

ADRIAN EBENS



DIVINE
RISK

TRUE FREEDOM IN THE FATHER'S LOVE

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Adrian Ebens, 2021

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CHAPTER 1

THE DILEMMA OF OMNISCIENCE AND OMNIPOTENCE

The Bible tells us in its very first verse that "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," Genesis 1:1. One question that many people wonder is, "Did God know that Adam and Eve would sin?"

Christianity is very quick to answer yes to this question. Here are a few examples.

God is omniscient (Psalm 139:1–6), and He knows the future (Isaiah 46:10). So He definitely knew that Adam and Eve would sin.¹

If God Knew That Adam and Eve Would Sin, Then Why Did He Create Them? The Lord was not surprised by Adam and Eve's sin, for it served the purpose of the Lord's plan in bringing forth Jesus to die in the place of sinners and rise again to offer eternal life.²

This question gets even more interesting when we introduce the idea of punishment. If God knew before He created Adam and Eve that they

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/if-God-knew-Adam-Eve-sin.html>

² <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/if-god-knew-that-adam-and-eve-would-sin-then-why-did-he-create-them.html>

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would sin, then why did He punish them? Is this fair? Listen to one Christian response.

Is it blasphemous to think God knew Adam and Eve would sin...because He is God and yet He punished them?

This is a good question. The short answer is no, it is not blasphemous to think God knew that Adam and Eve would sin. Yes, He knew they would sin and that He would punish them. Indeed, Scripture makes clear that God knew they would sin.

Ephesians 1:3-4 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him."

As this passage makes clear, God chose those who would believe in His Son and be saved (v. 4). Since He chose us before the foundation of the world, that means God knew that we would be sinners and that God would need to send His Son to provide salvation. This means He knew that Adam and Eve would sin, since we are sinners because of Adam's transgression.³

In 2018 and 2019, two 737 Max aircraft in two separate incidents suddenly crash landed killing a total of 346 people. In the investigation it was discovered there was a design fault in the aircraft. It was also discovered that Boeing hid the design flaws from pilots and regulators.⁴ Who should be considered responsible for the crashes of these planes? The pilots or the designers?

If God was the designer and Creator of the human race and He knew for sure that the system that He created would crash leading to the death of billions, then who is responsible? Is it man or God? If God knew these

³ <https://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-answers/is-it-blasphemous-to-think-god-knew-that-adam-and-eve-would-sin>

⁴ https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/boeing-hid-design-flaws-in-737-max-from-pilots-regulators-us-panel-120091602119_1.html

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things even before He created the human race, then why couldn't He, if He is all-knowing, make the design so that it would not fail?

Christianity adds to this problem further through another teaching. God is said to be omnipotent, meaning He is all-powerful. If God created a system knowing that it would crash and He had the power to stop those crashes from happening, then why didn't He stop the human race from crashing? Is this a fair question?

The Greek Philosopher Epicurus who lived about 300 years before Christ came to the following conclusion based on what he understood about God at that time.

"Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?" – Epicurus.

His ideas have gained a lot of traction over the last 100 years, along with other dissenting voices in response to the claims of the Christian faith. The claims of omniscience and omnipotence are *supposed to* inspire confidence in people that God is in control and that we can trust Him because He knows exactly what is going on.

Yet it seems that for many people, the two teachings of omniscience and omnipotence have become two horns upon which Christianity has caught itself. If you know for sure that the actions you take to create something will lead to the misery and death of billions of people, then how is it possible not to attribute responsibility for this suffering to that creator?

Jesus Himself stated:

Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"
Luke 6:9

Jesus equates *good* to saving life and *evil* to destroying life. If God knew that by creating the world that it would certainly lead to the death of

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billions, then isn't it by the definition of Jesus – evil? The book of James tells us:

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin. James 4:17

Do people truly believe that it is good for billions of people to suffer and die? Does anyone believe this? If it is good to save life and God knew that by creating this world that it would destroy life, then by this very definition God is evil.

Many Christians become indignant when you ask any questions in this direction. It is an attack on their conceptions of deity, and very quickly you can be told that it is blasphemy to reason this way and that you will be sent to hell if you don't repent. This type of thinking has led to responses such as these.

"Religion is a totalitarian belief. It is the wish to be a slave. It is the desire that there be an unalterable, unchallengeable, tyrannical authority who can convict you of thought crime while you are asleep, who can subject you to total surveillance around the clock every waking and sleeping minute of your life, before you're born and, even worse and where the real fun begins, after you're dead. A celestial North Korea. Who wants this to be true? Who but a slave desires such a ghastly fate? I've been to North Korea. It has a dead man as its president, Kim Jong-Il is only head of the party and head of the army. He's not head of the state. That office belongs to his deceased father, Kim Il-Sung. It's a necrocracy, a thanatocracy. It's one short of a trinity I might add. The son is the reincarnation of the father. It is the most revolting and utter and absolute and heartless tyranny the human species has ever evolved. But at least you can #\$\$%ing die and leave North Korea!" – Christopher Hitchens.⁵

Did Christopher Hitchens have a point or was he just a wicked atheist? Is it possible that some of the fundamentally held beliefs of Christianity actually contributed to his seeing God and His government in this way?

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Hitchens

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Believing that God knows absolutely everything contains a bitter pill that all believers must swallow. It means you must accept that God knew all this death and destruction was going to happen, but He went ahead and did it anyway. This is compounded by the fact that if you doubt that God knows absolutely everything, then you run the risk of denying His divinity and therefore could be thrown into hell. Therefore, it is not easy for Christians to approach this question in a candid manner. Most Christians are locked into creeds that require you to believe that God knows absolutely everything and to question it is to risk your eternal life.

Not all Christian communities operate like this but many do – in many Christian communities, questioning the absolute foundations of the movement will get you ostracized, banished, or killed (if not by the followers themselves, then by God). These foundations include the belief that God knows everything. Isn't this similar to North Korea?

God declares He is love (1 John 4:8), and that there is no fear in love (1 John 4:18). He wants us to worship Him with all our heart, all our strength, with all our soul, and with all our *mind*; and declares this the greatest commandment (Luke 10:27). If that is the case, then it is our duty to address and answer this question, for ourselves and for others, for we cannot love God wholeheartedly, with "all our mind", with such a profound critique of our Creator lingering in our subconscious.

Let us turn to the Scriptures to see what is actually written.

CHAPTER 2

KNOWING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING

The Bible makes several statements about God's knowledge. At the personal level we have precious statements like this.

O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *but* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. Psalm 139:1-8

Our Father in heaven knows everything about us. He knows our thoughts and the things we will say. He knows where we are at all times through His Spirit. For those who know that God is loving, kind and merciful, this is a very comforting thought.

Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all

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numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. Luke 12:6-7

Our Father knows the exact number of the hairs on our head. This also suggests that He knows much more about us than we know about ourselves.

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Acts 17:24-28

Our Father is an immense person. He gives life and breath to every living being presently numbering in the billions. He keeps track of every cell of every living organism, and watches over their interactions with each other. How one being could be so intimately connected to so many billions of living creatures at one time is beyond our comprehension.

Beyond this, it states that God knows the boundaries and times of every nation that comes upon the earth before they come to be. This is also impossible for a human being to fathom. The truth of this statement can be found in the Bible in places like the book of Daniel where the rise of nations from his time are revealed long into the future. While living in the kingdom of Babylon, it was revealed to Daniel about the rise of the kingdoms of Media-Persia and Greece that would come after that time.

The ram which you saw, having the two horns—*they are* the kings of Media and Persia. And the male goat *is* the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that *is* between its eyes *is* the first king. Daniel 8:20-21

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The book of Daniel was written in the 6th century before Christ. Due to the accuracy of Daniel's predictions, many people have concluded that this book could not have been written at that time, and date it after the rise of the kingdom of Greece. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls showed that the book of Daniel already had a place in the Hebrew prophetic canon at 150 BC, meaning centuries had passed since it was written. For those of us who believe the Bible to be the word of God, we see an amazing revelation of our heavenly Father's knowledge and ability to see into the future and know what will happen.

In His dealings with the human race, God has revealed His ability to tell the future as a distinguishing mark that shows He is God.

Tell and bring forth *your case*; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; *there is* none besides Me. Isaiah 45:21

Reading in the Psalms we find several amazing prophecies relating to the Messiah. In Psalm 22 we are told of the crucifixion and the very words that would be spoken at the trial of Christ.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for

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my garment. But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. Psalm 22:6-19 (NIV)

This is an amazing prophecy written 1000 years before the time of Christ. Jesus told His disciples that many things were written about Him in the Psalms and other Old Testament prophets.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Luke 24:44 (NIV)

The prophecy in Psalm 22 includes even the very words that would be spoken by those who mocked and killed Jesus: "He trusts in the LORD, let the LORD deliver him." There is no question from reading the Bible that God possesses incredible knowledge. It is expressed this way in the Psalms.

Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite. Psalm 147:5

The Hebrew expression for the English word *infinite* is "Does not exist as a number." In other words, there is no number that can measure the knowledge of God. According to our perception this means without limit, or as the translators have expressed it, *infinite*. Another commonly quoted passage used to express what God does know is found in Isaiah.

Remember the former things of old, for I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [H6924] *things* that are not *yet* done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.' Isaiah 46:9-10

God has the ability to predict exactly where something will go once it has begun. What is curious about this verse is that it suggests God is predicting future events based on previous events that have taken place in what this text calls the *beginning*. Additionally, the word translated *ancient times* first appears in Genesis 2 and 3.

The LORD God planted a garden eastward [H6924] in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. Genesis 2:8

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So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east [H6924] of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24

God tells the nation of Israel to remember the former things of old and the ways in which He has helped them. He then gives reference to this Hebrew word that can refer to antiquity but also contains a reference to a geographical direction, namely the east. So, in this verse at least, the predictive ability of God is being connected to events and even geography.

In this oblique reference to the east, is there something God wants us to understand? Could it mean that God knew exactly where events would go once the first sin happened in the garden of antiquity, for it was there that the seed of all man's future deeds was planted? If God says that He knew the end from *this* starting point, at the garden that was "eastward in Eden," did it mean He didn't know before that, which end Adam and Eve would choose?

We will return to this question a number of times through different layers of thought. It is a pivotal point. Does God knowing the end from the beginning simply mean that He knows absolutely everything, or does it mean that once something has been planted or activated or chosen, He knows exactly where it will end?

We have considered a few texts that Bible students have presented on the subject of God's knowledge. One Christian, writing about the subject of the omniscience of God, concluded the following from his study of Scripture.

The Bible teaches that God is all-knowing or omniscient. The word "omniscient" comes from two Latin words *omnis* signifying all, and *scientia* signifying knowledge. When we say that God is omniscient it means that He has perfect knowledge of all things. He does not have to learn anything and He has not forgotten anything. God does not have to reason things out, find out things, or learn them gradually. He knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen. God also knows every potential thing that might

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happen. God even knows those things that humankind has yet to discover. This knowledge is absolute and unacquired. The omniscience of God means that He has perfect knowledge, perfect understanding, and perfect wisdom as to how to apply the knowledge.⁶

It is an interesting conclusion from Scripture. If God knows everything that will happen and never needs to reason things out, then His interaction with human beings can never be response based. It would be all predetermined. This is the position of those who follow the teachings of John Calvin. The sovereign will of God has predetermined all things. He has determined already those who will be saved and those who will be lost. The decisions you make do not in any way alter what God had already determined.

Predestination, in Christian theology, is the doctrine that all events have been willed by God, usually with reference to the eventual fate of the individual soul. Explanations of predestination often seek to address the "paradox of free will", whereby God's omniscience seems incompatible with human free will. In this usage, predestination can be regarded as a form of religious determinism; and usually predeterminism, also known as theological determinism.⁷

We will address the subject of the paradox of free will and God's Sovereignty in a later chapter. Our object here is to simply introduce the scope of issues that are related to the subject of God having absolute knowledge. Let us now introduce some well-known Bible texts that potentially challenge the idea of God's will pre-determining all future events.

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. John 3:16

⁶ https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_359.cfm

⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predestination>

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The most famous text in the Bible indicates that human response determines whether a person is saved or lost. If God already knew this then the text should read, "For God so loved those whom He had predetermined that He gave His only begotten Son that those whom He had chosen should have eternal life."

This is further complicated by texts such as this:

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Here we are told that God is not willing that any should perish. This means that God's will is that all should be saved. But we know that not everyone will be saved.

Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:14

This means that God's will, that all be saved, can be overridden by human will that refuses to respond to God's loving offer of salvation. Could this explain the true depth of the tears that Jesus shed over Jerusalem?

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate. Matthew 23:37-38

This takes us into the subject of God's knowledge in relation to God's feelings. I have had many experiences where I was approached by a friend with some special news that another person had already informed me of. As I was already aware of the news, I couldn't give a first reaction response – the effect of the news was blunted because it wasn't new to me. This provides a clue to the reality that foreknowledge affects emotional responses.

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Let us now examine the Bible to see a number of stories that could lead us to question aspects of God's foreknowledge.

CHAPTER 3

DIVINE REACTION TO HUMAN ACTION

After the fall of Adam, the human race slowly descended into depravity. By the time of Noah things had become desperate.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. **And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth**, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, **for I am sorry that I have made them.**" Genesis 6:5-7

Did God actually become sorry that he made man? Was this a real emotion that God was feeling? How does feeling sorry He made man align with the principle of predetermination? The Hebrew word for *sorry* means to sigh. It suggests disappointed hope.

It is interesting to read John Wesley's commentary on the story of Noah:

That he had made a creature of such noble powers, and had put him on this earth, which he built and furnished on purpose to be a comfortable habitation for him; and it grieved him at his heart. **These are expressions after the manner of men, and must be understood so as not to reflect upon God's immutability or felicity.**

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It doth not speak any passion or uneasiness in God, nothing can create disturbance to the eternal mind; but it speaks his just and holy displeasure against sin and sinners: neither doth it speak any change of God's mind; for with him there is no variableness; but it speaks a change of his way. – John Wesley on Genesis 6:6

Does Wesley suggest that what is written in the Scripture cannot be taken as actually applying to God? The chief reason for this is Wesley's belief in the immutability of God. This teaching suggests that God does not have emotion or feeling, as this would suggest changeableness in God. Instead of reading this text as a heartbroken Father who weeps for His children it becomes an expression of holy displeasure against sin and sinners. Is this really the case?

Is it possible to see the same sorrow here in the story of Noah as we see in Jesus weeping over Jerusalem? The Father had done all He could to save the human race but the human race made the decision to reject God.

Will you keep to the old way which wicked men have trod, who were cut down before their time, whose foundations were swept away by a flood? They said to God, 'Depart from us! What can the Almighty do to them?' Yet He filled their houses with good *things*; but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. Job 22:15-18

Almost the entire world had told God to depart from them. He was left with no choice but to honour their demand and leave them to reap what they had sown on the earth.

The belief in the all-knowing ability of God would tell us that God knew exactly what would transpire. To experience sorrow for making man challenges the premise of a predetermined outcome by God. That is at least if we take the Bible passage as it reads. Again, we are reminded that God was not willing that any of them should perish but all come to repentance.

If we come back to the beginning of this chapter, we discover a trigger which initiates a time period with a definite terminus. The sons of God (faithful sons of Seth) began to marry the daughters of men (disobedient

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daughters of Cain). From the actions of men, God predicted what was going to happen.

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, **that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.** And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; **yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."** Genesis 6:1-3

The three Hebrew words for *saw*, *beautiful*, and *took* are exactly the same as the words used to describe Eve taking from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God could discern where this was heading. He knew what was in the heart of man and therefore He knew that in 120 years the accumulated sins of men would result in a calamity. Why does the Bible offer a time frame in response to the actions of men marrying women devoted to idolatry?

There are many facets to this story to consider, but the core element we want to consider is how do we account for the language of regret and the deep emotions being described within God? How do we match this with the idea that God already knows everything and further still, as some suggest, never needs to reason and weigh things out? Consider another story:

And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the **Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven** and said, "**Abraham, Abraham!**" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; **for now I know that you fear God**, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." Genesis 22:10-12

The one speaking to Abraham is the Angel of the Lord. The repeating of Abraham's name twice reveals the manner in which Jesus spoke often when speaking earnestly to people. "Simon, Simon..." (Luke 22:31); "Martha, Martha..." (Luke 10:41). The Angel of the Lord is none other than the Son of God and He speaks as the representative of His Father. Is it possible to take these words at face value that it was not until now

that God knew that Abraham feared God? The commentator John Gill offers these thoughts:

...but this is said after the manner of men, who know things with certainty when they come to pass, and appear plain and evident: or this may be understood of a knowledge of approbation, that the Lord now knew, and approved of the faith, fear, love, and obedience of Abraham, which were so conspicuous in this affair. – John Gill Commentary on Genesis 22:12

and again, from John Wesley:

Now know I that thou fearest God – **God knew it before, but now Abraham had given a memorable evidence of it**. He need do no more, what he had done was sufficient to prove the religious regard he had to God and his authority. The best evidence of our fearing God is our being willing to honour him with that which is dearest to us, and to part with all to him, or for him. – John Wesley Commentary on Genesis 22:12

We see the conflict between this expression of Scripture and what is perceived of the omniscient God. If God already knew it then would it not be better to say "Now you have revealed the truth that I knew from the beginning that you fear God." There is tension between the literal text and the premise that all things are known to God. The Bible commentator explains this by indicating that this is an expression of men, meaning God is not truly speaking what He thinks. He is said to be accommodating us and speaking as a man. But why would He do this? Let us consider another story as we ponder these things.

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey *in extent*. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" Jonah 3:1-4

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Jonah is instructed to go and tell the city of Nineveh that it was going to be overthrown in 40 days. There is no other message given. There is no mention of conditions for this event not to take place. The city of Nineveh repented of their sins and hoped in the mercy of God.

Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. Jonah 3:10

It appears that God *reacts* to the actions of the city. They repented and so God relented. If we say that God knew that He would not do it, then the language of God to Jonah that "I am going to overthrow your city" was actually not true. It would not be telling the truth. So, what is happening here?

What is fascinating about the initial command of God to overthrow the city is that the Hebrew word for *overthrown* in Jonah 3:4 can have the following meaning:

[H2015] 1b) (Niphal)

1b1) to turn oneself, turn, turn back

1b2) to change oneself

1b3) to be perverse

1b4) to be turned, be turned over, be changed, be turned against

1b5) to be reversed

1b6) to be overturned, be overthrown

1b7) to be upturned

This same Hebrew word in the same Niphal case is used to describe the heart of God and his feelings to Israel.

How can I give you up, Ephraim? *How* can I hand you over, Israel?

How can I make you like Admah? *How* can I set you like Zeboiim?

My **heart churns** [H2015] within Me; My sympathy is stirred.

Hosea 11:8

Is it possible that what God said to Jonah was that He would 'overthrow' the hearts of the people of the city of Nineveh – meaning to bring them to repentance? And is it possible that Jonah, because of his own biases,

understood God's word *overthrow* to refer to the city itself, overturning the city and therefore the people in it? Could it be that instead of destroying the city, God was saying He would overturn the hearts of the people within 40 days?

We see evidence of this type of confusion with those responding to the teachings of Jesus several times over. When Jesus told those around Him to destroy the temple (John 2:19). His listeners thought He was speaking of the physical temple, but He was speaking of Himself. It is important to note that it was this misunderstanding that was used to condemn Jesus to death, saying that He wanted to destroy the temple. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well in John 4 about water, she thought He meant physical water but He actually meant spiritual water. When Jesus told His disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, they thought he was talking about physical bread but He was speaking of spiritual bread.

How do we then understand the language of Jonah 3:10 where it says that God relented of the disaster that He would bring upon them and did not do it. Is this speaking in terms of how God was acting, or was it speaking in terms of how people interpreted the events? Don Stewart, Bible theologian and commentator, has commented on this story.

Did God Change His Mind as to What He Was to Do with the People of Nineveh?

In the Book of Jonah there is the account of the people of Nineveh repenting at the preaching of Jonah. In response to the repentance of the people the Bible says that God repented of what He was about to do to the people.

This has been used as a classic example of God changing His mind with reference to people humbling themselves and asking His forgiveness. It is also believed that God's plans change because of the actions of humans. The conclusion is that the future is not set. It can change based upon the behavior of humans.

Yet this is not the only way to look at this passage. For one thing, there was no message of repentance in Jonah's preaching. None!

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He said that the city of Nineveh was to be destroyed. Period. No hope was offered, no forgiveness was extended. On their own, the people of Nineveh humbled themselves and asked God's forgiveness. From a human perspective God changed His mind and did not destroy Nineveh. **Yet we should not assume that God actually altered His plan. Since He exhaustively knows the future, He knew that they would repent. Therefore, the message of Nineveh's destruction was not something which God decreed would happen.**⁸

We see how Don Stewart, interprets the text based upon the unmoveable thought in his mind of exhaustively knowing the future. He makes a good point about Jonah being aware that God was merciful. Jonah basically says – "I knew you would do this!"

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, *was* not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: **for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.**
Jonah 4:1-2 (KJV)

How could Jonah know God's mercy to determine an outcome better than God Himself? That is impossible. God can read the human heart. He knows what is in the minds of men. As we read in the Psalms, God knows the words I will speak before I speak them. (Psalm 139:1-7). To say that God did not know the outcome of the City of Nineveh 40 days before the stated event appears to diminish the wisdom of God and His ability to read the hearts of men. If God could predict in Psalm 22 the very words that those who crucified Jesus would utter 1000 years into the future, then surely He could know how the Ninevites would respond 40 days into the future.

Don Stewart argues the case upon the basis of exhaustively knowing the future in the terms of classical omniscience. It might be equally argued upon other criteria that we shall explore in this book. My point in raising

⁸ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/does-god-know-everything/27-did-god-change-his-mind-about-nineveh.cfm

this story is that some people who advocate that God does not know all things exactly into the future might be overreaching in using this example. We need to examine the evidence carefully and methodically.

