As in the PAYS OF NOAH

"It's a mystery."

She didn't stop but worked feverishly sorting through the puzzle pieces.

"What do you have there!" He peered over her, struggling nearly to a fall. "You've made a game—a jigsaw puzzle!"



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"Nope. I'm solving a mystery."

He chuckled. "Nice. Are you going to share more?"

"Okay. What did Yashuah mean when he said, "Just **as it was in the days of Noah,** so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man: People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26 and Matthew 24:37).

"You know the answer to that." He turned walking away.

"Can we be sure that we know the answer?" She scratched her head staring down at the table covered with scribbled notes on ripped paper, drawings over diagrams, flowcharts, family trees, and objects strategically placed along a timeline of sorts, all pieces to her very big puzzle.

"It's a no brainer. How about Genesis 6:5 'Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.' They were wicked."

"Is that the complete story?" She returned a look of disappointment. "What did we do to cause the God who is love to say this, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them'" (Genesis 6:7). Come on think about it..." She hesitated for a long moment, "Blot out HIS creation both man and animals?"

"Okay," he rung his hands. "Give me those puzzle pieces—I'll help you. Where are you going with this?"

"Do you have the mindset of a king, a warrior king—like King David?" She replied, tauntingly.

"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings, Proverbs 25:2. I will never turn down a challenge to investigate and solve a hidden mystery of God." He started fitting pieces together. "So, you think there's more to the story of the flood?"

"Yup! I want to know:

- What level of evil triggers God's anger to the point of complete destruction?
- What behaviour brings the Creator who is love and loves His creation to the point of destroying them with a flood, yet after the flood, sacrificed His most loyal and closest son to save mankind?
- What brings a long suffering, patient God to feel such intense sadness and regret that He would grieve His creation?
- People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
- When God destroyed people, what were they doing that warranted their death?"
- There are specific times when God has ordered and will order a significant intervention or destruction:
 - 1. Destruction of the earth with a worldwide flood
 - 2. Intervention after the building of the tower of Babel, God assigned the nations to his heavenly court to rule over them
 - 3. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - 4. Destruction of whole clans and groups of people living in the Promised Land
 - 5. Intervention by divorcing the 10 tribes—house of Israel
 - 6. End-time destruction by fire during a time that God describes "as in the days of Noah"

What is common in all of these occasions?"

"I suggest we take each one of these events and analyse them. I guess you have already thought of that." He chuckled.

"Now, that is what these puzzle pieces are all about. I have a pile for each of the events. Let's begin with the flood."

"You're prepared!"

He picked a stack and smiled, watching her through the corner of his eye.



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). YET, He destroyed the ancient world with a flood, saving only eight people: Noah and his family. Why?

Genesis 6 "When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose... The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown... The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So, the Lord said, "I will destroy mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

"And **the angels** who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In like manner, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who indulged in **sexual immorality and pursued strange flesh**, are on display as an example of those who sustain the punishment of eternal fire" (Jude 6-7).

Flavius Josephus (37-100 AD), Writing on the race of giants says, "For many angels of God [This notion, that the fallen angels were, in some sense, the fathers of the old giants, was the constant opinion of antiquity] accompanied with women, and begat sons that **proved unjust**, and **despisers of all that was good**, on account of **the confidence they had in their own strength**; for the tradition is, that these men did what resembled the acts of those whom the Grecians call giants." http://www.generationword.com/notes/bible-topics/josephus giants.htm

"For if **God did not spare angels** when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he **did not spare the ancient world** when he brought the flood on its **ungodly people**; if he **condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah** by burning them to ashes, and **made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly**; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard... then God knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. This is especially true of those who follow the **corrupt desire of the sinful nature** and **despise authority**" (II Peter 2:4-10).

"For in the resurrection they **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, but are **like angels of God in heaven** [Sexual relations are on earth but **not in heaven**]" (Matt 22:30).

The text does not say angels cannot have sexual relations; it says they don't have sexual relations in heaven.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and **between your offspring and hers**; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

The sentence of destruction by a great flood involved a worldwide perverted desire to engage in relationships with the angels/sons of God. The result of the relationships produced off-spring who were ruthless and evil, prodigy of the enemies of God. This rebellious activity was all about relying on self [not God], self-elevation through supernatural physical strength and power.

Intervention by assigning the nations heavenly rulers: sons of God in the heavenly court, after the building of the tower of Babel

What prompted God to separate the people into 70 groups and assign these groups to the members of His holy court?

Sons of God: The **morning stars** were singing together and all the **sons of God** (beney elohim) shouted for joy when God (Elohim) laid the foundation of the earth (Job 38:4-7). These sons of God were not mere messengers, angels (mal'ak); they are divine beings with authority.

Divine Council: God deems that it was time for King Ahab to die and His council decided on how it would happen. God's Divine Council meet and He calls on them to participate in decisions regarding matters involving mankind. "And he [Micaiah] said, "Therefore, hear the word of Yahuah. I saw Yahuah sitting on his throne with all the hosts of heaven standing beside him from his right hand and from his left hand. And Yahuah said, 'Who will entice Ahab so that he will go up and fall at Ramoth-Gilead?' Then this one was saying one thing and the other one was saying another. Then a spirit came out and stood before Yahuah and said, 'I will entice him,' and Yahuah said to him, 'How?' He said, 'I will go out and I will be a false spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You shall entice and succeed, go out and do so.' So then, see that Yahuah has placed a false spirit in the mouth of all of these your prophets, and Yahuah has spoken disaster concerning you" (1 Kings 22:19–23).

Meet to report: The sons of God come before Yahuah and report on business. "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among" (Job 1:6).

One angel in particular: "How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, 'I will raise my throne above the starts of God; I will sit enthrone on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain" (Isaiah 14:12-13).

Sons of God assigned to the nations: Deuteronomy 32:8 has not be translated consistently between translators. "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples **according to the number of the sons of Israel**" (NIV, KJ, NASB to mention a few).

Qumran text: "When Elyon gave the nations as an inheritance, when he separated the sons of man, he set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God (bny 'I[hym]). For Yahweh's portion was his people; Jacob was the lot of his inheritance."

Septuagint: "When the Most High divided the nations, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the boundaries of the nations according to the number of the angels of God (aggelón theou). And his people Jacob became the portion of the Lord, Israel was the line of his inheritance."

Masoretic Text: "When Elyon gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all the sons of man, he set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel (bny yshr'l). For Yahweh's portion was his people, Jacob was the lot of his inheritance."

Mike Heiser writes, "Most English Bibles do not read 'according to the number of the sons of God' in Deuteronomy 32:8. Rather, they read 'according to the number of the sons of Israel.' The difference derives from disagreements between manuscripts of the Old Testament. 'Sons of God' is the correct reading, as is now known from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The notion that the nations of the world were geographically partitioned and owe their terrestrial identity to the sovereign God takes the reader back to the Table of Nations in Genesis 10-11, and two details there regarding God's apportionment of the earth that are important for the context of the textual debate in Deuteronomy 32:8. First, the Table of Nations catalogs seventy nations, but Israel is not included in the inventory. Second, the use of the same Hebrew root in both passages to describe the "separation" of humankind and the nations substantiates the long-recognized observation of scholars that Genesis 10-11 are the backdrop to the statement in Deuteronomy 32:8. Israel alone is Yahweh's portion and so is not numbered among the seventy other nations." (Mike Heiser, Deuteronomy 32:8 and the Sons of God, p. 2).

"Deuteronomy 32:8–9 harks back to events at the Tower of Babel, an event that occurred **before the call of Abraham**, the father of the nation of Israel. **This means that the nations of**

the earth were divided at Babel before Israel even existed as a people. God decreed, in the wake of Babel, that the other nations he had forsaken would have other gods besides himself to worship" (Mike Heiser, *Unseen Realm*, p. 68).

"And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be a people for His own possession, as you are now" (Deuteronomy 4:19-20).

Why the people built the tower of Babel: "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name of ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4).

