

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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EARTH 101

The earth was never intended to be as it is today. God's desire has always been otherwise. But along the way, those whom He created and appointed as leaders failed. With the failures, the earth has undergone radical changes. This letter will reflect a very brief synoptic overview of how I believe this happened. The opinions expressed herein are mine although they are not original with me. All of the ideas and/or conclusions presented in this letter have been arrived at previously by other faithful servants of God who have sought scriptural answers to life's and earth's perplexing problems.

The reasons for the previous failures to secure God's plan for the earth is simple: lack of faith, for "without faith it is impossible to please Him."¹ God could have originally required or demanded that his created beings worship Him. But then man, His second creative choice to rule the earth, would have been robbed of his God-given free-will and fear would have crept in as the motivating influence for homage. God's choice was otherwise: faith working through love² giving man a choice, making him a free moral agent to choose whom or what He will worship. Since He created man, God knows him best. *Man was made to be fulfilled in this life.* God's choice in drawing man to Himself was and is primarily His way of fulfilling man, *not Himself.* He knew that only as man is drawn to Him in love, will he find true contentment in life, peace that passes understanding and life eternal with Him, man's intended destiny from the beginning.

In more than one of my previous letters I have mentioned the World War in progress between God and Satan. A war which is raging in the unseen over the souls of men, most of whom, in my opinion, have little or no knowledge concerning the conflict or how to

successfully participate in the battle. I can assure you the battle is real. I can assure you that you are a target and I can assure you that this war is scheduled to intensify based on bible eschatology. For these reasons I would like to share with you what I believe actually precipitated the raging conflict, since knowledge is the basis of understanding and understanding, the foundation of wisdom.

Hear these words from Ezekiel, the prophet, concerning the origin and actions of Satan, which caused the War:

"12.... You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the **garden of God**; every precious stone was your covering; the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. 16 By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. 18 You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities...."³

Notice that verse 13 places Satan in the garden of God, which was in Eden. This differs from the garden of Eden⁴ where God put Adam and Eve, as evidenced by Satan's appearance in both gardens. For example in verse 12 and 13, Satan, in the garden of God, was the seal of perfection, full of wisdom, perfect in beauty and adorned with every precious stone, including diamonds and gold. In the Genesis garden of Eden, Satan comes disguised as a beguiling serpent who

¹See Hebrews 11:6. All Bible quotations are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

²See Galatians 5:6.

³The quotation is from Ezekiel 28:12 - 17. "... " denotes omission of the first half of verse 12 and the last part of verse 18. Bold print added for emphasis.

⁴See Genesis 2:15.

tempted Adam and Eve with lies.⁵ A liar is not the description of one who had God’s “seal of perfection,” as recorded in verse 12, in the garden of God. Verse 13 records that timbrels and pipes were prepared by God for Satan on the day he was created. These musical instruments along with his “stringed instruments”⁶ may indicate that he was originally the praise and worship leader in heaven. As an anointed [leader] cherub (verse 14), he was perfect in his ways until iniquity was found in him. Then sin and violence in the anointed cherub caused God to cast him out of the mountain of God as a profane thing (verse 16). He defiled his sanctuaries⁷ by a multitude of iniquities (verse 18). Spiro Zohiates comments on this passage of scripture, Ezekiel 28:12 - 19, as follows: “This oracle is similar to the one found in Isaiah fourteen, in that it begins as a prophecy against an earthly ruler,⁸ but leads into an oracle against Satan, the real power behind the pagan king [of Tyrus]. Some scholars claim that this passage (Chapter 28) refers to an earthly king, but the word “cherub” (verses 14 & 16) is used in scripture only of angelic beings (Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18-20; Ezekiel 9:3; 10:1-22). Moreover, this individual was “in Eden, the garden of God” (verse 13), “upon the holy mountain of God” and “walked...in the midst of the stones of fire” (verse 14), and was “created” (verse 15).”⁹ In verse 16, the words referring to Satan in the past tense, “I destroyed you” may be more correctly translated in the future tense as “I will destroy you,” as translated in the KJV from the root Hebrew word “abad.”¹⁰

The prophet Isaiah also records the downfall of

⁵See Genesis 3:1 - 9.

⁶Isaiah 14:11.

⁷Before his fall Satan actually had **his** sanctuaries on the earth!

⁸The earthly ruler referred to is the prince [king] of Tyre (or Tyrus). See Ezekiel 28:1.

⁹Spiro Zohiates, editor, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, Notes on p. 1040.

