

## Between VERSE ONE and VERSE TWO

The purpose for the creation of mankind is explained between verse one and verse two of Genesis chapter one.



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There was a time when created life began. It was in the beginning when Elohim—Gods: the Father and His Son, created both the heaven and the earth at the same time, that is, in the beginning.

**By** the power of the Father and **through** the Son, “**all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16-17).

After the earth was created, it was left formless and void for a later time. From the beginning, two realms were planned, designed and created. One realm would be finished before the other. Life began first in the heavenly realm. They are the first creation.

### THE HEAVENLY CREATION—THE FIRST CREATION

All life in heaven was created eternal. These beings were created having knowledge of God and His ways the moment they were given life. They are given opportunities to grow beyond the initial starting point at their creation. One being in God’s headquarters in heaven grew to be the most knowledgeable in God’s word and ways of all of creation in heaven. God uses imagery of a tall cedar tree to describe him in Ezekiel 31:3-9.

“It towered on high, its top above the thick foliage... **The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it, nor could the pine trees equal its boughs, nor could the plane trees compare with its branches—no tree in the garden of God could match its beauty.** I made it beautiful with abundant branches, **the envy of all the trees of Eden in the garden of God**” (verse 3, 8-9).

The imagery of cedars is used to provide a succinct visual of giant, eternal leaders. God's garden is His family full of different types of leaders described in Ezekiel as "plane trees" and "pine trees." God often uses trees as descriptors for leaders. The olive trees image His ministry; the fig tree is descriptive of the nation of Israel, thistles and thorn bushes describe the low growing wicked.

God uses the descriptor of the myrtle tree for Jerusalem and the house of Judah in Zechariah 1:7. Keil and Delitzsch provide their analysis, "In the **myrtle-bushes, or myrtle grove**, we have no doubt a symbol of the theocracy, or of **the land of Judah as a land that was dear and lovely in the estimation of the Lord** (cf. Daniel 8:9; Daniel 11:16), for **the myrtle is a lovely ornamental plant**. Hence the hollow in which the myrtle grove was situated, can only be a **figurative representation of the deep degradation into which the land and people of God had fallen at that time.**" (<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kdo/zechariah-1.html>)

God has many trees in His garden [family], but one He commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of it (Genesis 2:17). "You may eat freely from every tree of the garden, but **you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is a leader in God's government teaching his own theology, that is, Satan. God warned Adam and Eve not to listen and act on his word. Unfortunately, Eve, like all of mankind, was deceived into believing him and she, along with all of mankind, acted on his word and fell into sin.

Satan was not created ugly and wicked as he has become today. To the contrary, he was created beautiful and perfect. "You were **the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty**. You were in Eden [God's vast family], the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared." This heavenly creation was given a magnificent covering of nine different precious stones set in gold imaging his eternal [gold settings] position of honor and the precious role of being a guardian angel for God Almighty.

"You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount [holy government] of God; you walked among the fiery stones [he walked freely in places few can step]. **You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created** till iniquity was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:12b-15).

This heavenly creation is one of countless. These eternal beings do not know time as an aging marker, but rather as a measure of spiritual growth, increasing in God's knowledge, understanding and wisdom. This countless creation has established kingdoms that have framed God's law into their foundation and God's way of love into their every activity.

Life in the realm of heaven—God's first creation, was for eons of time perfect in peace and in complete harmony with God Almighty, while the earth remained formless and void. This

creation may have wondered about the purpose of little earth as it spun around the sun, lifeless in the vast universe that they could see from their heavenly abode. God has not shared His entire plan with the creation in heaven. “Even angels long to look into these things” (1 Peter 1:12b).

Before the creation of heaven and earth in the beginning, God foresaw a time of great pain and loss within his first creation in heaven that would trigger the second creation—on earth.

### THE FALL OF ONE-THIRD OF CREATION IN HEAVEN

It all began when that once beautiful and perfect guardian angel began to think too highly of himself. His beauty was captivating and he felt the admiration. Instead of being humbled and giving glory to God for His ability to design, detail and make beauty, he glorified himself. Pride slowly took hold of him and his wisdom became corrupted. He devised his own theology and sold it far and wide to many in heaven (Ezekiel 28:16a, 17a).