The rogue sons of God will be judged; they will perish: King David understood the Divine Council. He said, "God presides in the great assembly, he gives judgment among the 'gods' (Psalm 82:1). God responds to King David's plea to punish the rogue sons of God, "I said, 'You are gods'; you are all sons of the Most High. But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler" (Psalm 82:6-7).

"The Lord Almighty made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding... Every man is senseless and without knowledge; every goldsmith is shamed by his idols. His images are a fraud; they have no breath in them. They are worthless, the objects of mockery; when their judgment comes, they will perish [this statement likely refers to the rogue sons of God who taught nations to worship idols made of wood and stone]. He who is the Portion of Jacob is not like these, for he is the Maker of all things, including the tribe of his inheritance—The Lord Almighty is his name" (Jeremiah 51:15-19).

"At the time of your appearing, you will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; the LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, and fire will devour them. **Their offspring You will destroy from the earth, and their descendants from among the sons of men.** Though they intended evil against You and devised a plot, they will not succeed" (Psalm 21:9-11).

Yahuah only is perfect: "What is a human being, that he can be clean, or that one born of a woman can be righteous? Look, He puts no trust in His holy ones, and the heavens are not clean in his eyes" (Job 15:14-15). The only perfect Being is Yahuah.

The people at the time of building the tower of Babel remembered how it was before the flood. Noah and his family were still alive. These people were resurrecting "the good old days." So early after the flood, the lesson was not learned. God had to stop them from returning to self-elevation and self-reliance through calling on supernatural help. So, He divided them up to be ruled by 70 sons of God in His heavenly court. Unfortunately, these sons of God turned against God Almighty. Could they be the RECENTLY APPEARED gods in Deuteronomy 32:17? "They

sacrificed to false gods, which are not God-- gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your ancestors did not fear." A full understanding of life in heaven is not understood by most 21st century believers. The concept that spiritual beings can sin, that there are many sons of God, many angels who serve God as messengers, and heavenly entities who serve God in various roles is a blur for many Christians.



A quick destruction—God was not going to tolerate the resurrection of antediluvian behaviour.

"And **the angels** who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. **In like manner**, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who indulged in **sexual immorality and pursued strange flesh**, are on display as an example of those who sustain the punishment of eternal fire" (Jude 6-7).

"And the angels who neglected their responsibilities and abandoned their homes he has put in everlasting chains to be kept in darkness for the judgment of the great Day, **just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring towns which LIKE THEM indulged in immorality and unnatural vice stand** as a warning, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire" (Jude 6 -7, Smith & Goodspeed Translation).

Consistent with the destruction during the great flood, God only destroys those who engage in activities that bind themselves with His enemies. God allowed the sacrifice of His Son to save sinners who have done atrocious acts, but He is NOT willing to save those who bind themselves with His enemies, specifically the rogue rulers, powers and authorities in heaven.

Restruction of whole clans and groups of people lixing around and in the promised land

God decides who lives and who lives where.

• Lot was given land by God as a possession and the Emin (Rephaim) were destroyed. "Do not harass Moab or contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the people of Lot for a possession.' (The Emim formerly lived there, a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim. Like the Anakim they are also **counted as Rephaim**, but the Moabites call them Emim. The Horites also lived in Seir formerly, but the people of Esau dispossessed them and **destroyed them from before them** and settled in their place..." (Deuteronomy 2:10-12).

- "Do not harass Ammon or contend with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot for a possession.' (It is also counted as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly lived there—but the Ammonites call them Zamzummim—a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim; but the Lord destroyed them before the Ammonites, and they dispossessed them and settled in their place" (Deuteronomy 2:18-21).
- "—as he did for the people of Esau, who live in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites before them and they dispossessed them and settled in their place even to this day" (Deuteronomy 2:22).
- Israel spies out the land and brings back a bad report: "So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them" (Numbers 13:32–33).
- Israelites destroy King Sihon and King Og: Then we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. But the Lord said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.' So the Lord our God gave into our hand Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people, and we struck him down until he had no survivor left.... And we devoted them to destruction, as we did to Sihon the king of Heshbon, devoting to destruction every city, men, women, and children. But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as our plunder" (Deuteronomy 3:1-7).
- Flavius Josephus (37-100 AD) wrote, "For which reason they removed their camp to Hebron; and when they had taken it, they slew all the inhabitants. There were till then the race of giants, who had bodies so large, and countenances so entirely different from other men, that they were surprising to the site, and terrible to the hearing. The bones of these men are still shown to this very day, unlike to any credible relations of other men." http://www.generationword.com/notes/bible-topics/josephus giants.htm
 In all of these battles, it was really God who threw the deadly hit for the Israelites, descendants of Lot and Esau. "Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath. Also, it was I who brought you up out

of the land of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite" (Amos 2:9–10).

Common in all of the battles of the Israelites and the descendants of Lot and Esau was the total destruction of the clans of giants, Nephilim. There were Nephilim before and after the flood known under different names such as Rephaim and Zamzummim.



What attracted the house of Israel to desire to be like the nations around them, following their gods and taking on their **detestable practices**, which eventually resulted in their divorce from the loving God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

God warned them: "When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do so" (Deuteronomy 8:9-13).

Yet, still they "lusted after the nations and defiled themselves with their idols: (Ezekiel 23:30)... the house of Judah too, "lusted after the Assyrians—governors and commanders, warriors in full dress, mounted horsemen, all handsome young men... both of them went the same way" (Ezekiel 23:12-13). "When she carried on her prostitution openly and exposed her nakedness, God turned away from her in disgust, just as He had turned away from her sister" (Ezekiel 23:18).

"They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them" (Deuteronomy 29:26). "They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your ancestors did not fear" (Deuteronomy 32:17).

The house of Israel and the house of Judah will not go unjudged. "Confront them with their detestable practices, for they have committed adultery and blood is on their hands. They committed adultery with their idols, they even sacrificed their children, whom they bore to me, as food for them. They have also done this to me: At the same time, they defiled my sanctuary and desecrated my Sabbaths" (Ezekiel 23:36-38). "I will judge each of you according

to your own ways" (Ezekiel 33:20). "You rely on your sword, you do detestable things... your proud strength will come to an end, and the mountains [governments] of Israel will become desolate so that no one will cross them. Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I have made the land a desolate waste because of all the detestable things you have done" (Ezekiel 33:26,28).

"Son of man, have you seen what the elders of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land'" (Ezekiel 8:12).

"I gave **faithless Israel her certificate of divorce** and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery" (Jeremiah 3:8).

"I will cast you away and you will be wanderers among the nations" (Hosea 9:17).

"O house of Israel? As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "I will not be inquired of by you. What comes into your mind will not come about, when you say: 'We will be like the nations, like the tribes of the lands, serving wood and stone.' "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" (Ezekiel 20: 31-33).

It appears that the Israelites were very attracted to the self-elevating, showy outward display of might, power, and leadership of the nations around them. The ruling nations had a powerful army, strong and controlling economic systems, and mighty structures—an awesome display, glorifying THEMSELVES. The gods demanded a price for the knowledge they shared that provided the glory the nations craved. They were to worship these RECENT rogue gods and worshiping involved horrific and detestable practices. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob loves the poor in spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers (Matthew 5). God wants his people to be humble, leaning on Him, serving and trusting Him. Understanding the greatness of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the realization that we are nothing, except that He still loves us and He sacrificed His son to redeem us. He longs for our return and within His plan, the repentant will become His sons and rule in His kingdom.

God will not let the house of Judah and Israel live like the nations. He has given them over to get their fill, but on the horizon rests a time of great distress—Jacob's trouble. They will fall and the remnant who remain will repent and humble themselves. God will cleanse them; they will remember their deeds and loathe themselves (Ezekiel 36:24-31).

The prophesied end-time destruction described by God 'as in the days of Noah'

God promised that He will never again destroy the earth with a flood, but He has prophesied that He will destroy the earth by fire. The destruction by fire will be the end-time destruction, which Christ described as like the days of Noah. What characteristics is specific to the days of Noah that leads to the destruction of the earth by fire?

"The days of punishment are coming; the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the **prophet is considered a fool**, the **inspired man a maniac**. The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God. They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins" (Hosea 9:7-9).

The tribe of Benjamin was nearly wiped out over the incident in Gibeah. A near destruction event.

Ellicott's Commentary: Gibeah—is **emblematic of gross and cruel sensuality**, in allusion to Judges 19:20, **just as Sodom is used for unnatural vice**.

"As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, **people were eating and drinking**, **marrying and giving in marriage**, up to the day Noah entered the ark" (Matthew 24:37).

Life appears to be normal, but it is? Eating and drinking: "My master is taking a long time in coming," and he then begins to beat the men-servants and women-servants and to eat and drink and **get drunk**. **The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.** He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers" (Luke 12:45-46).

Life appears to be normal, but it is? Marrying and giving in marriage: This was age of the Nephilim, the age of Nimrod, the age of men of renown. 21st century believers are living in the age of Transhumanism.

en.Wikipedia.org: Transhumanism (abbreviated as H+ or h+) is an international and intellectual movement that aims to transform the human condition by developing and creating widely available sophisticated technologies to greatly enhance human intellectual, physical, and psychological capacities. Transhumanist thinkers study the potential benefits and dangers of emerging technologies that could overcome fundamental human limitations, as well as the ethics of using such technologies. The most common transhumanist thesis is that human beings may eventually be able to transform themselves into different beings with abilities so greatly expanded from the natural condition as to merit the label of posthuman beings.

"Transhumans are people who have been artificially enhanced with mental and/or physical abilities beyond what is considered normal for the species from an evolutionary standpoint. Despite the name, species-wide artificial improvement is not actually limited to humans - other species or entities that are enhanced count as well. The means used for this augmentation can be anything from magic to science." http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Transhuman

Transhumanism is defined as "the intellectual and cultural movement that affirms the possibility and desirability of fundamentally improving the human condition through applied reason, especially by using technology to eliminate aging and greatly enhance human intellectual, physical, and psychological capacities" - Nick Bostrum, 1999. A posthuman would no longer be a human being, having been so significantly altered as to no longer represent the human species. Underlying this worldview is a core belief that the human species in its current form does not represent the end of our development, but rather its beginning - Nick Bostrum, 1999.

http://www.thenanoage.com/transhumanism-posthumanism.htm



Daniel prophesied: "The king will do as he pleases. He will **exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods**. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. **He will show no regard for the God of his fathers** or for the one desired by women [Christ], nor will he

regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor... he will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people" (Daniel 11:36-39).

The gods on earth will come out from the shadows. Satan and his coalition will be thrown out of heaven and fall like lightning across the international skies onto earth.

"For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again" (Matthew 24:21).

"Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark of his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:11-17).

The Almighty God will prevail: "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."

"All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing. Even the pine trees and the cedars of Lebanon exult over you and say, 'Now that you [Babylon] have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down [the powerful rogue heavenly rulers will be restrained, no longer a threat to the righteous heavenly creation]... All your pomp has been brought down to the grave..."

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn... Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: 'Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?'... Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people. The offspring of the wicked will never be mentioned again. Prepare a place to slaughter his sons for the sins of their forefathers; they are not to rise to inherit the land and cover the earth with their cities.

'I will rise up against them,' declares the Lord Almighty.

'I will cut off from Babylon her name and survivors, her offspring and descendants,' declares the Lord. (Isaiah 14:3-22)

"I will leave within you the meek and humble, who trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid" (Zephaniah 3:12-13).

"Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago" (Micah 7:18-20).

"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Ultimately, we battle not against flesh and blood but against rulers, powers and principalities in heavenly places. 21st century believers minimize the spirit world because right now the archangel Michael is restraining the evil principalities and they live without direct interaction. But a time like that of the days of Noah, will unveil itself soon. It won't be a surprise to those studying and searching for truth, but it will surprise and initially excite most of the world, many who are enjoying the action heroes of the movies. They will get swept into the philosophy of our enemy and desire to become as god without accepting the sacrifice of our Savior.

They stood staring at each other—smiling.

"The pieces fit!" She shouted and flew her arms up.

"Lots of hard work but worth the energy searching, researching, and searching yet again." He sighed out loud. Then suddenly, he broke the moment of excitement by grabbing her arm. He startled her.

"Would you say that you are a good listener?" He asked.

"I have listened to hundreds of people. Does that count?" She giggled.

"I guess—"

"Come on," she interrupted. "What do you want to say? I am listening!"

He hesitated. "Well, you may think of me as a conspiracy theorist, a bringer of bad news, or someone who revels in the dark places digging up the weird and—"

"Enough. You won't surprise me nor will you frighten me. Spit it out!"

"Okay, I am going to go out on a limb—the alien abductions—could there be Nephilim involved? Could they be making a hybrid army in the shadows, in their secret places?"

"I believe in the powers and principalities in high places." She gave him a confirming nod. "I would not be surprised. You know the scripture in Hosea 9 talking about end-times, 'the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac'. Remember in Hosea 3:4, 'For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince [no direct rulership by God or gods], without sacrifice or sacred stones [no acts for forgiveness or acts to appease], without ephod or household gods [not keeping a pure religion, but mixing it with false religion].' We have been living for the 'many days' of Hosea, superficially believing in God and mythicizing the gods. I stand by your suggestion."

She squeezed his hand. "You know—it's my turn to go out on a limb—are you ready?"

"Here we go." They chuckled.

"Okay-

I think we all would agree that—Adam was created first, named all the animals, and concluded shortly afterwards that he was alone and incomplete—in some way. So, God put him to sleep and created Eve from one of his ribs. Then, shortly afterwards sin entered the world.

Now—Christ, the final Adam existed before Eve [mankind] ruling as both Melchizedek—God's high priest and King of Salem. We know from scripture that Christ has been anointed King of kings and Lord of lords. Could it be that God foreknew the events that would take place on earth before He created mankind on earth? So, He wove into the completion of the creation the redemption plan for mankind mirrored in the creation of Adam and Eve. I would say that Christ ruling as King of kings and Lord of lords will need a suitable co-ruler who loves righteousness, who will without question die for him as he died for her, who hates wickedness and will battle like a warrior to restore things as they once were before iniquity was found.

God uses coded language to keep the wicked on earth and in heaven in the dark. The creation of Adam and Eve mirrored the birth of the righteous church through Christ. The union of the Adam and Eve mirrors the marriage of Christ and the church; they will corule. He existed before the creation of mankind and participated in the creation of mankind. When Eve sinned, God said that her desire would be for her husband and he will rule over her (Genesis 3:16b). Eve images the church who is Christ's bride. She will **lean** on her husband for His direction and strength, as He is the head and she is the body. Together, this union will be a monarchial rule with a King [Christ] from the heavenly realm

and a Queen [the saints] from the earthly realm and the two realms will unite under one rulership with God Almighty reigning supreme."

"Wow!" He stood amazed. "Going out on a limb may be the journey into the deep things of God. This journey is exciting. I will be forever grateful for what the Spirit of God shares with me. Hey! Consider how Noah must have been mocked and ridiculed during the one-hundred years of building the ark. It will happen again "as in the days of Noah" the righteous will be persecuted and put to death, and will be hated by all nations because of Christ (Matthew 24:9).

"Yes," she added, "the nations Jesus is referring to are the nations of the world except for the twelve nations of 21st century Israel because these people will be in captivity serving the nations who will be worshiping Satan. 'Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, 'Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?'" (Revelation 13:4).



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"You know..." He sighed. "That is why many 'will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people' (Matthew 24:10)... it will be a very dark time in man's history."

He gently caressed her cheek. "As in the days of Noah, those serving God will suffer, but in their suffering, they will grow and become strong in the Lord. They may not know the exact hour of Christ's return, but they will be filled with hope knowing in absolute surety that they will be saved, while the wicked will be caught off guard thinking that they live in peace when death stands at their door."

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich