

## NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash Letter No. 95

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“Behold the former things have come to pass, and **new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.**” (Isaiah 42:9)

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

God has had more than one colossal failure with which to deal. Lucifer appears to be His first failure of record which brought about the destruction of the pre-Adamic earth about which I have previously written.<sup>1</sup> In that destruction, the whole earth was instantly changed in a moment of time. Man, all other mammals, animals, marine life, birds of the air – all life and vegetation, including populated cities – were destroyed instantly in God's fierce anger as a result of Lucifer's pride. Genesis 1:2 records the results of this massive failure. Genesis 1:3 records the beginning of the greatest reconstruction project ever undertaken.

In spite of this massive, colossal failure, God has said to me that He has never changed His objective. The failures of Lucifer and man (Adam) have postponed God's blessings but these failures have not changed His objective.

God's original plan, which remains until this very day and will continue throughout eternity, *is to draw man to Himself through love and love is of the heart.* “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”<sup>2</sup> *In order to obey or respond from the heart, one must have the freedom to disobey.* This includes the angelic hosts, as well as man. That, in summary, is the basic reason for all of the failures God has experienced, beginning with the pre-Adamic earth over which Lucifer ruled.

On one occasion I asked God this question. “Why did it take You so long to get from Adam's sin to the cross?” Here is the answer He gave me. “Because the war we are engaged in is being fought along the lines of the creation of Cherubs.” Lucifer is a fallen Cherub.<sup>3</sup> When God created Cherubs, for example, *He simultaneously spoke into existence laws governing their conduct, whether in obedience or disobedience.*<sup>4</sup> He therefore is governed by those laws – His word – which are truth that He cannot change. This war between Satan and his forces

and Christ Jesus and His forces are therefore governed by the Word of God that will not change. That is why it has taken so long for God to begin to straighten out the mess – and He isn't through yet. This time the reconstruction will be conducted in stages instead of being done all at once as it was when the earth was prepared for Adam. As the Lord has said to me concerning His reconstruction efforts, “This time I will prevail.” There are numerous stages through which the earth and its inhabitants will undergo this time in God's massive reconstruction project underway. In a previous letter I listed a number of these stages which lead to man's eternal state on the earth.<sup>5</sup>

There are *two accounts* of the creation of man in the Genesis record. *While they differ*, they do not conflict and were given for different purposes. Here in summary are the *two accounts* and the reason for each.

(1) **The purpose of the creation of man** is recorded in Genesis 1:26-30, namely, **to replenish the earth, to have dominion over the earth and subdue it**<sup>6</sup> conditioned upon obedience.

(2) **The order of the creation of man** is recorded in Genesis 2:7-25 to reveal that

(a) Adam was formed first as a perfect man with demonstrated supernatural capabilities and

(b) woman was created from man and was *created for man.*<sup>7</sup>

God's *reconstructive plan* for man began with Adam. Then Eve was created through whom procreation would come *to begin God's family on the earth.* There is a reason that part of man was the substance from which woman was made and that she was created for man. God ordained that the basic unit of the society in which we live is the home. He set up the government of the home based on love and the order of His creation. However, there are

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<sup>5</sup>See Jim Ash letter No. 77 dated September 15, 2005 entitled, **THE TWO ADAMS**, beginning on page 3, column 2.

<sup>6</sup>**To have dominion**, from Strong's #7287, means to tread down, to subjugate, to reign over. To **subdue** the earth, from Strong's #3533, means to tread down, to conquer, to bring into bondage. It is obvious from the meaning of the original Hebrew from which these two terms were translated, that Adam was created with supernatural abilities and was given absolute authority over the earth *conditioned upon obedience.* All of the promises of God are conditioned upon obedience.

<sup>7</sup>See 1 Corinthians 11:8, 9.

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<sup>1</sup>See Jim Ash Letter No. 16 dated January 10, 1999, entitled, **EARTH 101.**

<sup>2</sup>Romans 10:10.

<sup>3</sup>See Ezekiel 28:14.

<sup>4</sup>This is true of all of God's creation.

certain stipulations aside from love which today are of the utmost importance.

In order to understand this letter, bear in mind that the relationship between God and man, between God and woman and between man and woman **universally changed when Adam sinned. When Adam sinned, he committed suicide and homicide against the whole human race. That's when the marriage problem started.** God is presently engaged in the restoration of these relationships. Whether you view these relationships from a secular historical view or from a biblical historical view, the position of woman in our society (particularly in the western world) has changed markedly since the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. However with the divorce rate in the church now continuing to trend higher, there is clearly need for help.

*There is a void in every home today in which the husband is not totally submissive and subservient to God in the same manner that Jesus of Nazareth was totally submissive and subservient to the Father.*<sup>8</sup> Now before you get your feathers ruffled, hear this. "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and finds favor from the Lord."<sup>9</sup> The institution of marriage therefore is honorable and is ordained by God, whether one is or is not a believer. However with the increased rate of divorce in the church, something is wrong. God has a family plan that will work. Let's look at His plan.

Two of God's prophets wrote of this plan hundreds of years before Jesus was born in a Bethlehem stable. Isaiah wrote, "For your (Israel's) maker *is your husband*, the Lord of hosts is His Name; and your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. For the Lord has called you *like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused,*" says your God."<sup>10</sup>

In a similar passage, Jeremiah wrote. "Return O backsliding children (Israel)," says the Lord, "*For I am married to you.* I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion."<sup>11</sup>

In these two references, *God speaks of Israel as His wife. This is significant since God wanted Israel to be submissive to Him as a wife so He could bless her. It is important to note that the blessing of the wife (Israel) by her husband (God) is not dependant upon the*

**authority of the husband (God) but on the submissiveness of the wife (Israel) to the husband (God).** *The submission of the weaker vessel is the key.* That was the key with God's wife and that is the key to every marriage today. It is the submissiveness of the wife to the husband that frees God to bless the husband, the husband to bless the wife and the wife to bless the husband.

God Himself dictated a marriage covenant **for Him and His wife** [Israel].<sup>12</sup> When followed, that covenant portends almost unfathomable blessings. In the following excerpts, taken from that covenant, remember, as you listen to the voice of God (the husband), that the wife (Israel), comprising both male and female, is looked upon by God as his spiritual wife, since he is Spirit. Here are excerpts from that covenant. Listen and see if *you* can hear his voice. Each time "the Lord" or "the Lord your God" appears in the covenant, remember that means "the husband." Each time the word "you" appears, remember that means "the wife."

1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you [Israel, the wife] diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God [your husband], to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

2 "And all these blessings shall come upon you and **overtake** you, *because you obey the voice of the Lord your God;*

3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

4 "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, [your children] the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks [your income – your business].

5 "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl [an abundance of food including all delicacies, in all seasons of the year].

6 "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out [you will be blessed **everywhere you go**].

7 "The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways [God will be your protector].

8 "The Lord [the husband] *will command* the blessings on you in your storehouses and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you

<sup>8</sup>See Jim Ash letter No. 93 dated February 15, 2007, entitled, **OUR ROLE MODEL.**

<sup>9</sup>Proverbs 18:22.

<sup>10</sup>Isaiah 54:5, 6.

<sup>11</sup>Jeremiah 3:14.

<sup>12</sup>The Marriage covenant referred to is in the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy.

[storage insurance against fire, theft and insects and a blessing pronounced on the land given by God].

9 “The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you. If you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways.

10 “Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. [you will take your husband’s name and no nation shall conquer you]

11 “And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. [riches]

12 “The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. [financial blessings]

13 “And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

14 “So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

15 “But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, **that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.**

The curses for disobedience listed in the remaining fifty-three verses of Deuteronomy are almost too drastic to consider as consequences for a disobedient wife. But remember, God through His spiritual wife [Israel] was in the process of establishing a beachhead from which to launch a frontal attack on His wife’s enemy. To obey God is life. To disobey God is to obey Satan which is death. Remember also that God’s wife was asked to obey His laws from an intellectual standpoint before the Holy Spirit was accessible to His wife. The Holy Spirit was given selectively before the cross.<sup>13</sup> It is the Holy Spirit who makes one personally acquainted with God<sup>14</sup>. What God was doing through His wife [Israel] was instituting His first line of offense against His arch rival.

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<sup>13</sup>Under the law of Moses the Holy Spirit was given to God’s leaders **selectively**. Beginning with the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was made available **to everyone** who accepts Jesus as Lord including (1) rebirth (John 3:3-9) and (2) Holy Spirit baptism. (Luke 11:13). See Acts 2:1-40.

<sup>14</sup>See John 15:26.

Adam was given absolute authority over the earth to (1) replenish it, (2) to subdue it and (3) to have dominion over it.<sup>15</sup> Since every promise of God is conditional upon obedience, Adam’s absolute authority over the earth was surrendered to Satan whom he obeyed. When Adam chose to obey Satan instead of God whom he disobeyed, He (Adam) surrendered His God given absolute authority over the earth to Satan. The apostle Paul said it this way, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves [as] slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness.<sup>16</sup>

Adam’s complete surrender of his God-given authority to Satan went unchallenged for more than two thousand years. The call of Abram,<sup>17</sup> was God’s beginning strategy to take from Satan the authority relinquished to him [Satan] by Adam. Jesus told a parable that clearly depicts this story.<sup>18</sup> This was confirmed again in Satan’s third temptation of Jesus at the beginning of His ministry. When he [Satan] offered Him [Jesus] “all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,” he was offering to Jesus that which he [Satan] had obtained from Adam.<sup>19</sup>

Please keep in mind that Jesus could have accepted Satan’s “deal.” He (Jesus), like Adam, could have failed! Remember that the cross was not a little deal “cooked up” so the Godhead could get on with the main event, as Satan would have liked. The cross was the fulcrum event in time on which hinged the future of God’s rule over the heavens and the earth through love – God’s way. God’s way – love – never fails. We fail Him when we refuse His love.

Love brings out the best in man. When all else fails, seek God’s love. The God I know will love you into submission. Love seeks to serve, not rule, to give, not take. Love suffers long and is greater than all else man can do.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup>See Genesis 1:28 and footnote #6.

<sup>16</sup>Romans 6:16.

<sup>17</sup>God’s call to Abram came in the year 1883 B. C. According to A CHRONOLOGY OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY, written by Dr. R. C. Wetzel sourced from Ages Software, Albany, OR.

<sup>18</sup>See Matthew 21:33-44.

<sup>19</sup>See Matthew 4:8-10.

<sup>20</sup>Read 1 Corinthians, Chapter thirteen.

On a number of occasions God's wife [Israel] turned from Him to worship other gods. That meant that she left her faithful Husband for another god or gods to worship Satan. God calls such disobedience *harlotry*. On one occasion God spoke to Hosea, one of His servants, and told him to marry a wife of harlotry to depict Israel [God's wife] prostituting herself to another husband – Satan. *Time and again when Israel prostituted herself to Satan, God in His mercy never divorced His wife.* God Himself has said that He hates divorce.<sup>21</sup> *He has never stopped wooing His wife [Israel] and He never will.*

Now let's talk about another family. The God whose wife is Israel has a Son. His Name is Jesus. While His body was in the tomb, it is obvious from scripture that His soul descended into the lower parts of the earth and while there He disarmed Satan and took from Him the keys to death and hell.<sup>22</sup> After Jesus presented this victory over Satan to the Father, the Father then gave it to Jesus who gave it to His disciples.<sup>23</sup>

Like Father, like Son.

The Son is now in the process of choosing His bride. He began wooing her on the first Pentecost after His resurrection. That courtship continues to this very day. The choosing of His bride is clearly depicted in the Bridegroom's words in His parable of the ten virgins found in Matthew 25:1-13. Since I have written more extensively on this in a prior **letter**, I will conclude here the teaching in brief. Since all ten were virgins, they had been cleansed and purified by the blood of Jesus.<sup>24</sup> However the five who were chosen had learned to listen for and to hear the voice of the Bridegroom. The courtship of two in love portends intimacy – things shared between the two that others are not privy to. They were the five who were chosen by the Bridegroom.

The Father's Son is a Jew Who will have a typical Jewish wedding. The betrothal period began about two thousand years ago at the first Pentecost after the resurrection of the Bridegroom. On that first day about three thousand souls responded to the call of the Bridegroom. Since then the bride and the Bridegroom have been preparing themselves for the wedding. ***And I can tell you that both are excited about the coming wedding!*** One way to tell about a coming wedding of two who are in love is by the interest and the excitement of

both the bride and the bridegroom! Even as I write these words, the bride is expectantly awaiting her call by the One whom she loves.

In a Jewish wedding the father sets the wedding date. This is clearly depicted in these words of the Bridegroom, "But of that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."<sup>25</sup> "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."<sup>26</sup> In these words of Jesus, He was talking about Himself – about His own wedding. So often that is true about the words of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospel records.

When the time is right and the Father says to His Son, "Go get your bride," here is the apostle Paul's description of that event as recorded in chapter four of his letter to the church at Thessalonica:

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

You have just read the call of the Bridegroom [Christ] to his bride [the Church]. The wedding will take place in heaven during the seven-year tribulation. At the end of the seven years Christ and His wife will return to earth and He will conquer with the breath of His mouth all nations who have persecuted Israel for several millennia to begin His millennial reign on the earth. The metes and bounds of the real estate contract God made with Abraham will be established by a Jewish King and Jerusalem will become the capital city of Israel, the premier nation of the world. Hallelujah!

Saints of God, salvation is in the wife of God and the wife of His only Son.

*It's all in the family.*

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<sup>21</sup>See Malachi 2:16.

<sup>22</sup>See Revelation 1:18; Acts 2:31; Ephesians 4:9, 10; Matthew 12:40.

<sup>23</sup>See Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-49.

<sup>24</sup>See 1 John 1:7.

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<sup>25</sup>Mark 13:32.

<sup>26</sup>Matthew 24:42.