

THE HIDDEN TRUTH/ THE DEPTHS OF DECEPTION

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PREFACE

Our world is accelerating into decadence at such an alarming rate that there is no one, or rather, no well-organised group of people alive today who possess the wisdom capable to staunch this decaying process which is affecting every living thing on the Earth. World leaders and their think tanks, who we might consider to be wise, are all culminating to precipitate the decline of the nations with their schemes that are detrimental to the moral and cultural standards of every nation on Earth. Why are our leaders so far from the truth and are ignorant about it? Why are we dragging ourselves to adhere to such reprobate standards? This question springs to mind: if the majority of the inhabitants of the world are involved in a vile act, does it automatically make it right? If you know something is abominable, would you stand by the truth? We must acknowledge the fact that we have all done, and continue to do, what we know is wrong on a daily basis. But by whose standard do we base our judgement? Many today place no value on their life; could they possibly value the lives of others? Remember, we have a responsibility not only for our life but for the lives of those around us. Many will disagree with this statement.

Today, people are no longer identified by one's character. Instead we pay more attention to fame, charisma, material wealth and talent. These popular traits occupy our thoughts continually, making us experts at switching between personalities to impress those around us. Meanwhile the spirit within many of us is yearning for the truth. Most of us have mastered the act of suppressing our own spirits which darkens our lives. For this reason, many have turned to different forms of physical stimuli to cope with this oppression, rendering their lives barren, but are ignorant of the fact that there is a master fanning this oppression.

We must admit the fact that we have all been deceived in the subtlest ways into believing what we are doing is right. There is always someone somewhere who is hurt by our odious acts. Quite often we cannot see the consequences of our actions on them. Our wrong doings cost the life of our Creator in the most humiliating and shameful way possible. He was willing to go through with it because of obedience to God the Father and the love He has for us. The question is, why are we in this predicament, were did it start and when will it end? Hopefully, this study will provide you with the answers to these questions.

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Chapter one

INTRODUCTION

The decision to create man to inhabit the Earth and the angels in heaven was a plan formulated by God before He even laid the foundations of the heavens and the Earth. When God created the angels and man in His image and likeness, He chose to give them the freewill to make their own choices. The angels were created first. They were perfect and were given laws and commandments by God which they were to adhere to at all times.

When God created man on the Earth, He made man perfect in His image. This means man was clothed with light, not by any form of material taken from trees or skins of animals. God also set the boundaries for His creation on Earth by establishing His laws and commandments. These serve as a guide for man's relationship with God and with his fellow men. God also established His way of government on Earth. In so doing He made Adam the first ruler of the entire Earth and gave him custody of His laws and commandments. Adam was full of the spirit of the fear of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom, knowledge, understanding and power to enable him to fulfil his role as ruler and to judge the people God had created upon Earth. He was also given the opportunity to name all of God's creation on Earth:

Genesis 2:18-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

The fact that Adam could name every living thing and remember what he had called them shows the purity of his spirit and the clarity that was in his mind. But amongst all of the other people God had created on Earth, God did not find a suitable helper for Adam. We must understand that Adam was not the only human God had created on the Earth - contrary to popular belief. Under no circumstances would God had searched for a wife for Adam from among the birds and animals but from among other humans. Consider this passage of Scripture:

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Genesis 1:26-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God created both male and female humans on the Earth. He blessed them and gave them a task: to multiply, fill and subdue the Earth. He gave man dominion over every living thing that moves on the Earth. But for Adam, who was the ruler, God created the Garden of Eden and placed Adam in it - from which he was to rule over the Earth. It was in the Garden of Eden that God established His covenant with Adam. Here, He gave Adam His laws and commandments verbally. Adam had the Spirit of God and the power of mind to remember everything that God had told him. The way in which God purposed the Garden of Eden is similar to the way in which Zion will be used at the appointed time in the future:

Micah 4:1-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it. ² Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³ He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁴ But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. ⁵ For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever. ⁶ "In that day," says the LORD "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast And those whom I have afflicted; ⁷ I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong nation; So the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on, even forever.

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In the Garden of Eden, God also planted two trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. These trees both produced fruits and their fruits, which might seem insignificant or symbolic to many, carried a substantial amount of spiritual entity. Through faith, the fruits of these two trees led to life or death. As we know, without faith it is impossible to please God.

Genesis 2:8-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In the Holy Scriptures it can be seen that any instruction that God has given man has never been vague and ambiguous. God's instructions are always clear, concise and full of reasons. This was the instruction that God gave Adam regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the reason why he should not eat from it:

Genesis 2:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

At this juncture, man was given the opportunity to exercise his freewill and make his own decisions. It would never have been freewill if there wasn't an alternative to choose from. We have to acknowledge that Adam was the Son of God who was given the custody of the entire Earth. All the laws, commandments and principles which God had formulated to govern the Earth were given to Adam to rule over the Earth with Eve as his helper.

Genesis 2:20-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³And Adam said:

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“This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

God made Eve out of a rib from Adam. When He brought Eve to Adam, He established the second covenant. A man will leave his mother and father to be joined to his wife and become one flesh before God. Incidentally, the first covenant God established on Earth was that of the Sabbath Day, which is Saturday. This is when God rested after completing His work over six days.

Adam told his wife everything God had instructed him to do because Eve was not present when God instructed Adam about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When the serpent came on that day, Eve gave her version of what God had said:

Genesis 3:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the serpent came to Eve and planted doubt in her mind, twisting the word of God, Eve started to look at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in a different light. She believed that her eyes would be opened and she would be like God - knowing good and evil. So, she took the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and ate some. She also gave some to her husband Adam and he too ate some. Adam ate of the fruit because he too was convinced that he would become wise:

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Genesis 3:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

That was all it took physically for man to be in the state we find ourselves in today. However, spiritually, from that very day man died and lost the purity that was bestowed upon man. Instead of the glory of becoming like God, shame fell upon Adam and Eve and their eyes were opened to see their nakedness. They tried to cover their nakedness with fig leaves and hide themselves from the God whose commandment they had transgressed, transposing the blame on the other - something which is common practice amongst the children of men today.

Genesis 3:8-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹²Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." ¹³And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Both Adam and Eve did not take responsibility for their actions, rather blaming each other. Most importantly, they did not repent, neither were they sorry for their actions. God proceeded to pronounce a curse on the actions of all three involved. God also sacrificed an animal to cover their transgression with its blood and their nakedness with its skin. Interestingly, the Earth was also cursed because of the actions of Adam.

Genesis 3:21-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. ²²Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And

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now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Lord God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden to protect man from living forever in a degenerate state if they should reach out and eat of the tree of life. The presence of the cherubim and the flaming sword was not to keep man from returning to the Garden of Eden but to protect the path to the tree of life from the serpent: Satan the devil, who is likely to destroy it.

In the beginning, when God created man, He created them perfectly and gave them the chance to freely make their own choices at any given opportunity. He also explained the consequences of not choosing what He had advised man to do. Our freewill comes at a price. Whatever choices we make in life might add value to our lives if we make the correct choices, or they could be detrimental to our lives if we do not choose wisely. The choices we make are underpinned by our knowledge and understanding of the subject in question.

At any given point in time, when faced with a situation where we must make a choice, we only have two options - regardless of the situation. Making a decision can be very quick, in a fraction of a second. But the choice we make could lead to life or death when it involves spiritual and physical laws that God has set as a guide to life on Earth.

Spiritual laws are the laws set by God the Creator that, when broken, carry grave consequences that lead to death if we do not repent for transgressing these laws. These spiritual laws are locked behind two trees or paths of life, with one leading to life and the other to death. Both of these trees might be symbolic on Earth but they carry great significance in heaven because it is God who has established and set them in place.

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Chapter Two

THE TREE OF LIFE

The fruits of the tree of life, which might seem insignificant to the wisdom of the great minds on Earth today, underpin the greatest spiritual gift anyone on Earth could hope for: eternal life. Not life as we have today, which is full of evil, lies, hate and oppression, but an abundant life of faith, truth, freedom, peace and prosperity - without fear and shame. This type of life was present in the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve had the opportunity to eat of its fruits and live forever. Everything could have been very different if they had followed this path, but it was not to be because they chose instead to eat from the tree they were commanded not to eat from.

The tree of life that was in the Garden of Eden was a literal tree that produced fruits which could be eaten. It epitomised the whole concept of life as God had intended. There are many prophecies foretelling the fact that God's vision for His creation will soon be established on Earth at an appointed time, hence, the gospel of the kingdom of God. Consider these passages of Scripture:

Isaiah 2:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. ³Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

To emphasise the point, the Lord gave the same words to the prophet Micah. We should therefore be in no doubt whatsoever that this is what He has proposed to do:

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Micah 4:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it. ²Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁴But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

The mountain of the Lord's house represents the government of God. At that time, the Lord will greatly increase the population of the world and He will rule over the entire world here on Earth in Zion (spiritual Jerusalem) forever:

Micah 4:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶"In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast And those whom I have afflicted; ⁷I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong nation; From now on, even forever.

Those who have chosen to obey the laws and commandments of God will repopulate the Earth and one person will become a nation. But there is more. At that time, even the animals will be changed:

Isaiah 11:6-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. ⁹They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

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This passage of Scripture does not describe what is happening on Earth at the moment. If you put a calf in with a lion, the lion will think it is feeding time. But at the appointed time, all animals will feed on grass. This prophecy will be fulfilled in the future. The knowledge of God will fill the Earth and there will be no one professing to be an atheist. We cannot say this is the case now because the vast majority of people on Earth have knowledge of a god but not the true God. This includes many who profess to be Christians. This is a promise God has made to His people, the house of Israel which is the Body of Christ, the church:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 New King James Version (NKJV)

³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Because of the laws and commandments of God that will be put in our minds and hearts, the knowledge of God will fill the Earth, like water covering the sea:

Habakkuk 2:14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

The tree of life will return to the Earth as was originally planned, but it is now in the paradise of God in heaven. This tree is empowered by the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why the Lord said He is the way, the truth and the life. There are two essential components that underpin the tree of life: faith and obedience, without which no one can eat of the tree of life. The Lord Jesus Christ has promised to give freely of its fruits to those who repent their evil ways:

Revelation 2:5-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

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⁷ *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”’*

The Lord is addressing the whole Body of Christ (His people) on the specific shortfall that we must rectify and grow in the Spirit in order to qualify for the kingdom of God. Only those who have qualified will be able to eat from the tree of life that will manifest in Zion: the Holy Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 47:12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² *Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”*

To reiterate the fact that the Bible interprets itself, here is the interpretation of this prophecy from the book of the prophet Ezekiel which has been expounded in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 22:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*

This prophecy will be fulfilled after the Lord Jesus Christ has completed all the duties God the Father has set before Him, the last of these being death. Thereafter, God the Father will come down from heaven and dwell with men. At that stage, only those who have chosen to obey the laws and commandments of God will be left on Earth.

The tree of life is synonymous with the Spirit of God, the rivers of living waters and the bread of life. These all point firmly to the Lord Jesus Christ who has made it possible through His sacrifice. The Lord Jesus Christ died but to Satan, the one who had power over death that was the end of the matter because he had killed the Son of God, but the wisdom of God is greater. Death is the reward for transgression and since the Lord had not transgressed any

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of God's laws and commandments, death had no hold on Him and on the third day, death kicked Him out.

The call to the tree of life went out to the people of God in the beginning after the fall of man but was given to us through the prophets of God in many words, including this passage of Scripture through the prophet Isaiah when He was inspired to write:

Isaiah 55:2-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

² *Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.*
³ *Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.* ⁴ *Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people.* ⁵ *Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the LORD your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you."*

We are all called to the Lord, who has been given to us as a witness, a leader and a commander for the people. All we have to do is to heed His words and follow His instructions and He has promised to make an everlasting covenant with us - the forgiveness of sins. This was fulfilled in the New Testament as:

Matthew 11:28-30 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ *Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹ *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* ³⁰ *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

We are all under a yoke of some sort but the yoke of the Lord is easy and His burden is light. This was expounded even further when the Lord said:

John 7:37-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁷ *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.* ³⁸ *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* ³⁹ *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

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One of the reasons why the spirit of God will be given to believers was explained by the Lord during His conversation with the Samaritan woman by the well in Sachar:

John 4:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?" ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

It is the Spirit of God that will spring up into everlasting life in the believer on the last day. The gift of God is also the bread of life, which we have to eat during the period of sanctification to remain in the Body of Christ until the predetermined time of redemption:

John 6:53-58 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

Here is the interpretation of the above passage of Scripture:

Luke 22:17-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

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²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. ²¹ But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.

This commandment is in keeping with the Feast of Passover, which the Lord gave Moses as a statute for the children of Israel in the wilderness. It is not to be taken every week or month - as some professing Christian do. It is to be taken once a year during the Passover. This is an annual Feast of the Lord, since the Lord Jesus Christ was our Passover Lamb. The lamb and bitter herbs have been changed to unleavened bread and wine but the command to keep the feast of Passover remains perpetual.

To be able to eat freely of the tree of life, we have to repent and believe the gospel of the kingdom of God:

Mark 1:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Only after repentance is the Spirit of God given to the believer as a free gift, so take heed that no one deceives you. This passage of Scripture was explained by the apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

The second part to repentance is to be converted into the kingdom of God:

Acts 3:18-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive

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until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

If we do not follow the path the Lord has prescribed for us through His servants in His word, we are likely to perish as the Lord said:

Luke 13:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

This passage of Scripture applies to us today. If we don't repent of our sins then we will perish. After repenting we have to start walking according to the commandments of God. We must do this because we have all, at some stage of our lives, transgressed the laws and commandments of God. Moreover, after repentance we must start keeping the laws and commandments of God. When the Lord was asked what we should do to enter eternal life He answered:

Matthew 19:16-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'" ²⁰The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" ²¹Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

When asked which is the greatest commandment, the Lord responded by saying:

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Matthew 22:36-40 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

When you put the above two passages of Scripture together, you will come to the conclusion that the Lord was validating the importance of the Ten Commandments. To enter into eternal life we have to keep the commandments after repentance. But there is another element which is of paramount importance to us - the element of faith. The Lord said to the young ruler, who kept the commandment but in himself knew he still lacked something, to sell all that he had and follow Him. This young ruler trusted in his wealth which enabled him to keep the commandments. To follow the Lord Jesus Christ requires faith, without which it is impossible to please God:

Hebrews 11:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

The faith that is pleasing to God comes from the Spirit of God. Without the Spirit of God, we cannot be part of the Body of Christ.

Romans 8:5-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.* ⁶ *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* ⁷ *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.* ⁸ *So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

⁹ *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

¹⁰ *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.* ¹¹ *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

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¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Without the Spirit of God we are not Christ; only those who have and are led by the Spirit of God are the Sons of God. As we grow in the Spirit of God, we will start exuding certain traits of the character of God our Father, which will be obvious to those around us:

Galatians 5:22-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The fruit of the Spirit and obedience to the laws and commandments of God is the litmus test which acts as proof to ourselves that the Spirit of God dwells within us, since the carnal mind is enmity to God and is not subject to His laws and commandments.

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Chapter Four

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the complete opposite of the tree of life. God had not intended this for His creation. God created both the angels and man with the freewill to choose between two ways of life. His way of life which is depicted by the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which is a contradiction to His way of life. It would never have been freewill if there was only one choice available to both the angels in heaven and man on Earth.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in the Garden of Eden but neither Adam nor Eve had any interest in its fruits until the serpent came along and enticed Eve. Adam and Eve were created perfectly - with a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the truth and they knew the fruits of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would lead to death because God had explained this to them in great detail. They were not young children, contrary to what some have been led to believe. Adam was armed with the authority and knowledge to be the ruler of the Earth - a teacher of God's way of life.

You will be astonished when you realise that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not taken away from the Earth. It is still in existence and it has a home here on Earth:

Zechariah 5:5-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth."

⁶ So I asked, "What is it?" And he said, "It is a basket that is going forth."

He also said, "This is their resemblance throughout the earth: ⁷ Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket"; ⁸ then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. ⁹ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.

¹⁰ So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?"

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¹¹ *And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base."*

The woman that is in the basket is Satan. The house of wickedness, which has roots in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, is based in Shinar. The Lord gave reference to this passage of Scripture when He told us where Satan is:

Revelation 2:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² *"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,*

'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

It is mentioned twice, so we can be in no doubt that the Lord wants us to know where Satan's throne is. It is in Turkey. At the appointed time the woman in the basket will be released to overpower the Earth, but only for a short period of time. The offspring of his house are the man of sin and the false prophet:

Revelation 13:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹*Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

⁵ *And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.*

The false prophet will be able to perform many miracles:

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Revelation 13:11-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

This has been prophesied to happen when the restrainer will be taken away and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil will have free reign on Earth.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil rules over the entire Earth as it is today. It is the starting point of life for the inhabitants on Earth. No one alive today has escaped the claws of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because we have all eaten of its fruits - we all have an appointment with death. This is an appointment we all have to keep but there are some alive today who will escape death (this is a topic for another study). The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is synonymous with fear, hate, wickedness and disobedience. Its fruits are manifested in the inhabitants of Earth as:

Galatians 5:19-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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There will be no place in the kingdom of God for all who do not repent of these works that have roots firmly planted in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is synonymous with the carnal mind - which is enmity to God and is not subject to His laws and commandments:

Romans 8:7-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Those who profess to be Christians but abhor the commandments of God are carnal and the enemies of God but they have been blinded not to see it. There is a proverb which states that the prayers of those who do not keep the commandments of God are an abomination to God:

Proverbs 28:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

This is the reason why the vast majority of professing Christians do not like the Old Testament because it commands them to be obedient to God - this is against their carnal nature. They also fail to realise that the New Testament provides even more compelling instructions and reasons to be obedient to the laws and commandments of God. The foundation of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is planted in the carnal mind. From the carnal mind stem the characteristics of the majority of people in the world today, except for those who have repented their sins and are being sanctified by the word of God. It is because they knew God but were not thankful that their foolish minds were darkened:

Romans 1:18-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became

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fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

We have all practised these behaviours which are against the righteousness of God. This is as a result of not acknowledging God in our lives. But it is not something common to only our generation of people. It has been from the very beginning - since Adam ate the fruit of the tree that he was commanded not to eat.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil has an expected end. The end will come at the end of the age when it will be cut off from the Earth:

Psalm 37:20 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendour of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.

This will happen at the end of the age when the stone that has not been cut by hand will come and destroy the kingdom of wickedness: all the enemies of the Lord:

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Daniel 2:44-45 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

There is a prophesised fourth kingdom which will rule over the entire Earth at the end of the age when the restrainer will be taken away. In the days of this kingdom, which is the government of the present age based on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the God of heaven will come and destroy this government and establish His government based on the tree of life. King David was inspired to write:

Psalms 37:35-38 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁵ I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree. ³⁶ Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found. ³⁷ Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace. ³⁸ But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.

At the appointed time the wicked will be destroyed from the Earth. But who are the wicked? The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which we have all been partakers of its fruits currently, is the starting point of all life on Earth because the fruits of this tree leads to death. There is no one on Earth today who has not repented of his sins who can escape his appointment with death. This therefore means that every living soul on Earth who has not repented of their sins is the wicked.

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Chapter Five

THE FALLOUT OF THE EVENT IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The salvation of God is a well-orchestrated plan which has an expected end. It was formulated before the creation of the heavens and the Earth. In this plan, God established the structure of government for the Earth and set it up on the shoulders of Adam in the Garden of Eden. Adam was not just the first man God created on the Earth but the first ever ruler who was to enforce God's laws and commandments over the Earth. In other words, Adam was made king and the Earth was his kingdom. This therefore means that God must have created a lot of people on the Earth on that day, not just Adam and Eve - contrary to popular believe.

Genesis 1:26-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Some have said Adam and Eve were the only two people God made on the sixth day when He restored the Earth to its original glory. As we now know, the Bible does not contradict itself. It is our lack of understanding of the truth that leads us into error. When God made man, He made them perfectly - both male and female and blessed them. This means that there were many of them. He gave them dominion over His creation and the task to subdue and multiply, something which cannot have happened if they were in same-sex relationships. But for the one He had appointed king, to whom He gave custody of the Earth and its government, God planted a special garden from which His king was to reign.

Genesis 2:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may

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freely eat;¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

God put Adam in the garden and the rest of the people whom He had created had their own habitations outside the garden. Eve was created out of Adam because God wanted every human alive today to come from the body of Adam. This has great significance. Why is it that everyone in the ages to come will come from the Body of Christ after the thousand-year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on Earth? The reason is simple: all those who are in the Body of Christ, the house of Israel, are subject to the laws and commandments of God.

1 Corinthians 15:44-49 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

The first Adam had the opportunity to become a life-giving spirit but he chose to exercise his freewill and transgressed God’s commandment. You might never believe that eating a fruit from a tree you have been commanded not to eat will lead to death. But God the creator gave reasons why the fruits of the tree of knowledge and evil should not be eaten. Take some time and consider what God has said He will do in the near future if we do not obey His commandments.

We have to seriously contemplate the fact that it is virtually impossible to please God without faith. This means that faith is the awesome power that underpins everything spiritual. In other words, the most fundamental element required for man to have a relationship with God is faith and with faith comes obedience. These two are intrinsic components of the Kingdom of God. We could have the faith that can move mountains but without obedience to the truth it will not be enough to qualify us for the Kingdom of God.

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Likewise, we could keep all the commandments of God but without faith we will not qualify for the Kingdom of God. So what happened in the Garden of Eden?

Adam and Eve knew and could see the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in the garden but it meant nothing to them. It was a tree they had been told not to eat of its fruits and they were obedient to the commandment of God their creator. When the serpent came along and cast doubts in the mind of Eve, who knew only God's way of life up to that point in time, she started looking at the fruits of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in a different light. She must have had a conversation with Adam about the fruits of the tree. Adam was not ignorant of what was happening because the serpent must have tried to tempt him but failed.

Genesis 3:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

The serpent did not put a gun against Eve's head or cut her open with a knife - forcing her to eat of the fruit from the tree God had commanded them not to eat. You could be as graphic as you can but it was none of those. The serpent was subtle, twisting the words of God to test the faith of both Adam and Eve. It was nothing else but the belief, which is powered by faith, that they will become like God that changed everything. Adam and Eve at that time had pure faith from the Spirit of God.

This is what everything in life is based on: faith.

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At the height of their moment of trial, their faith failed. By exercising their freewill to choose between the options presented before them, they ate of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From that very moment, the whole dynamic of the Earth changed. A chain reaction began and a whole catalogue of adverse spiritual consequences entered the world and man's relationship with God became severely hampered. A wall of partition sprang up instantly, separating man from God and God hid His face from man. We must understand - God is pure and there is no darkness in Him. Sin is darkness - an element which is instantly consumed in the sight of God. Men could no longer stand in front of God as – due to their sin - they would be consumed.

The very first thing that happened physically was that Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness. They were both naked from the time they were created but they were clothed with the light of the Spirit of God. But when they ate of the fruit the purity of God left them instantly and they became aware that they were naked:

Genesis 3:7-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

When they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge and evil their eyes became open to both good and evil - the way of the world we live in today. Instead of them becoming like God, the serpent had beguiled them. Straight away they realised that they were naked. The backdrop of nakedness was shame as they could not face God when He came to meet them in the garden. Now we have to understand the fact that God the Father was not the one dealing with man in the Holy Scriptures. It has always been the Lord Jesus Christ who is God.

God had decided that He will make man in His image and give him the freewill to make his own choices, hence the reason for the tree of life and that of the knowledge of good and evil. It had been God's plan that if man did not choose His way (the tree of life) and opt for the alternative (the tree of the knowledge good and evil), then the result would be the complete opposite of what He had desired for life on Earth. Faith and obedience, which

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underpins the tree of life, was replaced by fear and disobedience. The result of this is death as opposed to eternal life. By losing the Spirit of God, Adam lost all knowledge of the truth, wisdom, understanding, power, faith and the fear of God which God had bestowed on him, and hence, on the rest of mankind:

Isaiah 11:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. ³His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; ⁴But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

This is why the Lord Jesus Christ had to come into the world full of the Spirit of God to restore in those who qualify the facets that are associated with the Spirit of God.

When Adam decided to eat the fruits from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he lost his kingdom to the serpent: the author of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Every conceivable evil that we see around the world today entered the Earth on that day almost six thousand years ago. Adam lost custody of the Earth to Satan the devil on that day. The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed this fact during His hours of temptation whilst fasting for forty days. He did not argue with Satan when he claimed he was the custodian of the Earth:

Luke 4:5-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

⁸And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

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If God had not given the Earth to Satan, he would not have made that claim to the Son of God - who he knew was in a position to take the Earth from him. We have to remember, Satan is aware of what is written in the Holy Scriptures and he is aware of some of God's plan. If Satan had succeeded in persuading the Lord Jesus Christ into disobeying the commandments of God, the Earth would have remained in his custody. Since he could not - at the appointed time the Earth will be given to the Lord Jesus Christ by God, just as God gave custody of the world to Satan when Adam fell.

Adam did not only lose his kingdom to Satan the devil but also lost the trust he had in God. We must be aware that when we trust in ourselves and lean on our own understanding we start competing with our trust in God. We do not know what will happen from one day to another, but God knows all things. We must trust in Him completely:

Proverbs 3:5-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Adam, on that day, lost all His power and became a prisoner. This is not something physical that we can see and touch but something spiritual that our eyes are not opened to. The Lord spoke to Adam and Eve and with Cain but with the passing of time that contact with man diminished. Today, we are the captives of the god of this age: Satan the devil and we are all held at his will:

Isaiah 42:22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"

This is how God sees us here on Earth. He had determined before the foundation of the Earth that He would send the Lord Jesus Christ as our saviour to set us free from these prison houses. But we must play a part and use the freewill we have been given to repent of our evil ways:

Luke 4:18-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives

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And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

When Adam lost the Spirit of God he gained another spirit: the spirit of the Devil. We live in a world that is empowered by spirits because it was made by a Spirit. God is a Spirit. When the world was given to Satan, his spirit replaced the Spirit of God which had departed from Adam.

Ephesians 2:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

This is the starting point for everyone on Earth today. This includes the apostle Paul - who had to repent of his sins even though he was an Israelite . We are all under the influence of Satan, whose spirit controls all those who have not been converted into the Kingdom of God:

Colossians 3:5-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

These are the traits that underpin the character of those who have not turned to the Lord with all their hearts. The apostle Paul was inspired to tell us to turn from these traits because the wrath of God will come upon all those who are disobedient.

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Man also gained the ability to kill from the spirit of Satan. Cain killing Abel was the first recorded killing in the Holy Scriptures. Cain killed Abel because he was righteous and would not walk in the way of the devil. It was the spirit of Satan in him that empowered him to kill his brother in an attempt to destroy the path to the tree of life. Ironically, God had said to him that He could overpower sin that was at the door, but his ears were already closed to the words of God.

Genesis 4:6-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

⁸Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

The thief only comes to steal, kill and destroy. We have to keep this statement at the front of our minds and remember that we can easily fall, just like our father before us, if we do not hold on to the truth and make the right decisions based on the truth. When man lost faith in God fear set in, and with fear came disobedience. That became the nature of man from that day, ingrained deep in the minds of all the descendants of Adam and Eve - which includes us today. Disobedience to the laws and commandments of God leads to death. It was for this reason that God said to Adam that on the day you eat the fruits of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall surely die:

Romans 6:22-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²²But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What the majority of the inhabitants of the Earth do not realise is that when Adam disobeyed God's commandment, death and judgement entered into the world. There is an appointed time in which every soul that has ever entered this world will be judged. This inspired King Solomon to write:

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Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹² Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. ¹³ But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

That day will come at the end of the thousand-year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ here on Earth.

Revelation 20:11-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death ¹⁵ and anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Some say the books that will be open are the Bible and the book of life. That is correct but there is also going to be the books which hold the records of everything each and every one of us did while we lived on Earth. All of our works have been recorded, be they good or bad. But first there is a punishment to come to the people of our generation who have not turned from their evil ways unto the Lord:

Isaiah 61:2 New King James Version (NKJV)

² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

The Lord has promised to bring vengeance on all his enemies. At the end of the age, during the restoration of the glory of God on Earth, all those who have set their minds not to obey the word of God will go through a period of trial this world has never seen and will never see again.

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It has been written in the Scriptures that the wicked are estranged from the womb. This is a sad but incredible fact that many may not believe.

Psalm 58:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Do you indeed speak righteousness, you silent ones? Do you judge uprightly, you sons of men? ²No, in heart you work wickedness; You weigh out the violence of your hands in the earth. ³The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. ⁴Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear, ⁵Which will not heed the voice of charmers, Charming ever so skill fully.

This passage of Scripture is a reflection of us when we enter the Earth with a nature full of wickedness acquired from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which is deeply rooted in the god of this age. If our parents are wise, they can condition some of this nature out of us with correction. But it remains in us until we repent and are set free by the truth: the Son of God.

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Chapter Six

WHERE DID IT START?

There is a passage of Scripture which when fully understood opens up our minds to the wisdom of God:

Proverbs 16:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

This passage of Scripture is only a single sentence, but it gives the reason why the world we live in has descended to such decadence over the last fifty years because the end is near and the time of visitation is at hand. The Lord has made all things for Himself - even the wicked for the day of judgement. The Lord will not come and punish those who disobey Him here on Earth by Himself because He has already put it in the hearts of the wicked for them to carry out that service for Him. But why and where did it start?

There is a price for our freewill to make choices. When God decided to create man in His image, He decided to give him the option to be able to make his own choices. It was not just man that God created. He created the angels in heaven first and gave them the freewill to make decisions. But it would never be freewill if there was no alternative. The angels, as we now know, are also subjected to the testimony of Jesus Christ:

Revelation 19:10 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

It was repeated for emphasis when another angel said:

Revelation 22:8-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

⁹Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." ¹⁰And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at

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hand. ¹¹ *He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.*”

The angels are fellow servants of the Lord who keep the commandments of God. But that is not how it was at the beginning. When God gave His creation freewill He had to provide an alternative to His ways and this alternative was locked in one of His creations called Lucifer. He was an angel with great authority in the Kingdom of heaven and all of the other angels looked up to him.

Ezekiel 28:11-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ *Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:*

“You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

¹⁴ *“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*

Lucifer, who is the King of Tyre, was the seal of perfection - full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. He was perfect in his ways from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him. What was the iniquity?

Isaiah 14:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’*

Lucifer’s iniquity was that he wanted to be like God; setting his throne above the angels of God, creating his own world. He decided not to adhere to the commandments of God, and in so doing - persuaded a third of the angels who chose to follow him:

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Revelation 12:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Amongst all the billions of angels that God created, a third of them decided to follow the footsteps of Lucifer and transgress the commandments of God. As it has been mentioned before in this study - it was God who placed an alternative to his way of life in Lucifer to give both the angels and us an alternative. Every conceivable evil and destruction our little minds can imagine is found in the spirit of this great being. That is the price all of God's creation has to pay for exercising their freewill and not choosing God's way of life. Surely the angels were also presented with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and Lucifer opted for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The root of all evil started in heaven in Lucifer. He also had a choice to obey God's commandments and live eternally in the presence of God but chose to be a god himself and gathered as many of those who were put under his command to follow suit. God made him the author of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to give man on Earth an alternative to the tree of life. We have to remember - God made Lucifer perfect, but he too had the choice to obey the commandments of God.

It is of paramount importance that we notice that these fallen angels still have an important part to play in proceedings as we enter deep into the end of this age. If now they are being restrained to keep them under control, what will happen when all the restraints are taken away?

When God created man on Earth, He made man perfect. He also gave man a choice by planting the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. Just as the leader of a third of the angels persuaded them to follow his commands and transgress God's authority and commandments, custody of the Earth was given to Adam in the Garden of Eden. Adam believed in God until the serpent, Lucifer, came along in the subtlest way and tested his faith. It is certain that Lucifer must have tried with Adam first but failed, so he decided to go through Eve to get to Adam. He knew if he could get to Adam, the world would be given to him. Consider this conversation between Lucifer and the Lord:

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Job 1:6-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

⁹ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

As you can see, God trust His servants and He trusts them in the face of trials. Satan is the one who is used to perform these trials, as he did with Job: the servant of the Lord. When Adam chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he handed over the Earth to the reign of the devil. He did not believe God and because he had been deceived to believe that he will be like God when he already was like God, he ate the fruit he was commanded not to eat. This was how death and evil entered the world.

Genesis 3:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

It was Lucifer who wanted to become like God as he knew he had the power over death. He used his ambition to entice Adam, telling him that he will become like God.

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John 8:43-47 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴³ *Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.* ⁴⁴ *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.* ⁴⁵ *But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.* ⁴⁶ *Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?* ⁴⁷ *He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."*

Satan has always been a murderer and this character was in him from the very beginning. He is the father of all lies. There is no truth within him. When he beguiled Adam, he took over his kingdom and established his own characteristics over the whole Earth. The majority of people in the world today might not believe the fact that they have been deceived and are living a lie. This is an audacious statement which might appear to have no foundation to stand on, but consider this passage of Scripture:

Revelation 12:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Here is the depth of deception. Satan the devil is real and he deceives the whole world, regardless of what any of us might be led to believe. God, who knows all things and created all things including Satan the devil, has said that Satan has deceived the whole world: this is the truth. But when we come to the knowledge of the truth, which Adam lost for the lies of the devil, only then are we set free. The majority of professing Christians, who do not abide in the word of God but profess to believe in the truth, are far from the truth as it can be because they are still under the bondage of deception which is made obvious by what they do:

John 8:31-36 New King James Version (NKJV)

³¹ *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.* ³² *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

³³ *They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"*

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³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

There is a price for everything here on Earth - even if it is a gift. Someone somewhere has paid the price for that gift. Nothing is free, including the freewill we have been given by God. If we make the right choices it will lead to eternal life in the presence of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ - who has paid the price for our transgressions with his life. But when we make the wrong choices with our freewill, it leads to death in the company of the father of death: Satan the devil and the rest of his cronies.

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Chapter Seven

THE GOD OF THIS AGE

The vast majority of people on Earth today believe that God the Father, the creator of the heavens and the Earth, is the god of this age. This is contrary to the truth. The god of this age is Satan the devil, but God has kept a path to the tree of life which is protected by the cherubim and the flaming sword:

Genesis 3:22-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

The way to the path that leads to the tree of life has been opened to both the Jews and the Gentiles. This occurred when the Lord said "It is finished", just before He gave up His spirit on the cross:

John 19:28-30 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

What was finished on that day will be fulfilled at the appointed time of the restoration of all things. The Lord has completed the first and most difficult part of the tasks God the Father has assigned to Him. We now await His return to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. But who is the god of this age?

Satan made a claim that the Earth has been given to him. The Lord Jesus Christ, who made the Earth, did not challenge him on this fact:

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Luke 4:5-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

Satan has custody of the Earth and he can give it to whoever he pleases. We have to understand that Satan is not just any angel but a very powerful angel who was in command of over a third of the angels in heaven. He has the power to perform mighty miracles here on Earth:

Job 1:13-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; ¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

These are just some of the mighty acts Satan can perform in a matter of minutes. But what is of paramount importance, which has been missed by the by the majority of Bible scholars, is the fact that he can control the Chaldeans to do his will without them knowing what is going on, just as he does with us today. We are being manipulated by the devil and his

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servants to do their vile acts without us having any idea of what is befalling us. He can cause a flood to materialise at a moments notice:

Revelation 12:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Satan has established his government on Earth. Although it may seem varied from the East to the West, Satan is behind all these governments. All nations of the world are geared to worship him. We have to remember that he has said he will give the world to whoever worships him. In the book of the prophet Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar was shown in a dream the governments of the world that will follow after his Babylonian kingdom:

Daniel 2:31-35 New King James Version (NKJV)

³¹ "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. ³² This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The first two kingdoms were empowered by God because He had to perform His will through the Babylonians, who took the children of Israel captives because of transgression. In the second, the Medes and Persian Empire, He inspired the king to favour the children of Israel and return their captivity to Jerusalem to build His house in preparation for the arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Daniel 11:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹“Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)² And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

A very powerful angel had to empower Darius the King of the Mede. The rest of the kingdoms have been established and empowered by the devil. Meanwhile God is working His will quietly in the background through His servants.

The majority of us alive today have no understanding of the fact that the god of this world has turned our hearts to mirror his heart which is desperately wicked but we have no knowledge of it is because it is a mixture of good and evil. The prophet Jeremiah was inspired to write on this fact of life:

Jeremiah 17:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

The reason for the hearts of men being so wicked is because Satan has established his spirit in our hearts and we have become like him, flitting from one personality to the other.

Isaiah 44:18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, And their hearts, so that they cannot understand.

It is from within us that all the evil we do in the world today stems. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Mark 7:20-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

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These are all character traits found in the god of this age and he has showered each and every one of us with these traits. It is only after repentance, and during the process of sanctification, that we are delivered from these evil characteristics. Because the god of this age is the proprietor of the carnal mind - all his offspring will be identical to him producing similar fruits:

Galatians 5:19-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

As mentioned earlier, Satan: the god of this world, has locked all the inhabitants of the world in prison houses. He has blinded the eyes of his people and employed his ministers in key positions in the world, which includes the leaders of nations, religions and schools. They are all geared to keep us from the truth, even those that profess to be of the God of creation. All you have to do is consider their works:

2 Corinthians 11:11-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

¹² But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. ¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Religion is the product of the god of this age. All the hundreds of religions and churches in the world all point to the god of this age: Satan. Even the ones that hold the majority of people in the world today. It was for this reason that the Lord Jesus Christ said:

John 12:40 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

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The governments of the world are controlled by him, from the East to the West and from the North to the South. All his governments are empowered by the angels who opted to follow his commands and disobeyed the commandments of God. Satan said to the Lord Jesus Christ that the world has been delivered to him and he will give it to whoever he chooses. The heads of the nations and organisations of this world are all under the control of Satan. It is he who has established them. This is the reason why there is no unity and everyone wants to govern over the other.

The ways of the god of this world have been described by the Lord Jesus Christ in the first nine chapters of the book of Proverbs. Here He outlined the two paths of life: the path for the just and the path for the wicked. He refers to the path for the wicked as 'her' path. This is fitting because it is women that bring forth children into the world and guide the character of their children. You can draw similarities with the woman of the book of Revelation chapter twelve. Consider this passage of Scripture in which we have all been given a very important piece of advice:

Proverbs 7:24-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴ Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: ²⁵ Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; ²⁶ For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong men. ²⁷ Her house is the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

The Lord also describes the god of this world as a foolish woman who knows nothing. But who is more foolish: the woman or the people who follow the woman? Unfortunately, it all ends in hell.

Proverbs 9:13-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing. ¹⁴ For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city, ¹⁵ To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way: ¹⁶ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here"; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ¹⁷ "Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." ¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.

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We should never lose sight of the gravity of the situation. We have all been led to believe stolen waters are sweet by the god of this age but the end will be bitter if we do not repent of our evil ways. The end of his path is in the depths of hell. This passage of Scripture describes how great Satan's influence is over the whole Earth:

Nahum 3:16-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven. The locust plunders and flies away. ¹⁷ Your commanders are like swarming locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers, Which camp in the hedges on a cold day; When the sun rises they flee away, And the place where they are is not known. ¹⁸ Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria; Your nobles rest in the dust. Your people are scattered on the mountains, And no one gathers them. ¹⁹ Your injury has no healing, Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap their hands over you, For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?

His wickedness is over us continually. Some will not agree with this statement because they have never realised the peace, mercy and love of God.

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Chapter Eight

TAKE HEED THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU

The Lord Jesus Christ, and all the men of God since the beginning of the world, have all preached the same message throughout the ages: take heed that no one deceives you. You have a responsibility to yourself to search for the truth and stand by the truth, regardless of the situation and at all cost. We have to come to the understanding that even our own hearts have been bent to deceive us:

Jeremiah 17:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Who on Earth would believe the fact that their heart and mind (their spirit and soul) are desperately wicked? We might consider our works to be good. But we must remember that it is God who has set the standard of good and the fruits of our works must meet His standards. What defiles a man comes from within - not from what we eat or drink - but from our words and actions. All our evil works are conceived in the mind.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

These are a reflection of our thought processes, what we spend our time meditating and thinking about. Our starting point was set at the beginning, in the days of Adam and Eve. From that time onwards, the prince of this world has deceived every single one of us. This is why we have all fallen short of the glory of God, because at one point in our lives we have all transgressed the commandments of God:

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Revelation 12:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

We cannot attribute the blame on Satan as Adam and Eve did. We have to be accountable for our actions because it is also in us to act wisely. There is a simple way of escaping the grasp of Satan:

Psalms 119:9-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. ¹²Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. ¹³With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. ¹⁴I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. ¹⁵I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. ¹⁶I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

The Lord has said that the only way for us to cleanse our way is to take heed of His word with all our hearts and obey his commandments. This passage of Scripture above is self-explanatory and is expounded throughout the entirety of the New Testament.

THE CHOICE OF LIFE OR DEATH

We all have an important decision to make: the choice between life and death. This is the primary purpose of our lives in this age. Within this life we have the chance to qualify for the ages to come in which the true vision of God will be established here on Earth by the Lord Jesus Christ. Moses, the servant of the Lord, presented the children of Israel with the options and advised them to choose life:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away so that you do not

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hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,¹⁸ I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

Some professing Christians will say this passage of Scripture is in the Old Testament and has nothing to do with us today, forgetting the fact that it was the commandments of God that were given to Moses for the children of Israel by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord then said to those who believe that:

Luke 13:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things?³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

Firstly, we have to keep the commandments of God. But because we have all fallen short of the glory of God because of transgression - we have to repent. Once we have done this God will give us His Spirit which will empower us to keep His commandments and lead us into all truth. Repentance is the foundation that underpins life or death. As you can see, these two commandments in the above passages of Scripture are related - in the sense that, God gave us His commandments through His servant Moses and the Lord is advising us to repent from transgressing the commandments of God.

John 3:19-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates

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the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Practising evil is not obeying the commandments of God. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will obey his call to repent. That is why He had said earlier:

John 3:16-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

There are two required components necessary to enter life: faith, which empowers our belief, and obedience to the commandments of God. If we believe in the Son of God we will certainly do what He has commanded us to do, which in the end will give us eternal life. The first step is to repent from transgressing God’s commandments.

THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Death entered the world because Adam and Eve chose to disobey God’s commandment. The fallout of their disobedience is what we see around us today; it was the root cause of the world declining into decadence. Some are being led to believe that the commandments of God have been nailed to the cross and we do not have to keep them anymore? God forbid.

If death entered the world because of transgression and for this reason the Son of God had to die should we not by all means start keeping the commandments after repentance?

1 John 5:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is

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born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The commandments of God are not burdensome, if we love God - we will keep His commandments. But we have been led to believe that the commandments of God are burdensome:

John 15:10-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

To be called a friend of God one must obey His commandments. It is not because of the amount of time we spend praying, or in church, or the amount of money we give to the church and the poor. It is about keeping the commandments of God. The Lord said:

Matthew 5:17-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The laws and commandments of God will be the foundation that constitutes the Kingdom of God here on Earth in the ages to come, it will not be changed. Those who first do and then teach others the laws and commandments of God will be called great in the kingdom of God. This is something the ministers of Satan do not understand. It is for this reason why the Lord said:

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Matthew 7:21-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

These people knew the word of God and could cast out demons and perform many miracles but they did not obey the commandments of God; neither did they teach others to keep the commandments of God. On the appointed day in the future, the Lord will say that He never knew them because they did not keep the commandments of God. Consider this passage of Scripture which details the reason why Abraham was called the friend of God:

Genesis 26:2-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

² Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. ³ Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; ⁵ because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

Seriously consider this fact: if the laws and commandments came through Moses, which commandments, statutes and laws of God did Abraham keep?

TRADITIONS

The greatest killers in the world are traditions and unwritten customs. With most things we can adapt and change our ways to suit the situation before us, but with traditions we blindly follow what has been set before us by others who had no knowledge of what and why they themselves follow these practices. We do not take the time to investigate the reason behind customs. We generally follow the steps of our parents, and when we grow older - the majority of us do not take the required time to investigate why we carry out certain traditions but instead steam ahead with what we have been taught with the attitude of:

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“the way we do things here”. This is common practice throughout the world. There is a prophecy of what the Lord has proposed will happen to His people, with the reasons firmly based on the traditions of this world:

Jeremiah 16:9-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ *For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will cause to cease from this place, before your eyes and in your days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.*

¹⁰ *“And it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, ‘Why has the LORD pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?’¹¹ then you shall say to them, ‘Because your fathers have forsaken Me,’ says the LORD; ‘they have walked after other gods and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and not kept My law.¹² And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me.¹³ Therefore I will cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know, neither you nor your fathers; and there you shall serve other gods day and night, where I will not show you favour.’*

The people of God today includes everyone scattered throughout the world who believes in the God of creation. Please read the whole chapter to gain understanding of what the Lord will do at the appointed time. Consider this passage of Scripture from the same chapter from the book of Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 16:19-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ *O LORD, my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction, The Gentiles shall come to You From the ends of the earth and say, “Surely our fathers have inherited lies, Worthlessness and unprofitable things.”²⁰ Will a man make gods for himself, Which are not gods?*

Have our fathers not inherited lies: worthless and unprofitable things? The Lord Jesus Christ expounded on this passage of Scripture when He said:

Mark 7:6-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ *He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honours Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.⁷ And in vain they*

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worship Me, teaching a doctrines the commandments of men.’⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”

⁹ He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honour your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’¹¹ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God),¹² then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother,¹³ making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

It is not about tradition but the keeping of the commandments of God. Whatever tradition we keep, if it is not of the truth then we are deceiving ourselves and worshipping the god of this age, Satan, who is behind all these customs. The Lord said to the Samaritan woman:

John 4:19-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Vain tradition will not gain us entrance into the Kingdom of God because God is a Spirit and He seeks those who must worship in spirit and truth.

THE CHURCHES OF THIS WORLD

The majority of churches of this world are the synagogues of Satan. Don’t be surprised by this fact. Is Satan not the god of this world? If he is the god of this world, will he not have

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established his churches and ministers to preach his gospel against the God who made him, leading people astray by saying we do not have to keep God's laws and commandments?

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. ¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

The bigger these churches are the further they are away from the truth. Many have not realised this and blindly follow these blind leaders of Satan. There is a question you need to consider: why is there no temple of the God of creation as there was in the day of King Solomon and when the Lord walked the Earth? As there were many Scribes and Pharisees in the days when the Lord walked the Earth, there are just as many in the world today:

Matthew 15:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

¹³ But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

Our church affiliation will not guarantee us access into the Kingdom of God. We could be a pastor, leader, or elder; regardless of our position in these churches, this approach may all be in vain. Here is the reason why: the Lord Jesus Christ did not create all these churches.

Matthew 16:17-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

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The Lord created His church, the Body of Christ, which has nothing to do with being a Catholic, which is the gateway to hell for the majority of the people of God. How can this be true? Consider the traditions and doctrines of the Catholic Church and all those churches which sprang up from the reformation of the Catholic Church: the Protestants. Are they not protesting against the Catholic Church but still keep the majority of the doctrines of the Catholic Church? One such doctrine to consider that both Catholics and Protestants celebrate is Christmas. This involves indulging in all kinds of revelling, promiscuous acts, binge eating and drinking, a fat man in a red costume and a long white beard and a decorated tree with lights in their houses. Are all these not Gentile practices with roots deeply planted in devil worshipping, trying to pass it for the birth of Christ? Consider this passage of Scripture:

Jeremiah 10:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. ²Thus says the LORD: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. ³For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. ⁴They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple. ⁵They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."

Is this not a command to not learn the way of the Gentiles, who decorate trees with lights at Christmas and put it in their houses, honouring the god who is behind every Gentile tradition? What about Easter, which holds one of the greatest lies, but many are still blind to it? Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three full days and three full nights, as was the Lord in the grave. Three sets of twenty four hours add up to seventy two hours, nothing less. Friday afternoon to Sunday morning can never add up to seventy two hours. Consider these for yourself: are these traditions not vain to you?

As for the rest of this world's so-called churches and religions, they are not worthy to be mentioned or even given a consideration since they are by no means close to the truth because the fundamental principles which underpin the truth do not even exist in these circles. In some of these places which serve wood and stones, there is no truth which can be

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distorted by men, yet these people are still blind to this because they follow the traditions others have set before them, foolishly believing in lies.

THE SABBATH

On the seventh day, when God had finished His restoration work on Earth, He rested and made the seventh day Holy and gave it as a covenant to Adam to keep as a statute for the world to keep forever.

Genesis 2:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

This is the very first covenant God made with man. When the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, He gave Moses a command about the Sabbath Day:

Exodus 20:8-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labour and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

There are two important facts we have to understand here. The Lord started with the word “remember,” which therefore means the Sabbath Day was not something new. It had existed before. The Lord gave the exact time when the Sabbath Day started, which was on the seventh day when He rested. Moreover, the Lord said that the Sabbath Day is a sign between Him and His people:

Exodus 31:13-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the

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LORD who sanctifies you. ¹⁴You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’ ”

The consequence, which has been missed by the majority of us, is death - if we do not keep the Sabbath Day. Notice that this passage of Scripture speaks of Sabbaths - not just the weekly Sabbaths. These Sabbaths are well documented in the book of Leviticus chapter twenty-three, in which the Lord outlined His Sabbaths which depicts the time frame of the different stages of salvation:

Leviticus 23:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. ³‘Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

⁴‘These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD’s Passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. ⁸But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.’ ”

The only reason that these offerings are not being made today is because there is no temple of God in Jerusalem - the City of our God. The Lord Jesus Christ did say He was the Lord of the Sabbath.

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Mark 2:23-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ Now it happened that He went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

²⁵ But He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: ²⁶ how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?"

²⁷ And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

The Lord has said that in the ages to come every nation of the world will go to Jerusalem to keep the Sabbaths of the Lord - as it was ordained in the beginning:

Zechariah 14:16-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

The feast of Tabernacles is a Sabbath of the Lord which will be kept by every nation when the Kingdom of God will be established here on Earth. The Lord, who gave Moses the Sabbaths of God, came into the world as a Jew and kept the Sabbaths. We know that, according to Jewish custom, the weekly Sabbath is on a Saturday and the rest of the feasts of the Lord are annual. The Lord did not change any of these Sabbaths. So then, why have some changed the Sabbath worship to a Sunday or a day of their choice? Remember, this is a commandment of the Lord and it was by transgressing a commandment of the Lord that the door to death was opened. So who is leading people to believe that the Sabbath Day is Sunday, or rather who has established his own day of worship to be Sunday? Is it not Satan - the God of this world?

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LOVE

We use the word love but lack understanding of the truth behind this word. We live in a world in which the true meaning of important things has been diminished to mean very little. Love is one of those things. Love is spiritual, but the god of this world has attached too much emotion on love and it has become something it is not. God loved the world and gave His Son to be the atonement for our sins:

John 3:16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Son loved and gave His life. This is the greatest agreement - it forms the foundation of love. If there is not an agreement on one part, then true love can never be established:

John 15:13-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

There is no greater love than the one the Lord Jesus Christ has showed us in giving His life for us. But all that hinged on the fact that He was obedient to God the Father's commandments - up to the point of a shameful death on the cross. We have been given the meaning of true love:

1 John 5:3-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Obedience, love and faith are interlinked together, without these we cannot love God. If we have no love for God we cannot love one another. Consider this passage of Scripture:

2 John 6 New King James Version (NKJV)

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⁶ *This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*

Who would believe this connection between love and obedience? To have any Love for God, we have to obey His commandments. Not just the commandment to love one another but all of the Ten Commandments. The Lord has said:

John 14:15-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

¹⁹ *"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

One of the commandments the Lord Jesus Christ gave us is to love our enemies:

Matthew 5:44-45 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁴ *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

This can only be possible if we obey God's commandments and have repented our sins because it is God who teaches us to love.

1 Thessalonians 4:7-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.*

⁹ *But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; ¹¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with*

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your own hands, as we commanded you,¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

We have been led to believe something that does not align with the truth because the one who controls this world has established hate and emotions to override the power of love. We most often confuse love with lust, forgetting that love is patient:

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

⁴Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love is a gift from the Spirit of God and it is God who teaches us to love. If we do not have the Spirit of God - we cannot love God and, in turn, love one another. We can tolerate one another without the Spirit of God but we cannot truly love because love comes from God. Love leads us to be givers and not takers in life, as the Lord said:

Acts 20:35 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁵I have shown you in every way, by labouring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'”

The god of this present world has established a selfish and greedy culture as standard in all the nations on Earth which leads to all manner of evil.

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Chapter Nine

THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

When God created man on Earth on the sixth day, He planted a garden in Eden and placed a man to be ruler over the Earth. But man could not withstand the temptations of the devil and exercised his freewill to choose, going against the commandment of God. He ate the fruits of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because he wanted to become like God, which was the devil's ambition.

Genesis 3:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹*Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"*

²*And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "*

⁴*Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

⁶*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

It is imperative we understand that God knew what would happen to Adam and Eve before He even created the heavens and the Earth and had already devised a plan to restore His creation to the glory He had visualised. However, at the very beginning man had the opportunity to eat from the tree of life but did not – even though He must have been told about the benefits of the tree of life.

Since God knew what will happen before He created the world, He also incorporated in His plan the salvation of man and the timeframe in which He will complete His plan. Hence, there are the Feasts Days of the Lord which are the different stages of the plan of salvation. This plan stems from this prophecy, which depicts what happened in the Garden of Eden:

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Psalm 2:2-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

²The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.” ⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶“Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” ⁷“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Adam gave away his kingdom to Satan when he was enticed to transgress God’s commandment. But God has planned to establish the government of God on Earth on His holy hill of Zion. Since the beginning - all the prophets of God have been preaching this path:

Acts 3:19-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since ^lthe world began.

²²For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. ²³And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ ²⁴Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. ²⁵You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ²⁶To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”

Those who do not hear the Lord Jesus Christ will be destroyed. That was the word the Lord gave Moses for the children of Israel. John the Baptist was inspired to preach the time of the restoration of all things, but many professing Christians have missed what he said:

Luke 3:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, ¹⁶John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with

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water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The first part of the general task God has given the Lord Jesus Christ is to provide atonement for the sins of men, which He has done perfectly. The second part is to thoroughly purge His the Earth and burn all the wicked and disobedient in unquenchable fire. This will begin in earnest at the end of this age. This will be the stone that was not cut with hands that struck the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream:

Daniel 2:44-45 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and ^[b]consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

That stone had to be first rejected by the builders for it to become the chief corner stone:

Matthew 21:42-44 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’S doing, And it is marvellous in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. ⁴⁴ And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

If you intentionally fall on this stone, you will be broken and healed from all your transgression, but if this stone should fall on you with indignation it will grind you to powder and cast you into the lake of fire. Because the Lord passed His hour of temptation - God the Father, who delivered the Earth to Satan, will also take the Earth from Satan and deliver it to the Lord to fulfill this prophecy:

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Haggai 2:20-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ And again the word of the LORD came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying, ²¹ “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: ‘I will shake heaven and earth. ²² I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.

²³ ‘In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,’ says the LORD, ‘and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

If our reasoning can go beyond the name (Zerubbabel) we will come to the revelation that the Lord is saying he will shake both the heavens and the Earth and overthrow the kingdoms of the Gentiles. This is why the Lord said:

Matthew 28:18-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

These disciples will be blessed by the Lord:

Matthew 25:31-46 New King James Version (NKJV)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in,

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or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

⁴⁴ "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

At the time of the restoration of all things, the Lord will honour those who have qualified for the Kingdom of God with Him with eternal life and the opportunity to rule the world as kings and priests. Those who chose not to obey the commandments of the Lord will be cast away into everlasting punishment. That is what the Lord has proposed.

Revelation 11:15-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

This is the declaration, after which the world will be restored to its original glory.

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Chapter Ten

CONCLUSION

What happened in the Garden of Eden with Adam, which changed the course of this age, did not surprise God the creator. He had good reasons for creating the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and giving man freewill. God could have created people who were mechanical: like robots, programmed to do as they are told. But this would have taken the creative and decision-making processes away from the angels and man - including animals, who also have to make decisions. God wants us to be creative like He is, that is why He made us in His image. Some, who will qualify from this age, will be transformed to be just like God.

By giving us the freewill to choose and make our own decisions, God had to provide an alternative to His ways. In doing so, he had to set boundaries with laws and commandments to govern His creation and provide harmony in the world. But that was broken by the fall of the angels first, and then man in the Garden of Eden.

It is of paramount importance that we realise that our freewill to choose comes at a great price. Our choices lead to life or to death. We have been advised to choose life. That life is in the Son of God, who gave His life for our sins. No one except the Son of God could have paid the price for our lives. It had to be God. Through Him all things were created and with His blood we are washed from our sins. Moreover, the majority of us are in the belief that it was at the cross that death was defeated. Death was defeated during the temptation in the wilderness.

If Satan had enticed the Lord to transgress God's commandment the rest of the Lord's ministry would not have been possible. Satan knew the Son of God would come into the world and that if he could outwit Him, as he did with Adam, the world would have been his forever. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Mark 3:24-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is

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divided, he cannot stand, but has an end.²⁷ No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.

Satan is the strong man and his house is the Earth but the Lord is stronger than Satan. Adam was given the same power and authority as the Lord but chose to transgress. The Lord did bind Satan first and then proceeded to plunder Satan's house. Satan could not get the better of Him as he did with Adam. The Lord was tempted by Satan during the greatest spiritual battle ever that lasted over forty nights and forty days - in which the Lord had nothing to eat or drink. Remember, the price for the winner was either life or death:

Luke 4:1-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

⁵Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

⁸And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

⁹Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' ¹¹and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " ¹²And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " ¹³Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

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Obedience and faith won the battle and now at the appointed time the tree of life will once again be planted on Earth on the holy mount of God in Zion and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil will be no more.

God is a Spirit and He seeks those that worship Him in spirit and truth:

John 4:21-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

To be able to worship God in spirit and truth we need to acquire the Spirit of God. This has been made available to us through the path the Lord Jesus Christ has opened to both the Jews and the Gentiles. This path involves two processes: justification and sanctification.

There is an appointed time in the future when only those who have chosen to obey God and live by faith will inhabit the Earth. It will be during this period of time that death will be completely taken away from existence:

1 Corinthians 15:26-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.²⁷ For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

It will be at this time that the lord of death (Satan) will also be destroyed forever:

Revelation 20:7-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.¹⁰ The devil, who

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deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Lord will make all things new:

Revelation 21:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

⁶And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

We have a choice to make. The Lord has said:

Mark 1:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The time really is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is truly at hand - it will soon overtake the world. It will happen, as it has been prophesied with or without us - but the choice is ours if we want to be part of it. King Solomon was inspired to write:

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Ecclesiastes 12:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ *The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth.* ¹¹ *The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.* ¹² *And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.*

¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:*

Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ *For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*

Only faith and obedience to the commandments of God will put us in good stead for the coming kingdom of God. The present world's god and government will soon be cast into the lake of fire; we are the generation to see it happen. Repent and believe God. Please obey His commandments. Let no one deceive you.