruit. The fruit then reproduces more seeds. It’s a continuous cycle, “seed, plant, fruit, seed.”

The seed of the Tree of Life is the Word of God. Therefore, “symbolically, the seed is the Word.” In Luke 8:11, Jesus said, “**Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.**” In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, “**Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**” In the case of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the seed is the word of the devil. One tree “symbolically” represents the Word of God, the other tree “symbolically” represents the word of the devil.

The fruit of these two trees are “symbolically” eaten. You take and eat the fruit of these trees “symbolically” the same as you eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood. In John 6:53, Jesus said, “**Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood,**

ye have no life in you.”

Eating of the Tree of Life will produce eternal life. Eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil will produce death. The Tree of Life, has only one type of fruit on it, that is the very life of God. The tree of knowledge of good and evil has two types of fruit on it. Both of these types produce death, physical death, and eternal damnation, (separation from God for all eternity).

When Christians teach “from their minds,” “what they say” the Holy Spirit is speaking of in Genesis 2:9, they get all kinds of ideas, and all kinds of imaginations.

There are many who think that when Eve gave of the fruit of the tree to Adam, she gave him an apple, like a apple from an apple tree. And Adam ate an apple, like people eat fruit from fruit trees.

The Tree of Life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil were not physical trees. You cannot see them with your natural eyes. They “were not in the middle” of the garden. They were “**in the midst of the garden,**” which is “in and among all the trees of the garden.” The Hebrew word translated “**midst**” is

“tavek,” meaning, in this and many other verses “in and among.” They were not physical, they were spiritual trees. Wherever man went in the garden these two trees were there.

Get wisdom, get knowledge, get understanding “from the Word of God...” In the Garden of Eden man was not limited to physical operations only. Man is a living soul, able to operate in both the natural realm and the spiritual realm. It’s no different today, man is still a living soul, able to operate in both realms. As an example; look at what Jesus said in John 6:53-57,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

There are no born again Christians living today that have not eaten the flesh and drank the blood of Jesus. You must eat His flesh and drink His blood to receive eternal life. Yet, we do not eat Jesus’ physical flesh, nor drink His physical blood. It all takes place in the realm of the spirit, not the natural realm. Jesus is the Word of God...

When we receive the Word of God, we receive His flesh and His blood. It’s Words we receive... Not apples we eat...

More specifically, being born again is when we receive the Word of God as it explains in John 1:12,13, saying,

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We must “receive Jesus” (the Word of God), and believe on His name. Then, we become born again of the Word and the Spirit. John 3:18 says, “**He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**”

When Eve gave to Adam of the tree of knowledge of good and evil to eat thereof, she spoke “words.” Adam hearkened to “the words of his wife” thereby partaking also of the tree which the LORD God had told him not to eat thereof. Genesis 3:17 says, **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.”**

Genesis 2:10-14 are descriptive verses, giving us locations of the area in which the garden of Eden covered. The land of Eden was much larger than the garden itself. Yet, the garden of Eden covered many square miles.

Genesis 2:15 says, **“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”** There was work to do in the garden. Therefore, man was put in the garden **“to dress it and to keep it.”**

GENESIS 2:16,17

In Genesis 2:16 it says, **“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.”** As in all the previous verses concerning man, the Hebrew word for man should have been translated “mankind” not **“the man.”** Adding the word **“the”** changes what God said, and makes it look like the LORD was only talking to one man by the name of Adam. Even though, there was only one physical body for man at that time, the LORD was still speaking to all mankind. Thereby, He was speaking to you and I as well.

In this verse we see that man was given “a free will,” to choose which trees of the garden he would eat the fruit thereof. This included choosing both the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The LORD did not prevent man from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, neither did He prevent man from eating of the tree of life at that time. Every individual has been given “a free will” to choose what he or she will do concerning the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

What the LORD told man in the garden of Eden was similar to what He said to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 30:15,16, saying,

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Again in Deuteronomy 30:19, the LORD said, **“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”** The choice is up to each individual, to choose what God desires or what we desire. What God desires is always better than anything we could ask or think.

The LORD did not stop speaking at the end of verse 16, but continued by saying, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely (muwth) die (muwth)”** (Gen. 2:17). NOTE: in Genesis 2:17,

The words **“surely die,”** in the Hebrew signify two deaths, corresponding with Revelation 20:6,14. The same Hebrew word “muwth,” translated “surely” and “die,” is a primitive root word.

The first word “surely” is in the “infinitive mood.” Infinite means “unlimited; not limited to any person, number, or tense.” Infinitive means “existence or action without reference to person, number, or tense. It is usually the form of the first person singular present.”

In the case of man (eternal death came upon mankind--all who were in Adam). But, not upon Jesus, the Second Adam, (in Him was eternal life). **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”** (1 Cor. 15:22).

The second word **“die”** is also the same Hebrew word “muwth” but is in the “imperfect mood,” expressing an action, process, or condition which is incomplete. This pertains to the death of the natural body, which is called “mortal” in Romans 8:11 and 1 Corinthians 15:53,54. Mortal means “death is resident; in the process of dying; and must eventually die” (Rom. 5:12).

Therefore, the word **“surely”** pertains to eternal death and word **“die”** pertains to physical death.

The LORD told Adam that two deaths would come upon mankind (corruption--spiritual

death, and mortality--physical death). The LORD said, man's living soul would become corrupted by sin.