In the story of Jonah, the issues are far more complex than maybe previously thought. If God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell them "I know you are going to repent," it would not have produced the right outcome. In the same way that Jesus said to the Canaanite woman "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs" (Matthew 15:26), so God gave a message to Jonah that He would overturn the city. Jonah desired the people of Nineveh to die. God gave a message to Jonah that He knew Jonah would carry because Jonah might have refused to do it if God had worded it differently.

As we discovered, the word *overthrow* [H2015] in Hebrew could be understood two different ways. Just as Jesus did not actually call the woman a dog but simply stated that it is not right to give good food to dogs, God did not actually say He would destroy the city but He used a word that meant something different spiritually from that which was physical. Just as the woman thought Jesus called her a dog but hung on and claimed salvation, so the Ninevites thought God was going to destroy them and repented and received salvation.

It is true that if the Ninevites did not repent their city would face disaster, but the details of this are beyond the present scope of this book. The aim of this chapter was to examine the Bible and reveal the tension that appears to exist in Scripture between God's foreknowledge and His interactions with men and what appears to be emotional responses and changes in purpose.

The next layer we want to add to this question of God's knowledge is the person of Jesus. In conversation with His disciples, Jesus made this profound statement:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. John 14:6-7 (KJV)

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Coming to the Father through the Son is the context of Jesus being the way, the truth and the life. Jesus is the truth about the Father and therefore is the only way to the Father. The significance of these words is much deeper than simply the ability to pray to the Father. It encompasses everything we can know about God which includes the subject of omniscience.

CHAPTER 4

CHRIST THE TRUTH OF THE FATHER

In our search for the truth about God we must remember some critical things.

"For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

Since God's thoughts are not ours, it is impossible for us to conceive anything about God outside of the person of His Son. Speaking about the Son of God, the book of Hebrews states:

...who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:3

Christ is the express image or perfect representation of the Father. He is the brightness and beauty of the Father's glory of character. In taking on human nature, Christ formed the only bridge possible for us to come to the Father. This coming to the Father is not simply related to proximity or geography but also our perceptions of who God is.

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The human mind, because of sin, is in such deep darkness about God that Jesus had to come to reveal Him to us.

For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:6-7

When Adam and Eve sinned, they set the human race in a direction that was hostile towards God. Our minds are not naturally open to God or His ways. Our innate distrust of Him causes us to be unable to simply believe anything He states. Fundamentally "we love darkness rather than light, because our deeds are evil," though this law of our flesh manifests in many different ways and generally we don't know the full extent of our natures and actions (John 3:19).

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."
Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

The Bible tells us that in our natural fallen state we do not seek after God. It means it is impossible for us to be able to understand who God is or what He is like except through Jesus Christ. It means that anything that we read about God in the Bible will be automatically twisted and distorted in a way that attacks God and keeps us in darkness unless we come to Christ and are born again from above.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.
John 1:10-12

Even God's own people, who were taught so much about God, rejected Christ when He came to the earth. They did not recognise Him when He came because the whole nation had twisted the words of the prophets that God sent to them. Rather than accepting Jesus as the Messiah, they twisted the words of Jesus in a manner to kill Him.

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Would it be wise for us to think that we are different to Israel of old? Is there some quality that we possess in ourselves that enables us to act differently to them? These are important things to consider in our quest to know God and what He knows.

For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, **being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.** Colossians 2:1-3

The Apostle Paul under inspiration tells us that the mystery of God, which He expands to mean the Father and Christ, contain all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

We would affirm that most people believe that God contains all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; but the point that Paul is making is that in knowing who the Father and the Son are and the love they possess, we have the very key to having full assurance of understanding. And as Christ is the only way to know the Father this means that when we know the truth about the Son of God, then we have the key to knowing the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

We remember that Jesus did not simply say that He possesses truth, but rather He is the truth. In knowing Him – as He is – we have the key to knowing the truth about God. This includes the truth about what God knows, for Jesus is the truth about everything.

...but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1:24

If Christ is the wisdom of God, then the only way to understand this wisdom is by knowing God's Son. There is a difference between knowing about Him and actually knowing Him. The only way to know Christ is to be filled with His Spirit. You can't know Him if you do not have His Spirit living in you, because the human heart is naturally in opposition to Christ and twists everything about Him into a lie. Only by the surrender

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of the heart – the acceptance that we are evil and guilty of the death of the Son of God, yet we are forgiven – can we receive His Spirit and then know Him. When the Spirit of Christ dwells in us, we can say with Paul:

For, "Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach Him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 (NLT)

How wonderful to know the Lord's thoughts when we have the mind of Christ! We repeat this vital point that only in knowing the true identity of the Son of God and at the same time embracing Jesus – the Son of man – can we receive the Spirit of Jesus and know who God is and what are His thoughts. Now we come to the Bible definition of eternal life.

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

Eternal life is to know the only true God which is the Father and Jesus Christ whom the Father sent to us. The only way to know the Father is through the One sent to us. Therefore, the first thing we must acknowledge for eternal life is to believe that the Father is the only true God and that God sent His Son to us.

Yet for us *there is one God, the Father, of whom **are** all things*, and we for Him; and *one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **are** all things*, and through whom we *live*. 1 Corinthians 8:6

This verse we have just read presents to us the key⁹ to the treasures of all the wisdom and knowledge that are found in the Father and the Son (Colossians 2:2-3). It is the Father who is the source of all things and it is His Son through whom we receive all that the Father has. If we do not accept this then we cannot find the way to the Father and we cannot

⁹ For more on this subject of the key to unlock all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge see the booklet *Divine Pattern of Life* available at fatheroflove.info. For an expanded presentation of these principles see the book *Escaping the Pentagon of Lies* also available at fatheroflove.info

understand what is His omniscience. Let me explain this a little further as this principle can be difficult to grasp.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, **did not consider it robbery to be equal with God**, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name. Philippians 2:5-9

Jesus did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. All of Christianity believes that Christ is equal with the Father. The critical point is to know what is it that makes the Son equal with the Father? Let us turn to the famous Athanasian creed and see how it determines equality of Father and Son and Spirit.

For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; **the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal**. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. **The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal**. And yet they are not three eternal; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinites, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise **the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Ghost Almighty**. And yet they are not three Almighties; but one Almighty. **So the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Ghost is God**. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God. So likewise **the Father is Lord; the Son Lord; and the Holy Ghost Lord**. And yet not three Lords; but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity; to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord; So are we forbidden by the catholic religion; to say, There are three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is made of none; neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created; but begotten. The Holy

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Ghost is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten; but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. **And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal.** So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity. – Excerpt from the Athanasian Creed. (5th century AD)

This creed defines the equality of the Father and Son in terms as these: glory, majesty, uncreated, unlimited, eternal, almighty, God, Lord. Neither Father, Son or Holy Spirit is "greater or less than another," but rather all "are co-equal and co-eternal."

Equality as expressed in the Trinity is equality of power, position, majesty. It is an equality of inherent personal qualities. Divinity is demonstrated through the pedigree of power, dominion, eternal age.

In contrast to this, the begotten Son of the Bible presents a different picture of equality. Let us examine some Scripture that reveals His true identity.

Who being the **brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person...** Hebrews 1:3

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, **and have known surely that I came forth from You;** and they have believed that You sent Me. John 17:8

The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. **I have been established from everlasting,** from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. **When *there were no depths* I was brought forth,** when *there were* no fountains abounding with water. Proverbs 8:22-24

I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.' Psalm 2:7

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But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, **One whose origins are from the distant past**. Micah 5:2 (NLT)

The truth of the identity of the Son of God is that He was begotten of the Father in eternity. He was brought forth from the Father and setup from everlasting. The Son of God received everything that He has from His Father. He inherited everything from His Father. This is what makes Him the brightness of the Father's glory.¹⁰ This is a completely different Son to the one mentioned in the Athanasian creed. The creed states that Christ is begotten, but this is lost in the statements of equality through power, position and eternal age. It is forced into an incomprehensible mystery outside the truth of Scripture.

The true begotten Son inherited His divinity and therefore His equality to the Father is based upon the Father's gift of inheritance and upon the Father's decree. It is not the Son's power that makes the Son equal, but it is the Father's word that makes the Son equal.

But unto the Son *he* [the Father] *saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom. Hebrews 1:8 (KJV)

This difference in equality is the key to understanding the difference between the true biblical omniscience and the false one, which is man's idolatry of knowledge projected into the heavens.

The Son of God that we worship defines the system we use to evaluate merit. Our perceptions of equality reveal the value system we hold as to what is of highest importance. If the equality of Jesus is based on majesty, power, glory and eternal age, then you are forced to press all these attributes to the highest conceivable level and label this God. In this framework, God's declarations about the worth of His Son; God lovingly raising His Son; God proclaiming His Son as deity because His only begotten-Son is the only one who knows Him – all these are

¹⁰ For more on this question see the books *Wisdom of God* and *My Beloved* available at fatheroflove.info

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considered inadequate to give the Son godhood, because it doesn't matter to us what the Father's criteria is for declaring Christ fully divine, we have our own criteria and we demand Jesus fit that criteria.

In this Trinity framework we create a value system of equality that forces Their knowledge to be absolutely everything for it to be considered divine, and then we force the Scripture to fit this paradigm. We end up defining what is divine ourselves, rather than letting God define what is divine. Our explanation of what divinity is overrules His explanation of what divinity is – a mistake many ancient Greek philosophers who came into Christianity made, which is why, centuries after the death of Jesus, the Trinity came to be articulated in the first place.

Coming out of darkness on this subject is impossible without divine eye salve. After receiving the gift of divine light, it takes some processing to discern the deception Satan has used to imprison the Christian mind with the dogma of the Trinity. It is a framework that obliterates the true identity of the Son of God and makes it impossible for our thoughts to be God's thoughts and our ways His ways. This is why John says:

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:12

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:23

The only begotten Son is the only way to the Father: for in accepting the true Sonship of Jesus we have the chance to give up the lie of equality through power and position, and reset ourselves in the true equality relationship of a Father and a Son.

The Trinity corners the human mind into a view of omniscience that is absolute and that creates a whole range of terrible consequences, chief of which is the belief that God knew for certain that the human race would fall before He created them. Having accepted this assumption, logic inevitably leads us into either believing God is responsible for all the sin of this world, or that somehow the misery and death of billions

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reveals His wisdom and love. Is it surprising to realise that the majority of the world are not buying this idea?

The begotten Son is the only way to know the truth of the Father. (John 3:18).

CHAPTER 5

NURSED CHILD OR SKILLED ARCHITECT

It is important to contrast this difference between the begotten Son and 'God the Son' in terms of how we approach God and what we understand about Him. A fascinating place to explore is in Proverbs 8.

I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge *and* discretion. The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate. Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom; I *am* understanding, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth. Proverbs 8:12-16

Who is this person speaking? Earlier in the chapter wisdom is described as a woman.

Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors. Proverbs 8:1-3

Yet reading later in the chapter, wisdom is described in the masculine.

Then I was beside Him *as* a **master craftsman**; and I was daily *His* delight, rejoicing always before Him. Proverbs 8:30

The word translated above *master craftsman* is in the masculine form and therefore indicates a male rather than a female. There has been much debate about whether there is a connection between this figure called wisdom and Jesus Christ. Those who reject the connection say wisdom is merely being personified.¹¹ Those who accept the connection¹² cite references such as these:

But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God...** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, **who became for us wisdom from God**—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 1 Corinthians 1:24,30

That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.** Colossians 2:2-3

If we allow the Bible to be its own interpreter, should it not be evident there is a direct connection between Christ and wisdom? One of the reasons there is a reluctance to make this connection is because of the verses we quoted in the previous chapter presenting wisdom as *brought forth* and *setup*.

In the article I cited above in footnote 11, one of the arguments put forward to reject the connection of wisdom to Christ is because Jehovah's Witnesses use these verses to prove that the Son of God is a created being. Because Christianity rejects that Christ is a created being, the author desires to break the readers connection of wisdom to Christ. But must we reject something because of what a certain group extrapolates from it? The begotten Son is not a created being. Using another group's views on a text to encourage a person to move in a certain direction is very problematic, but as we stated in the previous chapter, the Trinity framework and its assumptions has this power to

¹¹ <https://www.equip.org/article/who-is-wisdom-in-proverbs-8/>

¹² <https://www.reformation21.org/articles/does-proverbs-speak-of-jesus.php>

corral the human mind to think in a certain direction and reject obvious connections.

What then of the references to wisdom in the feminine? Should this not discount the connection made?

...and in the midst of the seven lamp-stands, *one* like to a son of man, clothed to the foot, and girt round at the breast with a golden girdle. Revelation 1:13 (YLT)

The description of Christ here includes a reference to breast. The word in Greek is *mastos*. This is the word for a female breast. In English we have the word *mastitis* which means an inflammation of the breast. Why is Jesus referred to with a term that means female breast? This gives us connections to verses such as these.

...as newborn babes, desire **the pure milk of the word**, that you may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2:2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

We also see Jesus speak of Himself using feminine qualities in verses such as this:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, **as a hen gathers her chicks** under *her* wings, but you were not willing! Matthew 23:37

To therefore describe wisdom in the feminine makes perfect sense. Christ obviously reveals both masculine and feminine attributes, for both male and female are made in the image of God.

With these things in mind let's dig a little deeper into the text that speaks of the master craftsman.

Then I was by him, **as one brought up** [H525] *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him. Proverbs 8:30 (KJV)

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If we remove the supplied words, it would read. "Then I was by him, one brought up." Why does the KJV translate this word as *one brought up* rather than *master craftsman*?

The transliteration in Hebrew is *'âmôn* [H525]. The root word for this is *'âman* [H539] which means "to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse." Another similar word that carries the meaning of skilled craftsman is *'âmân*. [H542]. So to translate the word *'âmôn* as architect or skilled craftsman is a valid translation because this is included in the meaning. It is interesting to see how various versions and even different languages have translated this word.

Version	Language	Meaning
New Living	English	Architect
Revised	English	Master workman
Geneva	English	Nourisher
New International	English	(Not translated)
Luther Bible	German – Werkmeister	Foreman
Staten Vertaling	Dutch – Voedsterling	Fosterling
Synodal Text	Russian – художницею	Artist
Biblia Hebraica	Hebrew Interlinear	Fondling
LXX	Greek Harmozoō	To join, to woo, betroth
Brenton	English Translation of LXX	Suiting myself to him

We see the variation of meaning from the more intimate principle of being nursed or nourished to the work emphasis on skilled workman. If we take the King James, Geneva or Dutch translation we see a picture of one who was lovingly fostered, nourished and cared for by a parent. The word translated in the Biblia Hebraica is *fondling*, not to be confused

with the action of fondling because the word in Hebrew is a noun. The old English meaning of this word as a noun is someone who is much loved.¹³

The picture presented here is that of a tender Father who greatly loves His child. It presents also the picture of bringing up this child and training him. This meaning finds traction in the words that the Father spoke to His Son at His baptism.

And lo there came a voice from heaven saying: this is my dear son, in whom is my delight. Matthew 3:17 – Tyndale

This connects beautifully into Proverbs 8:30 where it states in the King James Version that "I was daily his delight."

In the infinite wisdom of God, the Hebrew grants the reader the ability to translate the text as master craftsman or precious, nurtured child that is being trained by His Father. What do you see? The choice you make tells you something about the Father. Is this a tender Father caring for His precious Son and delighting in Him? Or is this the boast of Christ that He is a master craftsman through whose skill He caused the Father to delight?

If we choose the master craftsman option, we can obscure the meaning that Christ was trained and taught by His Father. This word in isolation speaks merely of His abilities and not of His relationship to the Father.¹⁴

At the end of chapter 3, we stated the following:

Coming to the Father through the Son is the context of Jesus being the way, the truth and the life. Jesus is the truth about the Father and therefore is the only way to the Father. The significance of these words is much deeper than simply the ability to pray to the Father. It encompasses everything we can know about God which includes the subject of omniscience.

¹³ <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/fondling>

¹⁴ For an expansion of this contrast please see the book *Identity Wars* available at fatheroflove.info

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When Jesus came to this earth, He made visible that which was invisible. This is a key component of the work of Jesus.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
Colossians 1:15

Consider the following verses carefully in light of this fact that Christ is the one who makes the invisible, visible.

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Luke 2:40

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52

Do these verses only speak of the life of Christ on earth or does it reveal that which was hidden from the foundation of the world?

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began**. Romans 16:25

The life of Jesus on earth pulled back the curtain of eternity and there was revealed to us the things that were hidden from the distant past. In the childhood of Christ upon earth, we have revealed to us the affectionate Fatherhood of God who tenderly trained His Son in the realm of eternity. This gives far greater light to the following statements of Jesus:

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows [G1166] Him all things** that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel." John 5:19-20

The Thayer Greek Dictionary gives the following meaning for the word *shows*:

- 1) to show, expose to the eyes
- 2) metaphorically

2a) to give evidence or proof of a thing

2b) **to show by words or teach**

Jesus clearly tells us that His Father taught Him all things. This thought is expanded in the Psalms. Did not Christ point His disciples to the Psalms to teach them about Himself? (Luke 24:44).

Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book *it is* written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law *is* within my heart." Psalm 40:7-8

Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day. Psalm 25:4-5

Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. Psalm 27:11-12

The beloved Son of God reveals to us the tender, paternal love of the Father who nurses His Son. This truth completely reframes the meaning of knowledge for us. Within the Trinity, knowledge is a badge of your inherent worth and thus whatever would be worthy of its criteria is forced into knowing absolutely everything. The begotten Son who learned everything at the side of His Father redefines the meaning of knowledge. It is evident that the Son of God not only did not know everything but in fact He knew nothing and the Father taught Him everything.

Within the Trinity there is no clear picture of listening, learning and growing within the divine. The very essence of the terms Father and Son speak to us of love, guidance and one to turn to for instruction. If the Son of God you worship does not have this capacity in His being, then you are drawn more towards the idea of having to know things and always having an answer. It also suggests that asking for guidance is weakness because 'God the Son' doesn't do it because He already knows everything. When we idealize a Son who has no need for a Father, is it

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no wonder that we find our relationship with our Father in heaven so difficult?

I am compelled by love to share with you a word picture at this point. As I ponder these things, I hear the sound of large chains fatiguing and then snapping and breaking loose. A large weight upon my back rolls off and I am free, free from the enslaving worship of knowledge that drives men to be *know-it-all's* because they worship 'God the Son' whose divinity is defined by Him being a *know-it-all* Who can't learn anything from His Father.

If the Son of God is a *know-it-all*, then He can't provide for us the model of a student, except for His life on earth. This is obscured in the larger picture of 'God the Son' who knows all things and was never taught anything by anyone.

In the begotten Son, we have pictured before us the precious reality of a faithful student who is guided by the protective hand of His Father. Can you not hear the voice of freedom in these words?

CHAPTER 6

IMMORTALITY, MORAL LAW AND FREE WILL

Our understanding of the relationship of the Son of God to the Father has a direct impact on our perception of knowledge and its significance in the divine realm. This in turn affects our understanding of the foreknowledge of God. Another element that also impacts our understanding of God's foreknowledge, His will for our life, and our destiny, is the question of immortality.

If we are inherently immortal then our relationship to God and His law is radically different than if we are mortal and dependent on God each moment for life and breath. I have examined the implications of this question in detail in chapter 2 of the book *Life Matters* which is available at fatheroflove.info.

I will try to distil the thoughts of what I have written previously in *Life Matters* and give to you the crux of how our belief about the human soul affects our understanding of obedience to God and free will.

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 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." Genesis 3:4-5

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Satan introduced the idea to man of natural immortality. He told our first parents that doing things independent of God's will would not lead to death but in fact it would lead to greater freedom. The word of God tells us this is false. Remember the framework shared earlier about God's relationship to all living beings:

He [God] gives to all life, breath, and all things...for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Acts 17:25,28

The Bible tells us that we live in Him. Moment by moment, God gives us breath. Again, along the same theme:

One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:6

It says that God is through all and in you all. Our life is intimately connected to our Father. We live each moment deeply connected to Him. This is because the Bible teaches that only God is immortal.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17

[God] **who alone has immortality...** 1 Timothy 6:16

This immortality He gave to His Son.

For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. John 5:26

The Bible says that man is mortal, not immortal.

Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? Job 4:17

Therefore, men seek for immortality. You do not seek for something you already possess.

...seek for glory, honor, and immortality. Romans 2:7

Why did God grant to the Son to have life in Himself? John tells us why this is:

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Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."
John 5:19

The Son chooses to do nothing independently of His Father. He has surrendered His will completely to the Father forever.

As the living Father sent Me, and **I live because of the Father**, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. John 6:57

The Son of God has chosen always to live by the Father. This is why He is called the Amen. Whatever His Father says, the Son chooses to say Amen.

...**These things says the Amen**, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God. Revelation 3:14

He therefore is granted to have life in Himself. This is not an arbitrary act on the part of the Father. It is the Father's greatest desire to do this but it can only be given to the receptive heart. The Father poured all His gifts upon His Son and the Son rejoiced to receive them and in choosing always to stand with His Father, the Father could then grant that His immortal life would always be in Christ.

[God] **who alone has immortality**, dwelling in unapproachable light, **whom no man has seen or can see**, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen. 1 Timothy 6:16

The Father alone is inherently immortal. He is the only one that man has not seen. The Son receives immortality in the sweet union with His Father, therefore the Son possesses that same immortality. The Father's life dwells always in Him. Thus, in the Son of God is the Father's unborrowed and underived life.

This is such a vital point to grasp. The Christian world teaches that Christ possesses immortality from Himself. Immortality is presented as an attribute inherently possessed. But the Bible presents life differently.

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It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.** John 6:63

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

How can man live by every word of God unless Christ provides us the divine example of how to do this?

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge... John 5:30

This is why Jesus is called the Word of God. This is because He lives by every word His Father speaks to Him and He then makes it known.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

In contrast, the Athanasian creed presents the eternal life of Christ as independent yet mystically one with the Father.

The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternal; but one eternal.
– Excerpt from Athanasian Creed.

The creed does not say that the Son is eternal because of His relationship to the Father. It simply states He is eternal or immortal. This makes the eternal life of Christ an independent, inherent principle that proves He is God rather than an eternal life that exists through the love and faith He has in His Father.

It is this false worship of the Son of God that fosters the idea that man possesses immortality in himself also, for by beholding you are changed into the same image.

These false views of immortality change dramatically our perception of the law of God and its purpose and meaning in our lives. Immortality in ourselves means that the power to generate our own life is in ourselves, and not from God. For the soul who perceives that their soul is immortal

(either directly or through the worship of 'God the Son'), the word of God to them, through the law, speaks with the voice of force – requiring them to submit and implicitly do that which God commands from their own power that resides within them. In this framework God's commands will be perceived as overbearing and imperious.

For the soul that knows that they have nothing in themselves and instead lives moment by moment by the life that God gives them, the law of God speaks only in terms of promise. It is not a constriction of the free will of man's inherent life, but rather is the promise of life through the submission of man's free will. In this framework God's commands are perceived as paternal and life-assuring.

The difference between these two ideas is vast. The doctrine of the natural immortality of the soul changes man's perception of God's Word. It must be understood as a constraint upon him, which God then rewards if one obeys and punishes if one disobeys. This idea causes the principles of obedience and free will to collide with each other, creating a conundrum that Christianity struggles to explain. How can man have a free will when God imposes upon man His law? How can man exercise his free will when God punishes those who break His law? Can this truly be considered free will?

All of this conflict is created because of the lie of the immortal soul. The Bible teaches that God is immortal and that Christ alone holds this immortality in His possession through His perfect relationship to the Father. In the acceptance of this truth, you will possess the key that unlocks this conflict between obedience to the law of God and free will. Rejecting the doctrine of the immortal soul changes God's law from an imposed law to a design law.

In this context the 10 Commandments become a prophecy of what we become when we love God and His Son. The commandments will be written upon our hearts not by our works powered by an inherent immortality, but by the Spirit of Christ working in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

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The reason this question is so important is because if a person has a perception of God imposing His will through His law, then God's foreknowledge automatically becomes the enemy of free will. An imposed law frames God as controlling. Punishment for an imposed law makes God tyrannical. An all-knowing imposing tyrannical God is an unimaginable nightmare.

How does the human soul respond to such a nightmare?

1. Desperately try to appease and please this tyrant by good deeds and plead with Him not to destroy you.
2. Resign yourself to your fate, live an empty bitter life seeking to distract yourself from reality before facing punishment.
3. Become an atheist to release yourself from this horrific picture and seek to navigate life on your own.
4. Discover the true identity of Jesus and listen to what He actually taught about His Father and enter the new kingdom He speaks about.

In summary, the doctrine of the immortal soul forces God to be seen as domineering and arbitrary. This has always been Satan's intent when He lied to Adam and Eve about their life source. He wants to present God as tyrannical in order to make us either try to appease Him, making our worship based on dread and not on love, or destroy Him, through ceasing to believe He exists.

Again, we are reminded that knowing the truth of the identity of Jesus, the Son of God, is the only way to know the Father. As we studied in chapter 4, the belief that Christ is begotten of the Father is vital to change our perception of how God views knowledge. Secondly in the truth that the immortality of the Son is found in His relationship to the Father, we can break free of the dark doctrine of the immortal soul and discover that immortality comes through an abiding relationship. We repeat the words of Jesus.

As the living Father sent Me, and **I live because of the Father**, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. John 6:57

We can have the same experience as Jesus, through living in Him, as He has in living in His Father. Immortality is not an issue of inherent power, but rather of perfect loving relationship.¹⁵

Let's summarize the two key points that will form the basis of our discussion from this point forward:

1. In the fact that God brought forth, raised, and taught His Son everything He knows, absolute knowledge ceases to be a vital component of divinity. The knowledge of God is free to be unnumbered and unmeasured by man.
2. The fact that the Son of God lives by the life of His Father means that in beholding Christ we see that life comes through a relationship with the Father. Thinking that life is inherent in us causes us to think we don't really need God for life. Seeing that Christ relies on His Father for life allows us to accept that we also can rely on God, without feeling manipulated and lorded over.

We are now ready to examine the story of the beginnings of our world as revealed in Scripture. Before we do this though I want to illustrate the practical effect of viewing God as imposing His will upon us.

¹⁵ For an expanded presentation of these principles please see the books *Life Matters* and *Escaping the Pentagon of Lies* available at fatheroflove.info

CHAPTER 7

THE PLACE OF PRAYER

Writing in the *New York Times* some years ago, a young atheist urged his case in an article entitled "Prayer is Useless and Has a Downside."

While the main purpose of prayer may be to help others, it never demonstrably does that. Prayers benefit only those believers who say or hear them. Prayer gives them comfort. It lets them think they have some control over a situation that may be out of their hands. It's the last resort of people who have run out of ideas, and the first resort of people who never bothered to think about how they could actually fix the problem at hand.

This is not harmless. There's a very real downside to praying. It lulls believers into a false sense of accomplishment. We cannot solve our problems – much less the world's – through prayer. We often see people with good intentions praying for victims in the wake of a tragedy, but prayer is useless without action, and those actions make the prayers irrelevant. To paraphrase the great Robert Green Ingersoll, hands that help are far better than lips that pray.¹⁶

Having made this thrust, the author now completes his task of destroying the God that he was taught about.

¹⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/06/27/should-atheists-pray/prayer-is-useless-and-has-a-downside>

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I have no problem with "prayer" as an act of meditation. In fact, many atheists can tell you the benefit of silent self-reflection. The delusion occurs when you think someone else is hearing your thoughts and acting on them.¹⁷

Now the author reveals his underlying framework and the reasons why he has rejected the idea of God.

When it comes down to it, prayer is illogical, even in religious terms. If God has a plan, why try to thwart it? If God can be swayed by prayers, what kind of God would allow the horrors we see in the world?¹⁸

Here is revealed the poison of the Christian doctrine of omniscience. If God has a plan, why try to thwart it? This is a very fair question in responding to the claims of Christianity. Remember what many in Christianity teach on this point that we examined in chapter 1?

God is omniscient (Psalm 139:1–6), and He knows the future (Isaiah 46:10). So He definitely knew that Adam and Eve would sin.¹⁹

If you believe this then it is very hard to escape the second line of reasoning from the author in the *New York Times*.

If God can be swayed by prayers, what kind of God would allow the horrors we see in the world?²⁰

The author is correct. This is illogical, it doesn't make sense. If God had a plan, then there is nothing you can do to change it. When you look at this supposed plan with all the horror and death it contains, what kind of God would plan this?

It could appear that in some ways the three persons of the Trinity are an expression of the three goddesses of fate.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/if-God-knew-Adam-Eve-sin.html>

²⁰ <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/06/27/should-atheists-pray/prayer-is-useless-and-has-a-downside>

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The Fates were personified as three very old women who spin the threads of human destiny. Their names were Clotho (Spinner), Lachesis (Allotter), and Atropos (Inflexible). Clotho spun the "thread" of human fate, Lachesis dispensed it, and Atropos cut the thread (thus determining the individual's moment of death). The Romans identified the Parcae, originally personifications of childbirth, with the three Greek Fates. The Roman goddesses were named Nona, Decuma, and Morta.²¹

The Christian churches would naturally distance themselves from this position in their efforts to maintain a doctrine of free will²² but it is nonetheless difficult.

This person eloquently expresses the logical inconsistency of the problem of an all-knowing and all-powerful deity and prayer.

However, as an application of simple logic shows, any prayer that asks God for anything is pointless. Is prayer going to bring to God's attention a need of which he was not previously aware? Is it going to convince him to do something he was not already going to do? Both of these are impossible with an omniscient deity. On the contrary, if God is all-knowing, he already knows everyone's desires without needing to be told. Likewise, long before any believer ever begins praying for him to take a certain action, his infinite mind will have tabulated every possible reason for or against taking that action, judged the consequences of doing it versus not doing it and run down all the innumerable ramifications of each decision, and finally settled on the verdict that he knows will best achieve his goals. Do theists, believing themselves to be unimaginably small and insignificant by comparison with the Almighty, hope to then change his mind? Do they hope to budge this divine calculus with a single whisper of supplication? A prayer for God to do something he was already going to do is unnecessary; a prayer for God to do something he was not already going to do is futile.

²¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Fate-Greek-and-Roman-mythology>

²² <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06259a.htm#anc>

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The only way this sort of prayer could work would be if God had decided that he would do a certain thing only if a sufficient number of people prayed for him to do so. But what does this say about his character? Does it speak highly of God that he would see the need for some action and know that it would have good results if he were to do it, but would still fail to act unless he was asked to do so? A morally good person, perceiving the need of another, does not have to be asked to help.

Furthermore, if the teachings of most religions are true, God will never grant any prayer that influences or affects another human being in any way – such as those prayers prayed by theists for God to convert atheists such as myself. If God created us with free will because he wants us to make choices for ourselves, for him to then intervene, override a person's free choice and change the course of their life by compelling a specific action or mental state would be a violation of his own plan. Conversely, in a universe where there is predestination, God will have already planned out every person's life ahead of time anyway, so again, efforts to change the course of events through prayer will be futile.

And finally, is it not in a way arrogant for a theist to ask God to take some action? Is it not a claim that they know better than he does how things should be? After all, if God is omniscient and omnipotent, nothing can happen if he does not desire it to happen. Nothing can happen against his will. Therefore, whatever state of affairs a theist seeks to change through prayer must be God's will, and by seeking to change it, they are in essence saying that what God has done already is not good enough, or just plain wrong.²³

These types of arguments championed by men like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens²⁴ are being simply assumed by Generation Z, the latest generation now in their teens. Within the present teen population,

²³ <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/daylightatheism/essays/nothing-fails-like-prayer/>

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Atheism

the tendency towards Atheism is double that of the previous generation.²⁵

I have worked as a pastor for nearly 30 years and I have often encountered the question from people. "What is the point of praying? God already knows everything and has determined everything." This is the fruit of believing that God imposes His all-knowing will upon His creatures. The Bible tells us something different.

For the **love of Christ compels us**, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died. 2 Corinthians 5:14

Love compels a person from within. It is a voluntary action that does not require threat, force or punishment. Jesus prayed to His Father because He loved Him. It gave Him great joy to simply be with Him.

The picture of prayer given to us by the Son of God while on earth is a natural expansion of the true relationship that He sustained to God from the beginning. As we discovered in chapter 5, the Son of God was loved, nurtured, trained and blessed by His Father. He was granted to have life from His Father. This is the context that makes sense of prayer.

The presentation of Christ as the self-sufficient all-powerful, all-knowing deity makes prayer look like a farce. It might be argued that He is simply demonstrating something to us for our supposed benefit, but this benefit is lost when we see that He doesn't need it Himself.

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12

One of the most wonderful things we see in the life of Christ on earth is a revelation of how the Son of God always relates to His Father.

1. His sense of dependence on the Father. John 5:19
2. His need for His Father's blessing and love. Matthew 3:17
3. His worship of His Father. John 4:22; John 20:17

²⁵ <https://www.impact360institute.org/articles/atheism-rise-generation-z/>

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4. His gratitude to His Father. John 11:41

This picture of Christ's connection to His Father is greatly expanded when Jesus told His disciples that many of the Psalms were a revelation of Him and His interactions with His Father.

Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." Luke 24:44

We see this principle in places like this.

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?* Psalm 22:1

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

Listen to the begotten Son express Himself in prayer in the rest of this Psalm.

Be not far from Me, for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help. Many bulls have surrounded Me; strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me. They gape at Me *with* their mouths, *like* a raging and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! Deliver Me from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion's mouth and from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me. I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you

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descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! Psalm 22:11-23

How precious to be able to behold the inner dialogue of the Son of God towards His Father. The deeper truth is that the experience described above in the Psalms was just as real for the Son of God in the days of David as in the time He was here on earth. How so?

In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:9

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.' Matthew 25:40

...searching what, or what manner of time, **the Spirit of Christ who was in them** was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 1 Peter 1:11

The beautiful Son who was nursed, raised and trained by His beloved Father always reaches out to Him, in all situations good and bad. Clothed in humanity, walking in this darkened world, He is constantly reaching out to His Father and asking Him to bless, uplift and help. He does this because the Father is the source of all things. (1 Corinthians 8:6). It is this spirit of intercession and dependence of the Son of God that holds the whole universe together. (Colossians 1:17).

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Galatians 4:6

Abba is a term of endearment; it is like saying "daddy" for us. If God alone is immortal, then the Son of God must have the government on His shoulders through His continual reaching out to the Father and dependence upon Him for life, breath and all things. This continual reaching out and sense of closeness to His Father is what Jesus imparts to every created being. Creation knows its God through Christ.

As we will expand in the next chapter, Satan wanted to live independently from the Son of God's continual spirit of dependence. He

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desired to be independent. He desired to be His own God. Adam embraced Satan's principles in the beginning and set the human race on the path of sin through believing the lie that "you shall not surely die." This caused the natural man to see God as an enemy (Romans 8:7); it leads to this problem:

No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. Romans 3:11 (NLT)

Christ is the wisdom of God because He is the only one who constantly is seeking after the Father, deeply in love with Him and desiring to be with Him. When we reject Christ, then we cease to seek God, for Christ is the only one who does seek Him and is the only one who knows Him.

This is the bottom line: Prayer is made contradictory through the lens of the all-knowing, all-powerful 'God the Son' whose equality is determined by His co-equal knowledge and power. Prayer finds its harmony and logic through the lens of the begotten Son, who was tenderly raised by His Father and increased in stature and in wisdom and in favour with His Father.

CHAPTER 8
FREE INDEED

The summary so far: When you know the true identity of the Son of God, you enter into a realm of understanding that liberates you from anything connected to force, control or imposition. Jesus told us:

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.** John 8:35-36 (KJV)

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.** John 10:10 (KJV)

The truth of the Son of God is that His Father brought Him forth, He taught Him everything and gave Him everything. The Son of God, from His own free will, serves His Father not as a slave but as His Son.

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore **thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.** Galatians 4:6-7

The Greek word for *free* in "if the Son therefore shall make you free" (John 8:36) means:

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G1658 unrestrained (to go at pleasure), that is, (as a citizen) not a slave (whether freeborn or manumitted), or (generally) exempt (from obligation or liability): – free (man, woman), at liberty.

The Son of God is completely unrestrained not because He has inherent all-knowing, all-powerful status. He is unrestrained and free because the Father is *Agape*²⁶; the Father freely gives without demand, without force and without control.

This is the reason that the Son of God can say:

No one has seen God at any time. **The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father**, He has declared *Him*. John 1:18

The Son of God does not need to measure His intellect and power against that of His Father, for the Father is the one who gave Him all these things freely. Sadly, many unwittingly believe that the equality that Jesus did not think was robbery was that equality of power, intellect and eternal age. What most people fail to realise is the system we measure the Son of God by actually becomes greater than the person Himself.

This is why very few mainstream Christians actually believe that Jesus is the true begotten Son of God. Christianity believes that Christ is even now in the process of being begotten or that He is not begotten at all in eternity. This destroys the truth that Christ is truly begotten of the Father.

The identity of the begotten Son is found in the name – Son. He is the Son of the Father in truth and love. His value as an individual is not based upon any external factor. It is not based upon power, intellect or some inherent quality. It is a value that is bestowed upon Him when He was born in eternity and which can never be taken away.

Children's children *are* the crown of old men, and **the glory of children *is* their father**. Proverbs 17:6

Jesus reveals to us where our value comes from as follows:

²⁶ Greek Word for benevolent love

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Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. **But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.** Luke 12:6-7

Our value as children of God is not found in our abilities; it is found in the thoughts that our Father thinks towards us. Our value comes from the Father and not from ourselves. This is true for Christ first, and we who believe in Him are all in His train.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29

Listen to the word of God and see where we are to find glory and value.

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is how Christ lives. He lives by the word of His Father. He glories in His Father and finds His value in His Father and not in Himself. This is the rock upon which the Church of God is built. It is the truth that Jesus is the Son of the living God. Christ is God, not by might, nor by power but by the Spirit of His Father.²⁷

Make no mistake that the Son of God possesses all the power of His Father and has been taught all the things He knows. But none of these things define the value of the Son of God, nor can they be used to prove the equality of the Son to the Father. To make such measurements leads to bondage. You can't truly rest in the bosom of the one you are comparing yourself with in strength and intellect.

²⁷ For more on this see the book *Identity Wars* at fatheroflove.info

FREE INDEED

This is the most beautiful thing about the worship of the Son of God. In beholding Him, you can become free of the need to prove yourself by your intellect, strength, and whatever other qualities you might claim to possess.

The true Son of God makes you completely free to no longer compare or compete with anything else in God's creation. It liberates us of our pride. It stops us from feeling the need to "be as gods." (Genesis 3:5, KJV). All this is so because it is so for the Son of God. His value is solely in His Father, not in Himself.

All of this freedom is offered to us through the Spirit that is in Christ Jesus. When you know Him and love Him, then you will experience the same freedom He experiences.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:12

The true identity of the Son of God reveals that the one true God gave to His Son absolute freedom, without restraint and fear. He did not impose upon Him a legal code to abide by, rather He wrote upon the heart of His Son His character of love, freedom and joy – the law of life.

It is so hard for the human heart to grasp this point. It is a narrow and strait gate that few in this world will find. Yet it is so simple to understand. You are invited into the secret place of the Most High; you are welcomed into the bosom of the Father. Let the Spirit of the Son of God fill you and free you from comparison, fear, anger and depression that stems from trying to find inherent value within yourself. Come forth from the cage that Satan created and walk in the light.

CHAPTER 9

LUCIFER'S CAGE

The Bible is very clear as to who is the one who made all things.

All things were made through Him, [Jesus] and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:3

The Son, having been raised by His Father and given everything, including complete freedom to make decisions, had all the needed ingredients to create the universe. The ingredients of gratitude to the Father, the sense of continual dependence upon the Father, and the joy and freedom that abode in the Son, were the perfect combination to then create the universe.

Lucifer, the light bearer, was the first created being of the Father and the Son. He was next in honour to Christ. All the love, joy, blessing and freedom that the Father had given to His Son was given to Lucifer in the same manner. The Son of God could create nothing but what He had been shown and experienced Himself. Lucifer was a beautiful, majestic being. As the Father had given all to Christ, the Son gave all He could to a created being. All of heaven was there for Lucifer to enjoy.

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. You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. Ezekiel 28:14-15

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All of this rested upon one simple condition. Remember that you are a son of the Most High through His only begotten Son. He only needed to have these words written in his heart.

...yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*. 1 Corinthians 8:6

If Lucifer had remembered this, then as the Son of God was the brightness of the Father's glory, so Lucifer would have been the brightness of the Son's glory. (Hebrews 1:3).

The Father had made every provision to guide the universe in the direction of light and truth. The Father's risk in giving His Son complete freedom to choose without restraint had been successful. The Son had firmly decided:

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law *is* within my heart.
Psalm 40:8

Lucifer was showered with the love of the Son of God. The communion that the Father shared with His Son was extended to Lucifer. Lucifer could say in the beginning:

... truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

Despite all the advantages Lucifer was given, we read:

Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. Ezekiel 28:17

Everything that the Son of God had given to Lucifer came to be regarded as his own. He began to look upon his brightness and splendour as coming from himself. The only way that he could allow himself to believe that these things had come from himself was to reject the sonship that he had to the Son of God.

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Lucifer slowly became the angel that gloried in his wisdom and might rather than finding glory in understanding and knowing His Father and resting in the bosom of the Son of God as He rested with His Father.

So terrible was the alienation of Lucifer that he plotted the murder of the Son of God.

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. John 8:44

The transition of Lucifer to Satan is echoed in the story of Cain and Abel. Cain was of the wicked one (1 John 3:12), meaning that he demonstrated the principles of Satan in relation to his brother Abel. After Cain killed his brother, he found himself in a cage of emotional turmoil.

When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth. Genesis 4:12

Satan became a fugitive seeking refuge in lies. The Hebrew word for *fugitive* carries the meaning of one who staggers and shakes. Why would this happen to him? In the words of the first king of Babylon we have an echo of the mind of Satan.

The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30

Satan chose to give up his sonship to God for what he felt was a far better deal. He chose to ignore that all that was his was given to him. He began at first to seek to replace the Son of God. Finally, this led him to desire the position of God Himself.

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Isaiah 14:14

LUCIFER'S CAGE

Lucifer, now Satan, discovered that in trading his identity as a son of God that he was now swept with depressive feelings that caused him to shake.

Before this transition of affection from the Son of God to himself, if someone were to ask Lucifer who are you, he could answer – "I am a son of God through Christ the only begotten Son." After he committed himself to seek all glory and honour for himself, how could he answer this question? He could only point to the things that had first tempted him to forget the One who had blessed him.

He pointed to his splendour, brightness, and wisdom as the basis of his value. This formed the foundations of his own cage. He could never truly escape the feeling that he was not good enough. He had the constant drive that he had to prove himself and display his skills to drown out the voice of the Spirit of God that was calling him back to his true identity. In these lyrics is echoed the heart of Satan within his own prison.

Spend all your time waiting for that second chance
For a break that would make it okay
There's always some reason to feel not good enough
And it's hard at the end of the day
I need some distraction. Oh, beautiful release
Memories seep from my veins
Let me be empty. Oh, and weightless and maybe
I'll find some peace tonight

So tired of the straight line, and everywhere you turn
There's vultures and thieves at your back
The storm keeps on twisting, you keep on building the lies
That you make up for all that you lack
It don't make no difference, escaping one last time
It's easier to believe in this sweet madness
Oh, this glorious sadness that brings me to my knees.²⁸

²⁸ Sarah McLachlan, *Angel* from the album *City of Angels*, November 1998

DIVINE RISK

In his cunning efforts to subvert and destroy the human race, Satan has devised a web of lies using the terms, Father, Son and Holy Spirit to entrap humanity into the same cage that he lives in. Having filled men with his spirit, he urges them to imagine that Christ did not think it robbery to be equal with God because of his inherent power, splendour and wisdom. Yet, this is exactly what he did to the doctrine of the Son of God. The value system developed by Lucifer of finding value from your own inherent qualities, he projected onto God through the doctrine of the Trinity. The value system this doctrine espouses contains exactly the same materials that built the cage that Satan is held in.

Like the apostle John, I am in wonder with great amazement at this system that Satan developed to draw men to himself. If the Trinity be lifted up, Satan can be confident of drawing virtually all unto himself. This doctrine, in combination with the doctrine of the immortality of the soul has formed much of the masterpiece of deception that Satan has developed to ensure the whole world is in his hands.

Lucifer's strategy to cause humanity to shift their focus from their true inheritance from God to the false power that resides within them is exposed in his temptation of Christ.

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." Matthew 4:3

Satan wanted Christ to defend His identity through a display of miraculous power. The timing of this temptation is crucial, for the last recorded words given to Jesus were from His Father 40 days earlier.

And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

If Christ were to fall to this temptation to demonstrate His Sonship through a display of power, it would reveal a doubt of what His Father had already told Him. This is the freedom found in accepting the Word of the Father. You don't have to prove anything to those who challenge you. You rest in the Father's Word about you. He is the one that defines

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your identity rather than you defining it for yourself. This is the heart of the identity war.

The beautiful Son of God reveals how to meet these challenges:

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

Jesus wins the identity war by depending on the Word of His Father. He has no need to reach inside Himself to prove who He is. Satan, on the other hand is constantly required to prove who he is by what he does and what he claims to own. He traded his identity as a son of God for identity through personal wisdom, glory, and strength. But the transition brought him sorrow, emptiness, insecurity, violence, and rage.

By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned... Ezekiel 28:16

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. Revelation 12:17

It is from within this cage that the value system embodied in the doctrines of omniscience, omnipotence, and eternal existence, combined together to allow Satan to project his attributes onto God. Satan did say, that he would exalt his throne, and in these doctrines tainted through the value system lens of inherent power, Satan achieves his objectives.

It is through the doctrine of the Trinity that the Christian world is united with the kings of the earth and will have one mind with the beast and will worship the dragon.

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?" **...All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life** of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:4,8

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The Book of Life can only contain those who worship the begotten Son of God.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:12

The worship of the Son of God is the worship of the Being who rests completely in the Father's love for His identity. This is life eternal. This is why Christ is the way, the truth and the life of the Father. Conversely, the worship of 'God the Son' is a worship of one who is defined by inherent power, wisdom and might attributed alone to himself. This is the worship of the dragon and the beast whom he controls.

If you have discerned these principles to this point, then we are ready to explore the realm of divine risk and true Agape love

CHAPTER 10

THE SEED PRINCIPLE

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between **your seed** and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. Genesis 3:15

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "and to your seed," who is Christ. Galatians 3:16

The Bible identifies two seeds, fully developed and ready to produce a harvest. Both the Son of God and Satan have a seed. The seed of the Son of God is rooted in these words:

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law *is* within my heart. I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly. Psalm 40:8-10

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

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The seed of Satan is the opposite to this. His seed despises the law of God and seeks to proclaim his own righteousness as he has defined it. The seed of Satan seeks to live by bread alone without God's word. This seed of lawlessness manifests itself in this way.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.
2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

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. John 8:44

Lucifer moved in complete secrecy with his plans. With all of his knowledge, it seems that he did not imagine that God and His Son could read his mind. The Scripture tells us of God's ability to read the thoughts and intents of the heart.

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

The term *word of God* is of course also a reference to Christ. While on earth, He demonstrated this ability to read the hearts of men.

But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?" Luke 5:22

Speaking in the Psalms we are also told:

You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. Psalm 139:2

The Father and His Son read the thoughts of Lucifer. They were fully acquainted with his ideas. In the Spirit, they heard every conversation

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that Lucifer had with the angels. They witnessed the doubts that he was placing in the angels' minds. In sorrow They witnessed the feelings that Lucifer was developing and his desire to murder the Son of God.

All of these things were hidden from the angels. They did not know what Satan was thinking. If the Father and Son had confronted Lucifer before the angels could perceive there was a problem, Lucifer could draw sympathy from the angels and more easily develop his plan to present God as condemning and controlling.

We noted earlier that the Spirit that flows forth from the Son of God is freedom. It has no restraint. (John 8:32,36). Its only compulsion is love. (2 Corinthians 5:14). Lucifer was enabled to live within this framework being completely unrestrained. We see this because the spirit of freedom in Christ is actually a law.

But he who looks into the perfect **law of liberty** [G1657] and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:25

The word *liberty* here in the Greek is from the same root word as the word John used to describe *freedom* in John 8:36. Again, this same word is used by Paul here.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me **free** [G1659] from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2

The Son of God had given Lucifer everything freely. Lucifer lived by the life that was in the Son of God. Christ was sharing this life with him. Lucifer couldn't have life apart from the Son of God. John called Jesus the Word of Life (1 John 1:1) and again as we have explored, those who have the Son, have life. (1 John 5:12).

Lucifer owed everything he had to the Son of God. The lie of the immortal soul can blind the readers of the Bible to the truth that Lucifer took every breath, moment by moment, because the Son of God freely gave it to him.

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God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, **since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.** Acts 17:24-25

The life and breath that God gives to all things is not a one-off gift, for as Paul continues:

For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Acts 17:28

Can we grasp the reality of the Son of God reading the desires of Lucifer to murder the one giving him life moment by moment? It is only life and freedom that flow out of the heart of the Son of God like a mighty river. There is no death, no external constraint and no force that exists in His heart.

Therefore, the Son of God could inspire David to write, not only of his own experience, but of the experience of the Son of God in speaking to His Father:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
Psalm 23:4-5

In knowing the thoughts of Lucifer, the Father and Son knew what the outcome would be. Lucifer's wayward thoughts were "the beginning" and God and His Son knew exactly where it would end. (Isaiah 46:10). When Lucifer's thoughts were formed in his mind, the seed had all the ingredients in it. No one else could see that seed except the Father and Son. No one else knew where this path would lead except the Father and the Son.

The seed of the Son of God also was fully formed and had already begun to bear fruit in the peace and tranquillity of heaven. The Father and Son also knew the fruit of the seed that was in Christ. They could also talk about the future in light of the two seeds, the seed of Christ and the

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seed of Satan, difficult as that future was, for They had developed such a closeness and sense of security – expressed as Christ dwelling "in the bosom of the Father."

This is the difference between divine foreknowledge and human perceptions of omniscience. Divine foreknowledge knows the fruit of the spiritual seeds that are planted in the minds of created beings. The human doctrine of omniscience does not have a seed principle but operates in the sterile environment of knowing absolutely everything.

Within the heavenly principle of planting seed and bearing fruit, one of the greatest problems for the doctrine of omniscience is that if God knew for certain that Lucifer would fall before he was created, then God Himself is the creator of Satan, for the thought originated with Him. This in turn must make him responsible for the sin problem, for He was the first one to imagine and anticipate it.

God has a very accurate knowledge of the future because He created the universe and knows its mechanisms intimately. He also can read the thoughts of His creatures and therefore know the implications of those thoughts. He can also gently test the resolve of the will of His creatures through the blowing of the Spirit upon them to gauge their internal reaction.

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. John 3:8

All of these things provide the gap between the truth of the vastness of the knowledge of God and the lie that God knows absolutely everything. Here we have evidence of things that did not enter the mind of God and therefore are things that He did not know about:

...(they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire *for* burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, **nor did it come into My mind**). Jeremiah 19:5

The idea of child sacrifice for sin never entered the mind of God. This fact alone proves false the notion that God developed the idea that His

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justice could only be satisfied by the killing of His own Son. This never entered His mind. What He did know was the risks of giving beings free choice and the probabilities that could occur.

The natural Christian reaction is to recoil from the thought that God is not in total and complete control as they imagine. He is in control through the seed principle of seed, growth and harvest. Yet this gap between God's vast knowledge and the lie of absolutely knowing everything provides room for the beautiful reality of divine risk.

God and His Son took a risk with Lucifer and the angels. They planted the seed of love, joy, freedom, patience, and blessing in them. They placed no restraint upon them because the angels did not have natural immortality and thus none of God's words could be understood as being imposed. They were intimately connected to God and His Son; they were manifesting the seed that the Father and Son had planted in them – until the day that iniquity was found in Lucifer.

You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. Ezekiel 28:15

To find something is a process of discovery. The text does not say, "till iniquity was planted in you." This is because Lucifer was made perfect. It is therefore logical that God and His Son would find iniquity in Lucifer. It was not something they planted there, nor did they know for certain this would happen. In granting to the angels the freedom to choose, they were aware of the risk they were taking but they provided everything necessary to allow prosperity and blessing.

Many who take the position of Atheism find this position intolerable. Their idea is that if there is a God and He made everything, then He should have got it right and made sure nothing bad would happen. Thus, there is a type of contentment in seeing Christians hold the doctrine of omniscience, it provides just the right environment for them to reject God and condemn Him for allowing sin to come into the universe. Atheism is the logical antithesis of the Christian doctrine of omniscience. Divine risk is the logical expression of an all-wise, all-loving, freedom-giving God.

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Christianity and Atheism are in dialectic union. Both begin with a premise that God knew that evil would come into the world. Christianity tries to justify God's actions, while Atheism condemns them. All this can be bypassed by coming into the reality of God's seed principle and enter into the Agape of the Father and the Son. For the sake of love and the desire for freedom, God took the risk to create a universe of free choice.

Lucifer rejected his inheritance, lied to himself and chose to believe all the gifts given to him were actually inherently his. He despised the One who gave them to him and desired to kill Him and take His place. These actions were not in the Father's thoughts and therefore not in the Son of God's thoughts. They did not imagine the evil before Lucifer thought it. They were aware that for their creation to choose against God's will would involve pain, sorrow, and death yet before the actions were taken it was not known what the results would be.

Once Satan began to drift away from his allegiance to God and His Son, it became clearer what would happen. When Satan resolved to defy heaven and choose his own way, God knew exactly what the end would be. This is because the seed had been formed and would not be changed. It was set and therefore must produce the fruit contained within it.

If Satan had been the only one who had taken this path, the fruit of Satan's design might have been quickly identified. The reality is that the gifts Satan had received, he bent towards a crafty and calculated plan to overthrow the government of God, sowing discord and unease in the minds of all the created beings. At the heart of his plan was his new theory of justice.

In order for us to delve into this part of the story in heaven, we remember this principle stated in Scripture. This is the next layer of the seed principle.

That which has been *is* what will be, that which *is* done is what will be done, and *there is* nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9

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That which is has already been, and what is to be has already been; and God requires an account of what is past. Ecclesiastes 3:15

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Corinthians 10:11

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4

The same seeds produce the same fruit. This is why the war that took place in heaven is being repeated on the earth in greater and still greater clarity. As we read the stories of the Bible, we gain a clearer picture of the issues that took place in heaven. The earth through its fall into sin has become the stage upon which Satan's secret thoughts are fully manifested.

The beauty of the seed principle is that we can trace evidence of both the seed of Christ and the seed of Satan in the actions of the human race described in the Bible. Satan was a murderer from the beginning. This seed was allowed to be planted in the lives of men like Cain, Nimrod, Absalom and others. We will look at these stories to piece together the key issues of the original war in heaven.

When the Son of God became a baby in Bethlehem, the hidden principles of the two seeds were revealed in much greater detail. In Herod's manifested desire to kill the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:16), we see revealed the hidden desires to kill the Son of God in the beginning.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life **of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.** Revelation 13:8 (KJV)

As we expressed earlier in chapter 5, within this seed principle we may penetrate events from the dawn of time, for the seed always bears the same fruit. This is the principle as expressed in Isaiah 46:10; it is through the seed principle that God knows "the end from the beginning." As the trees of the field bear the same fruit each year, so the events of history

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bear the same fruit from the seed planted in the beginning. Christ's birth, life and death in this world reveal to us things that have been kept secret from the beginning. The hidden things of darkness are brought to light.

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest**, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith. Romans 16:25-26

In the plotting and scheming of the Pharisees we have the revelation of the workings of Satan in seeking to destroy Christ and His followers from the beginning until now.

CHAPTER 11

DIVINE PATTERN FRAMEWORK AND ITS OPPOSITION

Before we look at these stories in the Old Testament, we need to consider another layer. This relates to the two distinct patterns created by the reaction of the Son of God and Satan to the Father's word. This is important to understand because it is part of the seed process and it comes up again and again in Scripture. Consider the relationship revealed between Father and Son in this passage.

Yet for us *there is* one God, **the Father, of whom** *are* all things, and we for Him; and **one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom** *are* all things, and through whom we *live*. 1 Corinthians 8:6

The Son of God freely and joyfully obeys His Father. The words and actions of the Father pass through the Son. The Father is the source and the Son is the channel. All things are OF the Father and all things are THROUGH the Son. This process produces the following results:

Who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person... Hebrews 1:3

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The glory of the Father's character is made brighter when passed through His Son. This is the natural development of the Father's thoughts planted in the heart of His Son. The Son magnifies that which His Father does. He makes it bigger and brighter. Speaking of Christ, the Bible says:

The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; **he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable.** Isaiah 42:21 (KJV)

Jesus magnifies His Father's law through His life, words, and deeds. Because He says "Amen" to His Father, the Father's thoughts and words are expanded through His Son. It is on this principle that Christ can say to His disciples:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; **and greater *works* than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. John 14:12

As the follower of Christ says "Amen" to what Christ asks of him, the magnification principle expands further so that greater works can be done. It is not the disciple who claims credit for the works, because it is done in Him by Christ and it is the Father who works in Christ. This creates a cascading expansion of the kingdom of heaven. For an expanded explanation of the Divine Pattern please read the booklet *The Divine Pattern of Life* available at fatheroflove.info

In the Divine Pattern there is no tension between the source and the channel. This principle carries through into all aspects of the kingdom of God. Because the channel trusts the source, there is only perfect peace. This is because the channel has come from the source and rests in that identity.

You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on* *You*, because he trusts in You. Isaiah 26:3

The second principle of the Divine Pattern is that the source is typically invisible, while the channel makes visible.

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He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Colossians 1:15

Christ, as the Word of God, is the thoughts of the Father manifested for all to hear, (John 1:1,14). The pattern is replicated in many places in our world. As intelligent beings we express our internal thoughts through words, making our communication process an invisible source expressed through a visible (audible channel).

This will be important to keep in mind as we proceed. The pattern that Satan operates by can best be described in western thought as thesis, antithesis, leading to synthesis sometimes called *Hegelian Dialectic*. In eastern thought we can express this as Yin and Yang in one circle. It is the principle of opposites that are fused together by conflict, debate, argument and war. This pattern was established by the words of Satan.

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; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Isaiah 14:13-14

Satan desired his own throne, he wanted to be identical to God. This creates two sources. The presence of two sources creates automatic tension. Who will be first and who will be second? They can't be first and second, they must be mystically fused together as opposites.

The principle of opposition is so natural for us. All democratic governments have an elected opposition to the government. The government and opposition are fused together as one parliament.

As a simple experiment, we can think of how a Divine Pattern mind operates in contrast to the oppositional system of Satan. Take for instance the introduction of the word:

LIGHT

In Satan's system you would naturally think of the word:

DARK

DIVINE PATTERN FRAMEWORK AND ITS OPPOSITION

But in the Divine Pattern system it would work like this.

LIGHT → BRIGHT LIGHT

Satan's system thinks in opposites. God's system thinks the same yet magnified. This becomes important as we move into our next subject and the war that took place in heaven.

CHAPTER 12

THE HARMONY OF JUSTICE AND MERCY

As we discussed previously, Satan had come to see the gifts that Christ had given him as things that he possessed naturally from himself. He came to resent the Son of God and eventually came to the place where he planned to murder him. How Satan planned his attack can be seen most notably in the stories of Daniel in the lion's den and the story of Absalom.

As we discussed in chapter 6, Satan's belief that his life came from himself changed how he perceived the law. This is where the mischief began to manifest.

Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? Psalm 94:20 (KJV)

The thoughts that Satan began to feel towards the Son of God moved towards violence.

By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned. Ezekiel 28:16

The thought of violence is the expression of opposition. Satan believed that the life and power he possessed were his own. He felt that the Son

of God stood in his way. He had thoughts of using his supposed inherent power to overpower the Son of God. Yet he had to find some way to trap God's Son. We can pick up the pieces in the story of Daniel.

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel *was* one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. **Then this Daniel distinguished himself** above the governors and satraps, **because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.** So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. Then these men said, **"We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God."** So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! **All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.**" Daniel 6:1-7

"An excellent spirit was in Daniel." This is a reflection of the excellent Spirit in the Son of God. Christ was set over the whole realm. We see that those immediately under Daniel did not directly confront Daniel or directly do him harm, but they went to the king with a request that appeared to honour the king. They wanted to make a decree that none should petition any god except the king. This decree appeared to enhance the king's position. It was aimed at Daniel to destroy him.

In the case of the Son of God, Satan and those with him used a different method of creating the same effect as what happened to Daniel. This is found in the story of Absalom.

Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city *are*

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you from?" And he would say, "Your servant *is* from such and such a tribe of Israel." Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case *is* good and right; but *there is* no deputy of the king to hear you." Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice." And *so* it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 2 Samuel 15:2-6

The name Absalom means *father of peace*, but hidden under this name was a character of hatred and war. Absalom wanted his father to punish his half-brother Amnon who sexually assaulted Absalom's sister, Tamar. Because king David did not execute a sentence against Amnon, Absalom despised his father and determined to overthrow him. Absalom took matters into his own hand and executed Amnon with the justice he felt was appropriate. Then he set about winning the hearts of the kingdom of Israel.

But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, **and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant.**" So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled. 2 Samuel 13:27-29

Satan, who was originally Lucifer, was unhappy with the fact that the Son of God was exalted above him. He felt it was an injustice to himself and he determined to overthrow the Son of God. His Father made it clear to all that all the angels were to worship the Son of God.

And when He brought His supreme Son into the world, God said, "Let all of God's angels worship Him." Hebrews 1:6 (NLT)

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This passage refers to Christ's coming to the earth, but the seed principle takes us back to the beginning of the war in heaven.

That all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
John 5:23

Lucifer refused to submit to this. He determined to overthrow God's kingdom. He won many of the angels to his side. Just as in the story of Absalom, the issue at hand was one of justice.

Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then **I would give him justice.**
2 Samuel 15:4

The insinuation of Absalom was that the king was not providing justice for his subjects, but this claim was false. Earlier in the book of Samuel we read:

So David reigned over all Israel; **and David administered judgment and justice to all his people.** 2 Samuel 8:15

David was providing justice to his subjects, but it was not the justice that Absalom thought was needed. David showed mercy because the mercy of God was with him and established his kingdom:

He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. **But My mercy shall not depart from him,** as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.**
2 Samuel 7:13-16

Absalom did not want a kingdom built upon a justice that shows mercy. He wanted a justice that executed wrongdoers without mercy. As we see in the story of Daniel, it was the third person of authority in the kingdom, after the king and the king's right-hand man, that introduced a death decree for disloyalty to the king. Lucifer began to agitate a new theory

of justice that demanded a penalty for the transgressor. This was the mischief that he was working through the law.

The law of God was a law of life and liberty. As the Father was the only one who was inherently immortal and His Son possessed this immortality through His love and honour of His Father, all the rest of the angels were given this life through the Son of God, moment by moment.

Lucifer reframed the law as a code that the angels must obey and that those who do not obey should be punished. This is what he called justice. This was different to God's justice. Note carefully the following text.

Justice and judgment *are* the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Psalm 89:14 (KJV)

This Bible text is a classic Hebrew sentence structure. The second sentence is an expansion of the first. It is restating the principles of the first part in a magnified way. This is how the Divine Pattern works. Apart from this, the English punctuation also provides this principle. The colon after the word *throne* means that what comes next is explaining what is before the colon.

1. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne
Equals
2. Mercy and truth shall go before thy face

What this is saying is that justice is expressed as mercy and judgment is expressed as truth. This fits perfectly the Divine Pattern. Justice is the right thing to do, and the right thing that God does is show mercy.

Lucifer used his oppositional framework to make justice the opposite of mercy. Justice means punishment and if required, death. Mercy means the deferment of punishment or the transferring of punishment to another. Satan introduced the idea that every sin must be punished and that if God should remit the punishment, then He would not be a God of truth and justice.

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We see in the story of Absalom that he managed to steal the hearts of the nation of Israel.

So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 2 Samuel 15:6

In the same way Lucifer managed to shift all of the angels onto this new way of dealing with justice and mercy. It made complete sense to them that true honour to God meant that there should be a death decree for those who dishonour the Father. They saw Satan's logic as honouring God, not realizing that it undermined God's governance.

This principle that Satan was introducing was abhorrent to God. His character was merciful, gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth. (Exodus 34:6).

As we see in the story of Daniel, it was not the king who introduced the death decree for disloyalty, it was the third person in the realm and some of those below him.

God is not the author of death. Death is the enemy of God; death is in opposition to the law of life, liberty and freedom. If the law of God contained a death decree in it then there could be no liberty. There could only be the fearful looking forward to punishment if you failed to do the right thing.

The Bible presents Satan as the one who has the dominion and power of death, not God.

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, **that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.**
Hebrews 2:14

It is to this subject we must turn next. We have all been taught that the justice of God demands the death of the transgressor. The reality is that this is Satan's justice system imposed upon the law of God. The law of life, liberty and freedom could never have death associated with it. God's justice is to show mercy. Satan made justice and mercy in opposition to each other. He reframed the law in such a way to convince the heavenly angels that sin must be punished with force and that this was to improve the government of God.

CHAPTER 13

THE DOMINION OF DEATH

Now to come to the final result of the two seeds. The fruit of the seed in Christ is life: free, open, unlimited, joyful, boundless life. The Son of God is life. His childlike faith and love for His Father is the cornerstone of the life of each moral being in the universe. Hear the words of the Saviour – they are only life.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. John 11:25

The Son of the blessed contrasts himself with the one who kills and destroys:

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life**, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. John 10:10

So beautiful is the character of Jesus that His revelation of the Father actually abolished death.

But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, ***who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*** 2 Timothy 1:10

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If Jesus abolished death, then it is impossible for Him to engage or reveal something that He abolished. How did Jesus abolish death? Through the light of the gospel.

What is the gospel?

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Mark 1:1

The Son of God is the gospel. What did the Son of God do?

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. John 17:4

The Son of God glorified which means He revealed the character of the Father to the world. Remember He told Philip: "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 14:9). This revelation of the character of God abolished death. This must be the case because Jesus said that He finished the work the Father gave Him to do before He died on the Cross.

It was just after this prayer that Jesus told the mob:

But this is your hour, and the power of darkness. Luke 22:53

The law of life and giving and blessing would not stop. Christ loved and forgave His enemies to the very end. This shows the unchangeable nature of the law of God. When Jesus said "Father forgive them," He showed that He would never change His character. He would never strike out at His enemies; He would only love them and forgive them and let them receive the consequences of their own choices as we saw in the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years after His death.

The law of God is the law of love, liberty, and abundant life. It is the law of forgiveness and mercy. This is the seed that abides in the heart of Christ. Wherever it is planted, it will produce this fruit.

Satan made himself the enemy of God by telling lies about His character. When Satan introduced his ideas about justice and made mischief by reframing the law of God as an instrument that demands death, it caused war in heaven – a war of words. Many angels sided with Lucifer

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and were trying to reform the government of God. Yet, deep inside, Satan was using this idea as a front to kill the Son of God. Like the story of Daniel, he wanted to catch Christ in regard to the law of His God. Satan knew the character of God. We are told:

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. Ezekiel 28:14

The stones of fire represent the presence of God in the soul. We are referred to as living stones and the presence of God is like fire. Satan knew the character of God and he envisioned that if he could frame the law of God as something that required death and then cause beings to transgress, he could then blame God and demand that one equal with God should pay the price to save them. The plan of substitutionary atonement was conceived in the mind of Satan as a plan to murder Christ.

It was a classic hostage plan. Satan used the law of God to build the cage to trap his hostages.

And the commandment, which *was ordained* to life, I found *to be* unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew *me*. Romans 7:10-11 (KJV)

Paul found the commandment to be unto death because of sin; sin that Satan had invented in the beginning.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels. Revelation 12:7 (KJV)

Knowing what was in the mind of Satan, God pleaded with Lucifer many times to encourage him to turn away from the direction he was heading. We see this principle manifested in how God reached out to Israel.

But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people." Romans 10:21

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This is what any father who loves his children would do. God loved his son Lucifer and wanted to save him.

The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you." Jeremiah 31:3

The Father explained to the angels that He had made His Son equal with Himself and that the words of His Son were to be followed just the same as Himself.

But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom." Hebrews 1:8

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. John 5:22-23

...He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:22-23

These are eternal principles; they are part of the law of life. They are at the heart of the war that started in heaven. Sadly, Satan refused to repent of his dissatisfaction regarding Christ. Rather than worship the Son of God, he wanted the Son of God to worship him.

And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:9

We remember that what is manifested on earth is a revelation of what happened from the beginning. Satan revealed what was in his heart when he tempted Christ. He reveals the seed of his soul. He wanted to take the place of Christ and be worshipped in His place. Then he hoped to kill Christ and erase His memory forever. We know this because of how Satan murdered Christ on the Cross and then tried to keep him in the tomb forever.

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All of this reality was hidden in the heart of Satan originally. Not even Satan himself fully understood in the beginning the full extent of where he was headed. After God revealed to Satan that life only comes through His Son, he and his angels had to make a decision.

Many of the angels sided with Lucifer. There is a clue in the story of Herod and the dancing of Herodias' daughter. Herodias wanted to kill John the Baptist. She had planned that her daughter should dance and knew that her daughter would be offered a gift. Her desire to murder the prophet was hidden. She represented Satan's hidden motives. The king represents Satan's government and political strategy. The dancing Salome represents the desired object. When the king, under the influence of wine, made his offer, he said:

"Ask me whatever you want, and I will give *it* to you." He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, **I will give you, up to half my kingdom.**" Mark 6:22-23

Herod represents elements hostile to the kingdom of God. The expression of "half my kingdom" is not a random expression but the expression of one under the direct influence and therefore the methods of Satan. This same expression appears also in the story of Esther.

And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What *is* your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!" Esther 5:3

This offer is repeated twice more to Esther by the king. (Esther 5:6; 7:2). This story has a similar element in that Haman carried a hidden motive to destroy Mordecai. The king is eager to grant a gift to his young wife. But here the young woman acts to save the one representing Christ, as opposed to Salome who became the agent to kill John the Baptist. In any case, the theme is similar and contains this pattern of a young woman being offered up to half his kingdom by the king.

Satan was willing to kill half the universe to secure his objective of universal domination. This idea has a modern expression in the recent

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Avenger series where the character Thanos (meaning death) destroys half the universe to ensure universal dominion.²⁹

This would suggest that half of the angels were with Christ and half were with Satan. Once having created his cage suggesting God's justice demanded death, he tried to enslave the angels under his influence by telling them that God would not forgive them for siding with him. We get another clue to this by what he did to Cain. After drawing Cain into the murder of Abel, he sealed him in his cage by convincing him that God would not forgive him.

And Cain said to the Lord God, "My crime *is* too great for me to be forgiven." Genesis 4:13 (Brenton, translation from Greek OT)

This is the seed of Satan. It produces the same fruit and operates in the same way. The life of Cain reveals what Satan did to the angels. He told them God would not forgive them.

This was the point at which Lucifer became Satan the Accuser, fully and completely. He sealed his destiny at this point. He knew the character of God was love. He knew that God was merciful. We draw on the story of Jonah, where Jonah is disappointed that Nineveh was not wiped out.

So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm." Jonah 4:2

Satan now fully transgresses the law of love. He knew God would forgive but he lied and told his angels who looked up to him that God would not forgive. This plunged them into darkness and the dominion of Satan. We see this principle expressed in reverse as follows:

...to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive

²⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Infinity_Gauntlet

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forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. Acts 26:18

Satan transgressed the law by saying God would not forgive. This is the seed of Satan, and all who echo this idea that God would not forgive transgress the law of God – the law of life and liberty.

Those angels who believed Satan's lie sealed their destiny also. There was no hope for them to be forgiven because they did not believe God would forgive, and therefore they never asked.

The Bible says that the Father is ever merciful. His mercy never ends.

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! **For His mercy endures forever.** Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! **For His mercy endures forever.** Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! **For His mercy endures forever:** To Him who alone does great wonders, **For His mercy endures forever;** To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, **For His mercy endures forever.** Psalm 136:1-5

God is always ready to forgive, but those who become convinced that He won't forgive, sin against their souls and will die; all because they will never ask. God's forgiveness brings the life and character of Christ that heals and restores, restoring us to the law of life. Only when you ask will you receive. If you eat of the fruit of this tree that Satan created, you will surely die. If you believe that there exists in God's character the idea that God can come to a place where he will not forgive, then you will die. This is the dominion of death. This is the power of Satan over the soul.

The greatest triumph of Satan's strategy is to convince the universe that God is a God of death and that He will use force to punish, and if necessary, kill those who persistently rebel. The Bible tells us:

For we will surely die and *become* like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. **Yet God does not take away a life;** but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him. 2 Samuel 14:14

This verse is precious because it is related to the story of Absalom. We remember that David did not punish his son Amnon, for raping

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Absalom's sister, in the manner that Absalom wanted. Absalom took matters into his own hands and killed his half-brother Amnon for his deed. David had banished his son Absalom for his crime of killing Amnon. In an effort to reconcile David and Absalom, Joab, David's chief army commander, devised a plan to send a woman to David to appeal to him about a supposed case she had that was the same as the case of Amnon and Absalom. David discerned the plan right away but the woman appealed to him that *God does not take away a life but seeks to restore His banished ones*. Through this humble woman God articulated one of the most profound truths of heaven.

In a Divine Pattern system, free life and death will never harmonise. Freedom and fearfulness can never co-exist. God is love (1 John 4:8) and when we know this love then all fear is cast out. (1 John 4:18). There is no fear in love (Agape). But there is fear in death. Therefore, God cannot have anything to do with death.

The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. 1 Corinthians 15:26

To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear. Luke 1:74

Death is Satan's dominion. He created it by developing a false justice system through the law, convincing many that transgression of the law must be punished. Serious crimes must be punished with death. Satan conceived the idea of death through his desire for the Son of God to no longer exist. He imagined the universe without Him. This opened the door to the principle of death.

Sadly, the only way that the universe could discover the truth of what Satan was planning was for the Son of God to let Satan do to Him what he desired. The crucifixion of Jesus is the revelation of the murderous seed that resided in the heart of Satan from the beginning.

When the true character of the Father is revealed and the universe has made its choice as to the God they serve, every knee will bow and acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Some

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will do this in love. Some will do this with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Then death and hell will be destroyed. The author of death and those who believed him will be crushed under the weight of their own guilt. A fire will burn within their hearts at the realisation that they lost eternity and they have no one to blame but themselves.

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Revelation 20:14

Like the earthquake that violently shook the earth when Christ died upon the Cross, so the earth also will burst forth, manifesting the violent, hateful thoughts of the damned and will consume them. The earth itself will vomit out its inhabitants. (Leviticus 18:25). Those who have transgressed the Everlasting Covenant will be burned up root and branch. (Isaiah 24:5-6; Malachi 4:1-2).

CHAPTER 14

THE FALL OF LUCIFER AND HIS ANGELS

There was no logical reason for Satan to choose the path that he had. He knew that God was loving, merciful and forgiving. He knew that the Son of God had created him and all the angels and the universe. His wilful rejection of reality cannot be explained. This is the mystery of iniquity. How could that beautiful, gentle angel called Lucifer become Satan? There is no explanation for why Satan chose to seek refuge in lies, deceit and violence.

Satan must have trembled momentarily that he was willing to speak such lies about God's character. In the life of Cain, we see the staggering and shaking he experienced in walking the path of Satan. Cain revealed the inner turmoil of Satan and his uncertainty, fear, and depression through the loss of his identity.

Did he wonder if he should go through with his plan in the beginning? Would he fully commit himself to war against God and His Son?

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, "Let

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us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."
Psalm 2:1-3

In this deep darkness that Satan had cast about the angels, God caused the light of truth to shine out in the face of His Son.

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

This text is an expression of the seed in the Son of God. He is always the light; He is always the truth of the Father and he is always the way to the Father. Into the darkness stepped the Son of God to speak of God's love, mercy and grace.

His words were as a sword out of His mouth and His eyes as a flame of fire. The glory of the Lord was hope and joy to angels who believed on Him, but He was like devouring fire (Exodus 24:17) in the eyes of those angels who believed the lies of Satan. Into the darkness came light, and the word of the Son of God brought a separation between those with Satan and those with God.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The LORD on high *is* mightier than the noise of many waters, *than* the mighty waves of the sea.
Psalm 93:3-4

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.
Revelation 12:15

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; **when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.** Isaiah 59:19

The Scripture represents the words of the enemy like a flood that comes to carry away the faithful. The serpent through his lies, desired to carry away all of the angels, but the Son of God revealed the glory of the Father as a bright light and this caused a separation in the waters

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between the angels who remained above and the angels who descended below. (Genesis 1:6-7).

To Satan's bitter disappointment only one third of the angels chose to fully commit to his war against God and His anointed.

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.
Revelation 12:4

In vision John saw the symbols of the woman about to give birth to the seed of Christ. Though the symbols of the dragon and the stars prophetically refer to Satan's work through Rome to destroy some of the leaders of God's people, it also gives reference to the original seed that caused this process in heaven.

Satan had told the angels that God would not forgive them and one third of the angels believed Satan and entered the cage of death with Satan.

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. Jude 1:6

The reason that God is said to reserve these angels in "chains under darkness" is because Satan prevented the angels from believing they could come back to God. As we mentioned in the previous chapter:

...to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from **darkness to light**, and **from the power of Satan** to God, that they may receive **forgiveness of sins** and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. Acts 26:18

For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Matthew 7:2

The chains of darkness were the power of Satan that they would NOT receive forgiveness of sins. So they could only hope for the punishment that they had demanded that God should exercise.

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For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but **a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.** Hebrews 10:26-27

Some of the angels – the difference between one third of the angels and half the kingdom – returned to God. They refused to accept the lie that God would not forgive. They embraced the truth of God's merciful, loving, character. Even though they could not answer all of Satan's accusations, they chose to remain faithful to God. When Jesus died on the Cross, Satan's designs were revealed and the angels finally gained the answers they were seeking.

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to **reconcile all things unto himself**; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, **or things in heaven.** Colossians 1:20 (KJV)

When Christ died, there were things reconciled to God in heaven. Finally, Satan's ideas and his influence were removed from heaven.

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. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." Revelation 12:9-10

Until the time of the Cross, Satan could still access heaven. The physical presence of Satan in heaven could only be allowed because there were unresolved questions in the minds of the angels. We are told this in the story of Job.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 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." Job 1:6-7

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As Jesus was approaching the Cross, He knew that soon Satan would be revealed and would fall as lightning from heaven. Satan would no longer have any sympathy in heaven, and thus he would have no reason to go there anymore.

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."
Luke 10:18

The Son of God saw Satan fall from heaven in bodily form from the beginning, but his ideas did not fully leave heaven until Christ died upon the Cross. It still remains to be seen who from the earth will accept the truth of God's character and break free from the dominion of death. At the end of time, very soon, God will make the controversy clear to the whole world and man will need to make a decision, like the angels made a decision.

How precious to know that God's mercy is extended to all freely. Even though Satan infected half the kingdom, still a remnant of these angels returned to the bosom of the Father.

How sad must the angels in heaven have been to see such a vacancy be made in the heavenly courts. Many of their companions which they had shared precious memories with were gone. How the angels must have wept for this terrible loss. Yet who can measure the sense of loss the Father and the Son experienced? They who created, taught, and loved these angels. The anguish, tears, and heart break must have been unfathomable.

CHAPTER 15

THE DRAGON ESTABLISHES HIS BASE ON EARTH

Was Satan thrust out of heaven? Or did he strategically move his forces to the next theatre of action where the earth was to be created?

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. **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. Revelation 12:7-9

Did God fling him out of heaven like casting a pebble? This is not possible for when we know the character of God we will know:

They 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. Isaiah 11:9

It says of the Son of God that He does no violence and is completely harmless.

And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, **because He had done no violence**, nor *was any* deceit in His mouth. Isaiah 53:9

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For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens. Hebrews 7:26

How then was Satan and His angels cast out? As we read in Jude 1:6, these angels left their first estate. What then caused them to be "cast out" of heaven?

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. Revelation 12:4

What does the tail of the dragon represent?

The elder and honorable, he *is* the head; **the prophet who teaches lies, he *is* the tail.** Isaiah 9:15

Satan's lie and mischaracterization of God had caused many of the angels to see God as their enemy. God tried to show them the truth, but every overture to the angels was perceived as an attack on them.

But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, *and* he fought against them. Isaiah 63:10 (KJV)

God was not their enemy, but "he was turned to be their enemy" through their own misunderstanding of where their life came from in relation to God's law. As God approached these angels, like Adam who was greatly afraid after he sinned, they fled to this region where the earth was to be created.

It was Satan's lies that cast the angels out of heaven as it states in Revelation 12:4. To get more details on what Satan did at this point we need to examine Revelation 12:1-3 that precede verse 4.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven

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heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
Revelation 12:1-3 (KJV)

Who is the woman that appears in heaven clothed in the sun and the moon under her feet? Verses 4-6 speak of the woman giving birth to the man-child on earth who was to rule the nations and was caught up to heaven. Adam Clarke offers this commentary:

That the woman here represents the true Church of Christ most commentators are agreed. In other parts of the Apocalypse, the pure Church of Christ is evidently portrayed by a woman. In Rev 19:7, a great multitude are represented as saying, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his Wife hath made herself ready."

It is certainly true that a pure woman represents the bride of Christ, His beloved Church.

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Ephesians 5:23

Why is this woman represented as being in heaven in verses 1-3 and then in verses 4-6 after the dragon comes to earth, the woman gives birth to the man-child on the earth?

The plan for this earth was to reveal the glory of God and His Son. We were made in their image. All of the inhabitants of this world were to be the bride of Christ. The Son of God longed to have a people that would fully reflect His character and the character of His Father. In the creation of the woman from Adam's side, we have revealed the principle of the woman, the church, who came forth from the heart of Christ. Begotten of the Father, Christ was the one who would do the will of His Head; begotten of Christ, humanity would do the will of their Head.

For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother. Mark 3:35

...Go to My brethren and say to them, "I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." John 20:17

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The woman, representing Christ's people in whom is His character, would be clothed in the Sun. Christ is the Sun of righteousness, the light of the world. The destiny of His bride was to reveal the truth of the character of God to the universe.

The visible setting of Revelation 12 is at the time of the birth of Christ two thousand years ago. The woman is God's Church about to give birth to the Messiah. The dragon is manifested through the Roman power and the stars are the leaders of God's people that are cut down. Yet the seed of this story finds its origin in the very beginning. God and His Son were planning to create the woman, the bride of Christ to show to the universe the true relationship between God and His Son. Lucifer was not included in the discussions about the creation of this world. The discussions were only between God and His Son for only the Son of God knew the truth of His Father's character.

His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, **that no man knew, but he himself.**
Revelation 19:12 (KJV)

It was Satan's desire to become the prince of this world. When Adam and Eve yielded their dominion to Satan, he acquired the title that he wanted.

Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for **the prince of this world** cometh, and hath nothing in me. John 14:30 (KJV)

Satan wanted to demonstrate his principles of government with his new justice system on this earth, but God granted to His Son to be both the Creator and rightful ruler of this world.

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. **Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.** Daniel 7:13-14

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What the prophet Daniel saw in vision is the fulfilment of the original design that the Father had from the beginning; that His Son would be ruler and have dominion of the earth. Before the Son of God created this earth, Satan moved all his forces to the region of the earth to prepare himself to devour and take captive that which Christ was about to create.

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.
Revelation 12:4

The story of the birth of Christ 2000 years ago is the manifestation of what happened at the foundation of the world. When Jesus was born, Satan tried to destroy Him and claim this world as his rightful dominion.

When Christ was about to create this world and bring forth His bride on the earth, Satan stood ready to wrest it from the dominion of the Son of God. The wonder of the woman that was planned, dreamed about, and designed in heaven, was now to be brought forth from the hand of Christ her Creator on earth.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

As soon as the Son of God created this place called earth, Satan immediately tried to take possession of the place for at the very start there was darkness in this place.

The earth was without form, and void; and **darkness was on the face of the deep.** Genesis 1:2

We know this darkness was not good because God did not call the darkness good. He only called the light good.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **And God saw the light, that *it was good*;** and God divided the light from the darkness. Genesis 1:3-4

God is light. Satan is darkness. The presence of the darkness, which was not called good, tells us that Satan, the dragon, had come to the earth

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prepared to devour what the Son of God was creating and make himself the prince of this world.

The creation story is not a series of arbitrary steps. The creation is a manifestation of the seed that is in the Son of God and is also a revelation of the conflict between the seed of Christ and the seed of the serpent.

We remember that the law of life does not use compelling force. God did not force Satan in any way. He did not restrict his movements in any way. This is not how the law of liberty works.

Another evidence of this freedom is revealed in the fact that although Satan and his angels continued to live, they did not live by their own power. There is only One who is immortal and that is God. The angels lived by the life that was in Christ.

God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: That power *belongs* to God. Psalm 62:11

Christ continued to give life to these fallen angels. Every pulse of life they had, came from Christ. He and His Father continued to be able to read every thought they had. They knew every hateful thought and action of Satan against them. Still God gave them life. Why was this?

Firstly, as we have seen God does not take life. Secondly many of the angels still had unresolved questions and time was needed to be given for Satan to develop his ideas and to see the fruit of them. As a result, the Son of God is forced to hear and observe the filth and vile expletives of these fallen angels. What a cross this is for Christ to bear. Christ is still holding Satan in his arms in a sense, while Satan slaps, beats, screams and hurts the Son of God. We remember:

God, who made the world and everything in it, ...He gives to all life, breath, and all things. Acts 17:24-25

The Father and Son continually give life to Satan in order that his principles might be revealed and Their principles of never using force are sustained. Satan uses that life to steal, kill and destroy. Christ is the

wisdom and power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24). Satan takes the power and rejects the wisdom. Satan hardens himself so completely against the Son of God and yet lives by every breath from Him.

Every time Satan destroys, it is like the rod in Moses' hand that when it was laid down, it became a serpent.

So the LORD said to him, "What *is* that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take *it* by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand). Exodus 4:2-4

Christ is the rod in the right hand of the Father. When God allows Satan to destroy, the power in Christ is allowed to pass to Satan to do these evil deeds. The Son of God does not want these evil deeds to be done, but the freedom to choose must allow this power to pass to Satan. Each time Satan kills and destroys one of God's children, Christ is pierced. He is wounded by these transgressions.

Why doesn't He stop Satan from doing this? Because Satan himself understands the principle of free will, and he demands that humans receive the consequences of their actions and be ruled over by the god of their choices – which, if they are sinning, is Satan, who rules over them by manipulating them, inciting them, tormenting them, and finally destroying them. Christ can't stop Satan from afflicting those who refuse to walk in the law of the Lord and keep His statutes and judgments. He can only plead with them to come back to Him to get out of harm's way.

Some would argue here that the innocent are also hurt; how does God explain that? Many children suffer under wars, or alcoholic fathers, or terrible governments, etc. The crucial word here is *under*: God created a system where the actions and beliefs of each of us would affect those around us – that is a part of free will. This is particularly true if we are an authority, a head; what we think and do will have direct repercussions onto those under us. This was to help us and the angels understand our own place, and the place of those above and below us, in the great chain

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of being; and that our actions not only affect ourselves but work in relation with everything else. When men and angels choose to reject Christ, it hurts not only themselves, but everyone around them.

After Satan and his angels fled heaven, God and His Son decided to press ahead and create this world. Much of the universe had been affected by the lies of Satan and his false justice system in relation to the law of God. God and His Son looked forward with hope that the truth of God's character would be revealed in the human race; the bride of the Son of God, and help answer the charges of Satan against God. But they would not restrict Satan's movements.

Satan was free to roam the regions of the new world that was created. His hatred of the Son of God drove him to come to this place and try and take control of it. This is the reason for the darkness that existed on day one of creation. Satan came here with his angels in preparation of what was to come.

The restrictions upon Satan came from his own justice system and what he imagined God would do to him. The new creation would have nothing to fear from Satan as long as they remained filled with the Spirit of Christ. He would not be able to remain long in their presence without the need to flee. He would be driven out by the hornets of conviction and fear of punishment.

CHAPTER 16

THE CREATION WEEK PROPHECY

The conflict between Satan and the government of God was fully developed in the seed of the serpent. Only God and His Son knew what the end of these things would be. God in His wisdom, through the events of creation, was able to reveal elements of the seed in Christ and the seed that was in Satan. Our Father was able to lay out in principle what would happen in this conflict between God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom.

This world's destiny was not ordained to be the centre stage where this drama was to play out, but the sequence of the creation explains the key stages of the conflict between Christ and Satan. It is certain that the seed of the serpent would find a place to manifest its principles, but it was not known for certain that this earth would sadly become this place where it would manifest, for God is all-wise rather than all-knowing. The difference, as we have discussed, is found in knowing the end from the beginning. That which is before the beginning is not a thing. It is not known and therefore involves the element of risk.

Before Lucifer had committed himself to fully rebel against His maker, the Spirit of God was moving upon the hearts of the angels to draw

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them back from the precipice that many were edging towards. The creation story reflects this reality.

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the **deep**. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2

The Hebrew word for *deep* has the meaning of a surging mass of water. Satan's mischief of reframing the law of God through his lies about immortality was causing commotion amongst the angels. He had set himself as an example of how to live, in contrast to the Son of God. The Spirit of God was moving upon them, appealing to their consciences to listen to the words of the Son of God and the loyal angels.

Lucifer was laying charges against God and His government, but Christ was the light of heaven who revealed the truth of God's character. Lucifer was urging that justice demanded death for transgressions, but Christ revealed that the Father did not desire sacrifice and offering for sin.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Genesis 1:3-5

God did not say "make there be light." He said "let there be light." This is something we have to let into our minds and receive with thanks. Satan refused the light; and if your eye becomes darkened, unwilling and then unable to receive light, then how dark can the world around you become?

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness! Matthew 6:22-23

As we stated in the previous chapter, God called the light good. He did not call the darkness good. Here is evidence of the story that is being revealed in the creation events. God divided the light from the darkness.

In revealing the truth of His Father, the Son of God exposed the darkness that was in Satan.

The words that the Son of God spoke were carried by His Spirit into the minds of the angels and it discerned their thoughts and desires (Hebrews 4:12). The Spirit is like a stream of wind that separates. This is what we see in the firmament: a pocket of air between the waters above the earth and the waters beneath the earth.

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. Genesis 1:6-8

The result of the revelation of light is to bring to decision. Will there be acceptance of the light or will there be a twisting away from the light³⁰ leading to separation? We note with interest that God does not say that the separation of the waters is a good thing but simply that it was so. This is the seed principle revealed in the creation. We will see this process again in day four and five of creation. Once again, the light shines on day four and there is separation on day five. We will come to this shortly. Our point from day two of creation is that the Spirit of truth divides. Jesus explained this principle when here on earth.

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' Matthew 10:34-36

God pleads with those in darkness to turn to Him. The continual appeal to the heart causes it to either soften or permanently harden. This is how

³⁰ The meaning of the Hebrew word for night means "a twist away from the light". Figuratively it means adversity.

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God hardened Pharaoh's heart; God kept appealing to him to soften his heart and Pharaoh repeatedly refused. This is what causes separation.

Day three expands the separation that began on day two of creation. It reveals more of the development of the seed of Christ and the seed of Satan.

And God said, Let the [1] **waters under** [H8478] the heaven be [2] **gathered together** [H6960] unto one place, and [3] **let the dry** [H3004] *land* appear: and it was so. And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it was* good. Genesis 1:9-10 (KJV)

The Hebrew word for *under* means:

H8478 tachath (*takh'-ath*) – bottom, (as depressed) from H8430 tōach (*to'-akh*) – depress, humble.

In rejecting his sonship to God, Satan became depressed. Elements of his character began to stagger and shake. (Genesis 4:12). Those who joined with him in rejecting their sonship to God, found themselves bound together with Lucifer. The words *gather together* in Hebrew means:

H6960 qāvāh; (*kaw-vaw'*): A primitive root; to bind together (perhaps by twisting), that is, collect; (figuratively) to expect: - gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon).

Satan and his angels collectively twisted away from the light of truth in the Son of God. They were filled with anger, violence, jealousy, and judgment against God and His Son. They also were filled with fearful anticipation of judgment. We see this seed in Satan manifested in Adam and Eve when they sinned. When God walked towards them in the garden, they ran and hid themselves in fear. They were bound by fear, guilt and enmity towards God. This seed is further expressed in this way.

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed. Psalm 2:2

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Therefore, the manifestation of the light has the effect of binding up the fallen angels due to their reaction to the light. It is their own fear and judgment, in response to the light, that enslaves them and gathers them together.

He binds up the water in His thick clouds [Darkness], yet the clouds are not broken under it. Job 26:8

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. Jude 1:6

We see the fear that the fallen angels manifest when the Son of God comes into their presence.

And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Matthew 8:29

Day three of creation reveals the gathering together of the waters that are under or below. This represents Satan and his angels bound together in their hatred of God and His Son and their fear of coming judgment. We note with interest that the gathering together of the waters allowed the dry land to appear.

Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry [H3004] *land* appear"; and it was so. Genesis 1:9

Here we see the seed principle of Satan's over reach. In gathering his forces together against the Lord and His anointed, the dry land, the emergence of the woman, was allowed to appear and into this dry ground the seed, which is Christ, was enabled to be planted.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the **herb *that* yields seed**, and the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, **whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth**"; and it was so. Genesis 1:11

The Hebrew word for *dry land* takes on the theme of a path or way to salvation in the following ways.

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He turned the sea into dry *land*; [H3004] they went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him. Psalm 66:6

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, [H3004] but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. Jonah 1:13

Even though Satan and his angels had determined to make earth his headquarters and interrupt the plans of God and His Son, their own justice system, hatred of Christ and their consequent fear of Him prevented them from stopping Christ from manifesting the dry ground and planting the seed. The seed manifested on day three of creation is a symbol of Christ.

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, **"and to your seed," who is Christ.** Galatians 3:16

We follow this principle carefully as it is an expression of the gospel. When Christ revealed the truth of His Father as expressed in day one of creation, it caused a separation amongst the angels. Satan then gathered his forces and moved to the earth where they "rise up...against the LORD and against his Anointed One." (Acts 4:26, NIV). The depths of sin begin to be exposed as the darkness intensifies where it amasses, causing grace to much more abound which allows for the seed to be planted in the earth.

Man was made of the dust of the earth and day three of creation is a symbol of the seed of Christ planted in human hearts drawing them to the light of truth. It is a symbol of the Spirit of Jesus continually appealing to man to yield themselves to the light. Just as the Spirit is not seen, the action of the seed in the human heart is not seen. Its action is hidden until it finally appears.

In summary, we see that the pattern of day three of creation follows this sequence:

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more. Romans 5:20

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Placing this text in the context of the creation we see:

- Day 1 – Light: "Moreover the law [character] entered"
- Day 2 – Separation: "That the offence might abound"
- Day 3a – Waters gathered together: "But where sin abounded"
- Day 3b – The seed is planted: "Grace abounded much more"

Romans 5:20 shows us the sequence of the interaction between the seed of Satan and the seed of Christ.

Through the seed principle, we can see that the creation of this world reveals the origins of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan.

<p>Day 1</p> <p>Truth Revealed</p> <p>Darkness from Satan's Lies about God's character.</p> <p>Christ reveals the truth of God's character.</p> <p>Let there be Light</p>	<p>Day 2</p> <p>Separation</p> <p>Satan and his angels leave heaven. They resist the Spirit and refuse to repent.</p> <p>Waters Divided</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>The Seed</p> <p>Waters below gather together. This allows earth to appear. The Seed is planted.</p> <p>A path through the sea. Seed brings life. Root in dry ground.</p>
<p>The law/character enters</p>	<p>The offense abounds</p>	<p>Grace does much more abound</p>
<p>War in heaven before world began</p>	<p>War in heaven just before world began</p>	<p>Fall of man till birth of Christ</p>

The first three days of creation are a revelation of the war that took place in heaven leading to Satan and his angels coming to this earth to resist the coming Seed. This same sequence of events can be found in the words of Jesus in John 16:8

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And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. John 16:8

Conviction:	Sin	Righteousness
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These events are also expressed in the language of Revelation of 12:1-4

<p>Day 1</p> <p>Truth Revealed</p> <p>Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.</p> <p>Light Revealed</p>	<p>Day 2</p> <p>Separation</p> <p>Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.</p> <p>Waters Break</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>The Seed</p> <p>And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon...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.</p>
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We see manifested here the woman, the serpent/dragon, and the Seed. This is a reflection of the events that took place in the Garden of Eden where we see the woman, the serpent dragon and the Seed.

And I will put enmity between you [the **serpent**] and the **woman**, and between your seed and her **Seed**; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. Genesis 3:15

The primary focus of this war as reflected in the first three days centres in heaven. Day four of creation is a revelation of the visible work of Christ on earth where the character of God was fully revealed. The revealing of this light on earth, began the same process as what had occurred in

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heaven in the beginning, just more obviously, causing the offence to abound that grace might much more abound.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
John 1:4-5

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

The ministry of Jesus caused a separation amongst the people of God.

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for this fellow*, we do not know where He is from." John 9:28-29

And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." John 9:39 (NASB)

The work of Christ caused those who rejected the Spirit of God to be gathered together against Christ to kill Him.

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. Matthew 27:1

Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. John 11:53

The actions of Satan and these evil ones were bound together in thick clouds of darkness.

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. Matthew 27:45

In killing Christ, the sins of Satan and the leaders were revealed. They over reached themselves and the seed of truth was then able to touch the human heart. The sin of killing Christ on the Cross caused grace to much more abound because the works of darkness were exposed.

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He [Christ] Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He

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might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.
Hebrews 2:14

The light that Christ revealed to the world exposed the darkness that was in the waters that were gathered together. It also revealed the prince of the power of the air, (Ephesians 2:2). The work of angels (clean spirits) and demons (unclean spirits) were brought to light.

When Satan killed Christ, Satan fell as lightning from heaven. He was no longer able to access the heavenly realm as he had previously. None of the angels in heaven were influenced by his ideas anymore. All of the heavenly angels were reconciled to God through the revelation of the light in the life of Christ symbolised by the creation of the sun and moon on the fourth day of creation.

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. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, **has been cast down.**" Revelation 12:9-10

The events described in the verses above have their primary focus at the time of the resurrection of Christ. Satan's ideas were cast out of the minds of the heavenly universe. How was Satan cast down here?

...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

It was the arguments of Satan and his followers that were cast out of heaven at the time of the resurrection of Christ. The heavenly angels are not violent, and like God and His Son they do not use force. Satan had physically left heaven at the time of the creation of the earth as expressed in Revelation 12:4. The ideas of Satan were cast out of heaven 4000 years later when the light of the Son of God revealed the glory of the Father.

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Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*.
Revelation 12:13

When Satan saw he lost any sympathy in heaven, he turned his focus solely on the inhabitants of the earth and determined to destroy the bride of Christ.

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. Revelation 12:17

Now the earth would go through the same three step process that heaven had gone through as symbolised in the first three days of creation.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl *that* may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." And God created **great whales**, [H8577] and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good. Genesis 1:20-21 (KJV)

On day five of creation one creature is specifically named while the rest are given in general terms. What does the Hebrew word for *great whale* mean?

[H8577] (The second form used in Ezekiel 29:3); intensive from the same as H8565; a marine or land *monster*, that is, ***sea serpent or jackal***:— **dragon, sea-monster, serpent, whale**.

Before Christ came, angels and more especially humans had limited knowledge of Satan and his actions. The great whale, or serpent/dragon, that swims in the waters that were gathered together represents Satan.

In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and **he shall slay the dragon** [H8577] **that *is* in the sea**.
Isaiah 27:1 (KJV)

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What is the sword that the Lord uses?

He [Christ] had in His right hand seven stars, **out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. Revelation 1:16

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

It was through the words of love and mercy spoken to us by Christ that the serpent was exposed. His actions of tenderness and compassion demonstrated the truth of His words. These revealed the dragon in the sea that has been gathered together in darkness symbolised by day three of creation.

In Satan's capture of the human race, humanity is symbolised as fish that Christ is seeking to catch and save from the dragon in the waters.

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

So the waters of the sea contain clean and unclean creatures. The birds of the air contain clean and unclean creatures. These symbolise the separation between those who receive the words of Christ and those who do not. Jesus said of the disciples:

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. John 15:3

Day five and six symbolise the continued separation between those who follow the Lamb who is harmless, holy and undefiled, and those who reject the words of Christ and arise and devour flesh.

And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' Daniel 7:5

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For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! Galatians 5:14-15

Those who become filled with the unclean spirit of Satan will, like their master devour much flesh. We see in the vision of Daniel, that the beast representing one of the kingdoms of this world arose and devoured much flesh. The ruling kingdoms of this world live through the killing of others. The devouring and eating of flesh are representative of the actions of Satan.

In contrast to the selfless Spirit of Christ, the spirit of Satan is characterized by selfishness – what Satan wants to do, he does, regardless of the pain it causes others. Ultimately what Satan wants is to destroy others; those he devours are proven to be weaker than him and thus he feels better about himself.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8

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. John 8:44

The Son of God does no violence and does not devour flesh. We see that Christ is the opposite to Satan. Christ does not lie and He does not kill. For more on this see the books *Acts of Our Gentle God* and *Agape* available at fatheroflove.info

A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; and in His name gentiles will trust. Matthew 12:20-21

...Because He had **done no violence, nor was any deceit** in His mouth. Isaiah 53:9

The separation between the fish, birds, and land creatures that are clean and the fish, birds, and land creatures who are unclean represent the

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separating power of the gospel, just like the separation of the waters on day two and day three of creation.

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. Galatian 5:17

It is no accident that on day six of creation man is made in the image of God. The man and the woman are in the image of God and His Son. When the image of God's character is restored then there is an entering into the Sabbath of rest.

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His. Hebrews 4:9-10

<p style="text-align: center;">Day 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Truth Revealed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“I am the light of the world”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christ reveals the truth of God’s character.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sun, Moon and Stars light the earth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Day 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Separation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The fish and birds come forth. Some are clean and others are unclean.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dragon Revealed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Day 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Image of God</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Animals and man revealed as either clean or unclean. They either devour flesh or live as harmless and caring.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fear God and give glory to Him.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The law/character enters</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The offense abounds</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grace does much more abound</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Christ’s life on earth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">From destruction of Jerusalem to end of Dark Ages and 1260 years</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Time of the end. Christ revealed in men.</p>

There are many things that could be said about the creation week, but our focus here is on God telling the story of how the two seeds would

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manifest themselves and the separation that would occur. Once again, we repeat, this was not ordained to happen on the earth, but God would lay out to the universe the pattern of how things would unfold from what God knew from reading the mind of Satan as compared to His Son.

The reconciliation of the heavenly angels when Christ came to earth and revealed the character of His Father and the character of Satan will be repeated when, at the close of earth's history, the 144,000 will fully reflect the character of Christ.

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, **having His Father's name written on their foreheads.** Revelation 14:1

The bride makes herself ready. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will show the world what God's character looks like. All the world will then decide for themselves who they will serve. Satan will be cast out of the minds of those who follow the Lamb of God wherever He leads.

It will be pronounced:

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. Revelation 22:11

Then Christ will come to claim His children. The wicked stamped with the character of Satan, are terrified by the approaching of Christ and His angels to the earth. They are destroyed by the brightness of His coming, (2 Thessalonians 2:8). It is the guilt of sin combined with their fear of God that overwhelms them. God does not destroy them with the use of force but they are crushed by the wages they have earned. Evil shall destroy the wicked, (Psalm 34:21).

There are more details to this story of the end of sin but I wish to point out this interesting thought. The first six days of creation follow a day and night cycle. Day is always following night. But on the seventh day there is no mention of the night. At the close of the conflict between good and evil we are told:

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There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:5

The seventh day expresses the rest that comes to the universe after the conflict with darkness is finished. All that remain shall love God with all their hearts and they know that in Him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5).

CHAPTER 17

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Satan and his angels, while originally willing to acknowledge God the Father, refused to accept the authority and leadership of the Son of God. Satan boasted that he would be like the Most High, meaning the Father. He denied that the Son of God was equal with the Father. As the seed of this rebellion continues to unfold, we see a clear picture of the issues at stake.

...that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. John 5:23

The inheritance of the Son of God from His Father ensures that equality cannot be measured by power, glory and intellect. The inheritance of the Son of God is the greatest proof that the Father is Agape; that He is completely giving in nature.

The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.
John 3:35

Satan chose to ignore his inheritance from Christ but rather glory in his wisdom, strength and riches. (See Jeremiah 9:23; Ezekiel 28:17). As the Son of God received everything from His Father, the worship of the Son

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of God became intolerable for Satan. To worship the Son of God was a continual reminder that all things come from the Father and are given to us.

It is in this context that we can appreciate more fully the reason why God made Adam and his wife in the image of God. The headship that God had over His Son was to be reflected in the headship that Adam had over his wife, whom he later called Eve.

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.
1 Corinthians 11:3

A little further down we learn how the headship of Adam would serve to teach the angels about the subject of authority.

For this reason the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on *her* head, **because** of the angels. 1 Corinthians 11:10

The word *because* above comes from the Greek word *διὰ*—which means the channel of an act. It can also be translated as:

after, always, among, at, to avoid, because of (that), briefly, by, **for** (cause) . . . fore, from, in, **by occasion of, of, by reason of, for sake,** that, thereby, therefore, X though, through (-out), to, wherefore, with (-in).

We might translate this passage as:

1. For the cause of the angels
2. By reason of the angels
3. For the sake of the angels

In looking at the relationship between Adam and Eve, the angels might better learn the basis of the divine government in heaven.

...because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are

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made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

The Bible tells us who created this world.

...and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in **God who created all things through Jesus Christ.** Ephesians 3:9

...has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He [the Father] has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds.** Hebrews 1:2

The Father and His Son are the ones who created this world. The Father was the source and His Son was the channel through whom it was created. This adds great significance to the following verse.

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." Genesis 1:26

As God created all things through His Son, it is evident that when God said "Let Us make man in Our image" that God was speaking to His Son. Paul is correct when he says that we are without excuse on this question because Adam and Eve are two beings, with one coming forth from the other. The invisible attributes of God are clearly seen in the creation of the man and the woman.

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27

God created man in His image, both in the individual form and feature as well as the fact that there were two persons. The doctrine of the Trinity destroys this image. It obscures the reality of the relationship between God and His Son. It destroys one of the most vital points God wanted to teach the universe.

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God did not create three co-equal beings in the garden to represent the image of God. He created two beings with one coming forth from the other. The simplicity of this is evident to all who are willing to receive it.

And 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. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This *is* now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Genesis 2:21-23

Eve was taken out of Adam as an image of the fact that the Son of God was taken out of the Father.

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have **known surely that I came forth from You**; and they have believed that You sent Me. John 17:8

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for **I proceeded forth** and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me." John 8:42

When *there were* no depths **I was brought forth**, when *there were* no fountains abounding with water. Proverbs 8:24

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, **One whose origins are from the distant past**. Micah 5:2 (NLT)

Eve came forth from Adam and yet she is equal with Adam. In the beginning was the woman and the woman was with the man and the woman was human like the man. (See parallel in John 1:1).

He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. Genesis 5:2

As Christ is the brightness of the Father's glory, so the woman is the brightness of the man's glory.

...who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person... Hebrews 1:3

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For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, since he is the image and glory of God; **but woman is the glory of man.** 1 Corinthians 11:7

As God populated the universe through His Son, so Adam would populate the earth through his wife. As the Son of God made visible that which was invisible in God, so Eve would make visible the seed which was invisible in Adam.

The relationship of Adam and Eve were to be a teaching book for the universe to understand the true relationship of God and His Son.

...the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel...[are] things which angels desire to look into. 1 Peter 1:12

The man shared all that was given to him with the woman. He spoke words of love, blessing and joy over her. He desired to care for her as part of himself. He felt a responsibility to care for her because she had come from him.

Eve shared the dominion given to Adam; she inherited all that God had given to him. Her equality with the man was not based upon strength for the man was made stronger than the woman. It was not based upon height for the man was taller than the woman. It was not based upon age for the man was created before the woman. Yet they were both equally human.

Harmony would exist between man and woman as long as they did not base their value upon their inherent qualities but upon the relationship that they shared together. The woman was the only one in the garden who had the capacity to know the man. None of the animals had the capacity to appreciate Adam's joy and aspiration. Like the Son says of His Father so Eve alone could say.³¹

As the Father [Adam] knows Me, even so I know the Father [Adam]...
John 10:15

³¹ For more on this, see the book *Original Love* available at fatheroflove.info

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Eve did not think it robbery to be equal with Adam. She shared his humanity; she was made from the rib that was originally in him. She had no thought of the need to compare herself with him, nor did it occur to her that she needed to emphasize her natural features to attract the man. She rested in her identity as the womb-man, coming from the womb of man.

From the original man and woman made in the image of the Father and Son, the earth was to be filled with millions of families made in the image of God, representing the Father and the Son and teaching the angels more about how the relationship between the Father and Son works.

What a destiny was given to the human race. What love had been invested in this creation. To the man and the woman were given the same freedom that existed in the heart of the Son of God. The begotten Son could not give anything more than what He Himself had received. The man and the woman were free to choose to serve God and reflect His character or to choose a different path.

Choosing a different path is not a simple process though. It requires a disbelief in the goodness of God, His wonderful gifts, and a denial that He has provided complete freedom within that reality. It requires the recipient to believe falsehood about God in order to justify breaking your relationship with Him; believing that our life would be better without God, in the face of all the evidence showing us that relying on our own wisdom will lead to self-destruction.

Our Father in heaven is life, love, freedom, and joy. He is full of goodness and truth. He is abundant in mercy and grace, and He is amazingly patient and gentle. God would not give up on humanity though it seemed, especially to the angels, that the humanity had given up on Him. Our Father had a plan.

Our Father had designed the creation in such a way as to help man understand himself and his relationship to God. He had given Adam a certain relationship to the land to make the point about God's own relationship to His creation. On account of the fact that there existed in the universe a new perception of reality, the Garden of Eden would

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reflect this fact. Satan's new justice system had affected the universe. One third of the angels were committed to follow these new kingdom principles. Love must provide the freedom to choose.

CHAPTER 18

DOMINION OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN

How beautiful it must have been to live in the Garden of Eden. A living, vibrant paradise filled with the fragrance of love, peace, and joy. Being made in the image of God and His Son, the woman rested in the bosom of her husband; a reminder of where she came from; the safest and most tranquil place for her to abide.

...The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. John 1:18

God gave to Adam and his wife a blessing. It included five key points:

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." Genesis 1:28

Fruitfulness is much more than the joy of producing children in your own image. The blessing of God was to bear the fruits of the Spirit first and foremost.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

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In the relationship given to the man and the woman, there was the opportunity to develop such a beauty of character. The first and most precious element is love, Agape love. The freedom loving, gentle and meek character of the Son of God was written into every fibre of the mind, heart and soul of Adam and his wife. In delaying to bring forth the woman from the man, there was amplified the joy and treasure of having the woman to walk with him, talk with him and share his life journey.

Every morning, the man would have expressed his gratitude to God, sometimes with tears overflowing, for the treasure of his wife. Filled with the Spirit of the Son of God, he would then pour forth words of love, thoughtfulness and appreciation of her, combined with deeds of kindness and affection.

This would plant spiritual seeds in the heart of the woman and multiply her joy in knowing she was treasured, appreciated and loved by her husband. Her desire to serve, please and bring joy to her husband would increase and in the synergy of their love, the characters of the man and the woman would multiply in the fruit of the Spirit. They would grow in grace through the resonance of their relationship in connection to the work given to them by God and their gratitude to God.

The human soul has the capacity to transmit and receive vibrational frequencies. The scientific research of Manfred Clynes³² revealed the ability of a person to emit frequencies connected to the emotional state they are experiencing. The frequencies emitted for love, kindness, joy or worship were found to be long and slow. Frequencies connected to hate and anger were found to be short and sharp. From this we can learn that the fruit of the Spirit manifesting in a person emits frequencies that would fill the whole garden.

As the man and woman were made of the same substance as the earth itself, the frequencies they emitted that were in harmony with the law of God would produce a positive and fruitful effect on the environment.

³² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manfred_Clynes

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Plenty of experiments have been conducted showing the effects of speaking to plants and animals with words of kindness and care.

In contrast to this, the human soul has the capacity to emit frequencies that negatively affect the environment.

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 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. Galatians 5:19-21

This list of negative thoughts and actions are the product of breaking the law of God. The law of God which is the law of liberty and freedom does not produce frequencies that damage the earth. The secret to the man and woman being fruitful and multiplying and filling the earth with goodness would be found in a continual stream of love, joy, gratitude, patience, kindness and goodness flowing forth from their minds and hearts to the world around them.

The proof of this connection between man and the earth can be discovered on the negative side through the effect on the garden through Adam's sin, along with the effect on the earth through Cain's murder of his brother Abel.

And to the man He said, 'Because thou hast hearkened to the voice of thy wife, and dost eat of the tree concerning which I have charged thee, saying, thou dost not eat of it, cursed *is* the ground on thine account; in sorrow thou dost eat of it all days of thy life, and thorn and bramble it doth bring forth to thee, and thou hast eaten the herb of the field.' Genesis 3:17-18 (YLT)

I have quoted the Young's Literal translation for the purpose of showing why the earth was cursed. Most translations indicate that God cursed the ground to teach them a lesson. Yet the reality is that the ground would be cursed through the wrong frequencies being emitted from Adam and his wife. Sharp words would affect the plants to produce

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sharp thorns and thistles. These things are from man's sinfulness, rather than God punishing man by creating these things as some imagine.

Notice the effect on the earth when Cain killed Abel:

Now 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. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where *is* Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. *Am* I my brother's keeper?" And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you *are* cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." Genesis 4:8-12

The feelings of hate leading to murder in Cain damaged the fertility of the earth. Just before Abel's death, the pain, shock and sorrow in his body and mind in the realisation of what Cain did to him also was absorbed by the earth and damaged it, so that it would not produce to the same level it had previously.

The Garden of Eden was only a small part of the earth. As Adam and Eve grew more beautiful in character, they would then produce children in this image. The children would be raised in the fragrant atmosphere where only words of love and compassion were spoken and no negative vibrations would touch their minds or bodies.

What a beautiful destiny had been planned for the human race. The whole earth would have been filled with love, joy, and blessing. Flowers, fruits, trees, and gardens would have filled the whole earth. As man would have become more lovely in character, the more the earth under his dominion would have reflected this.

How we understand the first three action words of Genesis 1:28 will determine the context of the last two action words.

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

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the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28

When Jesus was on earth, He regularly had to try and guide His listeners from the thoughts of the flesh to thoughts of the Spirit. When Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, the first thought Nicodemus expressed was birth of a physical or fleshly nature. Yet Jesus was speaking of spiritual things.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. John 3:6-8

Jesus indicated to his disciples that taking the physical understanding first is the result of a hard heart.

Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "*It is* because we have no bread." But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?" Mark 8:15-17

We note with interest the thoughts of some commentators:

...if this is not an express command, as the Jews understand it, for marriage and procreation of children, it seems to be more than a bare permission; at least it is a direction and an advice to what was proper and convenient **for the increase of mankind, and for the filling of the earth with inhabitants**, which was the end of its being made. – Isaiah 45:18. John Gill Commentary

Marked them as being under his especial protection, and gave them **power to propagate and multiply their own kind** on the earth. – Isaiah 45:18. Adam Clarke Commentary

If we take the words fruitful and multiply/increase in the spiritual understanding of character, then we will have a clearer perception of

what the earth is being filled with and how it is being subdued and what is the dominion being held.

If we look at the words *subdue* and *dominion* in Hebrew, we have the following scope of meaning:

Subdue [H3533] *kābāsh*

to tread down; hence negatively to disregard; positively to conquer, subjugate, violate: – bring into bondage, force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection.

Dominion [H7287] *rāḏāh*

to tread down, that is, subjugate; specifically to crumble off: – (come to, make to) have dominion, prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule, (-r, over), take.

In the flesh, this text can read like God is giving Adam dominion to tread down the earth and subjugating and forcing into submission all the lower orders of the creation. In the Spirit, this text is fulfilled in the life of Jesus when He spoke to the wind and the waves and commanded them to be still. This command was not one of domination or force, it was an exhaling of that Spirit in Him that was filled with peace and tranquillity. The atmosphere around Christ subdued everything around Him through peace, love, and joy.

Adam and his wife were to fill the earth with their selfless, gentle character. The animals and creatures are subdued not with a whip or forceful command but through the frequency of love, serenity, and harmony.

The Spirit of Jesus is a Spirit of freedom, liberty without restraint. (John 8:36). The only way to subdue the earth and have dominion in this context is to radiate this atmosphere to all in the sphere given. For those who have ears to hear let them hear what the original dominion was truly about.

CHAPTER 19

PARADISE LOST

Outside of this beautiful garden, the dragon was pacing up and down wondering how he could destroy this beautiful couple who resembled God and His Son in both form, feature and character. In similar manner to how the light shone about the face of Moses through his beholding of the beauty of God's character, Adam and his wife shone with the glory of God; a fit emblem of the wisdom of God manifest in them.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3

As we discovered in Revelation 12:4 concerning the birth of Christ, the dragon stood ready to devour the Child as soon as it was born. In the birth of Christ, we see the manifestation of what took place in the beginning. Christ had just been born into the hearts of Adam and his wife.

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Colossians 1:27

Although living in fully grown bodies, Adam and Eve began to grow in wisdom and spiritual stature and in favour with God and the angels.

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Through the way that Satan used Herod we obtain a glimpse of things that occurred in the beginning.

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." Matthew 2:7-8

Herod used deception to seek access to the place where Christ was born. He feigned a desire to worship the baby Jesus but his true intent was to kill him.

We recall that the angels were to learn lessons of the Father and Son through Adam and his wife. As the wise men came from a far country to bring gifts to bless and sustain Joseph, Mary and Jesus, so the angels came from the continent of heaven bearing blessings and gifts for Adam and Eve, the newly created couple. In similar manner to how the wise men knelt in adoration of the Messiah, the angels wondered at Adam and his wife, those made in the image of God, and considered the goodness and wisdom of their Creator. In the observation of Adam and Eve, the angels would learn the truth of the Father and Son.

Did Satan accost the angels going back and forth from the garden to allow him an entrance to the new humans to destroy them? Like the wise men, were the angels encouraged not to engage Satan in discussion as they came and went to the garden to fellowship with Adam and his wife?

It is interesting to note that the wise men came from the east. It is also significant that this same Greek word is found to speak of the garden that God planted in the beginning in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men from the East** [G395] came to Jerusalem. Matthew 2:1

The LORD God planted a garden **eastward** [G395] **in Eden**, and there He put the man whom He had formed. Genesis 2:8

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As stated in the beginning of this book, the Hebrew word for *east* carries also the connotation of antiquity or from ancient times. We see here the connecting link between the wise men at the time of Christ and the angels that came and visited the new couple.

As to the gifts they brought; the gift of gold represented the building up of faith, (1 Peter 1:7) recently tried in the fire of the war that had taken place in heaven. In the sanctuary service, frankincense mixed with flour and oil formed a food offering, (Leviticus 2:1). It was a recognition of who is the source of life, the bread of life, (John 6:48). The meeting of the angels with mankind allowed them to instruct them about the issues of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. The oil of myrrh provided a symbol of the divine presence as they met together. Indeed, the treasures of the wise men from a far country proved a blessing to Joseph and his wife.

As long as Adam and his wife walked in the character of their God; as long as Christ was dwelling in them by faith, Satan could not assail them nor harass them. As the statute book of Deuteronomy explains:

Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to **observe carefully all His commandments** which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:... Blessed *shall you be* when you come in, and blessed *shall you be* when you go out. **The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.**
Deuteronomy 28:1-2,6-7

Although Satan could not obtain direct access to the holy pair, Satan was granted to occupy the place in the centre of garden where the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil stood.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of

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good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:16-17

The Spirit of Jesus always is a Spirit of freedom. There can be no freedom without choice. As there existed in the universe the presence of another kingdom, the manifestation of that kingdom must be present. To prepare His children for the realities of life, He did not shelter them in a way that would afford them no chance to develop a character through choosing the right.

As long as Adam and his wife avoided the tree in the middle of the garden, they were developing a character and exercising their choice to love and serve God.

Satan could emit his frequencies of hate, anger and depression from the centre of the garden, but love for the word of God and the shield of faith would have protected the holy pair from harm.

The Bible tells us:

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 1 Timothy 2:14

Thus, proving true the statement:

Two *are* better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls, for *he has* no one to help him up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

How Adam and his wife were separated we are not told. The wisdom expressed from Solomon in the above text is a manifestation of the seed that existed from the beginning. It was wise for Adam and his wife to stay together. It was not wise to be alone in the garden when Satan could emit pulses of his frequencies out from the Tree of Knowledge. Adam's perception of what was taking place was wider than Eve's perception; he had been given the original command to avoid the fruit of the forbidden tree from Christ before Eve was formed, which Adam then relayed to her. As Christ lived under His Father's protection, so was Eve to live under

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Adam's protection. She would have been blessed by his guidance if he had been with her.

Some may question, why did God bring Adam and his wife into an environment that had a number of dangerous variables? The question might be asked, why do parents bring children into a world so full of danger? Why allow children to play in the dirt or ride bikes or any number of things that have risks? The reality of the universe is that there existed an enemy that desired to destroy what God and His Son were doing. The only way to live in this environment was to have limited exposure to Satan in order to be able to choose against him and thus develop true character. The limited exposure to Satan would also provide a contrast in the character of God and the character of Satan. This would also help them discern and understand why God and His Son were so wonderful, and why sin was so dangerous.

The further Eve moved towards the centre of the garden and the further away she was from Adam, the closer she was to the frequencies that Satan was emitting from the Tree of Knowledge.

Why the serpent was enabled to be used by Satan is a mystery. The serpent, or dragon, was a beautiful winged creature. This serpent was one of the creatures under the dominion of Adam. Satan would not have been able to take possession of the serpent for his purposes without some breach in the dominion of Adam. Was it possible that Eve being separated from Adam facilitated this breach? It was the duty of Adam to care for his wife. Was this neglect to encourage her to stay near him also sending frequencies into the garden affecting the other creatures? It is hard to say for sure, but when the woman heard the serpent speak to her, he seemed to be reflecting her internal thoughts.

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?'"
Genesis 3:1

It would have been startling to have the serpent apparently speak to her. Eve had been warned by the angel visitors of the enemy, but she was

expecting an angel to accost her rather than the deceiving medium of a serpent. Satan knew that Eve would be surprised by this and he could read her body language.

Eve's thoughts, emotions and feelings also produced frequencies that Satan could read. He did not know her exact thoughts, but her being puzzled or questioning came through to him.

In response Eve overstates the words of God, revealing her anxiety.

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 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.'" Genesis 3:2-3

God had not said "you should not touch it." He had only said "you should not eat it." Touching it would be dangerous but this would not lead to death. Only eating the fruit would lead to death. Eve added to the message which Adam relayed to her about what God had said.

This is what Moses recorded that God said to Adam:

מֹות תָּמוּת:

What God said was written in the Hebrew verb form called Qal imperfect. What this means is that God was saying that eating from the tree would begin a process that leads to death. The word Moses wrote for 'die' in Hebrew conveyed the following meanings in the Qal form:

- 1a) (Qal)
- 1a1) to die
- 1a2) to die (as penalty), be put to death
- 1a3) to die, perish (of a nation)
- 1a4) to die prematurely (by neglect of wise moral conduct)

The word could mean put to death or it could mean to die prematurely through neglect of wise moral conduct. How did Adam interpret what God said? This is what Moses recorded that Eve said to the serpent.

פֶּן־תָּמֹתוּן:

The slight change in what Eve said conveyed the meaning that if you eat the fruit you must die.

This is what Satan told Eve.

לֹא־מוֹת תָּמֹתוּן:

He said that you will not "must die." What Satan said to her was technically correct at this point. God had said you will perish but Eve had said you must die and Satan told her this was not correct. To perish is the natural consequences of your own actions. To "must die" means the consequences require the use of lethal force from an external entity. Then Satan adds this lie:

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. Genesis 3:5

Satan suggested to Eve that she would be immortal by eating from this tree and also that she would acquire the same knowledge as God; a knowledge of good and evil. The truth is that God did not have a knowledge of evil. God knew *about* evil but He did not know evil for He had never experienced it. Satan was the one who had known good and evil by experience. He was presenting himself as God to her.

We might liken this to the school boy who has begun smoking offering a cigarette to his young friend. The older boy seems to be wiser because he possesses a knowledge the other boy doesn't. But it is the knowledge of evil that leads to death. Satan presented a view of God to Eve as one who knew all things both good and evil. He presented God as all-knowing.

This is similar to the claim of Elihu. The young man became irritated with the older men being unable to convince Job that his calamities had befallen him because of his sins. Elihu states that God is perfect or entire

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in knowledge, when it is Elihu himself who thinks he knows perfectly God's ways regarding sin and punishment.

Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect [entire] in knowledge? Job 37:16

Yet in the Psalms we are told that God's understanding is a number that can't be numbered.

Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite.
[H4557] Psalm 147:5

So is the Psalmist correct? Is God's understanding a large number that we don't know or is it as Elihu states as perfect or entire?

Elihu accuses Job of drinking scorn like water, and keeping company with the workers of iniquity and walking with wicked men, (Job 34:8). This claim is false for God had stated that Job was upright, feared God and shunned evil, (Job 1:1).

Job is tested by the attack that Elihu made on him. But just as Elihu was incorrect about his assessment of Job, he was also incorrect about his assessment of God. Elihu continues:

He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, and sets others in their place. Therefore He knows their works; He overthrows *them* in the night, and they are crushed. He strikes them as wicked *men* in the open sight of others. Job 34:24-26

He states that God in His justice will crush and strike the wicked. He then desires greatly for God to try Job and expose him.

Oh, that Job were tried to the utmost, because *his answers are like* those of wicked men! Job 34:36

Jesus tells us that God does not condemn any person, (John 5:22). Elihu's views of God, like most people, are incorrect. He presents God in a false light. He worships a God that is all-knowing. The true God knows the end from the beginning and He does not have a personal knowledge of evil through doing evil.

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Eve is seduced by the words of Satan through the serpent. She is fascinated that the serpent seems to have acquired the power of speech through the eating of the fruit. Eve had expected that eating the fruit would bring swift and immediate punishment, yet the serpent did not appear to have been harmed in any way. This helped to convince Eve that eating of the fruit would not bring swift and immediate punishment causing her to question the veracity of the word of God.

The fact that Eve moved away from her husband and closer to the Tree of Knowledge meant that her sense of integrity was lowered. Her curiosity and internal questioning drew her in the direction of Satan at the tree. His presence was emitting frequencies to confuse and entice her.

The Bible says that when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, she took of it. Having the fruit in her hands, Eve did not feel any discomfort or punishment in any way. Because she had stated that touching of the fruit would cause you to die, it further proved to her that nothing bad would happen to her in eating of the fruit.

Why doesn't God step in and stop this situation? Why does He allow this to unfold without interfering? Having given Eve all the instruction necessary to make a choice, stepping in and preventing her from doing what she desired is not giving freedom of choice. Allowing the woman to make this choice caused Christ terrible suffering. His Spirit was abiding in her heart, but when she ate of the fruit, she rejected the Spirit of Christ and accepted the spirit of Satan.

Eve was talking to an evil spirit. When she ate the fruit and decided in favour of what that spirit told her, she invited him to take control of her mind. Therefore, when she approached Adam, she was demon guided. Worse still, she came bearing the message of the evil spirit that promised magical powers to become like God, and by definition that makes our first mother a sorceress.

As the woman returns from the tree she is under Satan's authority. She now comes to her husband not as a submissive wife, but as a teacher of a new religion. As Adam stands before Eve, we see the prefiguring of

men through the ages who have stood before the feminine oracles, such as Delphi and others, who have promised them knowledge of their future destiny. As Adam beholds his wife who was bone of his bone, he comes in contact with a spirit that no longer recognises him as her head and benefactor.

She had found another soul mate, another teacher who had promised her all that her heart desired without the need to submit to anyone. She has come not to be taught, but to teach; not to submit, but to command submission. This feminine spirit, now ruled by the forces of darkness, will be used as Lucifer's seductive medium to convince Adam to join the rebellion. Eve has broken the image of God. Influenced by Satan, she has lost the Spirit of Jesus that is submissive and teachable. Eve becomes more assertive, sure of herself that what they had formerly understood was incorrect. There is something strangely attractive about this confident self-assured woman that presses the fruit into Adam's hand.

Adam assesses the situation; he sees she has eaten the fruit. The words he has spoken to her about the death penalty for transgression wrangle in his mind. He is certain that she must die and that God will kill her. The emotions are new to him and he isn't sure how to handle them. There is a need to lay the blame somewhere for this terrible situation. Rising in his heart is rebellion against God, though he is barely aware of it. Satan is immediately attracted to the frequencies coming out of Adam. All thoughts of gratitude to God are swallowed up under the false assumption that God will kill his wife.

Adam's perception is false but rather than take his confusion to his beloved master and friend, he starts making decisions on his own. The Spirit of Jesus is calling to Adam in his mind. The Spirit appeals for Adam to take the matter to the Son of God or the angels, to discuss the matter before jumping to conclusions. But, his anger grows, the same hatred that exists in Satan begins to find entrance into the heart of Adam. He thinks of what life would be like without Eve. He cannot bear it. Satan, having followed Eve back to their home, whispers to him that God does not have his best interest at heart and it would be better to join the rebellion.

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The entire garden stands still as Adam raises the fruit in his hand and puts it to his mouth. The Father and the Son plead with Adam in that moment to reconsider, but he blocks out the pleading voice even as Joseph's brothers blocked out his pleading voice as they sold him into slavery. Adam eats the fruit in anger, sorrow and the full knowledge that it was an act of rebellion.

At that moment, there is a deep cut made into the soul of the Son of God. Adam has plunged the spiritual knife of resentment and hatred into the Spirit of Christ within himself and tears Christ from the throne of his mind. Christ at this moment is slain in the heart and mind of Adam from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8).

The Son of God can't leave Adam and Eve because if He does, they will indeed fall to the ground and die immediately. Carrying the wounds in His heart, Christ holds onto Adam and Eve and continues to give them life even while the spirit of Satan rules them. Christ must dwell in the presence of His enemies to keep the human race alive.

While the possibility existed for Adam and Eve to fall, God did not ordain that this should have happened. It was not His will for Adam to choose to rebel and resist Him. It was not known for certain this would take place. Once Adam had sinned and swallowed the seed of the serpent, God knew exactly where this would go and what would happen to the human race, for He knew the seed that was in Satan. He had laid out in the six days of creation the effect of the seed of the serpent against the seed of His Son.

The burning question that beckons us is: what will God do?

CHAPTER 20
THE CARNAL MIND

The transition that took place in the mind of Adam was catastrophic. He had sealed his false thoughts about God in the act of eating the forbidden fruit. Listen to what inspiration says of the fallen human condition.

Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:7

The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9

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; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 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. Romans 1:28-32

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All these attributes were now resident in Adam. They were in seed form. He was not aware of the extent of the change that had taken place in himself. He had no idea of the impulses that were surging within him, like the waters of the deep on the first day of creation.

Adam received the mind of Satan and joined him in projecting all of his own attributes upon God. Adam imagined that God had wanted to kill his wife and himself for eating the forbidden fruit. He imagined God to be a destroyer of his own children. He imagined that God demanded death for the breaking of the law.

For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*. Romans 7:11

The law of God is as sacred as Himself. It is a reflection of His perfect character. Just like God, the law is holy, just and good.

Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Romans 7:12

Within the law we have revealed the truth that God is enabled to be merciful to those who love Him and keep His commandments because to keep the commandments is to know the character of God. God is enabled by the belief of the recipient in His mercy. Any of God's actions are seen as hostile to those who hate God.

...showing mercy to thousands [of generations], to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:6

As we learned in chapter 13, God's mercy lasts forever; it never ends. Therefore, when we cease to believe in the true God, mercy ceases. When Adam chose to believe the idea that God would kill his wife, he chose to transgress the law of God's character; he chose to believe that God does not have mercy for those who fail to obey. This is why the *broken* law demands the death of the transgressor and it is the transgressor that comes to believe this.

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Hebrews 9:22

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This verse just quoted does not speak of the mind of God but of the mind of fallen man. God never desired sacrifice for sin.

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened.
Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Psalm 40:6

This is so incredibly hard for the sinner to comprehend. The Christian world almost universally believes that God demands the death of the transgressor and that only the blood sacrifice of His Son would pay for man's transgression against Him. How can it be possible for God to demand death and not desire sacrifice at the same time? It is impossible. Adam falsely believed that God demanded death for their transgression and this is why he ate the fruit in rebellion.

It is therefore the case that in order to save man, God had to pay the debt that man believed needed to be paid to redeem him. Adam had rejected a belief in the mercy of God when he chose to believe that God wanted to kill his wife. If he had believed in the mercy of God, he would have gone to God and asked for mercy. But he did not do this.

In humanity's mind, the broken law required death, and only death would reconcile us to the law. Until this happened, we lived in a relationship of despair with God. God was willing to do this for us, enabling us to once again *feel* reconciled to God (though God was always willing to reconcile without death, but we wouldn't believe it). From this first step God would teach us more accurately of His law and His government, gently pointing out our misconceptions and our sinfulness as we grew in grace and understanding of His character.

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebrews 2:14-15

Fundamentally God wants us to understand this: the primary transgression of the law is believing that God needs to kill someone or

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something to be able to forgive. This is the only reason the broken law demands the death of the transgressor.

When man rejects the truth of God's character, in God's place he erects an idol of his own imagination; and when man worships an idol, God becomes a jealous God. In his idolatry man steps beyond the hedge of God's protection and Satan can begin to harass, harm and finally destroy him. The further man walks from the merciful God, the greater the harm that befalls him and the more certain the man believes that it is God who is inflicting this punishment on him. But it is evil that destroys the wicked, not God.

Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. Psalm 34:21

The LORD is known *by* the judgment He executes; **the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands**. Meditation. Selah Psalm 9:16

The Bible tells us that the judgment that God exercises against the wicked is to let them become snared in the work of their own hands. Because they refuse the friendship of the true God, the wicked die under the false illusion that God is killing them.

How could God reach the mind of Adam? Adam was totally convinced that God wanted to kill him. How could God speak to him now that he was under the dominion of death? There was nothing good in Adam to respond to God. There was nothing in him that desired God or even would seek after Him.

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."
Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

The Father and the Son were deeply saddened about the prospects of the human race. As anyone knows who has had a friend turn against them, once someone becomes convinced that your thoughts towards them are only for evil and harm, there is nothing you can say to convince them otherwise. The dragon which had waited ready to devour the seed

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seemed to have defeated God and His Son. Satan could only imagine that God would leave humanity to himself to do with as he pleased.

But God was not caught off guard. He was aware of the potential for His creatures to choose to believe falsehoods about Him and lock themselves in a cage of death. Satan had rejected the character of God in the full knowledge of who God was. Adam and Eve had only lived for a few years and their knowledge of God was quite limited. There was a chance of redemption for the fallen race.

In deep pity for us, the Son of God approached the Father to petition Him that He might meet the demands of Their fallen children.

CHAPTER 21

AGAPE'S RISK

Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and **the counsel of peace shall be between them both**. Zechariah 6:13 (KJV)

The Father and the Son held a counsel of peace together in order to discuss the steps they would take to redeem the human race. In the prayer of Jesus in John 17 we see the manifested fruit of that counsel. In this prayer, that which was hidden is made manifest.

We are reminded of the fact that to Christ was given authority in regard to the human race.

...as **You have given Him authority over all flesh**, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. John 17:2

The plan involved the human race coming to know the truth about the Father through the only begotten Son.

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

In His prayer on earth, Jesus revealed the accomplishment of the plan they discussed at the time of the fall of man. Satan had tried to hide the

truth that the Son of God inherited all things from His Father so that he himself might deny having received anything from the Son of God.

Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. John 17:7

The key theme in the prayer is the revelation of the Father's character, or name, and that the Son of God truly came from Him.

I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. **Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.** For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and **have known surely that I came forth from You;** and they have believed that You sent Me... While I was with them in the world, **I kept them in Your name.** Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. John 17:6-8,12

O righteous Father! The world has not known You, **but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*,** that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. John 17:25-26

In this prayer, Jesus declared that He had finished the work which the Father gave Him to do. This work was to reveal the Father's character through His actions, show that the power to repent and be forgiven was freely given from heaven, and to proclaim the nature of their relationship and how it sustains creation: that the Son of God was truly His Son, begotten from Him in eternity and then sent to our world.

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. John 17:4

But there was more than just completing the work that the Father desired. In order to finish the work, they had to pay the penalty of sin that Satan had developed and convinced man to believe. John chapters 18 and 19 reveal the part of the plan to rescue man from his belief that

God demanded death and that only the blood sacrifice of a substitute could save them.

As God and His Son could read the mind of Satan, they could look forward to the time described in John 18 and 19; they could see the Son in the Garden of Gethsemane feeling the terrible sense of guilt that man brought on himself through the false idea that God demanded the death of the transgressor. The book of Matthew describes this moment:

Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"
Matthew 26:38-39

The steps that were necessary to save man were laid out in the sequence of the feasts of the Lord found in Leviticus 23. The perfect unleavened life of Christ and His death are revealed in the first feast of Passover. The outpouring of His true character via the Holy Spirit is in the second feast of Pentecost. The final sequence of events that brings complete reconciliation between God and man are found in the 7th month feasts: Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles. These seasons of refreshing brought God's people together three times in the year.

Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty); and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in *the fruit of* your labors from the field. **Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD.** Exodus 23:14-17

These three gatherings of God's people are an expression of the seed developed in the counsel of peace. The Son of God came before the Father three times to discuss the various aspects of the plan of salvation

and its execution. This principle is also revealed in the three times that Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, **and prayed the third time**, saying the same words. Matthew 26:42-44

This number of prayers is not arbitrary; it is a revelation of the seed of Christ that was fully formed and described in Genesis 3:15 as the Seed of the woman.

Before God and His Son put this plan into operation, the actual outcome was not truly known. This unknown element was manifested in the words of Jesus upon the Cross.

At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?" Matthew 27:46 (NLT)

For the Son of God to carry the weight of Adam's guilt, He was required to step into a place where the sinner could not see the love and mercy of God. The only thing He would be able to see in that moment was death. This is what was in the mind of Adam. In taking our nature, Christ would experience this for us.

Could the faith of Jesus hold onto His Father in that moment of supreme darkness? In the beginning it was not known for sure. The Son of God expressed the uncertainty that was discussed in the counsel of peace in this prayer: "Oh Father, let this cup pass from me, but not as I will but as you will." (Matthew 26:39).

Thousands of years before the Cross of Calvary They had discussed the moment when Jesus would be required to be separated from His Father – how He would need to hold on to the truth that His Father loved Him when He could not feel it, but only feel the certainty of everlasting death. This was something that Jesus had never experienced; He had always

been connected to His Father; the thought of it was exceedingly troubling.

Could the Son hold on in faith to His Father? In the counsel of peace, the Father trembled at the thought that He could lose His Son forever. This is described in Psalms 18:

But in my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from His sanctuary; my cry to Him reached His ears. Then the earth quaked and trembled. The foundations of the mountains shook; they quaked because of His anger. Smoke poured from His nostrils; fierce flames leaped from His mouth. Glowing coals blazed forth from Him. Psalm 18:6-8 (NLT)

The word *anger* in the Hebrew can carry the sense of grief. Here is expressed a glowing of the soul in deep sorrow and anguish at the thought of losing His Son forever. Just imagine for a moment that counsel of peace, as the Father looks upon His precious Son and thinks of the cruel demands of the kidnapper Satan. Shall I surrender my only begotten Son to save the human race? The smoke of the holocaust in His soul at the thought of this poured forth from the Father. How can He give up His precious Son, made in His image; the One whom He has trained, whom He taught everything He knew? How can He give up His closest companion, the only One who truly understands Him? We see the Father revealed in this verse:

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:10

The entire destiny of the human race hung in the balance. We now come to the very core theme of this book. True love reached across the unknown to save the human race. The Father chooses the path to have confidence that all He has taught His Son and the love between them would hold fast and could not be divided. It was a breath-taking leap of faith.

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The gentle and loving Son takes His Father by the hand, looks into His eyes, and in the very character which He has been taught, He asks His Father for the permission to come and save us.

Can you comprehend this kind of love? I can barely write out the words in contemplation of a love of this magnitude. The Son of God was willing to be lost forever to save us. He placed His eternal life at stake to give us the chance to live. We have no idea of how much love God and His Son have for us. The selflessness they both displayed is unfathomable. I am so completely captured by it. It covers me with such a sweet sense of the purity of their love and commitment to save us.

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. John 3:16

It is the risk that the Father took to save us that gives meaning to the word *SO*; God *SO* loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. The heart of the Father glowed with such intensity at the possibility that He could lose His Son but He did not abandon His character principles. He did not surrender to the principles of Satan. He might have transformed Himself, as so many men do when their children are threatened, and crushed Satan in an instant, but Satan would have smiled as he died knowing that his principles of life would live on forever and that God had been conquered by Lucifer.

For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Malachi 3:6

The Father would not change His character to meet this crisis. He would not engage in some strange "out-of-character" moment to crush the rebellion with force to protect that which was most precious to Him.

We see in the Garden of Gethsemane, after Christ has finished His prayer, complete calmness of soul. This is the manifestation of the seed from the counsel of peace. After each time the Father and Son met together and resolved to carry out the plan of salvation there came forth complete peace from the heart of the Father and poured upon His Son.

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That spirit of assurance comes to those who are pure in heart; it comes to those who will not short cut on their integrity. The Sabbath experience is filled with this blessed rest of understanding and believing in the purposes and will coming from the Father. Three times in the year we can enter into that stream of consciousness that gives so completely, fulfilling and uplifting the noblest desires and virtues of man, that it produces the purest sense of peace in the soul.

It is the risk of the Father and the Son – the risk of Agape – that will be the theme of the redeemed throughout eternity. Never shall this love of the Father be forgotten; it will be the theme of every gathering.

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *be* to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"
Revelation 5:13

CHAPTER 22

THE WEAKNESS OF GOD

As we discussed earlier, the begotten Son of God who was taught everything He knows destroys the possibility of knowledge being a measure of divinity. In like manner, the fact that the Son of God received all power from His Father also means that power or omnipotence cannot be used as a measure of divinity.

It is true that the God of the Bible possesses amazing power and wisdom but once set free from the cage of the Trinity, these elements are no longer required as measurements of divinity.

One of the chief arguments of people in the world against God is that if He is all powerful, then why doesn't He stop all this pain and suffering? If He has the power to solve all the world's problems, then why does He make everyone continue in suffering?

As we discussed in chapter 8 concerning free will, we see in the begotten Son a Being that is completely unrestrained. This means the Father does not exercise any force or pressure towards Him. In the Trinity teaching, free will is assumed on the basis that the power of the Son is equal to that of the Father. The underlying assumption here is that the Father can't force the will of the Son because the Son has equal power to the Father.

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This idea is well understood on the earth. The reason that a country like China does not attack a country like the USA is because they both have weapons of mass destruction. It is the high level of power they both possess that prevents them from attacking each other and asserting universal dominance.

In the biblical model of God, the Father never exercises dominion or force over His Son even though He gave Him everything that He possesses. God could exercise force over His Son, being that the Father is Christ's head, but He believes that Christ will obey Him of His own free will.

For I did not speak on My own, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak.
John 12:49 (NASB)

Jesus does only what His Father says not because He is forced to, but because He believes what His Father tells Him to do is correct. Christ voluntarily makes His will one with His Father's, and this loving submission is the key to the eternal life that Christ gives to all who accept His Spirit. The free will of the Son of God is the cornerstone of the government of the universe.

This relationship helps us understand how the power of God can and cannot be used. The power of God is never used to force the will of any of His children.

So amazing is the thought of the free will that the Father gives to His Son that Paul refers to the Son of God as the power of God.

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God**, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and **the weakness of God is stronger than men**. 1 Corinthians 1:24-25 (KJV)

The power of God is His character. His character is revealed in the free will He gives to His children. It is such a beautiful revelation of God's character. This power is seen by the world as weakness. Paul says this supposed weakness is stronger than men.

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And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' But not so *among* you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves." Luke 22:25-26

On the night before Jesus died, He told His disciples that in His kingdom there is no exercise of authority but rather the greatest is the one who serves. Men desire to exercise authority over others because this desire comes from Satan.

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.' Isaiah 14:13

Satan said he would exalt his throne over the stars or angels of God. He would force them to submit to him where necessary. As we discussed in chapter 12 regarding the story of Daniel and the lions' den, we see that those under Daniel framed worship around a death decree. If you don't worship, then you will die. This is the exercise of lordship. It is the use of force to compel people to serve the sovereign.

Our Father in heaven does not compel anyone to serve Him. He does not exercise Lordship over us, but rather He serves us and cares for us, as a caring father would. Only in the begotten Son of God can we begin to grasp the true framework of God's power. The true Son of God calls His Father His God.

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, **and to My God and your God.**'" John 20:17

Jesus worships His Father as His God, the only true God. (John 17:3). In this worship of His Father, no force is exercised by the Father to cause Him to worship. There is no threat of punishment but only freedom and love. The only requirement is for the Son to acknowledge that all He has comes from the Father and this causes love to spring from His heart for His Father.

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The free will of the Son of God is extended to us through Christ.

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 8:36

The freedom of the Son of God is our freedom. As we comprehend that the Father does not force or threaten His Son, we can come to the Father through this knowledge and know that He will not use force on us to compel us to follow Him.

The apostle John wrote in his first epistle that "There is no fear in love...fear involves torment." (1 John 4:18). The word *torment* means "penal infliction or punishment." There is no fear in the heart of the Son of God that His Father will impose force upon Him as a penalty for lack of obedience. This is a key element of the Son being unrestrained. There is no fear of punishment. When we embrace this truth then we will lose our fear.

Our unwillingness to follow God as Christ follows God is the reason that humanity continues to suffer the woes of this world. The only way God can end suffering is through making us follow Him and constraining us to obey the law. This our Father will never do because He will not force us to change. He will appeal to us and show us the problems of the path we walk, but He will not force us. This realization destroys man's false understanding of God's omnipotence that is used to portray Him as a cruel and unfeeling accomplice to suffering.

Anyone who has children who choose a wrong path and bring suffering on themselves know that you can't force your children to change. If you do use force, they will move further away from you or hate you for restricting their liberties.

The alternative to force is to walk with your suffering child and try to help them see the light. Walking with your children while they are harming themselves is distressing for a parent. Typically, the more deluded a child becomes in their ways, the more likely they are to blame their parents or other authority figures for their woes. This is exactly what humanity has done to God.

CHAPTER 23

PIERCING OF THE FATHER

The Christian teaching of the omnipotence of God, combined with a justice system that demands the death of the transgressor, blinds the soul to the true sufferings of the Father.

Christ tells us plainly:

He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:9

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."
John 5:19

In this context, the suffering of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, the beating of Jesus in His trial, the collapsing of Jesus under the Cross on the path to Golgotha, and His death on the Cross are not satisfactions of the Father's justice, but rather revelations of the Father's suffering derived from a humanity that has hatefully rejected Him.

The natural enmity that exists in mankind (Romans 8:7) against God frames the Cross in a manner to present God as exacting His price for our sins. If we were allowed to see the complete truth – that our immoralities have pierced our Father's heart and caused Him to collapse under the weight of our depravities – our guilt would be completely

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unbearable without sustaining grace. This is why humanity willingly blinds itself to this reality:

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:10

The one speaking in this verse is God. It takes special grace to be able to see that we have hurt Him with our sins. As the Father beholds the human rejection of His Son and the rejection of Himself, as a true Father, He carries a grief that cuts Him. For Jesus said that as in the days of Noah, so it would be in the time of the coming of the Son of Man. (Matthew 24:37). The world ends when the world rejects God completely.

And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. Genesis 6:6

Can we see the Father pierced in this verse? He is weighed down with a terrible sorrow at the loss of His children that He loves so much. We see the distress of the Father when Israel is about to be taken captive by Babylon. The Father recalls His anguish in having to give up the cities that dwelt alongside Sodom and Gomorrah.

How can I give you up, Ephraim? *How* can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah? *How* can I set you like Zeboiim?
My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred. Hosea 11:8

The Father's heart is churning within Him. His grief weighs upon Him. He is pierced for the loss of His children. When we consider the treatment of Jesus in the events of the Cross, we must consider that this was also intended for the One who sent Him.

I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. John 5:43

The actions done to Jesus in the flesh were done to the Father in the Spirit. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without our Father feeling

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it, then what does He feel when His own Son is mocked, beaten, and killed?

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His *own* clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. Matthew 27:27-31

In doing these things to the Son of God, they were done to the Father. We are reminded that if we have seen Christ, we have seen the Father. The human error to think of God's omnipotent power in a way that makes Him somehow untouchable obscures the dark reality that the human race was breaking the Father's heart. So great was this agony of the Father that the earth was covered in darkness as the Father wept.

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. Matthew 27:45

The darkness reflected the character of Satan taking hold of the world in that moment as humanity manifested its hatred for God and His Son. A little before the death of Christ, we see Jesus was riding upon a colt and crying over Jerusalem.

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes." Luke 19:41-42

Can we see the words of Jesus to Philip applied here? He that has seen me, has seen the Father. Do we see the broken-hearted Father weeping over His people?

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And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.
Deuteronomy 31:18

When you strip away the falsely framed ideas of omniscience and omnipotence, you can begin to see the reality of a Father tortured by the sins of His wayward children. You can see it manifested in Christ and His rejection by the world.

May we look upon our Father whom we have pierced and weep for Him as He has wept for His firstborn Son and for us. May we finally take responsibility for our actions and see that we are responsible for causing the Father terrible grief.

Then may we take great comfort in the fact that He does not condemn us but rather forgives us for what we have done to Him and His Son. The reality of God's forgiveness and love will begin to slowly sink into our soul as we realize what God truly has done for us.

CHAPTER 24

COME OUT OF DARKNESS

The glory of the love of God as manifested in His Son has such a drawing power that, when seen in its purity, it can draw all men to Christ.

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.
John 12:32 (KJV)

Satan had to obscure the brightness of this love or he would lose his control over humanity, making him feel powerless and weak which he cannot bear. Satan had taken advantage of Eve's overstating God's commandment in relation to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Again and again, Satan would use the method of elevating an idea – seeming to honour it but actually undermining it – to defeat the human race. In Christian doctrine, Satan seemingly elevates the Son of God into 'God the Son', a being who has never been taught anything nor received anything. This feels like Christ is elevated and honoured more greatly than Christ having come forth from the Father and then having received all things.

Satan combines this notion with a principle of justice combined with a forceful omnipotence that demands death for His insulted majesty. This framework obscures the true power of the Cross of Christ. It is a miracle that the Cross still has drawing power on men when loaded with these false ideas.

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Satan has used this elevation tool with regard to the knowledge of God. If he could convince those who believed in God that God knows everything – that He knew man would fall and He knew that Christ would be successful in His mission – then Satan could reduce the impact of the gift God gave in His Son to such a great extent that it would lose its power for most people.

If God knew for certain that His Son would be successful in His mission, then God did not give up anything. The truth of Agape love is to give fully and completely without assurance that what you want is going to happen. Most of us know the effects of manipulation on someone. Suddenly you are showered in gifts and praise but there is a catch: the giver is giving in order to get something from you that requires the surrender of your liberties at some level.

Agape can only manifest itself in a framework of risk. An all-knowing, all-controlling, and many-destroying God cannot manifest true benevolent love.

There is no fear in love [Agape]; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18

In this context, the world has hardly ever been exposed to the true love of God. Wherever there is a god that knows everything, controls everything, and then judges-condemns-destroys, there is fear, torment and rebellion. The self-sacrificing unconditional love of Agape is destroyed, because there is no self-sacrifice when everything is known, and love is conditional when people with inherent life are directly destroyed by the lawgiver (rather than perishing due to a disconnection from the source of life). This is the reason why all men are not presently being drawn to the Son of God. This is why the majority of the world is seeking comfort in other religions or no religion at all.

Distilled to its purest form Agape love always involves risk, because when God gives someone free will He takes a risk in giving them the freedom to choose. God did this knowing that when created beings

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choose their own will over His will, it would hurt Him. God was willing to suffer to uphold Agape love.

Before Adam sinned and before the beginning of sin in heaven, God did not have certain knowledge of the fall of man. He had the awareness of its potential. Once man sinned, He knew what the seed of the serpent would produce and therefore could predict events many years into the future.

How sad that Satan has infected the teachings of Christianity with the unbiblical notion of a forceful God who knows absolutely everything. It has ripped the heart out of Agape love and hidden it behind a dark cloud.

Step into the light of biblical truth and reclaim your free will that your Father in heaven has given you.



For God so loved the world.
So great was that love that He risked
His most cherished treasure,
His only begotten Son
to save us.