Though he was created eternal, he will die—a time still in the future. “I expelled you, O guardian cherub... So, I threw you to the earth [also mentioned in Revelation 12:9]. By your many sins and dishonest trade, you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So, I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more” (Ezekiel 28:16b, 17b-19).

He was not alone. God’s greatest leader in His headquarters—His holy council also fell. “Consider **Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon... It towered on high**, lifting its top above the thick foliage, and **it was proud of its height**, I handed it over to the ruler of the nations, for him to deal with according to **its wickedness, I cast it aside...**” (Ezekiel 31:3a, 10b-11).

This heavenly leader inherited at the time God divided the nations on earth, rulership over the earthly kingdom of Assyria. He was a member of God’s headquarters. He was the most skilled and highly trained leader in God’s headquarters in the realm of heaven, outside of the Son—Co-creator. God made this leader beautiful with the outpouring of His Holy Spirit, this leader grew taller than all of the created in heaven. “The waters nourished it, deep springs made it grow tall; their streams flowed all around its base and sent their channels to all the trees of the field” (Ezekiel 31:4). He became a great teacher spreading God’s knowledge, expertise and wisdom through channels to all leaders everywhere in the heavenly realm. God loved this heavenly leader—a son in His royal family.

But, he too purchased the wares from Satan and when his corruption became known, the pain and shock was like a tsunami affecting all the nations on earth and kingdoms in heaven. God felt the unbearable pain of losing a beloved son. On the day this leader was brought down, God wept; He “covered the deep springs with mourning for it” (Ezekiel 31:15). God held back His Holy Spirit and watched this beloved creation wither, yet to be sentenced in the future (Ezekiel 31:15). The fall of this leader brought intense sadness to “Lebanon”—God’s headquarters—the place where all of His cedars presided. “**I clothed Lebanon with gloom**, and all the trees of the

field withered away. I made the nations tremble at the sound of its fall when I brought it down to the grave with those who go down to the pit” (Ezekiel 31:15b-16a).

This leader influenced every leader in God’s headquarters to follow him, hence, they all “withered away”—they lost God’s Holy Spirit and shrunk into darkness. Much of this story is lost in mankind’s ancient history. Researchers and archeologists study the ruins in the sand failing to understand the past because they don’t understand the story preserved in the Holy Scriptures.

“Then **all the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, all the trees that were well-watered were consoled in the earth below**” (Ezekiel 31:16). This was a major blow for God, the all-powerful Creator. His complete headquarters in heaven fell into rebellion against Him. These heavenly leaders were highly respected by all of the other heavenly beings in the realm of heaven. One-third of this realm became corrupted. That one-third number in the billions upon billions.

These fallen have formed a coalition in heaven. They are unredeemable; there is no saving plan for them. God describes their coalition as a “beast” a fitting descriptor for the unredeemable. Ezekiel’s book of judgment describes the headquarters of this “beast” in heaven. O Tyre, “situated at the gateway to the sea, merchant of peoples on many coasts” (Ezekiel 27:2). The sea is imagery for the place of wickedness and merchants is the descriptor of those selling lies and deceit—Satan’s theology to those willing to buy it. Christ counsels the naked [no righteousness], poor [little knowledge of God’s word], blind [unable to walk on the narrow path of righteousness] Laodicean church to buy from him “gold refined in the fire [God’s tested word of truth], so you can become rich [obtain God’s word]; and white clothes to wear [righteous behavior] to cover your nakedness [wrong behavior]; salve to put on your eyes, so you can see [understand the word of God and walk in it] (Revelation 3:18).

Daniel describes four beasts and Revelation addresses the final beast that will come out of that place of wickedness [the sea] in the last days and a second beast [out of the earth] that will appear again on earth as it did in ancient times—Mystery Babylon, Mother of Harlots.

Revelation 13:1 describes a beast coming out of the sea with ten horns each with a crown and seven heads with a blasphemous name. “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast” (Revelation 17:12). These ten kings are not earthly kings because the nations cannot make war against the beast because it is too powerful for them. They say, “Who can make war against the him?” (Revelation 13:4b) They are heavenly leaders who were promised a kingdom possibly when God gave the nations their inheritance, that is, rulers from the heavenly realm (Deuteronomy 32:8) at the time of Babel. God, himself, participated in this project and He took the descendants of Jacob as His inheritance (Deuteronomy 32:9), that is, He ruled as King over them.

These ten kings rebelled against God at the time His headquarters in heaven fell. “All the trees [leaders] of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon [God’s headquarters], all the trees that were well-waters [leaders filled with God’s Holy Spirit], were consigned to the earth below [imprisoned in the “pit” also known as the “Abyss”] (Ezekiel 31:16b).

God promised these ten kings a kingdom and He will fulfill His agreement, but they will rule for only “one hour”. They despise their Creator. Their ten horns protrude from seven heads and each head vomits out blasphemy (Revelation 13:1).

This wicked heavenly coalition is determined to overthrow Almighty God. They have established a maritime military domain in the “high seas” (Ezekiel 27:4). Their coalition comprises of Satan as their supreme leader and “a cedar from Lebanon” (Ezekiel 27:5), that is, a member from God’s headquarters used as a “mast” for he was trained in all of God’s plans and can anticipate how God thinks, what strategies He applies and tactics He uses—so, this rogue member thinks. This coalition is comprised of many heavenly rulers, powers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12), tradesmen and soldiers, all working to sustain itself under any condition. God uses the imagery of merchants and seamen to describe the players involved in the selling of their theology of lies and deception in heaven and on earth.

The great rebellion began with the created in heaven, when Satan planned his ascension above the realm in heaven into God’s throne room—the Holy of Holies. He said, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High” (Isaiah 14:13-14). Christ is our great high priest and only member of the family to enter **through** heaven, where he sits with God at his right hand (Hebrews 4:14).

By carefully crafted arguments, Satan swayed one-third of creation in heaven. The remaining two-thirds feared this Satan-led corrupt coalition which includes the heavenly ruler over Babylon. The faithful among the heavenly rulers in the realm of heaven will rejoice over the destruction of Babylon, yet in the future. To the 21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel, Isaiah wrote, “On the day the LORD gives you relief from suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: ‘How the oppressor has come to an end! How his fury has ended! The LORD has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers, which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows, and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression... **Even the pine trees and the cedars of Lebanon exult over you and say, ‘Now that you have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down’**” (Isaiah 14:3-6, 8). The pine trees and cedars of Lebanon are the loyal and righteous leaders in heaven who, along with the nations on earth, felt the relentless attacks from this wicked heavenly ruler.

In the heavenly realm, many kingdoms exist. One rebellious kingdom quietly sits on the outskirts watching the outcome of the heavenly battles. This kingdom will witness the destruction of the boastful and lumbering fourth beast of Revelation. This rebellious kingdom is led by Gog of Magog. God is aware of him and He has plans for the destruction of this rogue

heavenly kingdom. He will use them as a witness to the nations on earth at the end of the Millennium.

“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea” (Revelation 20:7-8).

Ezekiel recorded, “After many days you [Gog] will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate... You will come from **your place in the far north**, you and many nations with you... **O Gog, I will bring you against my land**, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy through you before their eyes” (Ezekiel 38:8, 15, 16b).

This is a heavenly kingdom located in the “far north”. Satan will be released as God tests the nations one final time. Satan meets with Gog of Magog in heaven and together they spread Satan’s theology to the nations on earth. Many will listen and join them in an attempt to totally destroy from the face of the earth, God’s covenant people—the 31<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel.

“When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused... there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel... and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence... I will summon my sword against Gog on all my mountains... every man’s sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgment upon him [Gog] with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and his troops and on the many nations with him. And so, I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:18-23).

Finally, all of the rebellious kingdoms in heaven will be overthrown and destroyed.

It was the foreknowledge of the fall within the creation in the heavenly realm that gave rise to a different creation on earth.

### **THE CREATION ON EARTH—THE SECOND CREATION**

In the beginning, God the Father and His Son created the heaven and the earth. They filled the realm in heaven with countless wonders, kingdoms, rulers, powers and authorities. “All things, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things were created by him [the Son] and for him [the Son]” (Colossians 1:15b).

The earth was left formless and void, until the time came and the Father and the Son created again with a different plan in motion. They set about to create again a creation in their image; male and female he made them. Mankind would be without excuse as they wove within the genders the mirroring of the heavenly realm and the earthly realm.

Mankind's story began with the violation of God's law and order. It was inevitable in some ways, for it takes a mature and disciplined Christian to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:14). Satan knows that. He knew Eve and all of mankind would believe his lie, as if they were spiritually mature to be able to distinguish between good and evil when they are mere babes in Christ.

Mankind was made mortal, designed to reproduce themselves and grow from conception into the full knowledge of God. During this time, their growth would come through suffering and they would learn to either shun evil and embrace God's ways or cling to evil and die.

The fall of mankind was foreknown, so, a saving plan was designed and readied. It was part of the grand plan that mankind would need a Savior and suffering would become part of the perfecting process. "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**" (Revelation 13:8).

One-third of the creation in the heavenly realm fell, despite the knowledge they were given immediately upon receiving their first breath. God is moulding mortal man into humble, righteous beings. Paul wrote, "Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons... Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:7-8, 11b).

Even Christ—the Co-creator, perfect and living in righteousness suffered to become a perfect Savior, a perfect mediator, a perfect companion and a perfect leader for a people born in suffering and he is not ashamed to consider mere mortals his brothers and sisters though we are entrenched in sin.

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely **it is not angels he helps**, but **Abraham's descendants**. For this reason, **he had to be made like his brothers in every way**, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:14-18).

God knows the end from the beginning. He worked within His plan of salvation for mankind, their fall and out of their great failure, a people are rising who through suffering forge an unbreakable relationship with God Almighty and a strength of loyalty and determination in righteous living that will never be destroyed. Like their Savior, these people have suffered and today they suffer and into the future the faithful people of God will suffer to stand by Christ and their Father in heaven.

The rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12 simply have not suffered. They are both the originators and instruments of suffering and they cannot anticipate the greatness, the strength and the power that comes from squelching the way of man to allow Christ in you and live as he lives to rise up into a new creation. Paul understood this mystery.

“Therefore, **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles **the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (Colossians 1:27).

### THE RISE OF THE CREATION ON EARTH

The rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities thought that mankind was doomed, never to have eternal life, never to fill the positions now open due to one-third of the heavenly creation falling into rebellion, never to fill **all of the positions in God’s headquarters** once occupied by the great “cedars” [great leaders] of Lebanon [God’s headquarters]. God and His Son planned long ago, a second creation that would complement the first creation in heaven. They planned for mortals with weak bodies needing sleep and continual care—all to suffer and forge through distress and hardship an eternal relationship with God—a relationship that will be truly treasured and protected. That is what the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities did not anticipate or consider possible.

The heavenly creation will witness the rise of a humble and righteous creation on earth. “All the trees [leaders] of the field [in heaven] will know that I the LORD will bring down the tall tree [the heavenly leaders created eternal and strong] and make the low tree [the righteous earthly leaders] grow tall [take high positions in God’s government]. I dry up the green tree [those eternal heavenly leaders who rebelled] and make the dry tree [the righteous **earthly leaders**] flourish” (Ezekiel 17:24). Do not doubt these words because God Almighty seals his statement by declaring, “I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it” (Ezekiel 17:24b).

God will bring down all of the rogue heavenly rulers that were once His holy council headquarter members. “See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. **The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low.** He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; **LEBANON WILL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHTY ONE**” (Isaiah 10:33-34). God’s headquarters in heaven overrun by rogue heavenly leaders will fall and become subject to Him. The use of the word “before” indicates their subjection under Him when “Lebanon” falls.

After a time of great distress, a people on earth will rise. In humility and with a genuine desire to love God and one another. “And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, **for power is perfected in weakness.**’ Most gladly, therefore, **I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me**” (II Corinthians 12:9).

Suffering tests, purifies, strengthens, and develops character. “And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble**



**you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not” (Deuteronomy 8:2).**

“Not only that, but **we rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that **suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope**, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us... But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:3-5, 8).

