



THE BLAZING TRAIL
VOLUME 1
The Beginnings

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CONTENTS

page 1 of 3

INTRODUCTION	5
A NOTE OF CHANGE	5
NEW KING JAMES VERSION – OLD KING JAMES (KJV).....	5
ABOUT <i>THE BLAZING TRAIL</i>	6
CONNECTING PRAYER	9
BEHOLD THE MAN 326 BC.....	10
THE METALLIC MAN.....	12
BEHOLD THE MAN 33 AD	14
ABOUT THE BIBLE.....	14
THE BIBLE’S LIVING ORIGIN.....	15
BIBLE INSPIRED BY GOD’S SPIRIT OF SUPERNATURAL LIFE.....	16
PIECING TOGETHER BIBLICAL TRUTHS	16
A COSMIC JOURNEY TO HEAVEN	17
THE ONE TRUE GOD	17
GOD’S BODILY APPEARANCE.....	17
GOD IS SELF –EXISTENT	18
GOD’S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON	18
SPIRIT CONNECTION.....	19
THE NAME GOD	20
SPIRIT PRESENCE	21

CONTENTS

page 2 of 3

CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.....	21
HEAVENLY ANGELS	22
EVIL INFILTRATES THE UNIVERSE.....	23
SIN IS TRANSGRESSING GOD’S LAW	24
GOD’S UNIVERSAL LAW.....	24
PROOF OF A UNIVERSAL LAW.....	26
REBELLION ESCALATES	26
THE FINAL OUTCOME.....	27
LUCIFER’S DEATHLY LEGACY	28
THE MORPHING.....	28
EARTH’S CREATOR	28
THE FIRST HUMANS	31
THE HUMAN FAMILY	32
GOD’S SEVENTH DAY SABBATH REST.....	32
DOMINION OVER THE WORLD.....	34
THE CHALLENGE	35
THE TESTING GROUND.....	36
GOD’S LOVE BEGETS LOVE.....	36
FREE WILL - FREE CHOICE.....	37
UNMASKING EVIL.....	37

CONTENTS

page 3 of 3

TEST OF HONOUR AND LOYALTY	38
THE CONTEST BEGINS	38
SATAN CLAIMS EARTH'S DOMINION.....	40
DEATHLY FALLOUT OF SIN	40
ADAM AND EVE TRANSGRESSED GOD'S LAW	41
LAW VERSUS THE SIN PROBLEM	41
LAW'S MERCIFUL ACT	41
EXPLORING AN ALTERNATIVE	42
OUR URGENT NEED	42
THE DARK MIRROR OF SIN	43
WHAT DOES SIN LOOK LIKE?	44
ALL-ENCOMPASSING HOPE.....	44
GOD'S RESCUE UNFOLDS	45
A SINLESS DELIVERER	45
SERPENT AND SATAN CONFRONTED.....	46
THE SYSTEM OF ANIMAL SACRIFICE BEGINS.....	47
A VISIBLE FUTURE REALITY.....	48
ADAM AND EVE LIVE A NEW ERA OF LIFE	48
The Blazing Trail Volume 1 - 7.....	50

INTRODUCTION

THE BLAZING TRAIL is a biblical exploration, seeking God's knowledge of truth, answering spiritual questions in our troubled world today.

Providing a foundational overview of the Bible, *The Blazing Trail* is set out in seven volumes, each volume divided into parts by sub titles for quick, easy reference to any biblical topic you wish to refer to. You are reading Volume 1. If you are impressed to seek further insight, the given text references can be used to dive deeper into the Bible and explore surrounding background knowledge of biblical lives and spiritual events.

And so, if you wish to learn about God and what the Bible entails, *The Blazing Trail*, could be the answer for you.

A NOTE OF CHANGE

Because of changing times and circumstances, the published books of *The King and His Son*, Book 1, 2, and the first half of Book 3 have been condensed and merged into *The Blazing Trail*.

The unpublished second half of Book 3, and unpublished Book 4 and 5 of *The King and His Son* series have also merged into the new publication, *The Blazing Trail*, making seven *Blazing Trail* volumes overall. Further narration by This Man has ended. But in essence his guiding voice remains and the published books of *The King and His Son* also remain on the Vital force website for free downloading and sharing with others. Free downloading at vitalforce.org.nz

NEW KING JAMES VERSION – OLD KING JAMES (KJV)

Throughout *The Blazing Trail* we continue to use the New King James version of the Bible, and a few selected texts from the King James version, noted after the text as KJV. Therefore ALL other scripture texts are from the New King James Version.

We are grateful for the Nelson's Electronic Reference Library, New King James Version (NKJV) and the King James Version (KJV). We chose to mainly use the NKJV for its modern vernacular touch. All highlighting of scripture texts is by the author unless otherwise indicated.

ABOUT THE BLAZING TRAIL

And so to fire the spiritual mind, let us embrace *The Blazing Trail* unfolding into the

distant landscape of biblical times, right through to our day in the 21st century.

Volume 1 of *The Blazing Trail* begins with a heroic man making imperial conquest over Middle Eastern lands. Then we behold a symbolic image of a metallic man picturing the rise and fall of world empires and European nations down to the end of time.

Blazing upon the historic pages of fulfilled prophecy, we behold another heroic Man who makes spiritual conquest over the entire world. From there we travel the trail into the heaven of heavens where we meet God and His only begotten Son, none other than our heroic Man. With reverent awe we learn of the Father's and Son's divine relationship and their co-creation of the universe. A universe of teeming galaxies pulsating with cosmic life upheld and sustained by God's all-encompassing supernatural power and love.

Welcomed into God's heavenly paradise, the life centre of the universe, we become acquainted with the first created beings, multitudes of heavenly angels gifted with supernatural might. While far beyond in the cosmic heavens we behold inhabited planet worlds orbiting in the vastness of space. All is perfect, where all universal life lives in harmonious peace, no suffering, nor death, only abundant everlasting life flowing forth from God's overarching love.

Yet most startling, we encounter the emergence of evil right in the midst of heaven's paradise. Lucifer the exalted angel over the angelic host is in rebellion against God's laws of ruling government. Seeking to undermine God's divine authority, Lucifer becomes the first character assassin, deceiving a third of the heavenly angels with his malicious lies. And so dividing the heavenly host, defecting angels join Lucifer in the most treasonous rebellion of all time. Then to our horror we behold Lucifer marshalling his dark force waging all-out war against God's universal throne.

But defeated by the Son of God and His loyal angels, Lucifer and his evil cohorts are cast out of heaven: Retreating into their dark realm of evil, Lucifer morphs into Satan and the devil while the fallen angels morph into devils and demons.

Trailing down the stream of eternal time, we behold God creating Planet Earth and the first beginnings of all earthly life, created in six literal 24 hour days. Upon the close of the sixth day, we meet the first humans Adam and Eve, created in God's image and likeness of holy life. From Adam's and Eve's sacred relationship of husband and wife, the entire human race descends to our day. Yes, even you.

Then as the sun sets over the evening of the sixth day, we behold God resting from his creation work. In sanctifying power, God's spirit presence unfolds a seventh day of sacred time enveloping the world, bringing an end to creation week: Flowing forth from God's creation week, His seventh day Sabbath of holy rest streams down the weekly cycle of earthly time for our spiritual refreshing today.

Now we enter the exotic Garden of Eden, Adam's and Eve's nature paradise home where they live in peaceful bliss. But to our horror, in the midst of the garden we encounter Satan planning to invade Planet Earth, tempting Adam and Eve to choose to eat the forbidden fruit growing on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they do, they will have turned away from their loving Creator and their provider of safety and goodness.

Adam and Eve have free will of choice whether to stay loyal to God or experience the knowledge of evil should they choose. But God forewarns Adam and Eve that evil only produces discord and suffering ending in death.

Meanwhile Satan takes control of a flying serpent's body and now in his serpent guise Satan glides among the fruiting foliage of the deathly tree and awaits the humans to chance by. Satan schemes to deceive Adam and Eve with his false gospel of lies and cause them to choose to turn away from God's laws of goodness and safety. And yes, with saddened hearts we behold Adam and Eve partaking of the forbidden fruit, transgressing God's law of protective life. Then with dismay we behold Satan and demons entering through Adam's and Eve's opened door of sin, invading into the regions of Planet Earth where Satan claims the world as his reigning dominion holding humanity to ransom.

Now having severed their lives from God's gift of eternal life, death seeps into Adam's and Eve's lives. And from their fallen lives, death seeps throughout Planet Earth's fallen dominion, shortening the lifetime of nature and all living creatures. The fallout imprints an inferior condition of life upon Adam's and Eve's fallen minds, bodies, and souls.

Their fallen state of compromised life passes down the generations of all humankind; with inherited attractions towards wrong thoughts and actions. These wrong choices are called sin, and imprison humankind in degrading ways of life.

Yet with thankful hearts we behold God's rescue plan being unfolded into our fallen world, a rescue mission to deliver fallen human lives from their imprisonment of sin and from their degeneration into everlasting death.

Then having received God's promised deliverance, in Volume 2 we follow *The Blazing Trail* through Old Testament lives and times unfolding before our eyes, arching over to the birth of New Testament times and the Son of God being conceived in human life.

In Volume 3, with awesome amazement we learn of the Son of God becoming Jesus Christ - the Son of God *and* the Son of man. Soon our amazement turns to wonder as we explore Jesus' human life from babe to manhood and onwards to when He ministers among the multitudes of Middle Eastern lands.

All the while spiritual warfare rages between the dark forces of Satan and God's spiritual kingdom of light. Having inherited our fallen humanity, Jesus is tempted by

all possible multilayers of sin, but overcoming all tempting sin on our behalf, Jesus remains pure in mind, body, and soul. This entitles Jesus to take our wrong thoughts and actions upon His innocent faultless life and suffer *our* consequences of sin. Then in our place Jesus can die our death penalty, freeing us from our imprisoning grave of everlasting death.

And so we behold Jesus' gospel ministry of restoring life coming to a climatic end, and bearing the heavy weight of all our sins, He is put to death upon the crucifixion cross. Yet the good news abounds from the cross into our lives: That Jesus' sacrificial death pays our ransom price, so that our repentant forgiven lives may be restored in a spiritual relationship with God, living in His commandments of abundant everlasting life.

Now with this promised hope of deliverance blazing in our souls, in Volume 4 we visit Jesus' tomb where His body lies in redemption rest, sanctified by God's seventh day Sabbath of sacred time. Soon rejoicing rises in our hearts when Jesus rises from death in victorious resurrected life. We join Jesus for 40 days fellowshiping with His followers and gather on a mount where we behold Jesus ascending into heaven and being seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Then in Volume 5, we enter the heavenly temple, where Jesus becomes our heavenly High Priest. Ministering in the holy temple through the merits of His atoning life, Jesus is our Mediator and Comforter and He connects our believing delivered lives to our Father God.

Venturing on into Volume 6, we behold Jesus' disciples now called apostles, receiving God's empowering Spirit to spread abroad the gospel message of God's deliverance. We further trail blaze over the centuries of New Testament times, arriving in the awakening of the Protestant Reformation.

Embracing Volume 7, we enter into the end times of our troubled world, eagerly awaiting Jesus' imminent second coming and the resurrection of the dead saints to eternal life, to be gathered up with the living saints into heaven.

Meanwhile tragically there are many people still alive on earth who have refused to accept the free gift of deliverance. Because of their imprisonment in sin, they are unable to survive the holy brightness of Jesus' glorious appearance. And thus, the world corrupted by man is made desolate, empty of all earthly life.

Yet we behold Satan and demons imprisoned upon Planet Earth for 1000 years with no way of escape. Meanwhile the delivered saints dwell safely in heaven examining the recorded deeds of all the dead who ever lived throughout earth's ages, and who sadly chose to reject God. At the end of the 1000 years of human judgement, the saints proclaim that God is just in all His dealings with rebellious, sinful human lives.

Then we behold all the dead who rejected God throughout Planet Earth's history,

being resurrected back to life. They face God's throne of judgement according to the sins committed in their living past. Then appearing before us in glorious splendor, the city of New Jerusalem descends from heaven coming to rest upon Planet Earth. And marching over earth's broken terrain toward the city, Satan with his demonic dark force are joined by the resurrected wicked, to make a desperate attempt to overthrow Jerusalem city where the saints reside.

But beyond the city's jasper walls, fire comes down upon the earth consuming Satan, demons and wicked humanity into ashes of everlasting death. Thus death and sin are destroyed forever, never to arise or to be seen again. We behold Planet Earth purified by fire, and hear God's restoring voice creating our world anew, glorified to its original beauty. While rejoicing in earth's paradise home, the redeemed saints live throughout eternity in holy abundant life. And so it is our fervent prayer that *The Blazing Trail* becomes a spiritual trail of deliverance connecting readers to God the Father and His only begotten Son, growing in a spiritual relationship with them.

CONNECTING PRAYER

Our loving God and Father in heaven, the living source of our being, hallowed be your holy name. We come before you in our humble humanity seeking your divine presence to enlighten our lives, guide and protect us in these troubled times we live in today. Please send your Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds that we might understand, believe and fully live in your knowledge of biblical truth.

By your saving grace deliver us from sin, that we might be spiritually born again, renewed in your image of holy life. We thank you Father for your gift of eternal life flowing forth from the righteous life of your only begotten Son who became one with us to deliver our sinful unworthy lives.

And may the spiritual fellowship of your only begotten Son fill our lives with heavenly peace and enfold us in your everlasting arms of eternal rest. And so we thank you Father, for hearing and answering our prayer, for this we pray in the saving name of Jesus Christ your beloved only begotten Son. Amen



VOLUME 1

The Beginnings

BEHOLD THE MAN 326 BC

It is the year 326 B C, down at the River Beas, India. A man stands on the river bank, his sandals squelching in mud. A purple edged cloak draped over his shoulders signifies the man is of imperial power. His intense gaze across the Beas seems transfixed on something far beyond the river - conquest to the edge of the world. His obsession of becoming supreme ruler and even god over the entire world drives every faculty of his being. Indeed his mother Olympia shared her incredible secret with him that his real father is Zeus, ruler of the gods.

Upon this belief the man pivots his entire life. Then who is this mysterious man deemed to be son of the pagan god Zeus? Well, in real life he is no other than Alexander the Great of Macedonia. But how great is Alexander the Great?

Behold the man. Alexander and his veteran army have battled through eight brutal years, marched 27,000 kilometres from Macedonia. Seemingly they have achieved an impossible feat, leaving in their wake the great Grecian Empire: Stretching from The River Danube in Europe to the north-west, the Nile in Egypt to the south-west, the wild lands of Sogdiana in the north-east and the River Indus in India to the south-east.

Yet the fallout from Alexander's conquests is horrifying. Nations are destroyed, human lives annihilated; women and children gathered up and sold into slavery.

Whatever the cost to himself, to anyone or anything, the warlord Alexander has vowed to march to the edge of the world and become supreme ruler over all.

Yet one evening while entertaining a visitor in his tent, Alexander is told that beyond the edge of the known world, very likely there are other worlds, other nations, other lands. Tears roll down Alexander's cheeks as he realises that in his lifetime it shall be impossible for him to conquer the hidden regions of the unknown world.

Yet even more pressing, Alexander faces a dilemma of a different kind. For Alexander's exhausted army have had enough.

God-like status has gone to Alexander's head, and now his standing with the battle-weary soldiers has waned. Stealthily the enemy of unrest begins to infiltrate Alexander's army and the troops yearn to return home to loved ones, family, and friends. Now the victorious army famed and feared for its great conquests, grinds to a halt, refusing to advance any further.

Ultimately, from within his own ranks, for the first time Alexander faces defeat. Outraged, the great commander gives orders to return home. Some will make it back, some will not, leaving a trail of death behind them.

Yet, respect for Alexander's tactical genius in warfare lingers in the ranks. And Alexander's heroic leadership has been outstanding, leading the chargers from the front, first and foremost facing death in raging battle. Twenty-two wounds lacerating Alexander's body tell of his bravery and perhaps good fortune in escaping death.

Yet reaching the zenith of his fame, still on the journey back to Macedonia, at age 32 Alexander's life comes to an untimely end. Speculations grow. Was Alexander poisoned? Did he contract malaria and die of a raging fever? Others believe Alexander's death resulted from a debauched drinking orgy. Whatever the circumstance, Alexander is dead and his vow to rule the world has died with him. In his humanity Alexander is not immortal after all; deemed to be son of an immortal god proves to be a pagan myth.

Now lands that lie beyond the Grecian empire are safe, never to hear the dreaded march of Alexander's approaching army.

But Alexander is still a hero to the Macedonians. After a year of planning for his funeral, a great golden shrine is taken to the place of Alexander's death, and his remains laid carefully within the coffin. The long journey for Macedonia begins. But along the way Alexander's coffin is stolen by Ptolemy one of Alexander's generals and Ptolemy takes Alexander's remains to Egypt. After all, the Egyptians had enthroned Alexander as their new Pharaoh!

But what of Alexander's legacy? Does his empire remain intact? Soon after Alexander's death in 323 BC, his wife Roxane, plans to place their son, Alexander IV, upon Alexander's vacant throne to become king over the Grecian empire. But caught up in a brutal struggle for power Roxane and her son are captured, imprisoned for six years and ultimately poisoned to death.

Meanwhile Alexander's four leading generals continue to struggle among themselves, each hoping to gain supreme power to lay hold of the vacant throne. But eventually, the great Grecian empire is carved up between them.

And as the saying goes, the rest is history. And yes, Alexander the great has gone down in the pages of world history. Even more striking, his swift conquest over the nations partially fulfils Bible prophecy outlined in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a metallic image.

THE METALLIC MAN

In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon beholds a great image of a metallic man, its body divided into gold, silver, brass, iron, and iron mixed with miry clay. The divisions of metals represent the four great empires of Europe, and Europe's divided nations, all the way down through history to the second coming of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Now listen to Daniel the prophet as he interprets the dream, foretelling these political events:

“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.

‘But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

‘Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

‘And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold - the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.’” Daniel 2:36-45

And indeed the dream and interpretation is very sure, for the coming and going

of the kingdoms outlined in Nebuchadnezzar prophetic dream can be traced down through the ages of time, recorded on the pages of world history.

In living reality the head of the metallic image made of gold represents the Babylonian empire 606 BC - 538 BC.

Arms and chest made of silver: Media- Persia 538 BC -331 BC.

