

REFLECTIONS in the Mirror



Before the creation of heaven and earth, God our Father in heaven and His Son planned two creations: one in heaven and one on earth.

Their first creation was in heaven. There resides today, billions upon billions of eternal beings with many positions of rulership and power over vast dominions. The Son of God created everything in heaven and on earth through the power of His Father.

“He [the Son] is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation. For **by him 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 1:15-17).

“But for us, there is **one God, the Father, BY** whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is **one Lord, Jesus Christ, THROUGH** whom all things were created, and through whom we live” (I Corinthians 8:6).

After Jesus’ resurrection, God the Father coronated him to the highest position that He could award anyone. “... **Christ when raised from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.** And **God placed all**

things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way” (Ephesians 1:20-23).

Today, Jesus Christ has superseded all positions of authority in heaven and on earth, except for the supreme power held by the Father—God Almighty. It was as if the position awarded to him was open for other members of creation—not on earth but from the first creation in heaven.

A HEAVENLY KINGDOM OF NATIONAL LEADERS

Ruins sentenced to the depths of the sands reveal ancient exotic kingdoms on earth where the nations worshiped heavenly gods. These ancient kingdoms were physical images of grandeur and glory of their reigning heavenly god. The Babylonians recognized and acknowledged the activity of the gods on earth.

How they could recognize these heavenly beings on earth is a mystery to 21st century Christians. “Look!” King Nebuchadnezzar shouted, “I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and **the fourth looks like a son of the gods**” (Daniel 3:25).

In addition, King Nebuchadnezzar declared that the God of Israel was in fact, the greatest of all gods. “The king said to Daniel, ‘**Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings** and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery’” (Daniel 2:47).

What were the characteristics of these heavenly beings, clearly recognized in ancient times? Jacob, too, identified them. Upon his return to the land of his father, Isaac, “**the angels of God met him**. When Jacob saw them, he said, ‘This is the camp of God!’ so he named that place Mahanaim” (Genesis 32:2).

The people of the nations also understood that these heavenly beings have a spirit that gives them great wisdom and understanding. Writing appeared on the wall that struck King Belshazzar of Babylon with terror. The mother queen came quickly to assist and said, “Don’t be alarmed! Don’t look so pale! **There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods... This man is Daniel**” (Daniel 5:10b-12a).

The heavenly gods also exercised judgment at times, over the leaders on earth. God Almighty gave the “holy ones” from the heavenly creation the authority to pass decisions and judgments on rulers on earth. It was the “holy ones” who decided to sentence King Nebuchadnezzar to live for seven years as an animal to humble him and remind him of the Great God who has all mighty power over all kings in both heaven and earth.

“The decision is announced by messengers; **the holy ones declare the verdict**, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men” (Daniel 4:17).

King David knew. “God presides in the great assembly; **he gives judgment among the ‘gods’**” (Psalm 82:1).

King Ahab of the house of Israel did evil in God’s eyes and God decreed that he would die at Ramoth-Gilead, but the means of his death had not yet been decided. **God invited His council to participate in the decision** and they debated the matter until **one of the sons of God came forward and suggested: “I will go out and I will be a false spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.” Upon hearing this, God said, “Go and do it”** (II Chronicles 18:21).

The heavenly creation has many rulers, powers and principalities with great authority (Ephesians 6:12). Unfortunately, one-third of that creation have turned against their Creator (the Son) and their Source of all life (the Father). It is reasoned that the creation in the heavens hold various positions of national responsibilities over vast domains. Though they were created perfect and on the first day that they were given life, they had a foundation of God’s knowledge, one-third still fell away into rebellion.

It began with Lucifer, one of God’s guardian angels. He was the first to slip away from God’s way. He eventually swept one-third of the heavenly creation to his side (Revelation 12:4). The kingdom planned by the Father and the Son beginning with two to encompass the creation in heaven and on earth, became the kingdom these wicked heavenly beings desired to take by force and battles erupted. It is a story mirrored on earth, kings striving to overpower nations and establish a one-world order.

The outcome of the great battle for the kingdom has already been revealed; Daniel recorded it. **“The Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom”** (Daniel 7:22) and **“Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him. This is the end of the matter”** (Daniel 7:27-28a).

The saints, mere weak mortals, will be awarded the kingdom! One-third of the heavenly rulers, powers and authorities who were given kingdoms by God in heaven and those given rulership over the nations on earth (Deuteronomy 32:8) failed to rule righteously. They abused their power and turned to overthrow God to take the supreme rulership in heaven and earth for themselves.

Not all of the heavenly rulers who were promised a kingdom have receive it. Still in the future, a great battle remains and “ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Revelation 17:12-14).

Jesus Christ will rule with the saints. They follow him wherever he goes. “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was **one like a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. **He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him.** His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).

A HOLY KINGDOM OF ROYAL PRIESTS

This great battle for the kingdom by the Ephesians 6:12 rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities was anticipated. The Father and the Son had already planned a second creation—a complimentary creation who too, would become rulers—special rulers, experts of God’s theology of love. They would form the body of Christ—a united membership of many humble, God-fearing and God-serving resurrected mortals from the creation on earth. God planned for a kingdom of priests who would grow in God’s grace and knowledge, suffer the horrors of sin and determine never to depart from living God’s way in eternal gratitude for God’s grace given to them.

“**You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites” (Exodus 19:6) and “But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession**, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9) and “you also, **like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (I Peter 2:5).

The big question both the Father and the Son faced was how to teach the second creation about this wonderful calling. Could it be that wickedness in heaven was too great to expose to fragile mankind, so they rolled out a covering of stars and planets until it would be time to roll it up.

“All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll...” (Isaiah 34:4a).

“The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place” (Revelation 6:14).

In God’s great wisdom, He decided to create mankind: male and female. The genders would mirror the first and second creation. The story of a perfect union between national and religious leadership would be preserved in the man and the woman.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

The story of a unique role and relationship was one of the mysteries revealed by the Apostle Paul, “**This is a great mystery**, but it is an **illustration of the way Christ and the church are one...** For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and **be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh**” (Ephesians 5:32, 31).

The marriage of a husband and a wife is a unique relationship between the genders. It was designed before creation to mirror the relationship of Christ and the faithful church. The first man, Adam created from the dust had no saving power within him, but the last Adam was sinless and able to save the whole world.

“Thus, it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; **the last Adam became a life-giving spirit**” (I Corinthians 15:45).

“Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while **Christ, the second man**, came from heaven” (I Corinthians 15:47).

The mirroring began with the creation of Adam before Eve because Christ existed before mankind. Adam, naming all the animals reflects God-given authority. Christ received authority from His Father; he created everything in heaven and earth and likely named everything, too.

Adam was put to sleep and Eve was created from him. Christ was put to death and upon his resurrection, mankind was freed from sin and given the opportunity again of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

The moment Adam saw Eve, he knew she was the perfect companion for him. The moment Christ saw the humble and faithful people of God, he knew she was the body of people that in eternal love, he would extend his rulership with. “For husbands, this means love your wives, just as **Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her**” (Ephesians 5:25).

CHRIST IS THE HEAD AND THE COVERING OF THE CHURCH

Christ became the covering of the church. “For **all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ**” (Galatians 3:27) and “He is also **head of the body, the church**; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that **He Himself will come to have first place in everything**” (Colossians 1:18).

Understanding that Christ is the head and the covering of the church, God continued to mirror the whole body of a woman as the faithful church. The Apostle Paul understood this imagery and explained it in I Corinthians 11.

“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God [the male gender was created to image God, the Son and the heavenly creation]; but the woman is the glory of man [the female gender was created to image mankind in relation to God, the Son and the heavenly creation]” (I Corinthians 11:7). The long beautiful hair of a woman images the glorious covering of Christ, her head. From the spiritual view, the married woman pictures the faithful church who willingly allows Christ to rule over her and she leans on him. She images the ministry and congregation leaning on Christ. When worshiping Almighty God, mankind [pictured as the woman] can come before God because Christ [the man] has covered their sins. God tells us that men should not have long hair because God, the Son and the righteous heavenly creation do not need a covering for sins because they have not sinned.

“And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is just as though her head were shaved” (I Corinthians 11:5). The mirroring of the woman praying or prophesying with a shaven head dishonors Christ and it is equivalent to the church coming before God as if they had never sinned and did not need a Savior, as well as teaching with their own authority. Christ is the covering for repentant mankind and he gives the church authority. They cannot give it to themselves.

God is transparent. Mankind can learn a lot about themselves through the female gender and where their place will be in God’s order of authority in eternity. He made it very clear that those who repent, are baptized and live in Christ are all equal and without distinction, but the order written by the Apostle Paul is rarely understood.

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:27-29).

“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are **one body in Christ**, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

ORDER OF AUTHORITY

While awaiting the resurrection, God is preserving the mirroring that reflects the order of authority that exists in heaven.

The Apostle Paul recorded in I Corinthians 11:3 an order that should be adhered to. If there is no distinction between the genders once mankind is resurrected, what order of authority is God preserving into eternity? “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man [physically: every man on earth, spiritually: the heavenly creation] is Christ, and the head of the woman [physically: husband or father, spiritually: the church] is man [Christ in heaven], and the head of Christ is God.”

1. **God Almighty is head of all.**
- 2a. **Christ rules second in-charge** ruling over all creation.
 - 2b. Christ’s bride will co-rule with Christ as a unified body; he is the head and she is his body.
3. **Other heavenly rulers** continue to rule and hold their original positions in their domain and continue to be **under Christ’s rule.**
4. The remaining resurrected of mankind will be subject to those above them; they are the least in the kingdom.

All of the national positions held by the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities will be filled by repentant mankind. God’s fallen holy council will be replaced by the repentant twelve tribes of Israel. Those who fall to the bottom of the order of authority—the least in the

kingdom are those “who **set aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly** will be called least in the kingdom of heaven...” (Matthew 5:19a). “For I tell you truly, until heaven and earth pass away, **not a single jot, not a stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law** until everything is accomplished” (Matthew 5:18).

God told Adam and Eve to replenish the earth, for He had plans to replenish the positions held by the fallen heavenly creation and fill the unique position of a kingdom of priests.

GENDERS ARE A MIRROR OF TWO CREATIONS

The Apostle Paul explained the mirroring of the genders to reveal the spiritual world. “Man [Christ] did not come from woman [the church], but woman [the church] from man [Christ]; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man” (I Corinthians 11:8).

The Apostle Paul used the imagery of the genders to explain that Christ did not come from the church, but the church received life from Christ and Christ was not created for the church, but the church was created for Christ. He continued, “It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels” (I Corinthians 11:10). This is a difficult scripture to understand. It is a spiritual teaching. It is surmised that the church, called to become a kingdom of priests, was created for Christ, the High Priest and not vice versa. “Because of the angels” may refer to the rogue angels of Ephesians 6:12 who given the chance would love to force the covering of Christ from the church, but God has given the church power to keep them from being forced under a different covering by any other heavenly being.

From the view of the spiritual world, the male is given the leadership role while the female supports and follows. If physical men and women think one gender is more superior than the other, they are mistaken. The Apostle Paul made it clear when he wrote, “In the Lord [from God’s view], woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman” (I Corinthians 11:11-12). The genders are equal in God’s view. Male and female were created to teach mankind about the spiritual plan of God, which incorporates all beings from both worlds of creation. Believers are all equal members of Christ’s body; no member is more valued over another. If a member is devalued by another, God will elevate the “devalued” member to ensure all members are respected equally (I Corinthians 12:14-26).

The story of Eve is the story of mankind. She was deceived and sinned; all of mankind have sinned through deception. Adam sinned knowingly; he images the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities who have sinned knowingly.

When Eve sinned, God knew that the faithful church would suffer martyrdom and persecution in order to bring a congregation into eternal life; like all mothers, childbirth would come through pain (Genesis 3:16). This pain, God said He would increase because mankind would go through a testing by fire to purify them. Ultimately, the repentant will endure and come out of it, radiant and beautiful. The people of the first resurrection will be the New Jerusalem that

gives glory to the work of God's hands and fills Him with pride. She will marry Christ and he will set her on a pedestal.

MANKIND'S ENEMIES WILL BE REVEALED

For centuries men have not treated women as they would want for themselves. It is due to the teaching of the rogue sons of God given authority over the nations on earth at the time of Babel (Deuteronomy 32:8). These heavenly rulers were at one time, righteous, but pride entered and they became jealous of the calling of mankind. Through Christ, Christians are taught to respect each other as equals and respect the different roles given to them by God. The influence of the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12 will manifest itself in the genders on earth, until they are all overthrown.

Before the Millennium, the sky will be rolled back and all of the imagery and reflections through the genders will disappear as the spiritual world opens up and the reality of the hidden is now in plain sight. Until then, we look intently through a dark glass seeking to see into God's wonderful world for His creation.

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