

## **NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS**

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 141

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**Boldly declaring the new things of Isaiah 42:9 and the greater things of John 14:12 in this generation**

**In a fallen world, righteousness does not depend upon perfect conduct but upon obedience.**

### **THE CREATION OF AND THE PURPOSE OF TIME**

A number of years ago, the Lord confirmed to me that when you understand the circumstances under which Earth One was created and then destroyed in God's fierce anger, you will understand everything He has done since then. The obvious reason for such understanding, when seen by revelation, is simple: Earth One was God's model. It was not created in time; it was created in eternity; it was intended to last forever and it will be replicated. An explanation of that startling statement is the subject of this letter.

Earth One, its rulers, its environmentally perfect ecosystem/botanical garden life support system and all forms of life created to live thereon, including man, were spoken into existence for eternity as God's finished, perfect work, never to be changed, altered nor modified to any degree.

Here is one example of that statement. After Earth One had existed and functioned perfectly for millennia, Lucifer failed and began to selfishly supercede God's original authority given to him in love, with his own God-given supernatural authority. In this case, God could do nothing but stand by and watch because of the finality with which Earth One and its rulers were created. I mention this only briefly since I have written about Earth One in greater detail in Jim Ash letters No. 16 and 131.

Since Earth One was intended to last for an eternity and since the Lord confirmed to me that it will be replicated, Earth One (or the world that was) apparently was created similar to the perfect state or the perfect age, which I have labeled Earth Five, as described in these prophetic words from Revelation chapters 21, 22, 14, 20 and 21, in that order:

#### **From Revelation chapter 21**

**1** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

**2** Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**3** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

**4** And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

**22** But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

**23** The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

**24** And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

**25** Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

**26** And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

**27** But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

#### **From Revelation chapter 22**

**5** There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

#### **From Revelation chapter 14**

**11** And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

#### **From Revelation chapter 20**

**10** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

#### **From Revelation chapter 21**

**8** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Here is a brief summary that is descriptive of the perfect age or of the eternal state (Earth Five) taken from these five above scripture references. This brief summary of the eternal state also appears to be a replication of Earth One, at least in principle, since God has said that Earth One was originally His perfect model and will be replicated.

(1) Seven-eighths of the present earth's surface is water which will be eliminated.

(2) The New City (Jerusalem) shall descend from heaven.

(3) The Lord God and the Lamb will be the temple of the City.

(4) Tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain will have passed away.

(5) There will be no sun, moon or stars, for the glory of God will illuminate the City and the Lamb will

be its light.

(6) Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter the City.

(7) The beast, the false prophet and Satan, the evil (unholy) trinity, will be cast into the lake of fire where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.<sup>1</sup>

(8) The destination of those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life is also the lake of fire, which is the same destination as Satan, whom they followed.

Now let's look at the Genesis creation of Earth Two.

### **From Genesis chapter 1**

#### **Day one creation, verses 1-5**

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

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

**3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

**4** And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

**5** God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the **first day**.

#### **Day two synopsis, verses 6-8**

Created the firmament in midst of the waters (vs. 2) and the firmament divided the waters from the waters (under and above), firmament is called heaven.

#### **Day three synopsis, verses 9-13**

Waters gathered into one place and dry land called Earth appears. Gathering of waters together called Seas. Creation of grass, herbs and fruit trees, each of which yields seed according to its kind.

#### **Day four synopsis, verses 14-19**

Created lights in the firmament (heavens) to divide day from night, for signs, seasons and years. Greater light (sun) to rule the day, lesser light (moon) to rule the night and divide light from darkness.

#### **Day five synopsis, verses 20-23**

Waters abound with living creatures, birds, sea creatures and everything that moves in waters to reproduce according to their kind. All to be fruitful and multiply according to their kind.

#### **Day six synopsis, verses 24-33**

Living creatures created on the earth – cattle, creeping things and beasts according to its kind. Man, male and female, created and told to be fruitful and multiply, to have dominion over the earth and to subdue it.

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<sup>1</sup>Since day and night here seem to be a contradiction in the absence of the sun, moon and stars, this either means the place of torment will be at an area far remote from the City, where day and night exist, or this is a way to express the fact that the torment will never cease.

### **Commentary on the Genesis references:**

**Verse 1** refers to Earth One which was created as the heavens and the earth with no mention of water, which is a characteristic of the perfect age or Earth Five. For additional proof that this was Earth One, the heavens (firmament) do not appear in the Earth Two creation until the second day (verses 6, 7 and 8) and earth does not appear on Earth Two until the third day (verses 9 & 10). Noah's flood was not the first, but the second world-wide flood that occurred on the earth.

**Verse 2** refers to the first flood on Earth One (see Jeremiah 4:23) after God destroyed it in His fierce anger (see Jeremiah 4:26).