By corruption it means, man's thoughts would not always agree with God. God's thoughts and man's thoughts would not be the same. In Isaiah 55:8,9 it says,

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Man's thoughts do not always agree with God's thoughts, therefore man's soul is corrupted by sin.

The LORD also said in Genesis 2:17, man's physical body would become mortal. Mortal means death is present, and in the process of causing death to the physical body (this process is already started, but not yet complete). When mortality completes its action, the body becomes a corpse (no life in it).

The end result of "corruption" would be eternity in the lake of fire--the second death (Rev. 20:6,14). The end result of "mortality" would be the soul separated from the physical body--physical death--which is the first death.

The living soul "which is man" would continue to live and never die. The living soul is "the created man himself" and will continue on forever, either in hell or in heaven. The choice is up to man, where he will spend eternity (he will spend eternity somewhere, either heaven or hell). Man is "a living creature--a living soul," (a soul that will live forever)...

GENESIS 2:18-25

In Genesis 2:18-20 it says,

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

In Genesis 2:18 the LORD God said, **“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”** If we look at this verse alone, without the next two verses, we do not get a true picture of what God is saying.

When the LORD God said, **“It is not good that the man should be alone...”** He is speaking of man, like the rest of the creatures producing **“after his kind--after their kind.”** There wasn't another person alive “in the flesh” that was of the same kind as Adam. Adam could not have children by mating with the fowl of the air, a beast of the field, or any of the cattle. They were not of **“his kind...”** Therefore, the LORD God said, **“It is not good that the man should be alone...,”** for man could not multiply on the face of the earth when there was not a mate for him.

In Genesis 1:28, God had already said concerning mankind, **“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it.”** Without an help mate, man could not **“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”** Man needed another being of flesh and bones, in his own likeness and image to **“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”**

Before the LORD God formed a mate for Adam, verses nineteen and twenty tell us, He first brought all the fowl of the air and the beast of the field, and living creatures before man to see what man would call them.

God had already declared that man should have dominion over all that He created. He had given the earth to the children of men (Psa. 115:16). God had placed man on earth as an ambassador to Christ. Therefore, God was not going to do things on this earth without man being involved.

God loves man, who He created in His own image and likeness. God is not against man, God is for us...(Rom. 8:31). We are co-workers with God here on earth (1 Cor. 3:9).

A part of man belonged to God--“which is man's spirit.” A part of man belonged to the earth--“which is man's physical body.” God gave man “responsibility,” on earth by having man name all the creatures He had created upon this earth. God and man were working together to fulfill the plan and purpose of God on this earth.

This whole creation was created by God with man in mind. Isaiah 45:18 says, **“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.”** God desired to have multitudes of people in heaven for all eternity. (See Revelation 5:11-14). To accomplish this, man needed to have an help mate, another person in the flesh after his own kind.

After naming all the creatures that the LORD God had created, man did not have a mate. Adam was alone, without a mate.

Genesis 2:21,22 tells us,

**And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.**

Verse 21 is the first and only time in Genesis Chapter One and Two that the word Adam is mentioned as pertaining to one individual by the name of Adam. Everywhere else in these two Chapters the word used for man is Strong's number 120, meaning mankind in general.

Verses twenty-one and twenty-two are important to understand. They are important to understand literally as well as symbolically. Eve was not created separately as an individual creature like all other female creatures. Eve was taken out of man. Eve was in man when the LORD God created man--mankind (Gen. 2:7). The LORD God took Eve out of Adam. Woman was taken out of man, to be a helper. It's simple to understand, and a great blessing for women who listen to the Spirit of God rather than another voice.

The whole context of the Scriptures are given to us by God. The inspired Word of God is God's Word to every individual. When we get to know God and His Word, we find that neither men or women are to rule over one another "according to their own will." Everything we do, should be first the will of God, not the will of the individual. God should be in control of everything we do.

God did not create man to do his own will, but rather the will of God. Until we make God "GOD" in our lives we will have problems with the devil. When we make God "GOD" the devil cannot touch us. When we submit ourselves unto God, and resist the devil, he flees (James 4:7).

Men and women do not belong trying to control one another. Put God first, and there will be no problems with either the husband or wife. God is well able to handle any situation that should arise. He is the God of all creation, not like the devil, who is only "**the god of this world**" (2 Cor. 4:4).

It is important also to understand the Word of God symbolically in these verses. Symbolically, God is telling of future spiritual operations. Symbolically, Adam (the first Adam) is symbolic of Jesus (the second Adam) (1 Cor. 15:45-49). Eve is considered to be the wife of Adam, but before she became his wife she had to be formed out of the flesh of Adam, and become a woman.

Eve was taken out of Adam's body to be his wife. Symbolically, the bride of Christ will also be taken out of the body of Christ. That means, the Old Testament prophets and servants of the LORD cannot become the bride of Christ, for they are not taken out of the body of Christ. There was no "body of Christ" until after Jesus arose again from the dead. Through Jesus' resurrection from the dead He became the firstborn from the dead. Then, after He became the firstborn from the dead, those who were born again in Christ Jesus became the body of Christ.

Adam had to first be formed of the dust of the ground, and become a living soul in a body of flesh and bones before Eve could be taken out of Adam to become Adam's bride and wife in marriage.

The symbolic teaching is that, until Jesus became the Head of the body of Christ, there was no body of Christ. Once the body of Christ came, then a bride for Christ could be taken out of the body of Christ. The marriage supper of the Lamb can not take place until there is first a bride to become the wife. The bride must come from the body of Christ.

When you understand symbolic teaching, you will understand why John the Baptist said, "**He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is**

fulfilled” (John 3:29). John the Baptist knew he was not a part of the bride of Christ, but rather **“the friend of the bridegroom.”**

In Genesis 2:23 it says, **“And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”** Adam was speaking by the Spirit of God, and what Adam said came to pass. God was working through man to establish His Word on earth. Adam explained the reason for calling his help mate **“Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”**

This we should always be mindful of, it was not man’s idea to call Woman, “woman.” It was Adam speaking prophetically (by the unction of the Holy Spirit). Adam understood what he said, for the Spirit of God gave him understanding. Job 32:8 says, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”**

Adam did not stop speaking in verse twenty-three, but continued to speak, saying, **“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”** (Gen. 2:24). Adam did the speaking, but it was the LORD that gave him the words to speak. When the LORD gives man the words to speak, it is the same as if the LORD Himself did the speaking.

Look at Matthew 19:4,5, where Jesus said,

Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Jesus didn’t say that Adam said this. Jesus said that the LORD God, who created man in the beginning said, **“For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”** When someone speaks prophetically, it is not the man that gets credit for what is said. The person who is doing the speaking is not the LORD, he is only an individual used by the LORD. It’s the Holy Spirit who puts the words in his mouth. They don’t come from man’s mind, they come from man’s spirit where the inspiration of the almighty gives them understanding.

Genesis 2:25 then tells us, **“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”** Be careful of what people teach concerning this verse. The Hebrew word used for “naked” is “arown,” meaning “nude, either partially or totally:--naked.” If you hear others teach any other doctrine or theory, don’t believe them.

Adam and Eve were completely human, with skin and bones just like you and I. The only thing different was they did not have any clothes on to cover their nude bodies. Just like all the other animals did not have clothes on. Horses don’t wear clothes, sheep don’t wear clothes, cows don’t wear clothes, and neither did Adam and Eve before they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:7).

GENESIS 3:1-6

Before we start in Genesis, Chapter Three, we must understand, God knew all things before He created man. Sin could not stop God from doing what He had already declared before the foundation of this world.

Satan has brought into the Christian churches a “sin gospel.” God is not teaching a sin gospel. God is teaching a “righteousness gospel.” Therefore, don’t be misled and deceived by the teachings of men. Stay with the Scriptures and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, not the spirits of this world.

The sin gospel that many teach cannot explain how that Enoch, the seventh from Adam could be translated into heaven and never taste death on this earth (Gen. 5:21-24, Heb. 6:5).

Don’t let anyone tell you what God said is not true. God cannot lie... (Titus 1:2). The sin gospel cannot explain how that Rahab could become the great-grandmother of King David (Matt. 1:5). Or how that Phares could carry the line from Adam to King David. Neither can the sin gospel explain how that God could use Samson to deliver the children of Israel from the Philistines (Judges 15:). Don’t follow a sin gospel. Jesus didn’t teach a sin gospel. Paul didn’t teach a sin gospel. And neither did God Himself teach a sin gospel.

God knew what Adam and Eve would do in the garden of Eden before the LORD God created man. That is why Revelation 13:8 tells us, ***“the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.”***

Just how much time was there between Genesis 2:25 and Genesis 3:1 we do not know. We know that God finished His work of creation on the sixth day and on the seventh day He rested. There is no account of anything happening between Genesis 2:25 and Genesis 3:1. Yet, according to what Jesus said in Mark 4:15 it could have happened on the seventh day of creation. Adam and Eve had received the Word of God concerning the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

In Mark 4:15, Jesus explained Satan’s actions, saying, **“And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.”** Did Satan send the serpent **“immediately”** on the seventh day? We don’t know, but there is a warning to everyone in Mark 4:14-19, don’t give any place for the devil!

Genesis 3:1 says, **“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”** The serpent was already under Satan’s influence. In 1 Chronicles 21:1 we have a similar operation, this time it says it was Satan himself. It says, **“And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.”** By studying the complete Bible we know Satan was the one behind what the serpent did to Eve.

The first thing the serpent did was to put a question in the mind of Eve. Anytime anyone questions God’s commandments, Satan is behind it, that you can be sure of... Anyone who is walking in the image and likeness of God would never even think of questioning God’s plan or motive.

Eve did not stand against the words spoken to her by the serpent, she listened to what he said. We are told in 2 Corinthians 5:10, to cast down every thought or imagination that exalts itself against the Word of God. Eve did not do that...

Notice the LORD did not intervene as Eve spoke with the serpent. Eve was given a free will

to do whatsoever she desired. It was up to her if she would obey the LORD'S command or not (Gen. 2:17).

Every individual has a free will to do whatsoever they desire, the LORD will not intervene with their decision. Even today, it tells us in John 5:22, Jesus said, **“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”** In John 8:15,16, Jesus said,

Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

Jesus never judged anyone unless He first heard from His Father. Then in John 12:47,48, Jesus said,

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

There are many Christians today, speaking words that came from the devil. The Father is not judging them, and the LORD is not judging them at this time. But, the day will come when we will all give an account for what we taught and spoke which is contrary to the Word of God. In Matthew 12:36, Jesus said, **“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”** We must not let the devil control what we say or do. Keep God in control of everything we say and do (1 Peter 4:11).