¹⁰Satan still walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8). His ultimate destiny, however, is everlasting fire prepared for him and his angels. But this will not occur until after the Second Advent of the Messiah and the millennial reign. Then Satan will be loosed again to deceive the nations. Only after these events take place will he be cast into the lake of fire along with death and hell. (See Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:7, 8, 10, 14).

Satan with these words:

“¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart: **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north. ¹⁴**I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will** be like the Most High. ¹⁵Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. ¹⁶Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?”¹¹

Notice in verse 12 that Lucifer “weakened the nations.” I believe *the nations* referenced here are of a pre-Adamic civilization in a similar manner as I believe the “garden of God” referenced in Ezekiel 28:12 to be of a time prior to the *garden of Eden* in Genesis 2:15. (More about this later). As referenced previously, Isaiah chapter 14 beginning with verse 4 is a prophecy against the king of Babylon¹² but leads into an oracle against Lucifer, “son of the morning” who was “cut down to the ground,” (verse 12) indicating a loss of his former position of authority and power. Then follows the five “*I wills*” of Satan (verse 13 & 14) underscoring the two reasons for his fall: **selfish ambition** and **pride** which takes the glory from God. “You shall have no other gods before me...for I the Lord your God am a jealous God”¹³ is still the standard of man’s judging himself by his own choices. I believe the man (Satan) who made the earth tremble, shook kingdoms, made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, (verse 16 & 17) speaks of a pre-Adamic world over which Lucifer as God’s anointed cherub ruled before his fall.

Now hear what the prophet Jeremiah has to say on this subject:

“²³I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light. ²⁴I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth. ²⁵I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. ²⁶I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord, by his fierce anger. ²⁷For thus says the Lord: ‘The whole land shall be desolate; yet I will not *make a full end*.’”¹⁴

Notice the similarity of verse 23 with Genesis

¹¹Isaiah 14:12 - 17, bold print added for emphasis.

¹²See Isaiah 14:4.

¹³See Exodus 20:3 - 6.

¹⁴Jeremiah 4:23 - 27, Italics added.

1':2: "The earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." I believe these two verses in Genesis and Jeremiah *describe the same event in time*. Verse 24 adds more light: "I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled." This verse speaks of mountains before they were created in Genesis 1:9. Verse 25 speaks of the destruction of man and birds before they were created in Genesis 1:27 and 1:21 respectively. Verse 26 speaks of a fruitful land that became a "wilderness" and of cities that were "broken down" or destroyed "at the presence of the Lord by His fierce anger," *before the creation began in Genesis 1:3*. Then in verse 27, "The whole land shall be desolate; yet *I shall not make a full end*" speaks of the destruction of a pre-Adamic civilization ruled over by Lucifer, *prior to Genesis 1:2 and prior to the promise of a new creation beginning with Genesis 1:3*.

Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and multiply and **replenish** the earth.¹⁵ The definition of **plenish** is "to fill up; to stock," and one meaning of **replenish** is "to fill again, especially after having been emptied."¹⁶

"And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters," as recorded in Genesis 1:2, I believe describes the results of God's "fierce anger" in obliterating an entire civilization over which Lucifer reigned before he sinned. The "waters" over which the Spirit hovered appear to be the result of the *first flood*, when God in His fierce anger, completely destroyed every living creature and all evidence of a pre-Adamic civilization in a sudden, cataclysmic, catastrophic act. Noah's flood, for example, came about another way so that he would have ample time to do everything in preparation: time to build, supply and load the ark, seven days of waiting for the rain to begin, forty days and nights of rain, one hundred fifty days before the waters began to abate, etc.¹⁷ In Noah's flood the water was not on the earth long enough for the vegetation to be destroyed,¹⁸ but in the first flood of Genesis 1:2 all

vegetation was destroyed, as referenced in Jeremiah 4:26 & 27, so that it had to be recreated as recorded in Genesis 1:11 & 12. Marine life was not destroyed in Noah's flood whereas it was destroyed in the first flood (Genesis 1:2) evidenced by the recreation of all marine life in Genesis 1:21, 22. Noah's wife, his three sons and daughters-in-law were saved to begin anew to repopulate the earth, whereas in the *first flood*, "I beheld and indeed there was no man."¹⁹

If this understanding of scripture is correct, the argument between some theologians and scientists over the age of the earth may be laid to rest. The earth could literally be millions or even billions of years old. There ultimately will be no argument, since both theologians and scientists are truth seekers and truth does not refute truth. Truth is its own defender.

"Again the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me.'"²⁰ This was the third time Satan tempted Jesus after His forty day fast at the beginning of His earthly ministry. In this temptation, Satan was offering to Jesus the "lease" to the world which he (Satan) stole from Adam.²¹ Since I wrote about this "theft" in my letter dated 10/1/97, I will not comment on it further in this letter. God created man "in Our image according to Our likeness"²² as a perfect triune being, comprised of a spirit, soul and body.²³ He then gave to Adam dominion over the earth along with the authority to subdue His creation. This was Adam's birthright (creation right) in the beginning. Satan, who tempted Adam to sin, and was thereby successful in stealing his (Adam's) claim to the world *lease*, was now trying the same thing on Jesus. But this time the ruse didn't work. In each of the three temptations Jesus replied, "It is written."²⁴ However it was only through His death,

¹⁹Jeremiah 4:25 (a).

²⁰Matthew 4:8, 9.

²¹Jesus revealed the "theft" in the parable of the Vineyard (the world) and the Tenants (Satan and his angels). See Mark 12:1 - 11.

²²Genesis 1:26.

²³1 Thessalonians 5:23.

²⁴See Matthew 4:1 - 11.

¹⁵See Genesis 1:28, KJV.

¹⁶Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Fifth Edition, p. 762 (plenish) and p. 844 (replenish).

¹⁷See Genesis Chapters 6, 7, & 8 for the story of the *second flood*.

¹⁸The second dove released by Noah brought back an olive leaf. See Genesis 8:11.

burial and resurrection that Jesus came forth victorious over sin and death, both of which were authored by a dethroned Lucifer, the once beautiful anointed cherub of God. However, Satan is still at large and will remain so until the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ on the earth.²⁵ He will then be bound for a thousand years only to be loosed for a period of time before being cast into the lake of fire for ever and ever in preparation for the new heaven and new earth.²⁶

The world was originally created to be ruled over by Lucifer as God's created anointed cherub. And God's plan worked until selfish ambition and pride caused the downfall of the first world system. The words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"²⁷ appear to reflect the perfect condition of the earth as originally created, to be ruled over by Lucifer, since God's original creation is always perfect. This verse also proclaims the existence of earth before dry land was created and called *earth* on the *third day* of creation in Genesis 1:9 & 10. The scripture, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters," reflects the result of a cataclysmic destruction of the first world system in the *first flood*. Then in Earth phase II, man was created in God's likeness as a perfect specimen only to sin and thus surrender his birthright (creation right) to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. Adam sold his birthright for something to eat,²⁸ even as Esau did.²⁹ After Lucifer and Adam failed, God in so many words said, "I've had it! I'll send my Son to clean up the earth and reestablish it as I originally intended! And that is exactly what will happen. The scriptures, which prophesied the coming of Messiah, also prophesy of His millennial reign on earth, the annihilation of Satan and death and a new heaven and a new earth, the Eternal State, as described in Revelation chapter 20 and 21:1 - 4.

Because of Adam's failure and Satan's evil influence, the earth had to be cleansed a second time by Noah's flood. It therefore remained for Jesus to strike the "death blow" to Satan and his cunning ways of tempting man to sin -- sin which instituted death as a consequence of life. In His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus administered the coup to Satan "Having disarmed principalities and powers [Satan and his demonic forces of evil], He made a public spectacle over them, triumphing over them in it" [the cross].³⁰ But the battle is not yet over, for as the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, we are admonished to "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."³¹

The scriptures teach that each of us is born into an eternal conscious existence and that to each one is assigned a measure of faith. How we use that faith determines where we will spend eternity. God is constantly calling man to Himself to experience a spiritual regeneration and transformation. When you respond from the heart to His call, nothing can keep you from experiencing the love of God in Christ Jesus. I invite you to come to Him today. Make Him Lord of your life and allow Him to love you into something you never were and can never be without Him. That is the purpose of your existence. With a seventh millennium approaching, end-time events, chronicled by God's prophets, draw closer. And as I understand end-time events, I believe the Rapture of the Church could be near enough that some living in this generation will not taste of death. And that's exciting! It's even more exciting as I anticipate participating in that event and those which follow! Hallelujah!!

....more about this later, the Lord willing.

²⁵See Revelation 20:1 - 6.

²⁶See Revelation 20:7 - 10. Everyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was also cast into the lake of fire. See Revelation 20:15.

²⁷Genesis 1:1.

²⁸See Genesis 3:1 - 7.

²⁹See Genesis 25:29 - 34.

³⁰Colossians 2:15, explanatory brackets added.

³¹Ephesians 6:11, 12.