Thighs of brass: Greece 331 B C - 161 BC

Legs of iron: Rome 161 BC - 483 AD

Feet and toes, part potter's clay and part iron: division of the Roman Empire into 10 independent nations or kingdoms: The Huns; Ostrogoths; Visigoths; Franks; Vandals; Suevi; Burgundians; Hurl; Anglo Saxons; and Lombards.

Eventually three of the ten kingdoms are uprooted and destroyed, while the remaining seven morph into the nations of modern Europe today: 483 AD - to the end of the world and the second coming of the Son of God. Yes, true to God's prophetic word declaring future events and times, the metallic image depicting the four world empires down to the nations of modern Europe is broken in pieces and in its place reins God's everlasting Kingdom.

After the delivered saints have lived in heaven for 1000 years, then God's everlasting kingdom is fully established upon Planet Earth, when He creates our world anew, free of sin and death.

"...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years." Revelation 20:4 – "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." Revelation 21:1

Now we pause a while and take a deep breath, for standing in the midst of the above prophecy, in the era of the Roman Empire we behold another man who heroically makes conquest over the entire world. This one man alone does what Alexander could not do with all his great military might. Alexander's conquests leave a trail of death, the man we are about to behold leaves a trail of delivered life all the way to our time and beyond into eternity.

BEHOLD THE MAN 33 AD

It is the year AD 33 in the land of Palestine. Framed by a litany of lies, a man stands on trial before Pontius Pilate governor over Judea. Flanked by Roman soldiers, the accused criminal faces a raucous crowd demanding death upon His innocent life.

In a gesture of mockery, a purple robe drapes his lacerated body while a thorny crown of ridicule pierces His noble brow.

Sinless, atoning blood in sacrifice for humanity's sin trickles down His bruised face staining His matted beard. Yet His steady gaze brimming with Godly sorrow and forgiveness seems transfixed on something far beyond the rebel crowd: Conquest over our entire sinful world, delivering fallen lives before His Father's universal throne.

“So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they struck Him with their hands.

“Pilate then went out again, and said to them, ‘Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.’ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, ‘Behold the Man!’ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.’ The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.’” John 19:1-7

So who is this man Jesus and what has brought him to this precipice of death?

Could He truly be the Son of God? A unique human life, where God's divine life is blended into the common flesh of humanity? Then what is His mission to Planet Earth? And from where has He come?

Well to find answers, we shall venture on an expedition exploring the inspired pages of the Holy Bible. There we shall discover God's true story and we shall travel the length of *The Blazing Trail - from the beginning throughout eternity.*

ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible can be read from cover to cover, which is good. But the Bible is so vast that we are often unable to remember meaningful information that links together on a particular theme.

Thus, in this writing, a selection of biblical texts on a particular theme run one after another, unfolding *The Blazing Trail*. For when these texts are listed one after another, there is a spiritual power running through them.

First we will begin by finding out a little about the Bible, because this is the main source of knowledge for *The Blazing Trail*.

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time, but the question is this: Is the Bible the most read and understood book of all time? The Bible is different than any other book you will read - we can say the Bible is UNIQUE. For though it contains poetry, history, biographies, songs, prophecies and so on- the essence of the Bible is spiritual. Therefore we need to put on spiritual eyeglasses to gain insightful understanding.

That's why the Bible encourages us to pray for spiritual understanding before we read the Bible. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Supernatural.

"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:10-14

THE BIBLE'S LIVING ORIGIN

In divine life, God is the origin of all true knowledge and the living source of truth.

"Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. 1 Samuel 2:3 - "Can anyone teach God knowledge, Since He judges those on high?" Job 21:22 - "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?" Isaiah 40:12-14 - "He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He." Deuteronomy 32:4

And in divine life, the Son of God is the embodiment of God's glory, knowledge and truth. At the same time, the Son of God is the divine communicator to all created universal life, especially to you and all people of the world, through the written word of the Bible. *"...His name is called The Word of God."* Revelation 19:13

Inspired by the Son's spirit of communication, the Bible is spiritual, imbued with supernatural power.

And so the Son of God, who in divine life is the WORD, becomes a human life here on Planet Earth, fulfilling and confirming every inspired word of the Bible.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1 - “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 - “Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:7-8

BIBLE INSPIRED BY GOD’S SPIRIT OF SUPERNATURAL LIFE

Compiled of many manuscripts written over Old and New Testament centuries, the Bible is now translated into many languages throughout the world. Called from varying walks of life chosen authors, inspired by God’s spirit gave His messages to all generations of human life even to our day.

Beyond a skeptic’s doubt the Bible has a transforming supernatural power upon the human soul that no other book can ever attain. How can one book transform your soul or mine? Well, simply because the Bible is God’s divine voice speaking peace, love and salvation into our human mind, heart, and soul. Our part is to accept and assimilate God’s living word into our lives.

“Search from the book of the LORD, and read...” Isaiah 34:16 - “...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:20-21 - “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.” Samuel 23:2 - “The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.” Psalm 68:11 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...” 2 Timothy 3:16 - “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21 - “But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”’” Matthew 4:4 - “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” John 17:17 - “I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.” Psalm 119:15-16 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

PIECING TOGETHER BIBLICAL TRUTHS

As we piece together nuggets of truth gleaming throughout the Bible, we gain a broader teaching of true knowledge leading us along God’s path of truth. *“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.” Isaiah 28:10*

Comparing biblical texts on the same themes, we begin to see the texts forming a pattern, a fitting together like a jigsaw puzzle. And behold! Straight lines of truth emerge, dispelling the myriad of false teachings so prevalent in our world today. You see, by praying and seeking God's guidance for truth, we receive spiritual insight to biblical knowledge. – *“These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”* 1 Corinthians 2:13

A COSMIC JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

And so continuing our biblical search for God's true knowledge, we venture on a cosmic journey travelling back through ages of universal times. We pass through spiralling galaxies teeming with planet worlds and in this cosmic space we arrive in God's heavenly paradise - the capital life centre of the universe - *“...heaven Your dwelling place...”* 2 Chronicles 6:30 – *“...The heaven of heavens...”* Nehemiah 9:6 – *“...you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...”* Hebrews 12:22 – *“ I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a one was caught up to the third heaven..caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”* 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 – *“The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven...”* Psalm 11:4 – *“Look down from heaven, And see from Your habitation, holy and glorious.”* Isaiah 63:15 – *“The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.”* Psalm 103:19

THE ONE TRUE GOD

Exploring this heavenly paradise of astounding beauty, we enter into the divine presence of the One True God, the origin of all universal life. *“For with You is the fountain of life...”* Psalm 36:9 – *“So the scribe said to Him, ‘Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He’”* Mark 12:32 – *“...there is no other God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him...”* 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 – *“God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* Ephesians 4:6

GOD'S BODILY APPEARANCE

Beholding God's bodily appearance, we notice He is majestic in form and enshrouded with glorious light. *“...in Your light we see light.”* Psalms 36:9 – *“He comes from the north as golden splendor; With God is awesome majesty.”* Job 37:22

And to our amazement God's physical features are very much like yours and mine. For we humans are made in God's *...image and likeness...* Genesis 1:26 – *“...made in the similitude of God.”* James 3:9

But of course in divine life God is far above our human form of life. God is the divine creator we are merely the creation of His handiwork, yet we are the apple of His eye. *“...for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.”* Zechariah 2:8

GOD IS SELF – EXISTENT

Beyond our human understanding, this miraculous God of supernatural might has no beginning of life like you and I have through creation, for God has always been. Self-existence flows through His immortal being without end of life.

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place...’” Isaiah 57:15 – *“...Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”* Psalm 90:2 – *“For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods. Psalm 95:3 – “...the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”* 1 Timothy 1:17

GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

Existing alone in timeless eternity, perhaps God longs for companionship. And so proceeding forth from His spirit being, a wonderful event unfolds. Conceived in His yearning thoughts, an image of newborn life begins to form in God's mind. Yes, a spirit being in God's own likeness, bearing the express image of his own divine person: A loving companion to comfort His soul, and to share His dimension of life through the ceaseless ages of eternity. And so in a way we cannot know with our limited human understanding, issuing forth from God's divine personage, a Son is born.

“For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You’? And again: ‘I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son’?” Hebrews 1:5

God's *“...only begotten Son...”* John 3: 16 - A Son born of God's Spirit of immortal life, receiving God's spirit essence of divinity, inheriting God's divine nature of holy perfection, imbued with God's righteous character of benevolent love.

And so the One True God is now God the Father, the first ever Father, and His only begotten Son born of His Father's divine substance, is truly the Son of God. Indeed the first ever Son, and the only Son of His unique kind.

“...the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 - *“...Son of the Most High God...”* Luke 8:28 – *“...the Prince of life...”* Acts 3:15 – *“...the Son of His love...”* Colossians 1:13 – *“...The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’”* Psalm 2:6-7 – *“...for I proceeded forth and came from God...”* John

8:42 - "...who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God..." Philippians 2:6 - "...being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person..." Hebrews 1:3 - "...He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Colossians 1:15 - "Father...You loved Me before the foundation of the world." John 17:24 - "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." John 1:18

Just as the Son taught and proclaimed the true character of His Father to the world, so the Father announced His Beloved Son to the world on two audible occasions.

"And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" Matthew 3:17 - "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!'" Matthew 17:5

"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him **who is begotten of Him.**" 1 John 5:1

Yes without question, the divine relationship between God the Father and His only begotten Son is a literal living reality, and issuing forth from their Godhead relationship of Father and Son all true relationships have their beginnings.