**Verse 3:** Light was created on Day one for Earth Two. There is no mention of created light in God's description of Earth One as recorded in Isaiah 14:9-20, Ezekiel 28:12 (a)-19 and Jeremiah 4:23-26. The apparent conclusion is that God was the light of Earth One for millennia before Lucifer failed, similar to that of the perfect age, since Earth One was created to last for eternity. The reason I say that God was the light of Earth One, instead of the glory of God being the illumination and the Lamb being the light thereof, is because Earth One was created before sin and before the need for the cross. Jesus of Nazareth served a purpose on the cross (Earth Three) that did not exist on Earth One. On Earth One, the Trinity was God the Father, God the Word and God the Spirit. After the resurrection, the Trinity became God the Father, God the Son (inclusive of the Word) and God the Spirit.

**Verses 4 & 5:** Light to divide the darkness into Day and Night on **Day one**. There was no need for created light on Earth One because God Himself was the temple and the light thereof. This corresponds to the "light" of the perfect age (Earth Five) where they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God will illuminate it and the Lamb will be its light. There was no need to divide the darkness into day and night on Earth One because there was neither "created light" nor "darkness" as such, on Earth One that was created to last eternally.

**Verses 14-19:** The creation of light and the sun, moon and stars to govern day and night and to provide days, weeks, months, seasons and years on **Day four marks the creation of or the establishment of time on Earth Two that did not exist on Earth One**. Earth One was originally created **in eternity** instead of **in time**. This means that **time is created** when the increments of keeping time, or the increments of marking time, are created and not before. Time was therefore created for Earth Two whereas time did not exist on Earth One in the absence of created light, the sun, moon and stars, the elements or the increments necessary to measure or identify day and night, weeks, months seasons and years. Time does not exist in eternity. Time did not exist on Earth One nor will time exist in the perfect age (Earth Five). Time was created only after a fallen Lucifer introduced sin into the world

on Earth One, about which I have previously written. Even though Earth One failed, it was originally intended to last for an eternity. The Earth One model will be replicated. A fallen Lucifer is responsible for the destruction of Earth One and is also responsible for the creation of time on Earth Two. Time was created as a result of Lucifer's failure and time is necessary in which to age, grow old and die.

There will be no created light and no night in the Eternal City, as well as no aging and no death in the total absence of Satan and all those under his influence and authority. All occurrences recorded in the bible after Genesis 1:3 have been and will continue to be the result of Lucifer's failure. That will continue to be the case until the Second Coming of Christ at the conclusion of the seven-year Tribulation.

All of the occurrences On Earth Two beginning with Genesis 1:3, through the establishment of the perfect age, have occurred and were brought about because of a fallen lucifer. There is no accurate record of the time gap between the destruction of Earth One and the beginning reconstruction of Earth Two (Genesis 1:3), nor do I believe that finite mind may even conceive of that time gap, all of which was caused by a fallen Lucifer.

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Notice he did not say who takes away the sin of Adam or who takes away the sin of man, but who takes away the sin of the world. The sin of the world was not the sin of Adam, it was the sin of a fallen Lucifer whose sin condemned both Earth One and Earth Two after Adam's sin. Sin entered into World Two through Adam's failure that was caused by Satan. The sin of the world to which John the Baptist referred was the sin of Satan. While the death of Jesus did atone for Adam's sin, the sin of the world to which John referred was the sin of Satan. It was the sin of Satan that sent Jesus to the cross. It was also the sin of Satan that obliterated the environmentally perfect ecosystem/botanical garden life support system of both Earth One and Earth Two.

Even though Adam was supernatural, he was no match for a fallen Lucifer. God knew that before Adam was created, but the choice to begin again with Adam was dictated by the creation of the Earth One model which forever set God's parameters for procreation and for the re-creation of Earth Two. Sin entered into Earth Two through man and therefore the departure of sin from the earth had to come through Man. That Man, Christ Jesus, therefore had to come to grips with Satan with credentials beyond that of the first Adam or He, the last Adam, would have failed also. Those credentials included the infusion of the Godhead bodily into the physical body of Jesus of Nazareth after John's baptism in order for Him to become unencumbered as God Incarnate. That is one reason why Jesus was able to defeat Satan.

And remember, the fact that Jesus was God Incarnate during His visible ministry prior to the cross, had to be shrouded in secrecy from both the enemy and the Jews. Otherwise He would have failed to defeat the enemy at the cross.

No one has carried the burden that Jesus carried to the cross. His ministry was made possible because He became God Incarnate with two additional qualifications.<sup>2</sup> But remember, He carried God Incarnate in a physical body.

Even though He was God Incarnate, the cross was before Him as a physical man every day. That's why some nights He would have to pray all night before He could be at peace with God, His neighbor and Himself. That means everyone on the face of the earth. He had to start every day at peace in order to minister as He did, as directed by the Father.

In order to be at peace to start another day, he had to be at peace with both Satan and the Jews who wanted to kill Him, almost from the first day of His ministry. This means that each night in prayer, He had to pray through to complete forgiveness of both Satan and the Jewish leaders in order to minister the next day in peace. This was particularly difficult in Judea and in Jerusalem, the residence of the High Priest and the location of the Sanhedrin. While the common people accepted Him gladly,<sup>3</sup> the Jewish leaders were His nemesis from the beginning. It was Satan who orchestrated His violent treatment at the cross by the Jews.

**Verses 24-33: On Day six** man was created on Earth Two. Man and woman were created and told to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. They likewise were given joint responsibility to have dominion over the earth and to subdue it until Satan came along and stole that right from them jointly.

Since Earth One was God's model for the earth, we know that the creation of man and woman on Earth Two followed the same pattern as the creation of man and woman on Earth One. They were like we are; we are like they were, based on God's law of creation and procreation set forth on the Earth One model.

Perhaps by now, you may be able to better understand that what God is really about, is to replicate the Earth One model, and the record of that began in Genesis 1:3. Finite mind may not grasp the cost of a fallen Lucifer.

Satan thought the cross would be his victory, but he discovered too late that Jesus was the trigger in the trap that caught him. That is why the visible ministry of Jesus had to be shrouded in secrecy. No one but Jesus and the Godhead within His physical body knew the mission of Jesus until the Pentecost following His resurrection. But you might say that His resurrection

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<sup>2</sup>See Jim Ash letter No. 117 for these two additional qualifications.

<sup>3</sup>See Mark 12:37.

proved the purpose of His coming. While that may appear as fact to you and me, it was far from fact in the minds of some of the original apostles, and others who witnessed His resurrection, as well. There was doubt even in the minds of some of the apostles until that Pentecost morning in Jerusalem following His resurrection when the Holy Spirit fell on about one hundred and twenty disciples. Only then were the doubts removed.

And the rest is history, about which we know. Finite mind may not comprehend what Jesus has done until our earthly cloaks are removed.

And I can assure you that there are some living today who know that they will not die, but will remove their earthly cloaks as they are raptured. What a glorious day that will be!

Why not determine to be one of those now by consecrating your life unhesitatingly and unequivocally to Him? Then learn to listen to His voice daily, about which I have written for years. Blessings untold await such a decision.

In closing this letter, I call your attention to these words from Paul in Romans, chapter ten:

**12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

**13** For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

**16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?”

**17** So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

In the light of these words from Paul, what we have been taught to believe is that the way to hear the word of God is for a preacher (or teacher) to preach (or teach) from the bible. While that is basic, that concept may have led us to conclude this is the **ONLY** way to hear God’s word. I have even been warned about listening “because you might hear the wrong voice.” What this does is to make God mute! But I declare to you, there is a way to hear the word of God from the mouth of God today. Jesus said that there is. Listen.

After Jesus was baptized by John, He was led (or driven) into the wilderness to fast for forty days. After the fast He was hungry. Satan then came to Him and said, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” Jesus then replied, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every (*rhema*) word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Notice that Jesus did not say *every logos* – He said *every rhema*.

Words that come from the mouth of God are *rhema*. This means that they are alive and impart life to everyone who hears them.

If you will learn to listen to the voice of God and devote quiet time to Him daily to do so, you will hear words from the mouth of God that will change your life. In this method of spiritual growth, **you** do nothing but listen, as He does the work for you and changes your life in the process! That’s a win/win situation anyway you look at it! As you are faithful, obedient and trustworthy, the *rhema* words you hear from His mouth will impart the characteristics of God in your life that you need most at that time. He makes the decision on what to say to you and which words to use. Isn’t that simple?

Each word you hear from His mouth is a two-edged sword. It cuts both ways and here is how it works: As you hear His words they – each one – will remove certain dross (the sinful nature within) from your life based on God’s priority – not yours. Then the characteristics of God Himself will be imparted within you to replace the void created by the removal of the dross. That’s God’s way of doing spiritual surgery.

This Listening Method of spiritual growth will do things in your life you never dreamed of. And remember, faith comes by hearing. It does not come by reading, or by memorizing scripture verses, or by spending another thirty minutes in prayer each day, all of which is good and all of which I have done. Faith still comes by hearing. And I might add, faith comes by hearing *rhema* words from the mouth of God. The Spirit may quicken to your heart a *logos* word or scripture or He may quicken to your heart something else, at which time that becomes *rhema*. But when you learn to listen, *every word you hear is rhema*. And that is how you are fed spiritually and that is how you grow spiritually greater than any other way.

The Listening Method of spiritual growth is superior to the Pentecost Method. The Listening Method is based on Isaiah 42:9: “Behold the former things have come to pass and *new things* I declare. Before they spring forth, I tell you of them.”

The Listening Method is one of the *new things* that Isaiah prophesied for this generation. The Lord has confirmed to me that the Listening Method as a *new thing* is available to His disciples today because of the shortness of time prior to the rapture. Realize what this means. To repeat, **the Listening Method of spiritual growth is available today for the first time to disciples of the Lord.** His disciples have not had this opportunity for spiritual growth and maturity since the church began one Pentecost morning in Jerusalem almost two thousand years ago.

Take advantage of this opportunity. It will bless you beyond your dreams. Do not expect to drive through God’s golden arches and pick up your happy meal quickly. It doesn’t work that way. It will take time that no one has. You must make time for Him to have time to listen or it won’t happen.

You may serve God within the Pentecost Method and be gloriously saved. Or you may choose the Listening Method and begin to grow exponentially and discover a walk with God that you never knew existed. It will change your life.