### **THE SAINTS FROM THE REALM ON EARTH WILL BE THE NEW LEADERS IN GOD’S NEW HEADQUARTERS, “LEBANON”.**

The saints, God’s “preserved” throughout the ages have suffered persecution and martyrdom. On our near horizon rests the final great battle, God and Jesus Christ against Satan, the rogue heavenly leaders and their coalition. During this time of great distress, the saints will suffer and put their lives on the line for their God. They will remain faithful and grow to become the pillars of God’s temple; people spiritually strong and ever-enduring.

“The **righteous man will flourish like the PALM TREE**; he will **grow like a CEDAR in Lebanon**; **planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God**. They will still **bear fruit in old age**, they will **stay fresh and green**, proclaiming, ‘**The LORD is upright; he is my Rock**, and there is **no wickedness in him**” (Psalm 92:12-15).

The leaders that God establishes flourish because they are humble, faithful and they put their trust in God, not in themselves. “**The trees of the Lord flourish, the CEDARS of Lebanon that He planted**” (Psalm 104:16).

### **GOD’S PEOPLE WILL RETURN TO HIM. THEY WILL BECOME POPLARS, OAKS, FIR, PINE, CYPRESS, OLIVE AND CEDARS—LEADERS OF ALL TYPES.**

After hundreds of years, finally the house of Israel will return to their God in total sincerity. They will fill many positions once held by the great “cedars of Lebanon”.

“I will signal for them and gather them in. Surely, **I will redeem them; they will be as numerous as before**, though I scattered them among the peoples, yet **in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive**, and **they will return**... there will not be room enough for them. ‘They will **pass through the sea of trouble; the surging sea will be subdued** and all the depths of the Nile will dry up. Assyria’s pride will be brought down and Egypt’s scepter will pass away. **I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name, they will walk**,’ declares the LORD” (Zechariah 10:11-12).

“**I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring**, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up **like grass in a meadow, like POPLAR TREES by flowing streams**. One will say, ‘I belong to the LORD,’ another will call himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’ and will take the name Israel” (Isaiah 44:3-5).

“He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners... to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called **OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor” (Isaiah 61:1-3).

“I will be like the dew to Israel, he will blossom like a lily. **Like a CEDAR of Lebanon**, he will send down his roots, his young shoots will grow, **His splendor will be like an OLIVE TREE**, his fragrance like a **CEDAR OF LEBANON**. Men will dwell again in his shade. He will flourish like the grain... blossom like a vine and his fame will be like the wine from Lebanon” (Hosea 14:5-7).

“How fair are your tents, **O Jacob**, Your dwellings, **O Israel!** ‘Like valleys that stretch out, like **GARDENS beside the river**, like **ALOES planted by the LORD**, like **CEDARS beside the waters**” (Numbers 24:5-6).

#### **JERUSALEM WILL BE ADORNED WITH THE GLORY OF LEBANON.**

“‘The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,’ declares the LORD... Though in anger I struck you, in favor I will show you compassion... **THE GLORY OF LEBANON WILL COME TO YOU, the PINE, the FIR and the CYPRESS together, to adorn the place of my sanctuary and I will glorify the place of my feet...** all who despise you will bow down at your feet and will call you **The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel**” (Isaiah 59:20, 60:10, 60:13, 14).

“I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert **the CEDAR and the ACACIA, the MYRTLE and the OLIVE**. I will set **PINES in the wasteland, the FIR and the CYPRESS together**, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that **the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it**” (Isaiah 41:19-20).

#### **THE SAINTS WILL JUDGE ANGELS.**

“Don’t you realize that we will judge angels? So, you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life” (I Corinthians 6:3). The righteous creation in heaven will not come under judgment, but the fallen angels, the rebellious rulers, powers and principalities of Ephesians 6:12 will certainly be served, judged and sentenced by the righteous saints from the realm of earth.

Some have already been served and they await to be judged and sentenced in prison. There are “spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built” (I Peter 3:19) and “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment” (II Peter 2:4). Jude also wrote, “The angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day” (Jude 1:6). These heavenly rulers held important positions, yet they left their honorable positions to rebel against God and join the wicked heavenly coalition attempting to overthrow their Creator.