In Genesis 3:2-5 we see that Eve continued to carry on a conversation with the serpent. The more she talked with him, the greater advantage he had over her mind. The serpent got Eve to think the way he wanted her to think. And then she directly disobeyed what the LORD had told man concerning eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:2-5 says,

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

The serpent lied when he said **“Ye shall not surely die.”** The words “surely die,” are the same words the LORD used in Genesis 2:17. They mean exactly the same thing, “eternal death and physical death” would come upon man. Not that man would die immediately, but death by sin would become resident in man.

Yet the serpent was not lying when he said, **“ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”** Notice in Genesis 3:22 it says, **“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil...”** That portion of Genesis 3:5 which the serpent said to Eve was true. The devil only changes enough of the Word of God to make it sound true, that a person will obey his voice and not the LORD.

Now look at Genesis 3:6, it says, **“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”** If

people let the devil work in their minds long enough, he will get them to believe his lie.

Once Satan had Eve, he used her to get Adam... Some teach that Satan became “the god of this world after Adam and Eve sinned.” They teach that “Adam was the god of this world” until he sinned, then “Satan got Adam’s dominion” and became the god of this world. That is totally false...no truth in it at all...

Satan was the god of this world before Adam and Eve sinned. He used his powers to get Eve to sin and then used Eve to get Adam to sin. He already had the powers that he has today before Adam and Eve sinned. He used the powers he had to bring sin and death upon mankind.

What Satan did to Eve first and then to Adam, he is still doing to Spirit-filled Christians today...getting them to teach false doctrines and doctrines of devils.

What very few Christians know is that God had foreknowledge of what Satan would do to Adam and Eve, long before man was created. God had a plan, and never changed His plan. What Satan did was what God had already known he would do before man was created. That’s why Revelation 13:8 tells us, ***“the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.”***

Every person born “of the flesh” into this world from Adam and Eve on had sin and death resident in them when they were conceived in their mother’s womb. The Scripture says **“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Rom. 3:23). Romans 5:12 says, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”**

There is only one way to remove sin and death from a person’s life and that is “by the blood of the Lamb” (Jesus Christ). Therefore, God had declared ***“the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world”*** that He might save those who come to Him by His Son, Jesus Christ. Everyone, including Adam and Eve have an equal chance to be free of sin and death through the blood of the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world.

Oh, how Satan loves it when Christians preach his “sin gospel.” That makes Satan very happy; they are doing his will. They are placing people under condemnation because of sin. God is not preaching a sin gospel, God is preaching a “righteousness gospel” by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ, His Son).

By the sins of Adam and Eve (even though Eve was deceived and Adam was not...), every human being (except Jesus) was born with sin and death resident in them. That was all done according to the foreknowledge of God before the foundation of this world.

Therefore, it is wisdom to become born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and walk with God all the days we live on this earth. There is no greater gain than to inherit eternal life in heaven. Nothing on this earth is worth taking the place of life in heaven. And it’s all free, the price is already PAID IN FULL, by the blood of the Lamb. For more information on this subject get the books **“ONE GOSPEL, THE TREE OF LIFE, FROM MY SPIRIT & BY MY SPIRIT”** all written by Merle E. Koepke.

Back to Genesis 3:6. If we study Genesis 3:6 closely we will find that Eve was tempted in three areas: 1. The lust of the flesh... **“the tree was good for food...”** 2. The lust of the eyes... **“that it was pleasant to the eyes...”** 3. The pride of life... **“a tree to be desired to make one wise...”**

Now let’s look at 1 John 2:15,16,

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride

of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

The same three temptations that was used against Eve are mentioned in these verses. As Eve knew not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we are told not to love the world, neither the things that are in the world. This is the Word of God for us living today, as well as what was made known to us in Genesis. Then in 1 John 2:17, God tells us why we should not love the world or the things that are in the world. It says, **“the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”**

Which do we prefer, a short life here on earth, then eternity in hell with the devil? Or a long life here on earth, “doing the will of the Father” then eternity in heaven? God is giving us the choice, to choose who we will listen to, the voice of God or the voice of the devil?

Notice in Genesis 3:6 that Eve **“gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”** How did Eve give to her husband? It tells us in Genesis 3:17, **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife...”** It was words that Eve spoke to her husband, the same as it was words that the serpent spoke to Eve, that she ate. This is “symbolic language,” for the tree was not an apple tree. It was a spiritual tree, producing the fruit of sin and death...

Genesis 3:7,8 says,

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Experiencing sin and death for the first time, the knowledge of good and evil made them aware of their nakedness. Because of sin guilt came to their minds and they tried to hide themselves from the LORD God when they heard His voice walking in the garden.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:9,10). He puts condemnation upon those he tempts into sin. He does it by putting thoughts in their minds. It was thoughts and words that brought sin and death to mankind.

Genesis 3:9-11 says,

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

The LORD God said to Adam, **“Who told thee that thou wast naked?”** Sin came by words, words that Adam heard and obeyed. Adam had harkened “to the voice of his wife” and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam did not confess what he had done as sin, but passed the blame unto Eve. **“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat”** (Gen. 3:12).

The LORD God then turned to Eve, and then to the serpent. It says,

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life (Gen. 3:13,14).

BE CAREFUL--we must not overlook what the LORD God said to the serpent. **“Because thou hast done this...”** What did the serpent do? He changed the Word of God, and said it meant something other than what God said it meant. That’s serious, we must be careful not to do the same thing. Revelation 22:18,19 says,

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

It’s not worth it! Eternity is a long time... Nothing in this world should be more important than our future in eternity. Stay with the Word of God, not the words of men.

In Genesis 3:15 the LORD God said, **“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”**

This is the beginning of the gospel that Jesus and Paul preached. The LORD Himself took responsibility for the sins of mankind. The LORD God spoke of the redemption that would take place when Jesus would come in the flesh and pay the price for the sins of the whole world. The LORD said, He would come as **“the seed of the woman...”** The GOOD NEWS was first proclaimed by the LORD Himself the same day that Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden.

Because of sin and death entering into mankind, the LORD then began to inform man and woman of the changes that would take place. In Genesis 3:16 it says. **“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”** Because of sin, the woman was made subject to her husband. This was a change that took place because of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was not that way before Eve ate of the tree... Therefore, 1 Timothy 2:12,13 tells us,

But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

Even though the LORD Himself paid the price to redeem mankind from the slavery of Satan, there were certain things that changed. Under the slavery of Satan, the woman would experience sorrow and pain in conception and birth. The husband would rule over his wife (Gen. 3:16).

The LORD spoke directly to Adam, being that he carried the seed of all who were “in man” from the creation of mankind. (Everyone was in Adam in the day that the LORD God created man.) What the LORD spoke in Genesis 3:17 through 3:19 came upon all who were the seed of Adam.

In Genesis 3:17 it starts off saying, **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it...”** What did Adam do that caused this change in man? Adam **“hearkened unto the voice,”** of someone who spoke words contrary to the commandment of the LORD God (Gen. 2:17). The LORD God had commanded man, “not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Adam disobeyed the voice of the LORD and obeyed the voice of another.

Therefore, the LORD God continued to inform mankind of what took place, by the sin that was committed in the garden of Eden. The LORD God said,

...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return (Gen. 3:17-19).

The LORD God said, “...**cursed is the ground for thy sake...**” Why did the LORD God say, the ground was cursed for thy sake? It was for man’s good that the ground was cursed. For, by the curse being ever present, man would experience slavery to the devil, while knowing the love, grace, and mercy of God. Man would know that God has a better plan for man than the curse man came under by disobeying the voice of the LORD God. Experiencing the effects of evil, man could turn to God and be redeemed from the curse of the law of sin and death.

The “law” of sin and death came in Genesis 2:17. All of mankind (except Jesus), from Adam and Eve on were under “the law of sin and death.” (This is not the Law of Moses, it is not the Ten Commandments). It is “the law of sin and death” (death comes by sin).

What was the sin that Adam and Eve committed that brought mankind under the law of sin and death? They obeyed the voice of the Devil, thereby submitting themselves as servants to the Devil. This they did by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The eating of “the tree of knowledge of good and evil” always brings death. The eating of “the Tree of Life” always brings life.

Genesis 3:20-24 says,

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

It was necessary for the LORD God to preserve “**the way of the tree of life.**” Adam and Eve still needed to eat of the tree of life to have the very life of God abiding in them. Because that Jesus had not yet come in the flesh and paid the price with His own body and blood...the way of the tree of life had to be kept.

Once Jesus became the firstborn from the dead, then people could become born again of the Word and the Spirit and become a part of the body of Christ. Adam was the first man, by whom all others came into the flesh. Jesus was the first Man, by which all others could become born again of the Word and the Spirit.

Eternal life is in Christ Jesus. John 1:4 tells us, “**In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**” Without Jesus there can be no eternal life for mankind. All eternal life is in Christ Jesus. It’s the same life that’s in the Father (John 5:26). It’s the same life that Jesus came that we might also have “eternal life.”

Adam did not have eternal life in the beginning. It was available to him in the tree of life. But, Adam chose the tree of knowledge of good and evil instead. Therefore, the tree of life had to be preserved until Jesus came in the flesh and paid the price for our redemption from slavery to the devil. Jesus redeemed us “from slavery to Satan,” with His own precious blood on the cross of

Calvary.

To receive eternal life with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we must receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior. For all eternal life for mankind is in Jesus Christ (John 1:4). He came that we might have eternal life (John 10:10).

Notice that the LORD did not keep man from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Even though man was kept from entering the garden of Eden, the tree of knowledge of good and evil was still present wherever Adam and Eve went. It was in and among all the other trees at all times.

If you glance over into Genesis, Chapter Four, you will see that Cain also was eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The LORD spoke to Cain about it, saying,

And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him (Gen. 4:6,7).

Man has continued to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil from the time Adam and Eve ate of that same tree. Even today, many Christians are eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Whereas, they should be eating of the Tree of Life.

What happened when Adam and Eve sinned?

Some call this “the fall of man.” The condition that manifest was not that of the image and likeness of God. What was manifesting was more like the image and likeness of Satan, **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4).

Jesus said of the devil, **“He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it”** (John 8:44). Notice, Jesus said, he, the devil, **“abode not in the truth...”** He was in the truth at one time, in the day that he was created. But, he did not abide in the truth, therefore he became the father of lies...

Yet, in all this, the Bible does not say that Adam and Eve became like the devil... No place in the Bible does it say that...

What happened is clearly seen in the Scriptures. Romans 6:16 tells us, **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”** Adam and Eve submitted themselves to serve the devil by obeying the voice of the serpent. When they obeyed the voice of the serpent they became servants to the devil. Which in turn brought upon them death, by sin. **“Satan became their slave master and they became slaves to the devil.”**

Romans 5:12 explains this by telling us, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** It was sin on the part of Adam that brought two deaths upon all mankind. Everyone is a descendant of Adam...therefore sin and death came upon “all men” (this included little children, even those not yet born).

Careful study of the Scriptures will show that sin and death did not overtake Adam at that time. It came upon them, and became resident in them. Adam did not die (dead--physically or spiritually) that day in the garden of Eden. But, sin and death became resident within man, and was passed down from generation to generation. We were all born in sin and death (Eph. 2:1-3,12).

In Genesis 1:25, God said that every creature would reproduce **“after his kind.”** “His kind” means “after the male,” not the female. Therefore, all of Adam’s children were after the likeness and image of Adam (Gen. 5:3). Seth was born in the likeness and image of Adam, not God, and not Eve.

Therefore, even though Eve sinned before Adam, the generations of mankind are after “his kind--the male” which is the likeness and image of Adam, not Eve.

By this we can understand how that Jesus could be born of the Holy Spirit and Mary, and still not be in the likeness and image of Adam. The seed of the male reproduces the next generation **“after his kind.”**

The Seed that produced Jesus in Mary came from the Holy Spirit, not from man. Therefore, Jesus was born in the likeness and image of God, not the likeness and image of Adam.

It also said in Genesis 1:25, **“after their kind.”** After their kind still limits the kind that can be reproduced. Yet, “their kind” is plural and does extend to “after the female.”

The female is also the same kind as the male. Yet, the female only reproduces according to the flesh (the physical), whereas the male reproduces according to the soul (spiritual).

There are actually two “seeds” mentioned in the Scriptures, concerning mankind (each one having a different meaning). There is the seed of man (male) and the seed of woman (female). The seed of man (male) reproduces after the likeness and image of the male (the living soul). The seed

of woman (female) reproduces after the likeness and image of the female (the physical body).

Therefore, we see that Jesus came as “a man” after the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15). Jesus became a man, the Son of Man, after the seed of the woman (Mary). Being born of “the seed of the woman,”

Jesus had a physical body, of the elements of this earth. He was completely “man,” the Son of Man. He had full, complete, and total rights as a man on earth. His body was of the earth, making Him one with the earth. (Satan, did not have that right or position).

Jesus was “the Son of David, the Son of Man;” because that He was “the seed of the woman.” Yet, Jesus’ conception in Mary came from God, not from “man, the male.” Therefore, Jesus’ soul came from God not man. By this, Jesus was “the Son of God.”

Back to Adam: Adam did not take upon himself the nature of Satan as some teach. He became “a servant to the devil,” by submission to the serpent, who represented the devil. Adam remained a human being, spirit, soul, and body. But, Satan now became his master, and controlled much of what Adam did by thoughts in Adam’s mind, and inflictions in Adam’s body.

Mortality and corruption entered the human race through Adam, who is the male, by which the seed of mankind progressed. Adam’s spirit was not affected by Adam’s sin, for Adam was not a spirit being, he was a living soul in a body, with a spirit in man given to man by God.

To understand this, we must study Genesis 2:7 and 1 Corinthians 15:44-56. Those who do not study the complete Scriptures, including the New Testament will not receive the knowledge that God desires for them. God’s written Word is not complete without the New Testament and the Old Testament. Part of His written Word is in the Old Testament, and the other part is in the New Testament. (This is why it’s so difficult for Jews to understand the Gospel. They do not search the New Testament).

Man, of his own “free will,” submitted himself and all his descendants as servants to Satan (Rom. 6:16). Satan became man’s master (slave master) by operating in man’s soul (the mind being the primary part of the soul).

We can see this much clearer in the types and shadows of the Old Testament. (God knew the end from the beginning, and Joseph was first sold into slavery, then imprisoned, then raised up to become second to Pharaoh). When Joseph became second to Pharaoh, Jacob and his whole family (of their own free will) moved to Egypt to live (under Pharaoh). Pharaoh became their master (over them).

If you study the complete history from Joseph’s birth until his death, God’s hand was upon Joseph. God knew the end from the beginning.

Following the death of Joseph, other Pharaohs came into power which did not know Joseph, and became “slave masters” over the children of Israel. The children of Israel were slaves to Pharaoh, and he was their master.

God knew the end from the beginning, for the LORD God had already told Abraham, **“Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;...And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance”** (Gen. 15:13,14).

The LORD kept His promise to Abraham... In Exodus it tells us of the LORD calling Moses to lead His children out from slavery to Pharaoh, and into the promised land. Exodus 3:7,8 says, **And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;**

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey...

The children of Israel were slaves to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh had placed taskmasters over them. This is a type and shadow of everyone who is born of the flesh. They are in slavery to Satan and demonic spirits are taskmasters over them.

Now look how the LORD delivered the children of Israel from slavery to Pharaoh... **“by the blood of the lamb.”** In Exodus 12:2 the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, **“This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.”** Before anything happened the LORD told them what was going to happen. He instructed the Children of Israel to start their calendar new, using that month for the beginning of their year. Why? Because they were going to be delivered from slavery to Pharaoh, and his taskmasters. They will be set free of their past and a new beginning of life with God would begin that month.

In Exodus twelve, they were told to take a lamb, without blemish, and keep it for fourteen days. On the fourteenth day they were to kill the lamb in the evening. They were to take the blood of the lamb and place it upon the two side posts and the upper door post of the house where they were that evening. They were to take the body of the lamb and roast it whole. They were to eat the flesh of the lamb that evening and not let any of it remain until morning (If any of it remained they were to burn it with fire).

That evening they were to have their clothes on, shoes on their feet, staff in their hand, ready to leave Egypt forever. That evening was the LORD’S Passover. The LORD passed over Egypt that evening and the destroyer (spirit of death), smote the land of Egypt, killing the first-born of every family, even of the cattle except in the houses where the blood was upon the two side door posts and the upper door post.

Everyone in the house where the blood was applied was saved, only those in Egypt that were not in the houses where the blood was applied suffered the death of the first-born. It was the blood of the lamb that saved the children of Israel that evening. It was because of the blood of the lamb that the children of Israel were set free of the slavery of Pharaoh and his taskmasters.

The children of Israel left Egypt, the LORD going before them in a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. They traveled to the banks of the Red Sea, with Pharaoh and his army following them. The LORD caused His cloud to go between the armies of Pharaoh and the children of Israel during the day, and a pillar of fire by night.

On the third day, after leaving the land of Goshen they were at the banks of the Red Sea. The LORD had Moses raise up his rod and the waters of the Red Sea parted all night, while a wind dried up the ground for the children of Israel to walk across on dry land. Once all the children of Israel were across the Red Sea, the LORD caused the waters to return and all of Pharaoh’s army were drowned in the Red Sea. All of the children of Israel were saved that day. They were delivered from the slavery of Pharaoh and his taskmasters.

This is also a type and shadow of what Jesus did for us on the Cross of Calvary. When Jesus paid the price for our freedom from slavery to Satan and his demons, He did it with His blood which He shed for us. When we receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior, His blood (which He shed for us) saves us and delivers us from slavery to the devil. We are set free **“by the Blood of the Lamb.”**

The LORD brought the children of Israel into the desert to teach them His ability to provide for them, if they would put faith in His Word, which He promised them (Heb. 4:2). The LORD

promised to bring them into the land that He promised to Abraham (Gen. 15:13-21).

Yet, the children of Israel did not obey the LORD when He wanted them to go into the land and possess it. In Numbers 13, it tells us that ten of the twelve spies that went to search out the land brought back an evil report. Then in Numbers 14:1-4 it says,

And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Rather than putting their faith in the LORD who had just saved them from Pharaoh and his taskmasters, they wanted to return to slavery in Egypt again. Slavery was simple, it didn't take any faith to remain a slave to Pharaoh. All it took was submission to his taskmasters.

These children of Israel didn't know any different way of life than slavery to Pharaoh. They were born in slavery, and lived all their lives in slavery. They didn't put faith in God, only in what they knew and experienced. They were eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and had never tasted of the tree of life. Of their own free will, they wanted to return to Egypt, and slavery to Pharaoh.

God will not go against a person's free will. If they want to be slaves to the devil, He will let them. But, God's desire is that people be free of all the works of the devil. God wanted the children to inherit the land promised to them in Abraham. God wanted to give them the land for their inheritance. It was a gift to them from the LORD, an inheritance from that which Abraham had faithfully obtained for them.

Because of their decision to listen to the evil report of the ten, the LORD kept the children of Israel in the desert for forty-years (until all that were over twenty-years old died). Then the LORD chose "Joshua" to lead the others into the promised land. (Joshua, is the same name that was given to Jesus).

Jesus leads us into our promised land in heaven. But, we must not desire to return to slavery under Satan and his demons. Once we have been set free, we should never desire to return to any of the works of the devil. Sin should have no place in our lives.

By the blood of the lamb, the children were delivered from slavery to Pharaoh and from his taskmasters. This is a type and shadow of the body and blood of Jesus. Christians are redeemed from the slavery of Satan unto God, "**by the blood of the Lamb.**"

The same applies to man in the garden of Eden. God knew the end from the beginning, therefore it says in Revelation 13:8, "**...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**" All of the sins of the whole world were paid for by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ), Who was declared slain from the foundation of the world.

When Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he did it by harkening (obeying) the voice of his wife (Eve). Eve had already obeyed the voice of the serpent. The serpent was obeying the voice of the devil. The devil was "**the god of this world**" (2 Cor. 4:4). Being that Satan, the Devil, was "the god of this world," Adam submitted mankind to become slaves to the devil (by obeying the wrong voice). Adam should not have obeyed any voice that did not agree with the Word

of God, which to Adam was the voice of the LORD God (Gen. 2:17).

When Adam sinned, sin and death passed upon all mankind (we were all in Adam). Romans 5:12 says, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** All mankind became slaves to the devil (the god of this world), as it says in Romans 6:16. **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”**

Man did not die “dead” that day, but sin and death took up residence in man (came upon man). This eternal death remains resident in man until they die or are born again. When a person receives Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior they pass from (spiritual death) unto (eternal life). In John 5:24 it says, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”** Jesus said, **“but is passed from death unto life.”**

Spiritual death is resident in a person before they receive eternal life. When they receive eternal life, eternal death is passed away and eternal life takes up residence in them. They are born again of the Word and the Spirit (John 3:6).

Death comes by sin... Sin places man into slavery to the devil... Satan becomes their master, and they become slaves to the devil. **“Redemption by the blood of Jesus purchased us back from slavery to the devil”** and set us free from the works of the devil. It was by the grace of God that we have redemption.

In Ephesians 2:8 it tells us, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”** Being that we are saved by grace some have wrong ideas about sin. Therefore, in Romans 6:1,2 it says,

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Why should anyone go back into slavery once they have been set free? In Christ we are freed from the works of the devil. We need to stay free, and never again go back into slavery. Jesus set us free, now stay free...

The New Birth in Type and Shadow

God knew man before he was formed of the dust of the ground. God has foreknowledge of all things. Therefore, knowing man before Adam was created, God had already declared **“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** (Rev. 13:8). God does not see things from time as man sees things. God had already declared all things as done from the foundation of this world.

Therefore, by type and shadow the LORD God first formed man of the dust of the ground, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. Before man could become born again “of the Spirit and the Word,” man had to exist with a body of flesh and bones. The first Adam (man) was of the earth. The second Man was from heaven (1 Cor. 15:45-49).

God uses types and shadows to explain to man spiritual things. Therefore, God said in 1 Peter 1:23, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** The seed that became a new creature in Christ had to first be planted. For man to become born again, that seed had to be planted “in man.” The living soul of man had to be united to the Seed, of the new creature in Christ.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit had to place a new spirit in man, wherein the Seed (Which is the Word of God), could be planted. God could not plant the seed in soil that would not bring a harvest. The Soil had to be good soil, not stony, or by the wayside (Mark 4:16-19). To have good soil in man to plant a seed that was not corruptible, God first had to place **“a new heart and a new spirit”** in man. Ezekiel 36:26 says, **“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”** Then the **“Seed,”** which is the Word of God could be planted in that new spirit (within man).

Keep in mind, you are still the same “living soul” that you were when you were created in man (Gen. 2:7). If God created a new “living soul” in your body, it would not be you any more, it would be someone else that never existed before. But, you existed before you were born again (a second time--a second birth). Your first birth was in Adam (flesh). Your second birth is in the Spirit of Christ. Therefore Jesus said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”** (John 3:6). Two births but the same person, the same living soul in a new spirit--in Christ.

This is why the Scripture says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”** (1 Cor. 15:22). Your, living soul was in Adam before you were born again. Now that you are born again, you are no longer in Adam, but in Christ. In Christ you have eternal life. The old spirit has been replaced with a new spirit in the Spirit of Christ. Therefore, the apostle Paul said, **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”** (Gal. 2:20). Paul also said, **“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”** (Col. 3:4).

It's not who you are that's important, it's who you are **“in Christ.”** You can take a seed that is perfect, but if you plant that seed on stony ground, it will not grow. But, if you take a seed that's perfect and plant it in perfect soil, it will grow. That's what God did for you when you were born again.

First He put a new spirit in you (Ezek. 11:19, 36:26). Then He planted a new seed in that new spirit (1 Peter 1:23). Then He placed you (your living soul) in the Spirit of Christ, making you One Spirit with the LORD (1 Cor. 6:17).

None of this could have been done without first placing you (a living soul) in Adam (man--formed of the dust of the ground). This was God's plan from the foundation of the world. It all happened to you when you were born again of the Word and the Spirit--you were taken out of the flesh and placed in the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** Notice, this only applies to those who are born again...

If you are not positive (know beyond all doubt), that you are born again, right now, pray a prayer (from your heart) like the following, Jesus will receive you and you will become born again.

"LORD, Jesus, I know that You are the Son of God. I know that You died on the cross for me. I know that God raised You from the dead.

Jesus, I ask You to come into my life. Live Your life in me! Let Your will be done in me! Let the will of God be done in my life as it was in Your life. I surrender my life to You, Jesus!

You lead me by Your Spirit and I will follow to the best of my ability. I will live for You all the days of my life, as You lead me by Your Spirit.

I receive You NOW, as my LORD, and SAVIOR for all eternity. I will be with You here on

earth, and I will be with You in heaven, forever and ever. I will give You all the Glory, it is for You that I will live forever. Amen."

There is much more to this new birth than what little is explained in these few pages. There are many other books written by Merle E. Koepke explaining from the Word of God the new birth. These books are free by downloading them from our Website at www.handsforjesus.org

The curse in Genesis 3:17-19 came as a result of sin... Yet, the curse can be overcome by those in Christ, **"who walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh."** In Romans 8:1,2 it is speaking specifically of the law of sin and death, not the Law of Moses. It says,

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

There is a revelation in these two verses that very few Christians ever knew existed. It is possible to walk by faith, and walk after the Spirit, and the law of sin and death will have no power over us.

It's important to understand the next three chapters of Genesis. They reveal the truth concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From Genesis 3:7 on, man has been living off the fruit of "the tree of knowledge of good and evil," while God has been offering us another way, "the Tree of Life."

The most important area Christians need to understand is the difference between walking after the flesh or walking after the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-8). Those who walk after the flesh are still living off the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is not God's will for mankind at all. God always desired for man to become like **"Jesus"** and "walk in His image and likeness" (1 Cor. 15:49).

Therefore, we must continue on in the next three chapters of Genesis to understand the New Covenant we have with God in Christ Jesus. Many people, calling themselves Christians, are still walking after the flesh and not after the Spirit. They could be walking after the Spirit if they knew how. But there are very few Christians who know what it means to walk after the Spirit, thereby they are deceived in thinking they are doing the will of God when they are still doing the will of the flesh.

Romans 8:5 tells us, **"they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."** Then Romans 8:8 says, **"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."**

Genesis Chapters Four through Six are in a separate book, **"GENESIS 4-6."** This book will be free by downloading from our Web Sites at www.handsforjesus.cc & www.handsforjesus.org