SPIRIT CONNECTION

Yet there is another connecting truth to the Father and Son relationship and that is spirit. - "God is Spirit..." John 4:24

Begotten of His Father the Son receives His Father's spirit essence of immortal life. - "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself..." John 5:26

Indeed Father and Son have two distinct personalities but share one spirit of divine life. - "...**one and the same Spirit...**" 1 Corinthians 12:11 - "...**the eternal Spirit...**" Hebrews 9:14 - "**God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24 - "...**the God of the spirits of all flesh...**" Numbers 16:22 - "...**the Spirit of your Father...**" Matthew 10:20 - "...**the Spirit of Christ...**" 1 Peter 1:11 - "Now **the Lord is the Spirit**; and where **the Spirit of the Lord** is, there is liberty. 2 Corinthians 3:17 - "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the **Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" Galatians 4:6 - "Where can I go **from Your Spirit?** Or where can I flee **from Your presence?**" Psalm 139:7 - "Do not cast me away **from Your presence**, And do not take **Your Holy Spirit** from me." Psalm 51:11 - "...uphold me by **Your generous Spirit.**" Psalm 51:12

THE NAME GOD

People often say the name “God”, often without even thinking the word has sacred meaning. Just what is the sacred meaning of the name “God”?

The name “God” encapsulates God’s living essence of deity. And like a pebble dropped into a pool creates ever-widening ripples, God’s essence of deity encapsulates both the Father’s and the Son’s divinity, where the Father and Son’s personages blend in one fullness of life forming their Godhead union. - *“His eternal power and Godhead...” Romans 1:20*

For example, the Father refers to His Son as God, while the Father refers to Himself as His Son’s God.

“But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.’” Hebrews 1:8-9

And yet Father and Son remain two individual divine persons, God the Father being the one true God, and His only begotten Son being the Son of God, the divine essence of His Father’s deity. - *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who **being in the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be **equal with God**, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**” Philippians 2:5-11 – “...gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” 2 Corinthians 4:4*

And so to avoid any confusion, at times in the Bible the name “God” may refer to the Father’s and Son’s Godhead of one union. As we shall discover, this Godhead union is especially evident in the biblical record of earth’s creation where the name God includes both the Father and His Son in Their creation of our world.

*“In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth.**” Genesis 1:1 - “**God**, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds...**” Hebrews 1:1-2*

Then please keep in mind while you are reading this writing, the name “God” may, at times, refer directly to God the Father’s and His Son’s divine union, in deed and action. *“...Holy and awesome is His name.” Psalm 111:9*

SPIRIT PRESENCE

Let us broaden out our human understanding of the name “God”: God’s Holy Spirit is His invisible essence of life, His supernatural spirit power and life source flowing from His divine Being, able to be present everywhere at all times, having no boundaries, no end.

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” Psalm 139:7 - “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD.” Jeremiah 23: 24

Indeed, when God’s mouth speaks, his Spirit speaks. When His Spirit hears, God’s ears hear. When God’s heart wells with emotion, His Spirit reaches out in loving touch. Truly God’s Spirit is His extended life in presence, power and abiding influence. - *“In mighty signs and wonders by the power of the spirit of God.” Romans 15:19*

Like an invisible supernatural breeze of life, God’s Spirit filters throughout the universe. Where God’s Spirit abides, His living presence also abides, His whole personage flowing through Spirit. - *“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8*

And thus, just as earth’s oceans are joined together by one vast source of interflowing water, all universal life is joined together by one vast source of interflowing Spirit. - *“... the lord is that spirit...” 2 Corinthians 3:17*

Yes, God’s Spirit is the vital source of life and energizing breath of all living things. Without God’s Spirit breath of life energizing our world’s atmosphere, the ecosystems of trees, plants, animals, birds and insects, and indeed our very lives, all life would cease to exist. - *“If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.” Job 34:14-15*

CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE

And so in an awesome flow of spiritual life, the Father’s and Son’s divine relationship becomes the pulsating heartbeat of all universal creation. From their Godhead union flows forth the creation of the universe: The Son of God being co-creator with His Father.

*“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us **by His Son**, whom He has **appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds**; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power...**” Hebrews 1:1-3 - “...the kingdom of **the Son of His love...**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones*

or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were **created through Him and for Him**. And He is **before all things**, and in **Him all things consist**.” Colossians 1:13-17 - “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:9 - “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; **For You created all things**, And by Your will they exist and were created.” Revelation 4:11

Through ages of eternal time the Son of God speaks with spirit power, and cascading galaxies materialize in God’s vast universes of universes. Galaxies teeming with planet worlds appear, orbiting in solar systems of moons, suns, and billions of stars formed upon the oceans of cosmic space, all precisely placed by the Son’s commanding word.

“Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.” Psalm 148:5 - “By faith we understand that the **worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” Hebrews 11:3 - “He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea; He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south; He does great things past finding out, Yes, wonders without number.” Job 9:8-10 -- “To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.” Isaiah 40:25-26 - “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...” Romans 1:20

HEAVENLY ANGELS

Now in God’s heavenly realm an amazing revelation of His love continues to unfold: The Son of God calls into life a host of heavenly angels, the first of God’s created beings. Majestic angels of heavenly order, called “*cherubim*” and “*sephrim*”, surround God’s throne of rulership, ministering before Him in His courts of universal government. These extraordinary spirit beings radiate with God’s pure light of goodness and were created with wings for supernatural flight, to traverse throughout inhabited galaxies. In their exalted role, yet adorned with humility, the angelic host become God’s messengers, ministering to other created beings who live in their realm of universal life.

“And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight.” Ezekiel 10:19 - “Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion...” Psalm 103:20-22

Remarkable to some, here on Planet Earth in the 21st century, angels visit us. Yes, angels are sent by God to minister to us in many ways. Sometimes they appear in their angelic form, other times they may appear in likeness of human life. Such can be close

encounters between us and angels, closing the distance between heaven and earth. So we do well to remember: *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.” Hebrews 13:2 - “Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.” Genesis 28:12*

EVIL INFILTRATES THE UNIVERSE

In the beginnings of universal life, all creation blends in harmonious peace. No suffering exists, no evil, no death, only abundant everlasting life and joy gifted from God’s benevolent love. Time drifts by on the cosmic tides of prosperous life until an extremely strange phenomenon seeps into God’s universe. What is this strangeness? Emerging evil. Yet this strange thing did not emerge in a distant isolated galaxy as we may at first imagine, but most surprisingly evil emerges in the very heartland of Heaven’s paradise.

Let us investigate: We enter God’s heavenly courts of universal government and meet Lucifer, the very first of God’s created beings. Holy goodness emanates from Lucifer’s spirit presence, and heavenly beauty radiates from his supernatural being.

“Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 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.” Ezekiel 28:12–13

Upon his creation, Lucifer is endowed with immense intellectual power. God exalts Lucifer to be angelic leader over the vast multitude of angels who serve in God’s heavenly government. - *“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne...and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...” Revelation 5:11*

Gifted with musical brilliance, Lucifer leads the angelic choir in praise and worship to their creator God. - *“The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.” Ezekiel 28:13*

Much more than his intellectual power, physical beauty and goodness, Lucifer is divested with exceeding authority. This means he stands next to the divine Son of God as His personal assistant, serving within the very inner sanctum of God’s government.

But sadly, over time Lucifer becomes disgruntled with his privileged position and wants more, much more than he is entitled to. Concealed In his festering thoughts, Lucifer aspires to become equal to God and be a god, receiving worship from all universal life. - *“... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:14*

But of course Lucifer's delusional quest could never become a living reality, for he is merely a created being. God the Father and His only begotten Son are the divine Creators worthy of all worship and praise from universal life. Yet Lucifer seems to hold himself in higher and still higher regard.

Envy grows. The Father's and Son's divine relationship overwhelms Lucifer's deluded mind and the tentacles of rebellion and jealousy entangles his once perfect life. Rebelling against God's sovereign governance, Lucifer transgresses the divine precepts of God's law - His governing universal law of protective love that guides all created beings in righteous living.

*““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. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, **And you sinned...**””*
Ezekiel 28:14-17

SIN IS TRANSGRESSING GOD'S LAW

Yes, sin is breaking God's law in mind body and soul, in sinful thoughts, sinful deeds, and sinful actions. - *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4 KJV* - *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” 1 John 3:4*

GOD'S UNIVERSAL LAW

All aspects of universal created life are encompassed by God's universal law, from the loftiest orbiting planet to nature's smallest insect.

“Your commandment is exceedingly broad.” Psalm 119:96 - *“For law will proceed from Me...” Isaiah 51:4* - *“I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Jeremiah 31:33* - *“...The LORD is our Lawgiver...” Isaiah 33:22* - *“...the law is spiritual...” Romans 7:14* - *“...Your law is truth.” Psalm 119:142* - *“...love is the fulfilment of the law.” Romans 13:10*

To gain a little insight into God's universal law, we can peer into the mirror of the Ten Commandments and there we see a reflection of God's original universal law. For down the stream of cosmic time, here on Planet Earth, God gives to humanity His universal law, spoken in the words of the Ten Commandments for human understanding and observance.

“And God spoke all these words, saying... Exodus 20:1

1 “You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:3

2 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” Exodus 20:4-6

3 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” Exodus 20:7

4 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8-11

5 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12

6 “You shall not murder.” Exodus 20:13

7 “You shall not commit adultery.” Exodus 20:14

8 “You shall not steal.” Exodus 20:15

9 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” Exodus 20:16

10 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.” Exodus 20:17

If we compare the Ten Commandments to Lucifer’s rebellion, can you see how Lucifer transgressed the righteous principles of God’s universal law?

Lucifer covets God’s exalted position.

Makes himself a god in place of God.

Worships the image of his exalted existence.

Blasphemes God’s holy name.

Exalts himself above God’s throne of governance.

Commits spiritual adultery.

Gives a false witness of God's character.

Brings death in place of life.

In one foul sweep Lucifer's guilty transgressions breaks the entirety of God's law. -
"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."
James 2:10

And so through Lucifer's lawlessness, the beginning of evil seeps into God's heavenly kingdom.

PROOF OF A UNIVERSAL LAW

"...sin is the transgression of the law." *1 John 3:4* - "...by the law is the knowledge of sin."
Romans 3:20 - "...where there is no law there is no transgression." *Romans 4:15*

This means for Lucifer to have become a transgressor, guilty of sin, there had to be a universal law in existence to transgress.

Simply, if there are no rules to abide in, or live by, then there are no rules to break, no righteous standard for living a holy life, no acknowledgement of sin. - "...by the law is the knowledge of sin." *Romans 3:20* - In other words, without the existence of law there is no realization of sin or what sin actually is. - "...sin is the transgression of the law." *1 John 3:4*

Clearly from the beginnings of universal life, a spiritual, ethical, and moral law issues forth from God's righteous character, guiding created beings in the ways of Godly living. And without a doubt we have seen how Lucifer's lawlessness transgresses God's existing universal law, and how Lucifer becomes sinful in mind body and soul. - "...the devil (Lucifer) has sinned from the beginning." *1 John 3:8*

Once again: "...where there is no law there is no transgression." *Romans 4:15*
- "Concerning Your testimonies, (law) I have known of old that You have founded them forever." *Psalms 119:152* - "As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death." *Proverbs 11:19* - "In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death." *Proverbs 12:28*

REBELLION ESCALATES

Now Lucifer's rebellion escalates. With stealth, Lucifer secretly conspires with the angelic host, seeking to draw their allegiance away from God and plant his masked agenda in the angels' innocent minds. Spreading malicious rumours about God's

character of love, Lucifer becomes the first character assassin. - *“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.” Psalm 55:21*

Working his subtle art of propaganda, Lucifer deceives one third of the angelic host. Overcome by Lucifer’s sophistry, defecting angels join the great rebellion against their creator God, the most treasonous revolt of all time.

Now a strange mystical spirit filters through the heavenly kingdom, dividing the angelic host into two distinct companies, one bearing good, the other bearing evil.

Loyal angels remaining true to God gather to His throne, declaring their love and elegance to Him, while rebelling angels gather to Lucifer’s counterfeit throne and exalt him as their substitute god.

With cunning, Lucifer has gained partial victory to overthrow God’s divine authority and now he strategises to take full victory by force. Marshalling his dark force, Lucifer declares open war upon God’s throne of governance. - *“And war broke out in heaven...” Revelation 12:7*

In defense of His Father’s governance, the Son of God and His faithful angelic host engage the dark force in fierce spiritual battle.

Gaining victory over the dark force, the Son of God casts out the evil foe from heavens paradise - *“...they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.” Revelation 12:8*

THE FINAL OUTCOME

For their treasonous rebellion, God could have justifiably obliterated the evil force from the universe. But with infinite wisdom, God understood an irking question about evil needed long term revealing answers. And so to fully unmask evil’s deathly agenda, God allows evil to run its lethal course that the dark side of living a life laced with evil might be fully exposed.

Yes, a line of contrast between good and evil shall be drawn in the universe for all to behold, proving God’s governance is the out flowing essence of his love, the essence of all that is good, pure, loving and right.

At the same time, the evil reign of the dark side shall be exposed for what it really is: hatred, lies, deception, sufferings, enslavement to sin - ending in death.

Rest assured, a long way down the stream of time, on God’s great judgment day, the dark force of evil shall reap their just reward and shall be utterly destroyed into ashes of everlasting death. Buried in the ashes of everlasting death, evil shall never rise again, throughout ages of eternity. - *“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain,*

but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day...” Jude 6 - “What do you conspire against the LORD? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.” Nahum 1:9 - “The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.” 1 Corinthians 15:26

LUCIFER’S DEATHLY LEGACY

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For 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; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.” Isaiah: 12: 14-15 -- “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. You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.” Ezekiel 28:17-19

THE MORPHING

Meanwhile the dark force of life traverses the universe and plans how to war against the cosmic universe. More and more Lucifer morphs in demonic form - *“...called the Devil and Satan...” Revelation 12:9 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8*

Simultaneously, Satan’s confederate angels morph into demons and spirits of devils. Satan rules over the evil host as - *“...Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” Matthew 12:24 - “Beelzebub the prince of the devils.” Matthew 12:24 KJV*

Now having unmasked the beginning of the source of evil, we journey from Heaven’s paradise to the beginnings of our home planet.

EARTH’S CREATOR

Once again, in co-union with His Father, the Son of God returns to expanding their universal creation. Within six 24 hour days, Planet Earth shall materialise in God’s universe of universes.

Traversing the cosmic heavens, the Son of God arrives upon the boundaries of distant space, and in this dark void Planet Earth is precisely placed. - *“...For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, And He has set the world upon them. 1 Samuel 2:8 - For*

He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:9 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” Colossians 1:15-17

And so issuing forth from God’s spirit power flowing from the Father and through His Son, creation week commences. - *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was 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.” Genesis 1:1-2 - “You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.” Psalm 104:30*

The Son’s commanding voice echoes over the watery expanse and His creative word divides the darkness into light, giving birth to Planet Earth’s first 24 hour day. Notice the first day begins in darkness of night, and ends with the closing light of day. - *“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.” Genesis 1:3-5*

And so as the light of day recedes into the darkness of night, the second 24 hour day opens upon our planet.

Now the Son of God draws the surface mist upward, forming the heaven we call “the sky”, while in one motion He forms the atmosphere enveloping our planet. - *“Then God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ Thus 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. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.” Genesis 1:6-8 - “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:9*

On the third day, by the Son’s spoken word the billowing water divides into seas, while instantaneously dry land surfaces around the globe. Earth’s global seas exude life supporting oxygen, while the colossal land mass is steeped in mineral-rich soils. Again the Son speaks, and His word of power clothes the landmass with grass and herbs of the field, while in their order trees appear in numerous varieties. Nestled among scented shrubs, multitudes of blossoming flowers colour the landscape.

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into 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 He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth’; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was

good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.” Genesis 1:9-13

And so earth’s surface begins to pulsate with varying forms of life.

Now on the fourth day, the Son turns His creative powers towards the heavens. And there appears in outer space the sun, radiating rays of rejuvenating warmth and light upon Planet Earth. Stationed in the appointed place, a glowing moon materializes, exuding gravitational pull upon the land mass and seas of our world. While instantaneously, at the Son’s command, there appears in Planet Earth’s solar system a myriad of stars, luminous and vibrant in the darkness of cosmic space.

“Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so. Then 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. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on 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. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.” Genesis 1:14

Now beneath the starry heavens, earth’s fifth day opens upon the fledging world. And The Son of God calls into existence aquatic life of every kind, while beyond the golden shores many-splendored birds fly over the meandering landscape.

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.’ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. Genesis 1:20-23

Now as sunlight descends over earth’s horizon, the sixth day begins. And more creature life is created in abundance, beasts of every kind and size, sheep, lions, bears and the marvelous creations continue - the creeping things of earth, flying insects, bees and much more.

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.’ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’” Genesis 1:20-23

And so the newborn world teems with fledging life. Over the land mass, beasts of the field graze lush green meadows, while in the sunlit sky exotic birds wing their

way over earth's paradise. Stately trees tower heavenward, their leafy canopies shading scented blooms, wafting fragrance on the fresh clean air. Butterflies of vibrant colour flit among flowers of all shapes, sizes, hues and aroma, as tiny insects scurry among their nature habitat.

In sweeping glades, kingly lions roar over their feline kingdom while beyond earth's sandy shores, fish cruise billowing seas exploring their aquatic water world.

“But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this, In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?” Job 12:7–10

THE FIRST HUMANS

And yes, the sixth day is not quite complete. For God's paradise world is perfectly designed to nurture an earthly family called mankind, formed in God's own image and likeness. - *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” Genesis 1:26*

Now God's longing thoughts of benevolent love give birth to His creative masterpiece. The Son of God gathers dust of the ground, blended with life-sustaining minerals, and tenderly, with His divine hands He forms the first human being called Adam. - *“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 being.” Genesis 2:7*

Adam's perfectly structured body pulsates with newborn human life and rising to His feet he meets His creator God. What a special meeting, between the divine and the human.

And now the Son of God has a wonderful surprise for Adam. - *“And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Genesis 2:18*

The Son of God operates upon Adam's anesthetized body and removes a rib near to Adam's pulsating heart. Now with Adam's rib of humanity, the creator fashions the first human female called Eve. Clothed in her beautiful form of femininity, the Son of God escorts Eve to the awakening man and the first human couple embraces in sacred matrimony of husband and wife.

“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.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:23-24

Now with the created blend of male and female, humanity is made complete while

God's image mirrored in humanity is also profoundly complete. - *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."* Genesis 1:27

THE HUMAN FAMILY

From Adam's and Eve's sacred relationship of husband and wife comes forth the progeny of the entire human race to our very day.

"And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Genesis 3:20 - "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings..." Acts 17:26 - "...in Him we live and move and have our being..." Acts 17:28

God's vital life force flows through humanity's veins of one blood, one spirit of life. All humans belong to God's earthly family and He delights in each shade of color and culture of individual life. - *"One God and Father of all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:6 - "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." Acts 10:34-35*

Although you or I may seem inconspicuous among earth's billions, yet each human soul pulsates in God's heart of love as if there were no other soul in the world.

"O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it." Psalm 139:1-6

And so with Adam's and Eve's sacred relationship gracing Planet Earth, God's sixth day of creation comes to a climatic close. - *"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:31*

Yet as God looks upon His perfect handiwork, the fullness of His master plan is still not quite complete, for creation week shall have a sacred end.

GOD'S SEVENTH DAY SABBATH REST

As the evening sun restfully sets over the newly created world, God's divine spirit envelops Planet Earth. All living creatures sense something wonderful is taking place. Very simply, God rests from His creation work and his abiding spirit presence unfolds a seventh day of sacred time, encompassing the world.

“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” Genesis 2:1-3

In a grand profusion of spiritual life, Adam’s and Eve’s first day blends into God’s sacred hours of the seventh day Sabbath rest, sanctifying and dedicating the beginning of their lives to their creator God.

Following God’s holy example of spiritual rest from work, on a weekly basis human life shall continue to keep God’s seventh day Sabbath rest, in worship and praise to their creator God. - *“Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD.” Exodus 31:15*

The seventh day Sabbath is God’s creation seal of ownership, His royal signature of sovereignty imprinted over the times of Planet Earth. - *“For the Son of Man (Son of God) is Lord even of the Sabbath.” Matthew 12:8* - *“I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth...” Genesis 14:22* - *“The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1*

Keeping God’s seventh day Sabbath holy in our humble earthly lives becomes a visible sign of our love and loyalty towards our creator God, enthroning Him as Lord and King over our lives.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8-11 - *“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.’” Exodus 31:13* - *“Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:16-18*

Exalted and honoured above the six weekly days of work Sunday to Friday, Saturday is God’s seventh day Sabbath gifted to all generations of humanity as an uplifting day of spiritual rest. To come aside from the hustle and bustle of daily life and worship our creator God, revitalised in mind, body, and soul like nothing else can give.

“Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh,

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!” 1 Chronicles 16:28-29 - “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.” Psalm 95:6

Without break or even a pause, the seventh day Sabbath of sacred rest continues over earth’s centuries of time, forever onwards through universal ages of eternity. - *“For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the LORD.” Isaiah 66:22-23*

And so, with spiritual hues of heavenly grace, the first seventh day Sabbath of rest draws to a close in harmony and peace; as the sun sets over Planet Earth. Now sanctified and blessed by God’s abiding presence, creation week comes to a sacred and glorious end.

DOMINION OVER THE WORLD

With the descending shadows of night the second week begins in sleepy slumber. Then as the dawning hours of daylight awakens the world, the Son of God warmly greets Adam and Eve and unfolds before them God’s plan for earth’s future prosperity. The Son of God gifts Adam and Eve dominion over the world, crowning them human king and queen over all earthly life.

“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28 - “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!” Psalm 8:3-9

In their sphere of human life, Adam and Eve shall co-reign with their creator God reigning in His sphere of divine life. From Eden’s capital region of Planet Earth, migration of the human family shall extend to the four corners of the globe. Communities shall flourish into nations. Over the land mass magnificent enterprises shall be built up all to the advancement and prosperity of human kind, and all to the honour and glory of God, the benevolent provider of all. Such is God’s pledge of love and buoyant hope bestowed upon the fledging earthlings and all future humanity.

Yet, living in our troubled times of the 21st century, we can barely imagine how such prosperity aligned with goodness could be possible.

From perfection, purity and love something is about to go terribly, horribly wrong and God's magnificent plan for Planet Earth is about to be sabotaged. And yes, not surprisingly Satan and his dark force are the perpetrators behind the looming catastrophe.

THE CHALLENGE

Arriving on earth's cosmic borders, Satan gazes upon the new paradise world. Seething and writhing with envy, Satan beholds Adam and Eve, living happily and innocently in their garden paradise. Thoughts of his own eternal loss flare in Satan's dark mind. Now with avenging remorse Satan schemes to overthrow Planet Earth and imprison the human race in a reign of deathly terror forever.

In council of war, Satan meets with his dark force and his generals agree that once defeated in heaven, an all-out attack of force is not a viable option. Then perhaps cunning, stealth and deception is the softer alternative?

In a charade of innocence, Satan emerges from his realm of darkness and before the universe he arrogantly challenges God's integrity toward the earthlings. Satan questions whether God has really given Adam and Eve complete freedom to choose their own destiny of life, even to experience evil should they choose?

Or perhaps, Satan accuses, Adam and Eve are mere soulless robotic beings enslaved to a law of loveless governance? You see, Satan hates God's spiritual, moral, and ethical law that gives preservation and order for abundant prospering life. And so at every opportunity Satan attempts to trample God's law of governance into a murky mire of lawlessness. After all lawlessness is the dark side of Satan's demonic governance rippling through many governing societies in our day.

Now in a lawless double edged attack Satan questions Adam's and Eve's relationship with God, casting mischievous doubt upon their love and loyalty toward their creator God. Satan insists he should have right to enter the newly created world and test Adam's and Eve's integrity toward their creator God.

And so making no compromise or concessions toward evil and honouring Adam's and Eve's free will of choice, God meets Satan's wild accusations head on and allows him limited access to Planet Earth.

Satan's challenge must be proven false, proving beyond all doubt that God is honourable above all. That Adam and Eve are free agents to choose their life's destiny and not under bondage to God's law.

THE TESTING GROUND

And so by God's design Eden's paradise garden becomes earth's testing ground between the knowledge of good and evil. Very simply this test is centred round two distinctive trees. - *"The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."* Genesis 2:8-9

The strange mystical *"tree of the knowledge of good and evil"* represents the existence of evil fruiting in the dark side of life, and also the existence of good fruiting in God's life of purest light.

While in glorious contrast, God plants in the midst of Eden's paradise garden, the *"tree of life"* bearing the benevolent fruit of everlasting life.

"No tree in the garden of God was like it in beauty. I made it beautiful with a multitude of branches, So that all the trees of Eden envied it, That were in the garden of God." Ezekiel 31: 8-9 - This heavenly tree of spiritual life represents God's righteous character, manifesting His spiritual law of abundant life. Keeping God's love commandments of guiding life, entitles Adam and Eve to partake of the tree of life and retain everlasting life gifted from God. - *"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life..."* Revelation 22:14

GOD'S LOVE BEGETS LOVE

God never coerces or forces the human conscience to keep His commandments. God's one desire is a spiritual relationship with created beings, based upon reciprocal love, flowing freely from a heart of gratitude and free will of choice. - *"We love Him because He first loved us."* 1 John 4:19

God's love begets love deep in the heart and soul of those who open their lives to receive. And reciprocal love flows back to God in loving gratitude to His holy ways of life. Such is God's theme for true abundant life. - *"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."* 1 John 4:16 - *"...His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness".* Lamentations 3:22-23 - *"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'"* Jeremiah 31:31

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

FREE WILL - FREE CHOICE

Bestowed by God's benevolent design, Adam and Eve have a mind to think, to reason and to make personal decisions through free will of choice. This means each human being by the grace of God, is a unique individual with responsive life, interconnected in mind, body, and soul.

Anything less than this personality of life would render all humanity to lifeless robotic beings: Void of emotions, no recognition of love, no thought for reasoning, no free will of choice, no spiritual soul, no personality. In other words all humanity would be a non-entity of real life. This lifeless void would have no fulfilment for God, destroying His great plan of love for universal life.

For where there is no choice there is no true freedom. And where there is no true freedom there is no free will of choice.

And yes, we have seen in Lucifer's fallen life that free will of choice can be abused, opening the way to rebellion. From the beginning of universal life the abuse of free choice was always a possibility. This was a possibility God was willing to face, so that long term, true prosperous life might freely reign in freedom to all. Once again, God's single desire is for a personal relationship with each and every created being based upon reciprocal love and freedom of choice.

And so contrary to Satan's false allegations, Adam and Eve are not enslaved to God's law, but are justly free in every sense of true prosperous life. - "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..." *Joshua 24:15*

UNMASKING EVIL

And so in Eden's sinless paradise, God meets with Adam and Eve and unveils and explains the existence of evil, born of Satan's fallen life. God unmasks evil's sinister motives by explaining how behind the tempting enticements of evil, lurks suffering, misery, and degeneration of life ending in death.

God solemnly warns His earthly children that if they choose to partake of evil, their eternal lifeline to Him shall be severed. Not only shall they be severed from God, but if Adam and Eve choose evil, they shall reap the natural fallout that ends in everlasting death.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" Genesis 2:16-17 - "For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23 - "The soul who sins shall die." Ezekiel 18:20 - "As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death." Proverbs 11:19

TEST OF HONOUR AND LOYALTY

Although facing a possible catastrophic fall out of death upon Planet Earth, God honours Adam's and Eve's freedom of personal choice. And in our lives today in the 21st century, would we ask for anything less than freedom of personal choice?

So here we are, in Planet Earth's beginnings upon the testing ground of free choice, standing at the foot of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Adam and Eve may experience the knowledge of evil, should they choose that deathly course of life.

Yet hopefully, Adam and Eve shall prove themselves honourable and loyal to God. As human custodians over Planet Earth and the parental DNA of the entire future human race, hopefully they shall prove trustworthy of such exalted destiny, and shun all temptations of evil.

If Adam and Eve prove faithful to God, Satan's allotted time upon Planet Earth shall expire and he shall be cast out of the world forever. Then through ceaseless ages of eternity the human race shall be free from Satan's tempting evil.

And so weighing in the balance of Adam's and Eve's freedom of personal choice, resides the eternal destiny of all humanity.

THE CONTEST BEGINS

With stealth, Satan infiltrates the earthling's paradise home, then possesses the body of a "...fiery flying serpent..." *Isaiah 30:6* – "...that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan..." *Revelation 20:2* - "You were in Eden, the garden of God..." *Ezekiel 28:13*

Now concealed in his serpent disguise, Satan glides silently among the leafy foliage of the tree bearing the fruiting knowledge of good and evil. Satan muses that should the earthlings venture near the tree then he shall have a deadly chance to ensnare his victims with temptations of evil. And so with wily anticipation Satan awaits his prey.

Meanwhile life flourishes in Eden's paradise garden. Days drift blissfully by, and nestled in their garden home, Adam and Eve happily care for their nature paradise, attending to trailing vines bearing succulent fruit for food. – "...Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it." *Genesis 2:15*

Yet one eventful day, a dark ominous cloud descends over Eden's innocence. Perhaps Adam is overly busy, enthralled in his garden work. And so unintentionally, Eve wanders from her husband's side. Exploring Eden's nature trails, Eve nears the deathly tree bearing the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil.

Suddenly, concealed in his dazzling serpent disguise, Satan appears from the

leafy foliage speaking in a melodious voice of deceptive innocence. Eve is startled and mesmerized.

Close by, heavenly angels behold the deadly contest. They desperately desire to snatch Eve away to safety. For in their heavenly paradise they too have faced the beguiling temptations of evil through Satan's rebellion. However, in this desperate moment they must not interfere by overruling Eve's free will of choice, for the test is hers alone to bear before God.

But where is Adam, her protective husband? Surely he has the right to snatch Eve away to safety? Yes indeed he has absolute right, but oblivious to what is transpiring at the forbidden tree, Adam continues to busy himself in toil. And so alone, Eve continues to face Satan's overpowering illusion. Eve questions in her mind, "I have never heard the flying serpent speak before. Surely he has eaten of the fruit and been exalted to a higher plain of life. The serpent is merely a creature of much lower life, imagine what the fruit offers to me, a human being created in God's image and likeness. - *"...the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness..." 2 Corinthians 11:3*

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate." Genesis 3:1-6

Deceived by Satan's counterfeit gospel of lies, Eve breaks God's commandments of protective life. Now with her life line severed from God, the poison of death seeps through Eve's once perfect life. Yet at this time, Eve does not recognise her fallen condition and with the deathly fruit clutched in her hand, she hurries to her husband's side to share her excitement.

Now Adam faces the great test of his life and for the first time sadness seeps through his lonely soul. God's warning words ring a death knell in Adam's desperate thoughts that partaking of evil they shall surely die. The thought of being separated from his soul mate, his only human companion is more than Adam can bear. - *"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." 1 Timothy 2:14* - Casting his lot with his dear wife, choosing love for Eve over and above love for God, Adam hastily eats of the deathly fruit and with his act of sin, death also seeps through his fallen life pooling in the lives of future humanity. - *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..." Romans 5:12*

SATAN CLAIMS EARTH'S DOMINION

Meanwhile at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, casting off his serpent disguise, Satan enters through Adam's and Eve's open door of sin and with his dark force lays claim to Planet Earth.

Planting his dark banner in the midst of humanity's lost dominion, Satan exalts himself as god and ruler over the world, even to our very day. – *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..." 2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV - "... according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience..." Ephesians 2:2*

DEATHLY FALLOUT OF SIN

Over generations of time, decay, suffering and death emaciates Planet Earth's once perfect creation. Innocent creatures and flourishing nature reap the consequences of human sin and their living existence ends in everlasting death.

This is the sad, sorry world we live in today

Slowly but surely, from Eden's fallen paradise, the branches of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil spread their drooping canopy over the entire world bearing the blended mystical fruits of good and evil.

In daily life, we behold the blend of good and evil swirling in people's lives. Not all is necessarily evil, yet not all necessarily good. But often good and evil blend in tainted thoughts and deeds. For you see, when Adam and Eve experienced the knowledge of evil, their pure minds of holy goodness were diluted, compromised with weaknesses, imprinting upon their mind, body, and soul an inferior condition of life.

And so in a natural flow of fallen life, Adam's and Eve's compromised DNA passes down from descendent to descendent to our day. Upon conception, all humans inherit a fallen condition of inferior life with natural propensities toward good and evil. Yes, in differing degrees all humans live in and experience the knowledge of good and evil, flowing in actions of good deeds and bad deeds, often swirling as one infusion, even confusion. One small white lie darkens the heart and soul with deathly shades of evil, transgressing the holy standard of God's law.

"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin." Romans 7:14. - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 - "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one.'" Romans 3:10. - "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." James 1:13-15

ADAM AND EVE TRANSGRESSED GOD'S LAW

Without a doubt, by eating of the fruit of death, Adam and Eve sinned against God's commandments of nurturing life. Remember - *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* 1 John 3:4 KJV - *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."* 1 John 3:4

God's law is an outflow of His holy character in righteous thought and deed, while every sinful thought and deed transgressing His law pierces God's heart to the very depth of His soul. - *"You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness."* Habakkuk 1:13

LAW VERSUS THE SIN PROBLEM

And so trapped in the sin problem, with our sins separating us from God, we have no inherited goodness to amend the law's broken precepts in our sinful lives. We cannot commend our lives to God in a sinless state. No amount of good deeds can ever gloss over sin, as though sin has not been committed - *"...knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ...for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. Galatians 2:16* - *"Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."* Romans 3:20

Like an alarm bell ringing in our sinful soul, God's law awakes our conscience to the reality that we have indeed sinned against the law's holy precepts of righteous living - *"...you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors."* James 2:9 - *"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'" Romans 7:7* - *"...for by the law is the knowledge of sin."* Romans 3:20

LAW'S MERCIFUL ACT

Some people may think God's law is harsh by pointing out our every sin. And many, searching for truth about God, stop right there, painfully confronted with sin, turning away before exploring the other side of law. For the law, as with many spiritual things, has a flip side, like two sides of a coin. And the other side of law, is mercy.

You see, God's holy law shows us clearly that certain thoughts or actions are sinful. So by praying, reading, and allowing understanding of the law to filter through our minds, we then have knowledge of God's holy measure of what sin is. Then our conscience lets us know that we have sinned, this is often a painful process, and can be difficult for our minds to accept.

But in the very moment we accept we have sinned, the law mercifully points out

our need of God's pardon and forgiveness. Our deep desire to have that forgiveness from God, turns us towards Christ to receive His full mercy and be acquitted of our sins. – *“Have mercy upon me, O God, According to your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me...” Psalm 51:1-3*

Our part is to receive this forgiveness through faith and belief. There is no other way. So we can see, without the mercy of the law, we would remain dead in lawlessness and forever be sinning. Continual sinning leads many millions, nay billions, along a path of tragedy and ruin toward eternal death. – *“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” Galatians 3:24*

EXPLORING AN ALTERNATIVE

Could God dilute the sin problem by lowering the law's holy standard? Could God make sin appear less sinful, and acceptable in His sight? No. Impossible. God would be casting Himself in the devious mold of evil itself. – *“For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.” Psalm 5:4* - Evil and sin are nauseating and repugnant to God, so making a compromise towards evil and freeing sinful humanity from transgression of His unchangeable law of holy life, is simply impossible for Him.

“For I am the LORD, I do not change...” Malachi 3:6 - *“Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.” Psalm 119:152* – *“...if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.” Galatians 3:21*

And so with God's law remaining shattered in our sinful lives, and our lives void of cleansing power from sin, our sin problem remains. – *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” Romans 7:24*

OUR URGENT NEED

And so our urgent need is to face the awful reality of sin.

What does the appearance of sin truly look like in a person's life? Well brace yourself, for as we peer into the larger mirror of sin, we see reflected there all kinds of human sin.

THE DARK MIRROR OF SIN

I looked into the dark mirror of sin and what did I see,
I saw sin reflected in me,
Sins of every kind parading like ghosts, coming and going,
shadowed in deathly cloaks.
The sin of pride spoke to me,
unearthing self in my subconscious mind,
The sin of unthankfulness smirked at me,
and thanked me that it had a place to reside.
The sin of anger shouted at me,
you are guilty of your outbreaks of wrath,
The sin of compromise soothed my enquiring thoughts,
with bewitching spells,
The sin of dishonesty cheated me,
selling my soul to the devil in enslavement to sin,
The sin of unbelief tortured me,
firing darts of doubt into my distrustful heart
Sin after sin came to me, to pay their last respects,
and soon vanished in the certainty of my eternal death.
“Who can free me from my prison soul of death?”
I cried into the mirror of my sins.
And then it was, as I peered into my hopeless state,
an image appeared through the darkness with hope of es-
cape.
The image grew larger,
until it shattered the mirror of my reflected sin.
And in its shattered place, shone a glowing light,
and in the light I saw the face of Him,
eyes shining with love and forgiveness for my sin.
“I am the Son of God,” He mercifully spoke.
“And I have come to free you from your deathly sins.”
I looked into the mirror of His sinless life,
and beheld my sin washed in the power of His cleansing
blood.
And now, in the mirror of my delivered life,
I only see Him reflected in me.

WHAT DOES SIN LOOK LIKE?

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21

“...being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful...” Romans 1:29-31

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...” 2 Timothy 3:1-4

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man...” Matthew 15:19-20 – “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Yes my friend, there is abounding hope in these cleansing words. - *“...such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

ALL-ENCOMPASSING HOPE

Yes, God’s all encompassing hope abounds toward us.

Remember how good also fruited on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Could this essence of good offer some means of hope? Surely if only evil fruited upon the deathly tree, all partakers would be hopelessly engulfed by sin with no way of escape? Then through His fruiting Spirit of good, is God providing an escape route from sin, an antidote for the poison of death? - *“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...” Galatians 5:22 - “...(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)...” Ephesians 5:9 - By God’s intervening spirit, is evil being contained, not to have complete control over fallen*

human life? - *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

And with this promised gift of eternal life, the greatest love story and rescue mission of all times begins to unfold into our fallen world, and into our very lives.

GOD’S RESCUE UNFOLDS

Returning to Eden’s paradise garden, Adam’s and Eve’s fallen condition dawns upon their sin burdened minds, and so they hide among the garden foliage, from God and every living thing.

“What will God say?” “What will God do?” The thoughts claw their desperate minds. Yet the all-seeing God beholds His earthly children hidden among the leafy foliage, and His merciful love longs to lift the fear of retribution from their tormented souls.

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. ‘And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’ Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’” Genesis 3:7-13 - “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.” 1 Timothy 2:14

Adam and Eve attempt to shift their blame of guilt on to another and even God, but remain hopelessly lost, personally responsible for their sin. Yet behind the dark veil of sin, shines a beacon of delivering hope. For God takes on the greater responsibility to free Adam and Eve from their imprisonment of sin, and penalty of everlasting death.

A SINLESS DELIVERER

In Eden’s fallen paradise, the Son of God steps into the dark void of human sin that separates sinful humanity from God the Father. With His divine sinless life, the Son reconnects the severed lifeline between fallen humanity and God. In tones of merciful love, the Son of God promises Adam and Eve that a sinless Deliverer shall appear in the world to free them from their transgression of God’s holy law. Bearing their sin, for them, the Deliverer shall lay down His life in sacrificial death and dying their death penalty He shall pay the ransom price to free them from their lawless transgression of God’s law.

Then who might this heroic Deliverer be who is worthy to take upon Himself the rescue mission on Planet Earth? You see, the conditions of worthiness are exacting in every detail of delivering life.

This mighty Deliverer must be: Someone who is sinless; Someone who has never transgressed God's law; Someone who is the living essence of God's law in holy character; Someone in divine life who is the life giver to fallen mankind.

Only this Someone has the sovereign entitlement to step forward as the Deliverer to rescue sinful human life. Yes, this Someone can only be matched by the divine sinless life of God's only begotten Son. Yet 4000 years shall pass by until the Son of God appears in the fallen world as humanity's deliverer.

SERPENT AND SATAN CONFRONTED

Meanwhile in Eden's paradise garden, God's rescue plan continues to unfold. The Son of God passes judgment upon the flying serpent's collaboration with Satan. Plucking the serpent's delicate wings, the serpent's body is cast to the ground to ever slither in the dust bed of earth. - *"So the LORD God said to the serpent: 'Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life'"* Genesis 3:14 - And so to our very day the serpent's poisonous fangs testify of sin's deadly strike of death.

"The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear, Which will not heed the voice of charmers, Charming ever so skillfully." Psalm 58:3-5

And in the court room of the world and before the convening universe, the Son of God makes another proclamation of promise, that he shall put a splitting wedge of enmity between Satan and sinful humanity. - *"...I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed..."* Genesis 3:15

Before this promised seed of enmity, humanity's future was on a knife edge. You see, when partaking of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam's and Eve's minds were imprisoned by Satan's controlling power of evil.

Thus, God's promised seed of enmity, gives fallen humanity a measure of discernment to know of Satan's evil ways. Now Satan shall not have complete control over the fallen human mind, but again humanity shall exercise free will of choice to who they shall serve, God or Satan. - *"... as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."* Romans 12:3

What would have happened if the Son of God had not stepped in between Satan and sinful humanity? No doubt, you realise that fallen human race would have been hopelessly lost, forever enslaved by Satan's bewitching spirit with no way of escape.

But thankfully through the Son's delivering life, fallen humanity can choose abhorrence towards Satan's evil ways.

And yet sadly, over time a large proportion of humanity shall not respond with abhorrence toward Satan, but rather choose to remain under his evil sway, perhaps denying the existence of sin, or denying the existence of evil. Even the existence of God.

Having rejected God's merciful call to freedom, they remain lost in their sin and at the end of their lifetime they reap their result of everlasting death.

This is the very tragic outcome that breaks God's merciful loving heart – *"...but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9 - *"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"* Ezekiel 33:11

Now another promise abounds from God's merciful love for lost humanity. This is the promise:

The liberating Deliverer born of the woman's seed shall wage spiritual warfare against Satan and reclaim humanity's lost dominion over the world. Yes, in fierce spiritual combat, Satan shall bruise the Deliverer's heel with suffering and death. But gaining the victory by His selfless death, the Son of God shall bruise Satan's head with a deadly wound. – *"He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."* Genesis 3:15 – *"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly"* Romans 16:20

THE SYSTEM OF ANIMAL SACRIFICE BEGINS

Now in Eden's fallen paradise, the Son of God introduces a sacrificial system, which will be in action down through the generations until the Son, as the Lamb of God, pays the ransom price of death to deliver sinful human life.

And so with symbolic meaning the Son of God is *"...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* Revelation 13:8 - *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* John 1:29 - *"...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* 1 Peter 1:19

Foreshadowing His future sacrificial death, the Son of God brings before Adam and Eve a lamb from the perfect flock of creation. Confessing their sin over the innocent lamb, symbolically Adam's and Eve's guilt of sin is transferred upon the lamb. And now in their place, the lamb bears their penalty of death. With trembling hand Adam slays the innocent lamb and the lamb's lifeblood spills upon the ground.

Flowing with symbolic meaning, the lamb's shed blood foreshadows the Son's shed blood that flows in cleansing power from sin - *"...who loved us and washed us from our*

sins in His own blood...” Revelation 1:5 – “...and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

Stricken with remorse, Adam realizes that His sin shall take the sinless life of the Son of God.

Fashioning the Lamb’s skin, stained with sacrificial blood, the Son of God clothes Adam’s and Eve’s naked bodies and destitute souls. Now Adam’s and Eve’s restored lives are spiritually clothed in the symbolic garment of Jesus’ righteousness. – *“Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21 - “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...” Isaiah 61:10*

A VISIBLE FUTURE REALITY

And so sacrificial blood, shed in forgiveness for sin, flows down through generations of Old Testament times. Yes, sadly many, many innocent animals are slain and offered upon sacrificial altars.

And yet this symbolic shedding of blood is necessary to keep before the people the tremendous cost and true meaning of the Son’s sacrificial death in a future time. Thus animal sacrifice serves as spiritual realism for Old Testament believers to grasp hold of and receive God’s gospel deliverance into their lives.

And so with forward-looking faith, Old Testament believers receive the promise of Jesus’ literal sacrificial death upon the altar of the cross, and their confessed sins are forgiven.

Yet in place of animal sacrifice, God desires for His people to choose to put away sin from their lives and serve him with true, hearts of loving obedience. - *“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, Ad to heed than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22*

ADAM AND EVE LIVE A NEW ERA OF LIFE

Believing the promised Deliverer will pay the ransom price for their sin, Adam and Eve grow in a repaired and renewed spiritual relationship with God, living again in His commandments of holy life. Yet in daily life Adam and Eve shall always contend with their fallen compromised natures, guarding against all temptations to succumb to sin once more.

Receiving the consequence of their sin, and banned from the tree of life, Adam and Eve are exiled from their paradise home. What a sorry sight, as Adam and Eve leave behind Eden’s perfection, to begin an inferior life in the world beyond.

“...Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’- therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:22-24

“To the woman He said: ‘I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.’ Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it”: Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:16-19

Now Adam’s hard toil is cultivating the rich mineralised soil to grow nutrient dense vegetables for healing and cleansing, thus supplementing their original plant based diet of fruits, nuts and seeds. Living in an ever changing world of suffering and death, more and more Adam’s and Eve’s hearts are filled with remorse, that through their sin they wrought great failure and shame upon the human family.

“And God said, ‘See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.” Genesis 1:29

Join us in Volume 2, as even greater sorrow is about to burst upon Adam’s and Eve’s parental lives. A catastrophic fallout of sin shall sadden their souls all the days of their remaining lives.

And so, until Volume 2, may,

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord life up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26*





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