



The Best is yet to Come



Satan left the garden and gathered his army. When God threw him out of Mount Zion, that slimy enemy had convinced other angels, cherubim, and spirits to follow him as well. Now he had an entire team of villains at his disposal who would also go back and forth on the earth seeking to destroy God's creation and plan.

I don't want you to be overcome with worry, so I'll tell you they'll ultimately fail, but it won't happen for a very long time.

I'd like to say that Adam and Eve went on living in the garden and that from that day forward everything improved, but sadly it wasn't to be. Part of the couple's punishment was being forced out of Eden. A cherubim, one who still followed God, stood at the edge of the garden with a flaming sword to make sure they couldn't come back in.

And from that day forward, death did reign. Death, like a shadow, a blanket, or veil, fell across the entire creation in that one disobedient moment. With sin entering the world and, therefore, death, many things changed. The great prophet Isaiah, who wasn't born yet in the days of Adam and Eve, would later write a story about what will happen at the end of time, when God's great hero returns to finally destroy the devil, sin, and death. Isaiah would eventually say a peculiar thing, "And the lion shall eat straw like the oxen." Isn't that strange? The lion grazing in the field like a cow? Though I can't be certain, I think that is how it must have been in the garden before sin and death corrupted everything.

But now, there was predator and prey. Now there was sickness and disease. Now, all of creation became sharper, toxic, and vile. Now there was a sting in the bee, the ants competed for resources, the eagle set his nest on high for safety from the dangers below, the doe gave birth to fawns who became food for the lions, the goat missed his footing and fell into broken piles, the chipmunks and squirrels were hunted by the snakes, and Adam and Eve; well they suffered, and toiled, and wept, and found themselves far from the God they once visited with in the cool shade and soft grasses of Eden.

Adam and Eve would have many, many children, as they lived a very long time. Much longer than you or I will live. Adam himself lived 939 years. You and I are also descendants of Adam and Eve, since we know that "from one blood, one man and woman, came every nation and race of mankind." But their kids weren't very good, and the world grew ever more wicked. People continued to disobey and dishonor God. Nearly 1500 years had passed since that fateful day in Eden, but people weren't getting better. In fact, it seemed that every intention of every person on the planet was only evil all the time, and the world was plunged into such a wicked darkness that God made a decision.

"I have decided that I won't put up with these wicked people any longer. Their evil has piled up so high it practically reaches heaven. I will give them one hundred and twenty years more, and then I shall bring them to an end." I wonder what the angels and cherubim must have thought? We know that the Seraphim continued to say what they have always said since the beginning of their creation, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory."

I wonder if Satan smiled an evil smile. I wonder if he thought to himself, "Finally, after all this time, the Creator has given up." I wonder if Satan thought he had won.

The timer was set. The hourglass was turned. The sand began to fall. Man's days on the earth were numbered. Death was finally coming to them all.

But don't worry.

The best is yet to come.