

The GREAT Mystery

God and Mankind

Part 1

- **Who is God?**
- **Is God Alone?**
- **Mankind**
- **What is happening in the heavens and on earth?**
- **What is happening in God's Government**
- **One Son Succeeds!**
- **The End of the Matter**

WHO IS GOD?

○ **Eternal**

"Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable" (Job 36:26).

"But You, O LORD, abide forever, And Your name to all generations" (Psalm 102:12).

"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I have known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please'" (Isaiah 46:9-10).

○ **All powerful**

"'Who is my equal?' says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens, who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing" (Isaiah 40:25-26).

"To whom, then, will you compare God... He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in" (Isaiah 40:18, 22).

○ **Creator, source of all power**

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired His understanding is inscrutable" (Isaiah 40:28).

"This is what God the LORD says—he created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it..." (Isaiah 42:5).

IS GOD ALONE?

○ His ONLY beloved Son, Co-Creator

- Jesus Christ, Yahshua Hamashiach, Melchizedek, King of Salem and Co-Creator was with Almighty God BEFORE the creation of Heaven and Earth.
- “Christ is the **visible image of the invisible God**. He **existed before anything was created** and is **supreme over all creation**. For **in Him all things were created**, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. **All things were created through Him and for Him**” (Colossians 1:15-16).
- Paul wrote to the Colossians and verse 1:15-16 states that Jesus Christ is:
 - The visible image of invisible God
 - Existed BEFORE creation
 - Supreme over all creation
 - Through God the Father’s power, Christ created all things
 - All things were created through him and for him.

○ His great assembly, sons of God

“**God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the ‘gods’**” (Psalm 82:1).
“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundations? ...On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the **morning stars sang together** and **ALL THE SONS OF GOD SHOUTED FOR JOY?**” (Job 38:6-7)

“And so the heavens will praise your wonderful deed, O Yahuah, even your faithfulness, in the **assembly of the holy ones**. For **who in the sky is equal to Yahuah? Who is like Yahuah among the sons of God, A GOD FEARED GREATLY IN THE COUNCIL OF THE HOLY ONES**, and awesome above all surrounding him?” (Psalm 89:5-7).

○ 24 Elders

“Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads” (Revelation 4:4).

“When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held the golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (Revelation 5:8).

○ 4 Living Creatures

“And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf’s foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the

face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle" (Ezekiel 1:5-10).

- **Archangels and Seraphim**

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, **Michael, one of the chief princes**, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia" (Daniel 10:13).

"But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" (Jude 1:9)

"The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news" (Luke 1:19).

- **Other Angels**

"To which of the angels did God ever say, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?' Are not all angels ministering spirits, sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters..." (Revelation 17:1).

- **Mankind**

- What is the purpose of Mankind?**

- "Of what importance is the human race, that you should notice them? Of what importance is mankind, that you should pay attention to them?" (Psalm 8:4)

- **God's NEWEST creation was made to rule.**

- "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground' ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26).

- **Mortals promised eternal life upon repentance**

- "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.** No one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).

- **Repentance of what? Repentance from breaking the Law of God and desire to carefully keep the Laws of God**

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

God’s law establishes ORDER: The Order of Love

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 New International Version (NIV))

○ **Satan, Prince of the Power of the Air**

Satan was never given rulership over the nations on earth nor did he gain it through the fall of man. He influences mankind through thought then attitude, which leads to wrongful actions. The fall of man is evidence of the power Satan has over the air.

“As for you, you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:1-2).

○ **What is happening in the heavens?**

Rebellion!

“Behold, **He puts no trust in His holy ones**, And **the heavens are not pure in His sight**. How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water!” (Job 15:15-16)

“Can mankind be just before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker? **He puts no trust even in His servants; and against His angels, He charges error**. How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before the moth!” (Job 4:17-19).

“**God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the ‘gods.’ 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 82:1, 6-7).

○ **What is happening on earth?**

Rebellion!

At the time of Babel, rebellion erupted again, so, God gave His sons in His heavenly court rulership over the nations on earth to teach them the Way of God. God also participated and He gave himself the people of Israel. It is recorded in the Song of Moses.

“When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided up the human race, he set boundaries for the peoples **according to the number in his heavenly court**” (New Living Translation Deuteronomy 32:8).

God’s portion are the descendants of Jacob/Israel. “For the LORD’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance” (Deuteronomy 32:9).

- **The sons of God failed to rule righteously over the nations!**

“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).

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**” (Ephesians 6:12).

- **What is their Story?**

Ezekiel 31 tells it all! God is talking to His son ruling over Egypt and prophesying his downfall, like the greatest son before him—Assyria.

“Who can be compared with you [son of God ruling over Egypt] in majesty? Consider Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches overshadowing the forest... The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it, nor could the pine trees equal its boughs, nor could the plane tree compare with its branches—no tree in the garden of God could match its beauty. I made it beautiful... the envy of all the trees of Eden in the garden of God” (Ezekiel 31:3).

- **Who are these trees in God’s garden?**

The cedars, the pine, the plane trees? God is using imagery to describe the different levels within His government held by His sons in His family. Egypt will fall like all of the sons who were God’s most skilled, trained and knowledgeable.

“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.... ‘Which of the trees of Eden can be compared with you in splendor and majesty? Yet you, too, will be brought down with the trees of Eden to the earth below; you will lie among the uncircumcised [wicked], with those killed by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his hordes,’ declares the Sovereign LORD” (Ezekiel 31:16-18).

- **A Painful Disappointment for God**

The tall and lofty, highly skilled, knowledgeable and wise son of God—a great leader in the heavens fell because he became proud and ruthless.

“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... On the day it was brought down to the

grave I covered the deep springs with mourning for it... I clothed Lebanon with gloom..." (Ezekiel 31:10b, 15).

"There is no healing for your wound; your injury is fatal. All who hear of your destruction will clap their hands for joy. Where can anyone be found who has not suffered from your continual cruelty?" (Nahum 3:19)

○ **Their Day of Judgment**

"For the LORD of hosts will have a day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty and against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased. He will cut down the tall cedars of Lebanon [the rogue sons of God] and all the mighty oaks of Bashan [the offspring/giants]. Against all the lofty mountains, against all the hills that are lifted up" (Isaiah 2:12-14).

"Open your doors, O Lebanon, so that fire may devour your cedars!

- Wail, O pine tree, for the cedar has fallen; the stately trees are ruined!
- Wail, oaks of Bashan; the dense forest has been cut down!
- Listen to the wail of the shepherds; their rich pastures are destroyed!
- Listen to the roar of the lions; the lush thicket of the Jordan is ruined!" (Zechariah 11:1-3).

These rogue gods failed to see God's plan

King Sennacherib said, "**Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely.** And will you [Judah] be delivered? Did the gods of the nations that were destroyed by my forefathers deliver them..."

God responded directly to the prince ruling over King Sennacherib, "Have you not heard? **Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it, now I have brought it to pass, that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone.** [God planned a long time ago to use this rogue kingdom to punish weaker rogue rulers. It came to pass just because God authorized it.] Their people, drained of power, are dismayed and put to shame. **They are like plants in the field, like tender green shoots, like grass sprouting on the housetops, scorched before it grows up.** But I know where you stay and when you come and go and how you rage against me. Because you rage against me and your insolence has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came" (II Kings 19:25-28).

"In that day the LORD will punish **the powers in the heavens above** and **the kings on the earth below.** They will be herded together, like prisoners gathered in the **pit**; they shall be shut up in the prison and **punished after many days**" (Isaiah 24:22).

○ **One Son Succeeds
The Splendid Cedar**

These cedars were majestic, royal sons holding very high positions of authority, and eternal as cedar wood implies.

God said, “**I myself** will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from the topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. **On the mountain heights of Israel**, I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and **become a splendid cedar... All the trees of the field will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish**” (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

- **God’s Eternal Kingdom**

God’s Kingdom: “In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom [a government in heaven] that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms [earthly governments], and it itself will stand to times indefinite” (Daniel 2:44).

Unseen heavenly battles have and continue to take place to forcefully take rulership from God Almighty. He, at the time of Babel, offered His heavenly council positions of rulership, but they failed.

Only ONE son succeeded.

- **Christ is the ONLY Heir**

- God sent Christ, the last Adam.
- Christ is the tested stone who did not sin—he is the Savior of ALL mankind. He is God’s ONLY heir who will rule with Him.
- God has declared Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.
- He will restore all things as they were prior to iniquity.

- **Christ shares his rulership**

God Almighty determines the outcome of the battle for rulership.

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man[Christ], coming with the clouds in 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).

“But the court will sit... 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 7:26-28).

- **That is the end of the matter!**

“That power is like the working of his [God’s] mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him 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 1:19b-23).

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ — if indeed we suffer with Him, so that we may also be glorified with Him. I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us” (Romans 8:17-18).

But... who?

- Who are the people of the Most High?
- Who are the saints?
- Who is Christ’s Bride?
- Who are the 7 churches of Revelation?
- What is God’s plan for His people?
- What is God’s plan for ALL of mankind?

To be continued in part 2.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich