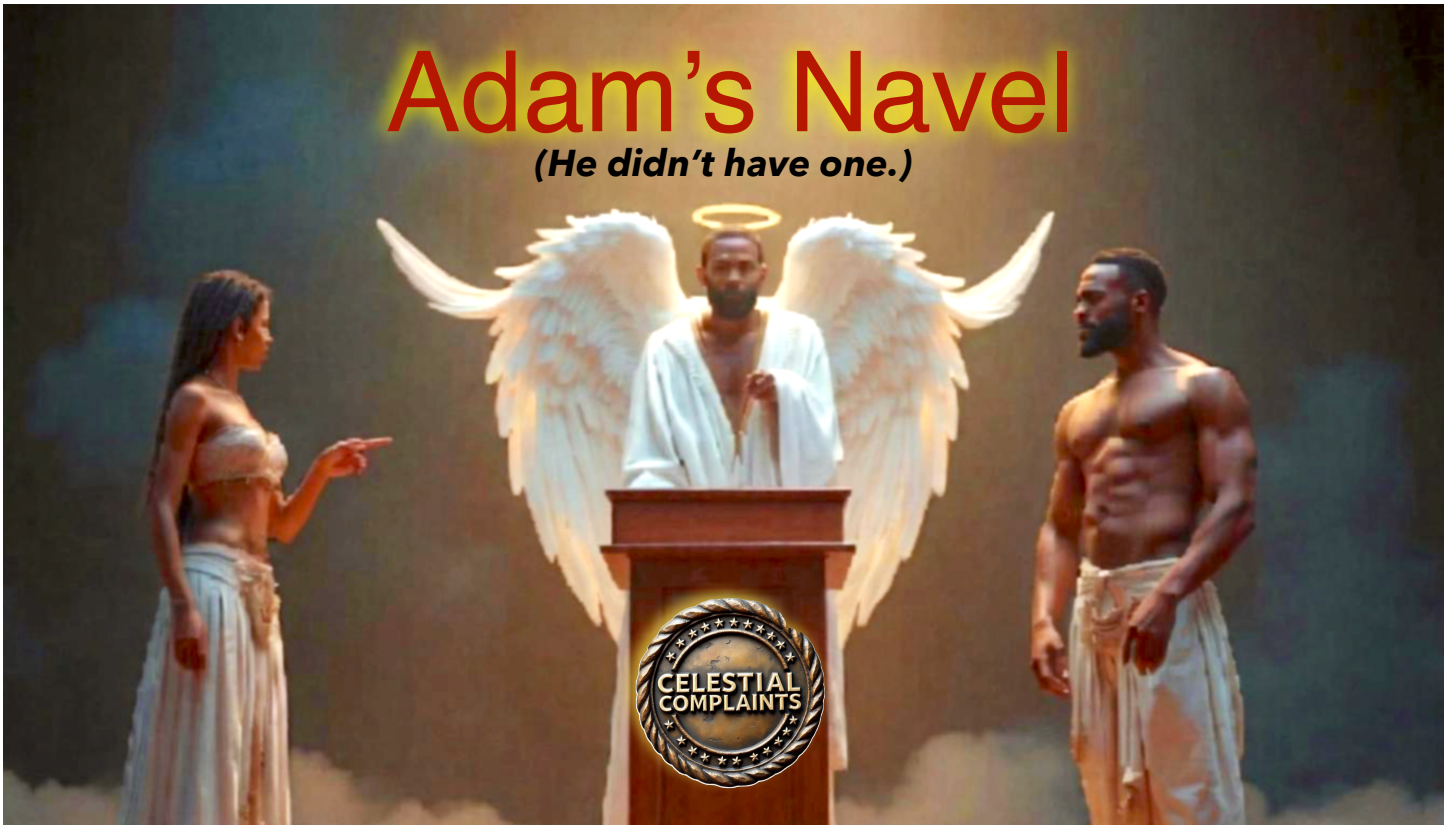



*Synopsis:*

It is the end of time.  Heaven is prepping for the creation of a new Heaven and a new Earth. Determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past, the doors of a long-overdue divine grievance desk , "Celestial Complaints Department”, is about to Open its doors.

But St. Peter, the Angel Gabriel, and their celestial court are caught completely off guard when the first complainants walk in: Adam and Eve.

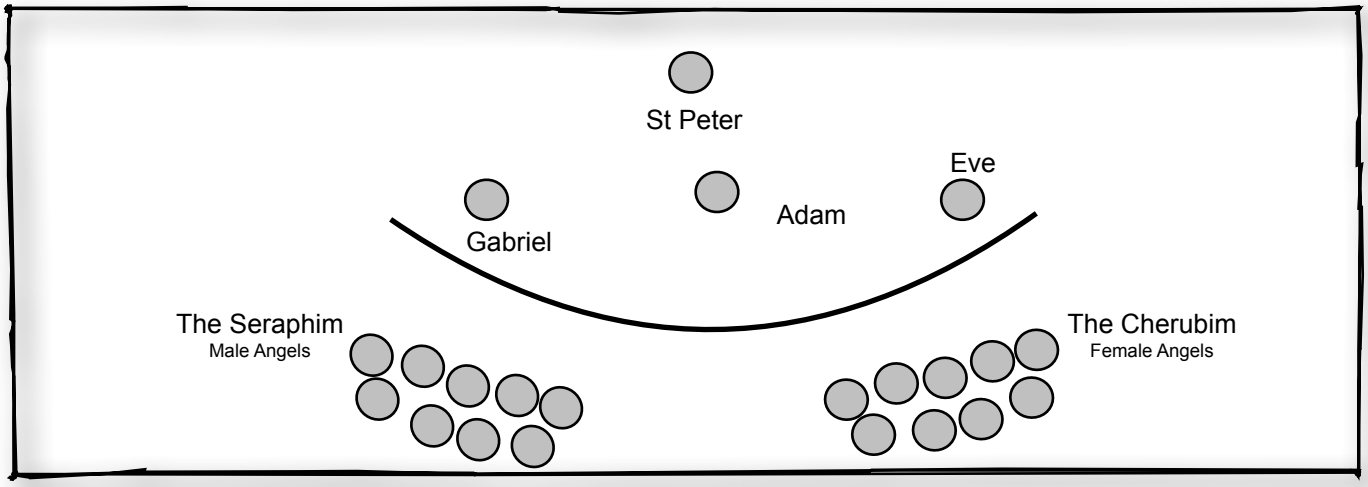
Adam steps forward with a single, fervent demand — a "do-over." His reasoning? He never had a navel. And if he'd had one, he insists, he would have been more grounded, more centered, more complete. He wouldn't have needed... ***her***.

Eve is not amused.

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# Adam's Navel

**By Kijana Wiseman, M.Ed.**




*STAGE SETUP:*
*It is the end of time. A backdrop has large letters across the top that say, "Celestial Complaints Department" the word is surrounded by clouds. There are two arrows underneath those words, one on each side of the banner. The right side has a blue arrow, with wings attached to each side, pointing diagonally upwards to a word that says "Heaven". On the other side of the backdrop, a red arrow, with devil horns on top, is pointing diagonally downward at a word that says "Hell" The point of that arrow has flames eating it.*

*CHARACTERS:*

***THE ANGEL CHORUS:*** *the audience. Males (Seraphim) on one side and females (Cherubim) on the other.*

***THE ANGEL GABRIEL (GABE)*** *may be male or female …dressed in a robe with average size wings, a halo, and carries a digital notepad.*

***SAINT PETER (PETE)*** *is attired in a very distinctive royal robe with larger wings and a halo. He carries some sort of rod or gavel or symbol of authority.*

***ADAM & EVE*** *enter with ancient costumes or fig leaves for atop body suits for clothing. Both show a bare midriff. Eve may have a strapless top and fig-leaf adorned hip-hugger grecian skirt. ADAM with just a fig leaf loin cloth. Both of their stomachs should be seen not to have belly buttons, so their navels may be covered with a small leaf, stuck the spot where the belly button would normally be.*

*THE SCENE OPENS AS GABRIEL WALKS IN CHECKING THE NOTEBOOK AND LOOKING DISAPPROVINGLY AT THE GAGGLE OF ANGELS.*

GABE: Hello, Hello, *(CHECKS THE NOTEBOOK BRIEFLY THEN LOOKS UP.)* HELLOOOO! …OK! …Looks like everyone's here……Let's see…Seraphim over here…check…. Cherubim over …there ……*(LOOKS AT THE BACK OF ONE GROUP)* You…Yeees..you! Are you SURE you're in the right group? Well, OK.

Heads up dead people!… Look alive! straighten up back there!

*(THEY COMPLY)* That's better. Now, as you know that I am the Angel Gahbri-el…So what do you say?….

ANGELS: (IN UNISON) Thank you for your service.

GABE: Good….Good. OK…All together now…"Why are You Here?"

ANGELS: (IN UNISON) We are here to serve.

GAB: Nicely done. Nicely done. Well, now… As you know, the Almighty has ordained that this segment of your Rapture Orientation Training be turned over to me. Heaven only knows why!!

*(A FEW OF THE ANGELS SNICKER)*

*(Ahem!)*….ANNNNY WAAAAAY….

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There is a rumor floating though heaven that ***some*** of you dare to question as to why God did that whole "earth thing" in the first place.

OK? So, St. Peter has decided that having you wingless wonders man the Celestial Complaints Department will help you gain some perspective on the Almighty's divine plan… while gathering essential data to help us do a better job building the Universe 2.0

Any Questions? *(LOOKS AROUND AS IF DARING ANYONE TO ASK A QUESTION. A FEW HANDS TIMIDLY RAISE… BUT IS IGNORED).*

Noooooo? *Put that hand down!….* Good.

We are aware that it's been a long since some of you were human. So this should be a refresher course for you.

Once this department closes, none of you will have a problem meeting the final requirements for your wing ceremony. *(GLANCES TO THE SIDE)*. Any Questions? No? Good. OK… Cupids…que the trumpets…

**SFX QUE: 6-10 second "TRUMPET FANFARE"**

GABE: OK!…Dead people! Look alive! Here comes Saint Peter!….*(POINTS TO A RANDOM ANGEL).* You there…and you… try to look… more… *Angelic!*

*SAINT PETER (PETE) ENTERS.*
*ALL ANGELS STAND.*

PETE: Thank you Gabriel. *(GESTURES FOR THE ANGELS TO SIT)* **Neophytes!**… This will be a brief Celestial Complaint Department training session on how to negotiate —and, possibly solve!— complaints from a select group of a harvested earthlings who have concerns. We are appreciative of those brave souls who dare come to our department ….so what do we say when we have finished listening to their complaint?

ANGELS: *(WITH OVERLY DRAMATIC SEVERANCE)* Bless you! The Almighty thanks you for your service!

PETE: That'll do… nicely done. OK…Let's get on with it. *(TO GABRIEL)* Who do we have first on the Judgment Day Complainant's list?

GABE: Yes Sir…. *(CHECKS THE NOTEBOOK… LOOKS STARTLED).* Oh!… WHOA…Well!… OK! …So…your eminence, Let's see …we probably should've checked this list a long time ago. Some of the souls seem to have been waiting for over a few millennia to have their grievances heard.

PETE: SO…..?

GABE: Well, I'm saying this to say that…it is a bit awkward, sir, to bring up this first couple…

PETE: Why?
GABE:…I mean, they actually are celebrities.
PETE: So…?
GAB: …Plus they seemed complained to the Trinity several millennia ago and were referred to us.

PETE: Oh ….really? Interesting So… have I heard of them?…Who are….

**ADAM AND EVE'S VOICES FROM OFF-STAGE.**

ADAM: **UNHAND ME WOMAN!**

EVE: **DON'T DO THIS!** You'll only embarrass yourself! You can't be serious… After all this time!! This is stupid…selfish and … embarrassing… soooo EMBARRASSING!

*THEY WALK ON STAGE WITH FIG LEAVES STRATEGICALLY PLACED. OBLIVIOUS OF OTHERS WATCHING.*

ADAM: Here we go…

EVE: …listen….

ADAM: Oh for pity's sake…aren't you tired of talking?…. I know I'm soooooooo TIRED of hearing you!

EVE: Not as tired as I am of having to repeat myself! Look, Don't do this…I'm telling you…You're only going to embarrass yourself…and me! Besides… It's useless.

ADAM: Is not.
EVE: …it is!
ADAM: Is not.
EVE: …and you know it.

*PETER LOOKS AT GABRIEL WITH MEANING.*

ADAM: Nope

GABE: *(STEPS FORWARD.)* Ahem!

EVE: Do too…You know you do

ADAM: Nope. Not going there…

EVE: Well It's time you stop pretending..

GABE: *(WAVES FOR ATTENTION)* Heeellooh!

ADAM & EVE: *(STARTLED)* Oh!

GABE: St Peter…Angels…May I present our celebrity complainants…Adam and Eve.

(ANGELS APPLAUD BRIEFLY)

EVE: *(BOLDLY WAVING DOWN THE APPLAUSE) or*…may I suggest… "Eve and Adam."

ADAM: *(TO EVE)* Don't Start!…Don't! *(TO GABRIEL)* You got it right. "Adam AND Eve. After all, I came first.

SERAPHIM: First!

EVE: Only because God needed a prototype to later create true perfection.

CHERUBIM: Perfection!

ADAM: *(TO THE CHERUBIM)* Perfection! Give me a break! Life was great before…HER!

EVE: …YOU asked for ME.

ADAM: Yeah, well, Now's the time to correct that error. *(TO ANGELS)* If things go as planned, Angels..it will soon be just "Adam."

EVE: You couldn't survive without me.

ADAM: What you say???…. Look…If you had just stayed at home instead of running around with that snake…

EVE: There you go!

ADAM: …we would still be in Paradise.

EVE: Yeah…. So…It all MY fault…… I didn't do it by myself! ….How many times do I have to remind you…

ADAM: ..No. That's true, You AND your slimy buddy ruined everything.

EVE: Whaat! So you still won't accept ANY responsibility? Amaaazing…You and your gender have been blaming me and mine for that whole "Fall of mankind" thing for an eternity! Keeping us down…Well, bulletin buddy…"Womankind" fell with you!

ADAM: Well….If the fig-leaf fits...

EVE: Ohh…Give it a rest! You know what I think?…I think that my snack with the snake was not HALF as bad as you actually joining in….then actually try to **lie** to the Almighty!

ANGELS: Say Whaaaat?

EVE: Yep…That's really is what set'er off!

ADAM: But …But…But…

*PETER POINTS TO GABRIEL.*
*GABRIEL WAVES. ADAM AND EVE FREEZE.*

PETE: Whoo! Thank you. That's better… Much much better… *(TURNS TO GABRIEL)*

OOOOKay! So it's evident that these two need couples therapy. But why're they here? what do they want with the Celestial Complaints Department?

GABE: *(WALKING AROUND ADAM. ADAM IS STILL FROZEN, BUT HIS WIDE EYES FOLLOW GABRIEL AS HE CONSULTS HIS ELECTRONIC TABLET)* Well sir, it appears that Adam here thinks that he was given a bum deal by the Almighty.

ANGELS: Say Whaaat????

PETE: Oh does he now? Why? Let them speak.

GABE: *(GABRIEL SCRUGS, WAVES, ADAM & EVE UNFREEZE. POINTS TO ADAM)* You first.

ADAM: Well, your highness--uh-judge--uh, your wonderfulness.

GABE: Get on with it!

ADAM: OK. *(LOOKS AT EVE)*

EVE: *(ROLLS EYES)* This is embarrassing.

ADAM I want a Do-Over.

SERAPHIM: A whaaaat?
CHERUBIM: A DO-OVER?

PETE: A WHAAAT?
GABE: A Do-Over!

ANGELS: A DO-OVER?

ADAM: Yeah. A Do-over.

EVE: *(ROLLS EYES)* This is so embarrassing.

*(THEY LOOK AT HIM INCREDULOUS).*

ADAM: Don't look at me like that. Let me explain....God did the whole creation thing in a week.

EVE: Everybody knows that!.... Making us on the 7th day.

ADAM: No. Making ME on the seventh day. YOU were an afterthought.

EVE: Whatever.

PETE: So....

ADAM: So, I think the Almighty made… a mistake.

SERAPHIM: *(GASP*) A mistake!!!!!
CHERUBIM: Oh my goodness!
SERAPHIM: Did he say a mistake???
CHERUBIM: Oh my goodness!

GABE: A mistake!!!!!????? Now see here!

EVE: Sooooo embarrassing!

PETE: *(LOOKS AROUND. EVERYONE SETTLES DOWN)* So…Adam, what makes you say that?

ADAM: Well, the way I see it, there are at least three things God could do better in a do-over.

1. Why do the "tree of knowledge of good and evil" in the first place?. I mean, I was happy--everything was perfect without it! --and Eden could have easily used another --say--banana bush instead.

EVE: Yeah… Adam really likes bananas. *(IMITATES A MONKEY SCRATCHING).*

*ANGELS SNICKER BRIEFLY BUT ARE QUIETENED BY A LOOK FROM GABRIEL.*

PETE: Go on... Number 2?

ADAM: *(POINTS WITH HIS THUMB)* 2. Eve.

EVE: HUH?….Me? What's wrong with me?

SERAPHIM: Yeah, What's wrong with Eve?
CHERUBIM: Perfection!
EVE: Thank you! *(SLIGHT BOW)*

ADAM: Lots. I think creating woman was a big mistake! Huge. I mean, I didn't realize it at the time, but I had it pretty good before SHE came along. I could eat whatever I wanted…

EVE: I keep telling you, mud-pies are not nutritional!

ADAM: Sleep where I wanted.

EVE: *(TO THE CHERUBIM)* I told him I wasn't gonna sleep another night on that tree branch. I need a bathroom! *(THEY NOD AGREEMENT)*

ADAM: ....or get my work done in peace!

EVE: That's a joke! Get this….The guy wanted to name the color blue "mauvie-purple"! ...and I won't tell you what he wanted to call the sky! (TURNS TO ADAM) It's a SKY. (TURNS BACK TO THE CHERIBIM) Air for brains.

ADAM: See what I mean?

EVE:: If you ask me, God should've put me in charge.

ANGELS: Perfection

PETE: Ahem….And number 3?

ADAM: Oh, yes. This is the worst mistake of all.

SERAPHIM: (OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING THIS) What is it?

EVE: Don't go there.
CHERUBIM: What is it?
ADAM: Well, uh...

EVE: Don't say it. Leave it alone! Why do you want one anyway. Think, What purpose does it have? What?

GABE: What is it?
EVE: You don't need it! Why do you want one?
SERAPHIM: What is it?
PETE: Go on...
EVE: Don't say it!
CHERUBIM: Tell us
EVE: NO, Don't...
ANGELS: Say it! Say it!
EVE: Noooo...

ADAM: (YELLS!) I want a NAVEL!

*SILENCE FOR 3 BEATS.*

ANGELS: HUH?

GABE: Excuse me?

ADAM: That's the reason I failed!

ANGELS: HUH?

PETE: Excuse me?

ADAM: Don't you see? That's the ultimate cause of the "Fall of Man" The way I see it, If I had a navel. I wouldn't have been lonely, because I would have been more centered...then I wouldn't have needed woman and she wouldn't have been created, and never would have made me to be disobedient and and eat that fruit, and then lie to God… Andlife would be like it was in the beginning…Paradise!....

I WANT A DO-OVER.

*THEY ALL JUST LOOK AT HIM.*

EVE: I'm sooo sorry guys.

PETE: Now…Adam… let me get this straight. You want all of creation,..

SERAPHIM: the moon...,
GABE: …the stars...
CHERUBIM: … the earth

PETE: …literally ALL CREATION to be reinvented, so you can be an uninformed bachelor contemplating the wonders of his navel.

ADAM: Uh...That's a little simple, but you've got the gist of the thought.

EVE: *(Makes a brain exploding gesture)* Phouwh!

PETE: OOOOOKAY. (TURNS TO THE ANGELS) So, Neophytes.… Do you now see how intricately woven the master plan is?

ADAM: HUH. Master Plan?

PETE: Adam, who was given so much at the beginning, still doesn't see it.

ADAM: See what?

GABE: …Intricate...

EVE: Ok. Look. He's simple. He's a Neanderthal. OK? He can't help that. I mean, a little rough around the edges, but he's really a good man. And after paradise was lost, he was a hard worker and a good father. --uh--Despite a little problem with our 2 sons...

GABE: (CHECKING HIS LAPTOP) Ah yes! Caine and Able. That case comes up next!

EVE: Anyway... He's been beating himself up over this for over 2 million years... and, and

PETE: ...and despite it all …you still love him.

EVE: *(LOOKS AT ADAM. SMILES.)* Yes. He's not perfect, but he means well.

PETE: Sooo, I think he's done well. He just doesn't see the big picture.

ADAM: Huh? Big picture?

GABE: Yes. The Master Plan. You're a huge part of it.

PETE: Actually, you set it in motion for the rest of humankind.

ADAM: I did?

EVE & ANGELS: He did!!!???

PETE: Well actually, both you and Eve. Because, despite your complaints about her, you do actually really love her don't you?

ADAM: Well, she is kinda useful…but… Why did God have to make her so beautiful?

GABE and PETE: So you would love her.

ADAM: So why does she make me feel so stupid?

ANGELS: So she would love you.

ADAM AND EVE LOOK AT EACH OTHER
AND GRASP HANDS.

ADAM: I take back not wanting you to be created. ...You really have been good for me.

EVE: Listen. I'm sorry about the snake thing. And offering you that apple snack. My bad.

GABE: Oh that…Don't stress. It was all preordained. God gave you both so much, but stress makes life interesting …making difficult choices halps you grow.

ANGELS: Everything in its time.

PETE: Humankind may have its ups and downs, but they're learning and will figure it out eventually, After all, to whom much is given...

SERAPHIM: ...much is expected.

GABE: Just stay the course

CHERUBIM: With hope resurrected.

**(SFX FINALE MUSIC BEGINS.)**

ANGELS:
To whom much is given..... and much received
To be a success ...you just have to believe
That great things'll happen if you just try
So take the reins...and don't ask why

ADAM AND EVE:
You see we really did have it all

ADAM: Food and frolic--

EVE: --before the fall!

ADAM AND EVE:
But we were destined to be much more
And now we're better than before

ST. PETER & GABRIEL:
It's easy to blame somebody else
For your downfall--and not yourself
Just point a finger --that's what you do

ANGELS: (POINTING TO ADAM & EVE)
But three fingers are still pointing back at you!

ADAM AND EVE:
We all have challenges in our way
Bridges to cross each and every day
Temptations to make us stumble and fall
And beat our heads against the wall

ANGELS:
To whom much is given..... and much received
To be a success ...you just have to believe
That great things'll happen if you just try
So take the reins...and don't ask why

ADAM AND EVE:
To us much was given..... and much received
We were a success ...we just didn't believe
That great things would happen if we'd just try
But we did our best...and that's no lie!

ALL:
So, to you out there who cannot see
That you are as blessed as you can be
Just look around and feel the love
That's sent to you from Heaven above.

'Cause You'll have challenges in your way
Bridges to cross each and every day
Temptations to make you stumble and fall
And beat your heads against the wall

You see there is a Master Plan
Just work with it as best you can
By doing right by your fellow man
When someone's down, just lend a hand

Cause to whom much is given..... and much received
You're already a success ...you just have to believe
That great things'll happen if you just try
So take the reins...and don't ask why

Cause to whom much is given..... and much received
You're already a success ...you just have to believe
That great things'll happen if you just try
So take the reins...and don't ask why

Just take the reins...and don't ask why
Just take the reins...and don't ask why
Just take the reins...and don't ask why

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