## THE SON OF GOD BECAME THE LAST ADAM.

Christ has been working with God to restore things to how they were before iniquity was found. His death on the cross brought salvation to mankind; it also brought down the remaining rogue heavenly rulers over the nations. Christ's perfect sacrifice gave him victory and they lost their inheritance. If these rogue heavenly rulers understood the multifaceted victories of Christ's sacrifice, they would not have allowed Christ to die on the cross. **"None of the rulers [heavenly rulers, powers and principalities] of this age understood it, for if they had, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY"** (1 Corinthians 2:8).

Where all of the heavenly rulers, powers and principalities failed, Christ succeeded. He is the last Adam. As the adjective implies, those given the opportunity from the first all the way to the last, but not including the last, failed. The mirroring of the genders remains true to the story in heaven and on earth. As the heavenly rulers, powers and authorities sinned knowingly, so the first man, Adam sinned knowingly.

The rogue heavenly rulers must have been horrified when they learned that Christ's perfect sacrifice won him victory over them. Upon his resurrection, Christ gathered them together and imprisoned them with the others who are waiting judgment. "This is why it says: 'When He ascended on high, **He led captives away, and gave gifts to men.**' What does 'He ascended' mean, except that **He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens,** in order to fill all things" (Ephesians 4:8-9).

The "gifts" Christ gave to men was the authority these heavenly rulers had over the nations, which was to teach them to obey God and live His way of life. Christ gave the "gifts" to his church, "...some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God's people for works of services, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we ALL reach unity in the Father** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"** (Ephesians 4:11-13).

These rogue heavenly beings lavished in self-worship and those given their inheritance to rule over the nations when God divided the people at the time of Babel, taught the nations to worship them. The people set up large statues, shrines and crafted idols for worship. They gave the people on earth their theology and celebrations among of which is Saturnalia—Christianized into Christmas, Easter, and Halloween. They instructed the people to build great temples to honor themselves and they built vast armies for battle as they worked to expand their earthly domains. At the cost of human lives, they battled for supremacy among themselves, then supremacy over Almighty God.

To keep mankind under their control, they keep them distracted and deceived. They spread corruption and the spirit of hatred so mankind is tricked into believing that their enemy is the nations around them. Yet, the Apostle Paul clearly warned Christians that they are **"not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places"** (Ephesians 6:12). Some in the ministry contribute to their deception by teaching that the beast

from out of the sea is a coalition of earthly nations and the beast from out of the earth is an earthly church. Certainly, these rogue heavenly coalitions have entangled the nations and churches of the world into following them. In fact, they will gather the nations together to battle against God and His faithful people when Christ is given the green light to return.

Many Judo-Christians have accepted the lie that the gods the nations on earth worshiped in ancient times are a myth. Prophecy is rarely interpreted to acknowledge these rogue heavenly rulers, powers and principalities. Satan is recognized, but the one-third of the heavenly creation appear insignificant and powerless. And yet, they are our **only** enemy, not the nations on earth, rather countless powerful, wicked beings from the heavenly creation **lumbering in the unseen world, lurking in the shadows on earth and ruling over their domains in the heavenly places.**

After Satan and one-third of the angels are thrown down to earth, they will perform supernatural wonders that will dazzle the whole world. "I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but **the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast**" (Revelation 13:3). They will appear to be able to resurrect from the dead. The nations on earth will be swept up by their technologies, science and magic and their exuberant, invincible-like power will bring all the nations down to their knees.

They cannot overpower the beast and they will say, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" (Revelation 13:4) So, the nations on earth, except for the people who are loyal to Almighty God, will worship Satan—the commander and chief of the beast from out of the sea and the beast from out of the earth. The beast from out of the sea will be the future alien arrival. Initially, they may appear like saviors, but truly they are the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and principalities (Ephesians 6:12) that the Apostle Paul warned Judo-Christians about hundreds of years ago.

### **GOD WILL MOVE HIS THRONE TO EARTH AND LIVE WITH MANKIND—HIS SECOND CREATION.**

God has a plan. The first-born nation to come into the full knowledge of the LORD are His people, Israel who today have grown into twelve nations. God's plan was for Israel to be a model nation of God's way, but ancient Israel failed. Ancient Israel acted treasonously by worshiping the rebellious heavenly rulers. They were enticed by the superpower status of the leading kingdoms on earth; they craved power and glory.

God cannot be thwarted nor will He break His vow to Abraham "to be a God to him and his descendants forever." God will bring His people into judgment for their sins.

"As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, **I shall be king over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered,** with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and **with wrath poured out;** and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and **there I will enter into judgment with you face to face**" (Ezekiel 20:33-35).

Despite their shameful behavior, God never rejected them. "I have chosen you and have not rejected you" (Isaiah 41:9b). The 21st century people of the nations of Israel will say, "I will praise you, O LORD. **Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me**" (Isaiah 12:1).

The repentance of the people of God is on the near horizon. "In that day, men will look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 17:7).

After the destruction of the leaders of the two beasts and the imprisonment of the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and principalities, the world will come to rest and learn about the Great God of Israel. They will see twelve nations of people settled in the land of their forefathers and the great resurrection of ancient Israel living among them. It will be a wondrous time. The raw power of God will be witnessed and marvelled. The rattling of very dry bones forming a body, tendons and flesh appearing out of nowhere and life breathed into these mortals. The world will see a vast army stand up. These ancient Israelites are imaged as a vast army because they fought against God and lost. They feel hopeless, ashamed and fearful. "Our hope is gone; we are cut off" (Ezekiel 37:11b).

Greater still, these resurrected will see among them their 21<sup>st</sup> century descendants obeying God, willingly and in genuine sincerity. "When they see among them their children, the work of my hands, they will keep my name holy; they will acknowledge the holiness of the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction" (Isaiah 29:22b-24).

After the Great Tribulation, many nations of the world will say, "Come, **let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.**" The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).

As the nations turn to God, "**He will wipe away every tear from their eyes**, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

Mankind will learn the way of God and become perfect, imaging their Father in heaven. "Therefore, you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Then, the Father and the Son will move their headquarters to earth.

Mankind, though born in sin, suffered to forge an eternal desire for righteousness. Never again will they enter into the painful and cruel ways of wickedness. Mankind will be brought intimately close to the Great Creator God. They will be honored and exalted by His Presence. The mortal creation on earth was taken down into the mires by sin, yet it will be raised up into a glorious place sharing their realm with the greatest: the Father and His Son.

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now **the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.** They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God’” (Revelation 21:2-3).

The story between Genesis chapter one verse one and verse two is the story of a life-time. Yet, it remains hidden from most of mankind. Mankind’s potential and the honor God desires to bestow on them is intentionally clouded and veiled by the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities who know their heavenly positions will be awarded to mere mortals—righteous, humble, insignificant God-fearing and God-serving men and women.

While the earth remained formless and void, life in the heavenly realm blossomed for eons of time. Dominions formed: rulership awarded, law and order enforced: holy council members anointed, levels of government established: leaders appointed, harmony and unity with God Almighty sang throughout the realm in heaven until iniquity was found. Then, the Father and the Son looked to the earth and completed creation with mankind. A complementary creation was made that would grow into righteousness.

From heaven a King will take his throne, from earth a Queen will sit by his side. “I saw **the Holy City, the new Jerusalem,** coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride** [of the Lamb—Christ] **beautifully dressed for her husband**” (Revelation 21:2).

Together, they will rule over both realms: in heaven and on earth. That is the summation of the story between verse one and verse two of Genesis one. When mankind learns of this, the rogue heavenly powers will become instantly powerless for mankind will not submit to their destroyer. They will rise up and stand by their Creator appalled at the extent these wicked heavenly rulers, powers and authorities were willing go to forward their agenda.

“All the nations who knew you are appalled at you [Satan]; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more” (Ezekiel 28:19).

God loves His creation on earth. Jesus said, “**There is more than enough room in my Father’s home.** If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2)

Every man and woman on earth has a position prepared for them. God’s government will be replenished—with repentant, righteous, transformed mortals from earth. They will image the beautiful trees God once walked among in the heavenly realm. Earth will become God’s sanctuary and He will again walk in peace with His creation—in His garden of Eden.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich*