

THE SHADOW OF EVIL

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Introduction:

2 Timothy 1:9 "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to ***His own purpose and grace*** which was given to us ***in Christ Jesus before time began.***" (Bold and italicized added for emphasis)

Before time began means that before God created our universe, He not only had a purpose for creating it—which had been hidden from us—but within that purpose was also intricately hidden the mystery of grace, and both were destined to be revealed to us in Christ Jesus.

Romans 16:25 "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 (hidden) since the world began.***" (Words in parenthesis and italicized are added by me unless otherwise noted.)

I believe this mystery to be ***the revelation of the purpose behind the creation*** which is two-fold, God's ***purpose*** and ***grace***. Now we who presently know God's mercy and have tasted of the sweet nectar of God's grace toward us, in the salvation that we now enjoy in Jesus, have also been given the privilege ***to know the hidden purpose*** behind the creation in which we now exist.

Romans 11:33 "Oh, the depth of the riches ***both*** of the ***wisdom*** and ***knowledge of God (God's purpose and grace)***! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"

It is with confidence in the abilities given to us by the Holy Spirit through the power of His grace that works within us that we now endeavor in searching out what God's real purpose was behind the creation of our universe, and how grace was the bulwark that sustained that purpose.

Daniel 2:22 "He reveals deep and secret things; ***He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.***"

I believe the key that unravels the mystery behind the purpose for creation lies in understanding the meaning of darkness and its interaction with light. We could also call it the struggle between good and evil. In either case, the true revelation of the mystery behind God's creation can only bring glory to God and to Jesus Christ, who is the manifestation of God's grace, through whom also the abilities to reveal such secrets is given to us.

Daniel 2:47 "...Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, ***and a revealer of secrets***, since you could reveal this secret."

Chapter One: The Shadow

Psalm 91:1 "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under *the shadow of the Almighty.*"

So many things within our physical realm serve as types of spiritual truths: Water Baptism, Holy Communion, and Holy Matrimony, which must be between a man and a woman in order to preserve its significance, all serve as symbols of great spiritual truths. I believe shadows to be a great metaphor—if not the greatest—for explaining the purpose behind the creation of our universe. For it is only within the physical and visible parts of our universe that shadows are cast, since without a physical figure exposed to the light in three-dimensional space the shadows cannot reveal their silhouettes.

2 Corinthians 4:18 "While *we do not look at the things which are seen (the things that cast shadows), but at the things which are not seen.* For the things *which are seen are temporary* but the *things which are not seen are eternal (there will be no shadows in the future eternity, for our eternal physical bodies will have flesh and bones animated by pure energy).*"

Since Paul admonishes us, regarding the interactions between the physical and the spiritual, to put our emphasis on those things which are spiritual—the things which cast no shadows—then let us ask this question: What spiritual type does a shadow represents?

Within our natural understanding, our shadow is but a silhouette of our physique; from the general perspective a shadow/shade can be a shelter from the hot bright sun, or as in the Psalm above metaphorically speaking, a shadow can be seen as a covering of protection that God Himself provides for those who dwell in the secret place revealed to us in God's amazing grace!

But there is a greater mystery revealed to us in Psalm 91 if we look closely; God is Spirit, and spirits cannot cast shadows for they are in essence energy—energy manifests itself as light which casts no shadows—so we must interpret the phrase, *the shadow of the Almighty* metaphorically of course. But just like the Light of God casts a good metaphorical shadow of protection, a shadow can also be interpreted as an opposite or a negative of what the real thing embodies.

It is the same with God's goodness, which casts a metaphorical shadow which represents the opposite or a negative of the reality it mimics. You see, God is God, but He is also Good—as a matter of fact, the only One who is Good—that means that in the presence of Good, the opposite of Good—Evil—has to exist as a contrast, like a lurking shadow which has no entity; and since we know that the antitype of Good is Evil, the shadow represents the opposite of all that is Good, which is what Evil is: a shadow or opposite of God's goodness.

Mark 10:18 "So Jesus said to him, *'Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.'*"

After being called "Good Teacher" by someone who was seeking salvation, Jesus makes the point to the seeker that if he is going to call Him *Good*, he is calling Him God also, since only God is good. Jesus seems to be going out of His way to make this point to us.

Why is the fact *that only God is Good* so important? In order to know the importance of this question, we must ask another question first; Does Evil exist only here, part of our present creation, or did Evil exist before God created the universe, way back in infinity time or the time before time began?

We can establish by reading the Scriptures that Evil took on essence when iniquity was found in Lucifer whose name means *light bearer*, who up to that moment was good and perfect; since he had been created in the image of God, like the rest of the angels and archangels.

But we know that his nature was changed immediately from light-bearer to devil after he rebelled and was instantly removed from the Kingdom of the Heavenly Lights. Devil means *the personal supreme spirit of evil*. He also became Satan which means *adversary or opposite*; that means that Lucifer became Satan, the shadow or opposite of all that is Good, which is God.

But the very fact is that Evil had to exist in some type, without essence of course, before the fall of Lucifer for Lucifer to be able to turn to it and become the essence of it.

That brings us to what I call *The Shadow of Evil*. Way back in infinity time—before the creation took place—God, who is Good and has always been Good and is the only Good; outside of God, Evil had to exist but only in principle, due to the fact that the very goodness of God, which is the essence of God Himself, necessitated the existence of Evil, outside of God, to exist in principle; in order to affirm that goodness is Good and that Evil is bad, by the presence of the antitype—the shadow—which represented the very existence of Evil itself, yet without essence or form.

God is infinite and He dwells in an infinity which is and will always remain undefiled, even by the mere presence of Evil. So that Evil could only exist as a metaphorical shadow that was cast by the Light of God's goodness, but existed only in principle, without essence or form.

In other words, how can only God be Good if there is no antitype or contrast to His goodness? How can we be called physical humans if we do not cast shadows when exposed to the light? Angels are made of light/energy, they do not cast shadows. How can God be the only Good if there is no opposite or antitype to His goodness that defines what goodness is not?

This brings us to the first part of *His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began*.

What was God's real purpose for the creation of our universe? Following the premise that I've just laid out, and employing our knowledge of God's character and virtue, it would have been impossible for God to create creatures that embodied the goodness and sovereignty of God in infinity time, without risking the corruption of infinity time itself.

Here is what I mean, let's say that God creates the same angels that He created when He created our universe, but let us place them in infinity time before God created our universe. Since Evil had no essence back then, none of the angels could have known what Evil was.

They would only have knowledge of the goodness of God, but since God created them after His own image which includes God's sovereignty, at some point in time, one or some of these good angels might venture to test the boundaries of their existence and come to the flawed conclusion that there is goodness everywhere, believing therefore that they could be good without God.

That flawed thinking is what brought Lucifer down, and the many that followed him.

Isaiah 14:12-15 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: '***I will ascend into heaven***, I will exalt my throne ***above the stars*** (the angelic class that God created) 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.***' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the pit."

No one can be like God on their own for only God is Good; that means that anyone outside of God and without God becomes the opposite of what God is. The shadow which represented the fullness and sum of all that is called Evil, in an instant indwelt Lucifer, the entity who dared to claim ***to be like*** God, and by so doing became the host of Evil and the antitype of all that God is.

It was then and there that the shadow or principle of Evil became one with Lucifer, transforming him into the devil, *or supreme spirit of evil* and instantly changing his nature and character to reflect his newly acquired adversarial role and antitype as Satan and the Devil. This, I believe took place before the human race was created.

Light versus Darkness, Good versus Evil!

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

Iniquity means: Inherited sin!

When Lucifer said in his heart that he was going to ascend into heaven and be like the Most High, it was at that very moment that Lucifer inherited the essence of evil itself. Evil that only existed as a shadow, became the essence of Evil itself in the spiritual body once called Lucifer, son of the morning, now being referred to by the name given to his new nature, Satan, which means adversary, which is the antitype of all that is Good; the Good which only exists in God and can only come from God who is Light.

Fortunately, God did not allow this to take place in infinity time, before the creation of our universe, but for the sake of maintaining the purity of His holy and infinite habitation, God only allowed this to take place in our created universe, or what I call our present time, *Eternity Time*.

Having this understanding between infinity and eternity times, sheds a great deal of light into God's purpose for creating our present universe, the angels and all the humans that are part of this eternity time.

Let us follow the evidence carefully: As long as the shadow of Evil exists—remember the shadow of Evil existed without essence or form before our present creation—God could not create creatures after His image and likeness and run the risk of contaminating infinity forever.

In order for God who is the only One who is Good, and who by nature is The Creator of all things that are good and sovereign—to create and to do so without the risk of contamination of His infinite dwelling place—He had to somehow dispose of the shadow of Evil before He could create creatures that were good and sovereign to dwell with Him in His infinity time without the risk of corrupting it.

How can God get rid of the shadow of Evil? In theory the only way to get rid of Evil would be for God, who is the only One who is Good to cease being Good, but that is not going to happen for our God is Good and He never changes.

We see then, that the shadow must be allowed to indwell substance, in order to become essence and evident. Evil had to become personalized in order for God to properly dispose and neutralize its effect once and for all.

Chapter Two: The Shadow Personalized

Psalm 104:4 "Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire."

Hebrews 1:14 "*Are they not all ministering spirits (God's angels) sent forth to minister for those who will inherit **salvation** (God's grace)?*"

It is clear from Scripture that all the angels, even those good angels who followed Satan and became evil, are part of the present creation which I call eternity time. It is also clear that all these angels were created to serve the **purposes** of God in bringing forth the **grace** of God that allows humans to inherit eternal (*infinite*) salvation, which is why the **revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began** was given to us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God kept the revelation of this mystery hidden from both humans and angels since before the time when the world began. But now the revelation of this mystery is made available to us in the mind of Christ, *who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.* 1 Cor. 1:30

How can a good God create bad angels if He is creating them after His own image? He cannot, for His Good character and virtue cannot be changed or compromised. He does not change! God is Light and in Him there is no darkness. But certainly, He can create creatures that are both good and sovereign like He is, and since He is all knowing, He also knows which if any would choose not to be with God who is the only Good.

Psalm 104:24 "O Lord, *how manifold are Your works!* In wisdom You have made them all. *The earth is full of Your possessions.*"

The manifold works of God manifest themselves in the most intricate of ways, so that giving sovereignty to His newly minted creatures would ensure that some would fall. All that God needed was a place separate from infinity time—His dwelling place. A place where Evil, once personalized could be contained, and thus, rightfully disposed of and neutralized forever.

Could earth be that place?

The earth is the final place where Evil once personalized as *the beast, the antichrist*, will abide; before finally being disposed of permanently.

Babylon the Great will be the place where all the demons—the fallen angels—will be locked up until their final judgment one thousand years after the wrath of God is completed.

The Antichrist—whom Satan will personally indwell—and his shadow the False Prophet, will both be captured alive and thrown into the Lake of Fire immediately after the wrath of God is

completed, and then there will be no more shadow of Evil. Then Satan will be bound with a great chain for one thousand years, to meet his final judgment when the one thousand years ends.

To get rid of the shadow of Evil, you must get rid of the principle of Evil itself; now, how can God do away with a principle? For Him to get rid of the principle of Evil, He would have to do away with His very own goodness, something that is never going to happen because God never changes. It seems like an impossible task for God to get rid of the shadow of Evil.

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."

God has chosen to expose Evil for what it is: exceedingly sinful. In other words, once the full contrast between Good and Evil is presented by allowing their differences to be completely displayed, no creature being of sound reasoning would ever choose the hideousness of Evil.

Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in *heaven above*, or that is in the *earth beneath*, or that is in the *water under the earth*."

If we look at the creation from the perspective of how to handle the issues that dealing with the shadow of Evil entail, we will find that God divided His creation into three parts: a *clean room*, a *containment room*, and a *laboratory*. I will introduce a fourth later, for it precedes the creation.

Here on earth, where highly contagious viruses are studied and tested in order to find out how to defeat them, you will find this set-up. A clean room is the place where no contaminants are allowed. It is the place where the workers enter in for work and leave when their workday ends.

The Bible places the location of this *clean room* in the third heaven or *heaven above*; its name is Paradise. When Jesus died on the cross His soul went down to the Paradise that was down on the second heaven in Sheol, where the souls of the righteous dead went before Jesus shed His blood for our sins. Jesus emptied that temporary Paradise and took the souls of all the righteous with Him to the real or permanent Paradise far above in the third heaven.

Isaiah 5:14 "Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself..."

In our present day there is only one Paradise and it is in the third heaven.

Ephesians 4:8-10 "Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high (*when Jesus was resurrected*), He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.' (Now this, 'He ascended'—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who *ascended far above all the heavens*, that He might fill all things.)" *parenthesis in the original text.*

A dwelling place in God's eternal Paradise in the third heaven is the greatest gift ever given to mankind!

Paradise in the third heaven, far above all the heavens, is the place from where God rules the universe, which are called the heavens and the earth; our present creation which exists under what I call eternity time.

This third or highest heaven is the place where all God's holy angels abide. They are confined to our present creation and cannot enter into infinity time. God Himself can go in and out of His creation at will: Seeing that the abiding place of Almighty God is in infinity, the God who is infinite dwells in infinity, but He runs the universe from the uncontaminated third heaven.

God enters the third heaven from infinity time and rules over the creation from there.

Psalm113:4-6 “The Lord is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, who dwells on high, who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth?”

Eternity time—the heavens and the earth— will be done away with after the shadow of Evil is properly disposed of, and the grace of God triumphs over all the transgressions that Evil produced; and all its consequences are dealt with righteously.

The second heaven is the place where all the contaminated angels dwell. It's also called the underworld, for it is *under the earth*. This is the *containment room* where Evil, after becoming essence in the spiritual body, once named Lucifer is confined with all his cohorts.

Our physical realm is the *earth beneath* the heaven above, and it has been placed between the *heaven above* and the *under the earth*, and is by implication the first heaven. This is the place where the interactions between good and evil take place; hence it is why I call it a *laboratory*.

When God first created the heavens and the earth, all three places were clean, for they reflected the nature of the Good Creator. It was into this tri-part universe that God placed the angelic orders that He created before the humans were created, for they were all good like God. It was within the confines of our universe that these angelic creatures were allowed to exercise their sovereignty.

I believe that the angelic realm was divided into three equal parts and placed under the authority of three different archangels; Gabriel in the presence of God in the third heaven, Michael over the physical humans who would inhabit the earth, and Lucifer below them in the second heaven.

Continuing with the idea that God was looking to dispose of the shadow of Evil, and that to attain His goal He would have to allow the shadow of Evil to become essence in one of these three angelic rulers. It is possible that God aided the process by giving to each one of these archangels too much of the goodness that they were to represent.

To Gabriel God gave too much dignity and majesty, since it was Gabriel who said to Zacharias: 'I am Gabriel, *who stands in the presence of God*.'" Luke 1:19

To Michael, God gave too much power. Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, *the great prince* who stands watch over the sons of your people..."

To Lucifer, God gave too much wisdom and beauty. Ezekiel 28:12 "...You were the seal of perfection, *full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*"

In the spiritual realm, past, present and future coexist as one, so that if any spiritual creature were to sin, their nature would have been changed instantly, and just as quickly would have been removed and placed into the place of containment. From our time driven perspective, we picture the testing of these archangels as time elapsing between their passing the test or failing it.

I believe that in the spiritual realm, the testing of these archangels in an instant decided the displacement of those who failed the test by seeking to be like God, instead of with God; and the establishment of those who passed the test by relinquishing their rights to choose Evil and chose instead to be with God who is the only Good. At some point in spiritual time they made their choice, and their destinies were instantaneously settled forever.

Jude 6 "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."

Since righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne, God deals with each of His archangels equally. All three are tested and each must make the choice that will determine their eternal future. Michael and Gabriel were probably tested like Lucifer was before humans were introduced. Note: I find no record of that testing, but we know that they passed their tests by the actions they took when they were tested in their contacts and interactions with humanity.

Daniel 10:13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days..."

Imagine the insult here! Gabriel, the archangel who stands in the presence of God, being detained by a petty dignitary, as he prepares to enter the kingdom of Persia where Daniel is captive, to bring him a direct message from God. You can be certain that this fallen angel, appointed by the devil as the prince of Persia, is of a much lower rank than Gabriel is, and yet dares to oppose him. Gabriel could have placed the offending demon in his place really quick, but Gabriel recognizing that all authority emanates from a righteous God who is the only Good, withholds judgment and waits on God's action to deliver him from the offending demon.

Revelation 4:10-11 "The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, *and cast their crowns before the throne*, saying: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, *and by Your will they exist and were created.*"

Gabriel recognized that since all authority was created by God and exists by the will of God, that any authority opposing him, must be dealt with by God Himself. So, Gabriel laid his crown down if you will, and waited on God to deliver him. Listen to Gabriel's reasoning:

Daniel 10:21 "But I will tell you *what is noted in the Scripture of Truth*. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince." *Parenthesis in the original text ends in Daniel 11:1*

Gabriel said something like this: I do not put my confidence in who I am or where I have been. I put my trust only in that which is WRITTEN IN THE WORD OF GOD! Hallelujah! Michael was the only angel whom God had appointed to deal with those fallen angels who dared to interfere with God's dealing with the nation of Israel. Gabriel did not supersede his authority but stayed within the bounds prescribed by the Written Word of God, and by doing so his nature became one with the goodness of God, as revealed in the Word of God, and never to be changed!

When tested by the many snares that life brings our way, let us put our trust in the Scripture of Truth, and we will never fail if we keep our trust in the written Word of God and become one with it, just like the archangel Gabriel did when he was tested!

Matthew 26:26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said, **"Take, eat; this is My body."**

The bread represents the Word of God which became flesh in the body of Jesus, as we by faith partake of the Word of God, we become one with the Word and part of the body of Jesus.

John 15:10 **"If you keep *My commandments* (*My Word*), you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His Love."**

Jude 9 "Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

God told Moses to say goodbye to the children of Israel and to go up to a mountain where he showed him the Promised Land. Then told him that he was going to die alone on that mountain top.

The children of Israel, fresh out of Egypt, would have taken the body of Moses—had God let him die in their midst—mummified it and worshipped it as the Egyptians did with their Pharaohs.

God did not want the children of Israel to know where the body of Moses was buried. So, He assigned Michael the archangel to give the body of Moses a proper burial. According to the account written in Jude, the devil tried to take possession of the body of Moses so that the children of Israel could worship it.

Here is Michael, who is duly appointed by God to handle—according to the Scriptures—the matters that pertain to the children of Israel, being confronted by a rogue authority, whom without a doubt Michael can handle with ease, just like a regular angel in Revelation does.

Revelation 20:1-2 "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. *He laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.*"

What made this angel lay hold of the dragon? It was not who he was or his rank, but what he had; he had the key and the great chain that was given to him by God, which represents power and authority from God to carry out His orders.

We could say that Michael had the same power and authority from God, why didn't he use it? Unlike the angel in Revelation who was just carrying out a direct order from God, Michael would have had to pass judgment on the actions that the devil took against him. Michael did not fall for the trap and rail against the actions of the devil. He just simply turned the matter over to the Lord and said: The Lord, *the only One who is Good and Almighty*, rebuke you!

Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged."

So that Michael too, like Gabriel, passed the test by putting his trust and directing his actions in accordance with that which is written in the Word of God, and not on who he was or on the power that had been given to him to pass judgment.

I am sure that these were not the actual tests that determined their eternal status in the presence of God, unlike when Lucifer was tested and failed, that was the actual time when he fell. The testing Michael and Gabriel underwent probably took place before we humans were introduced into the creation, but the Bible records their actions after they passed their test. That we may know how they were able to overcome temptation, and what they did to secure their eternal place and retain the eternal good nature in which they were originally created.

True sovereignty requires that we give up our freedom to choose Evil. Evil is the essence of enslavement, and since only God is Good, giving up our right to choose Evil for the sake of being part of the only One who is Good, truly frees us! *O Lord, how manifold are Your works!*

Jeremiah 34:17 "Therefore thus says the Lord: 'You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, everyone to his brother and everyone to his neighbor. Behold, *I proclaim liberty to you*,' says the Lord—to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine! And I will deliver you to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth.'"

Once Lucifer chose to be like God instead of with God, he was given the freedom to become everything that God is not.

Now that the shadow of Evil had a body to indwell and a place in which to abide, God could begin the process of removing the shadow of Evil forever.

How did God plan to do that, and what was the implement that He would employ?

Chapter Three: Physical Man, God's Implement

Psalm 8:6 "*You have made him (physical man) to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet (physical and spiritual).*"

It is hard for us to understand from our physical perspective how spiritual things operate. We need to proceed with an understanding of the differences between them. This is so we can arrive to the place where we can see all that God is doing in us and through us in His dealings with evil that's prevalent, and in the how He is going to remove it.

Why did God choose physical man to overthrow the shadow of Evil, seeing **that the things which are seen are temporary**? Temporary things come to an end and can be done away with!

Psalm 8:1 "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, **who have set Your glory above the heavens!**"

The first thing that we need to keep in mind is the difference between what I call Infinity Time and Eternity Time. Infinity Time, I define as the place where God abides, has always abided, and will always abide—the dwelling place of His majesty and glory.

Eternity Time, I define as the time that began when God spoke the words: *Let there be light!* For it was there when God created the heavens and the earth, that our present time began. Notice how verse one *who have set Your glory above the heavens* confirms that God's glory transcends Eternity Time which is the time frame that rules over the heavens and the earth now.

Psalm 113:4-6 "The Lord is high above all nations, **His glory above the heavens**. Who is like the Lord our God, **who dwells on high (Infinity Time), who humbles Himself** to behold the things that are in **the heavens and in the earth (Eternity Time)?**"

The phrase He *who humbles Himself to behold the things that are (done) in the heavens and in the earth* implies that there is a descending or condescending (*to bring to a lower estate*) order to the process initiated by God for the removal of the shadow of Evil.

God, who is infinite, creates an eternity that though is long in its duration of time, it is nothing that could ever compare to the infinity from where God created it. And then to that, God adds physical man who is himself bound by the seasons of time—past, present, and future—and relegated to what Scripture calls **Today**: which means that unlike spiritual creatures, we are confined to the present tense.

Hebrews 4:7 "Again He designates a certain day, saying in David, '**Today (the present tense)**,' after such a long time (*Eternity Time*)..."

We see the glory of God descending from infinity time, into eternity time, and finally into our present tense, manifesting the glory of God in the physically resurrected body of Jesus Christ from the dead at a very specific moment in time.

Meanwhile the shadow of Evil goes from a mere principle with no form in infinity time, into the spiritually eternal body of Lucifer created in eternity time. And eventually into the physical body of the Antichrist, who will then become the physical manifestation of the essence of Evil. Then, at a very specific moment in time, Evil in bodily form will be captured alive and physically thrown into the Lake of Fire to be displayed forever and ever.

Revelation 14:11 "And *the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever* (visible from the infinite new heaven and new earth that God will create after eternity time is completed)..."

Thereby encapsulating the physical essence and manifestation of Evil, that once only existed in principle, and putting it on display for all future creatures to behold this fact, that in its reality, Evil is to be avoided at all cost for it is exceedingly sinful.

Revelation 13:2 "...The *dragon* (who is spirit) gave *him* (a physical human who is called the beast, whose name is the Antichrist) *his power, his throne, and great authority* (to become the physical essence of Evil in human flesh)."

Revelation 19:20 "Then *the beast* (the physical essence of Evil) *was captured*, and with him the *false prophet* (who is the shadow of the Antichrist, since now Evil resides in a physical body which is able to cast a shadow) who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worship his image. *These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*"

From our present *today* we can see the progress that Evil is making as it manifests in our midst daily by the opposition to the written Word of God that is globally taking place. But from our spiritual position, and in lieu of God's written Word Evil has already been defeated at the hands of Man according to God's own *purpose* and *grace*.

Galatians 1:3-4 "Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that *He might deliver us from this present evil age* (eternity time), according to the *will* (purpose and grace) of our God and Father."

This brings us to the fourth element that God placed as the foundation of the heavens and the earth before He created them, which I called earlier the *clean room*, the *containment room* and the *laboratory*: This fourth element is the **Antidote**, which is the *blood of Jesus*! For no one in his right mind would allow Evil to become essence, without first providing an antidote to deliver the creation from the influence that Evil would have upon it once released.

Romans 8:21 "Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the *bondage of corruption* (caused by Evil attaining essence within it but being delivered through the children of God who choose God's grace and liberty), *into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*"

Revelation 13:8 "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.*"

It is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the creation, who provides the *Antidote* that not only saves mankind, but the creation itself from the consequences of Evil becoming essence.

I believe that for Evil to be exposed as Evil it had to become exceedingly sinful once it became essence, and allowed to become the antitype of all that is Good. The Law and the commandments were given, and a physical Man appointed within that Law to provide the *Antidote* as prescribed in the righteous requirements and regulations stipulated within the Law.

Romans 7:12-13 "Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and *good*. Has then what is *good* become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, *that it may appear sin*, was producing death in me through what is good, *so that sin through the commandment might become* (be exposed as the opposite of all that is Good) *exceedingly sinful.*"

So that the very commandment that produced death in us—the law—contained within it the *Antidote* that the One Good Man who would keep the righteous requirements of the law would bring to all who were adversely affected by the manifestation of Evil in the creation!

Hebrews 7:16 "*One (Man, Jesus) who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.*" NIV

Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him *by the blood of the Lamb* and *by the word of their testimony*, and they did not love their lives to the death."

If we stay focused, we can see that everything revolves around an event that took place at a very specific moment in time in the spiritual realm. An event that from our perspective appears to take place at different times and in separate occasions.

The Blood of Jesus is the foundation upon which the creation and its purpose rests. From our time constrain, we see the Blood of Jesus being shed on the cross two thousand years ago. But from the spiritual perspective, the Blood of the Lamb was shed before God had even created the earth that produced the tree on which His blood was shed.

In the same way we can see that the shadow of Evil became essence when it indwelt Lucifer, and the physical body of the Antichrist during the days of God's Wrath, who will then be captured alive and thrown into the Lake of Fire, this at a time that is still future to us, but from the spiritual perspective all of that was already accomplished when Jesus took all our sins and nailed them to the cross along with His physical body, and rose from the dead triumphantly.

All the evidence points to physical consummations having to take place in our present tense, as events which manifest themselves to humankind at different times and in different places. Since we humans are removed from our present tense once our short lifespan is over, we need to follow the events recorded in the history of man and those foretold in prophecy, in order to tie all the events together as one and make sense of them as a whole. To do this, we must go back to Infinity Time and look at the shadow of Evil and what it takes to get rid of it.

The very reason why God would not create creatures in His image in Infinity Time was because the battle between Good and Evil would have then ensued endlessly. By confining this battle between Good and Evil to Eternity Time, a place that contains a physical aspect that is constrained by a time factor called Today; the showdown between Good and Evil can take place in the realm called *Today*—the present tense—and when that *Today* comes to a close, so does the battle between Good and Evil.

God has appointed a certain *Day* in which He will put an end to the shadow of Evil. This specific *Day* is referred to in the Bible by many different names; the most prevalent is the *Day of the Lord*.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, *today*, and forever."

Since the physical body of Jesus Christ, who is indwelled by the Eternal and Immortal Word of God, who was born of a virgin and rose from the dead physically, it means that Jesus Christ in His physical body transcends time and space and is able to conduct all that is necessary in the affairs of man as it pertains to the different manifestations of *Today* in different times and events.

Seeing that physical humans are the only creatures created in the image of God who are still under the constraints and limitations of *Today*, shows us that Jesus, by physically transcending time and space when He physically rose from the dead, proved His divinity and the physical superiority given to mankind over the angelic creatures.

It is obvious then, that the implements involved in this epic battle between Good and Evil are humans. This battle has to be fought between physical human bodies indwelled by the principles they represent, and on a time frame called *to-day*.

1 Timothy 1:17 "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and *glory forever and ever* (in eternity time and in infinity time). Amen."

Emanuel: God who alone is Good, indwelling a human physical body, Jesus, who is the King of kings, against the antitype of all that is Good, Evil, indwelling a human physical body, the Antichrist: this battle must be fought in a place called *Today*; by a Man who can be present in all the aspects of *Today*, which are the past, the present, and the future.

Joel 2:1 "...For the *day of the Lord* is coming, for *it is at hand*."

Zechariah 14:6-7 "And it shall come to pass *in that day (the day God calls Today)*, that the light shall *not be clear, nor dark*. But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light." KJV

Zechariah is referring to the Day of Atonement, which is another name for the *Day* that God has appointed for the final destruction of the shadow of Evil, and the restoration of everything that Evil destroyed.

This *To-Day* is as one *Day* from the spiritual perspective, but from the physical reckoning it manifests itself through different events and at different points in time and history.

Since this *Day* manifests itself—*not be clear, nor dark*—as a penumbra, we know that it first occurred when Jesus was hanging on the cross and the sun refused to give its light in the middle of the day.

Matthew 27:45 "Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was *darkness (like the eclipse of the sun that forms a penumbra) over all the land.*"

And this is what Jesus accomplished for us in the first manifestation of this *Day* on the cross:

Philippians 2:5-11 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it *robbery (something to hold on to) to be equal with God*, but made Himself of *no reputation (became a physical man with all its constraints)*, 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, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in *heaven (the clean room)*, and of those on *earth (the laboratory)*, and of those *under the earth (the containment room)*, and that every tongue should confess that *Jesus Christ is Lord (the antidote provided from the foundation of the world, being realized two thousand years ago)*, to the glory of God the Father."

It was through His death on the cross that Jesus fulfilled the Scripture that we noted earlier.

Psalm 8:6 "*You have made him (physical man) to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet (physical and spiritual).*"

The word translated *nor dark* in reference to *in that Day* comes from the Hebrew word # 7087 in Strong's concordance, and it means to *Congeval*; the shadow of Evil *congealed* on the cross. It put on a form that could be displayed as the consequence of sin, yet without physical essence, as it was nailed to the cross and judged as sin by the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For *He (God) made Him (Jesus, who is Emanuel, God in Man,)* who knew no sin *to be sin for us*, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Since the consequences of Evil reveal themselves in the form of sin and death, God sent His Son to bear the consequences of Evil on the cross, which are sin and death; thereby fulfilling the second part of His purpose, which was the revelation of the grace of God that defeats the principle of Evil itself. Not the essence in our present time, seeing that we still have Evil manifesting itself through sin and death in the world, however the principle was defeated when the **Antidote** was revealed, which is the precious blood that Jesus shed for all our sins.

Romans 8:2 "For the *law (principle)* of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the *law (principle)* of ***sin and death.***"

Colossians 2:14-15 "Having wiped out the ***handwriting of (certificate of debt or principle of Evil that caused sin which is the violation of God's law and all its) requirements*** that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, ***having nailed it to the cross.*** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a ***public spectacle of them (congealed the principle of Evil by its cause and effect), triumphing over them in it (the cross).***"

So that the first physical manifestation of *Today*, the Day God had chosen to disarm the principle of the shadow of Evil took place on the cross. *Today* is a reference to the Day of Atonement, a day when at its completion will usher in the total demise of the shadow of Evil.

Meanwhile the physical manifestation of the principle of Evil and the removal of all sin and death from the world is yet to take place on a future *Today*, when Evil itself will put on the body of the Antichrist at a future time; and our Lord Himself will descend from heaven and personally defeat the False Prophet and the Antichrist in the battle of Armageddon.

After they are physically defeated, the purpose of God will be completed as far as physical Man being employed as God's implement is concerned. For after the capture of the False Prophet and the Antichrist, Satan himself will be locked up for one thousand years, ushering in the Day of our Lord's Rest. At the completion of the thousand years reign of Christ, the devil will be released, and after a short period of time God Himself will judge Satan and throw him in the Lake of Fire.

The church age is the age of man, the age in which God returns to man the dominion that Adam lost to Satan. Jesus is the Man to whom the dominion of the heavens and the earth have been given to, and through His church, the manifestation of God's grace is revealed to the world.

Revelation 5:9-10 "...You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

But just like the physical manifestation of Evil will be allowed to play itself out during a time period of 1290 days without any opposition or hindrance from God, (in order to expose the physical manifestation of Evil for what it is, *exceedingly sinful and totally Evil*), in like manner, the Goodness of God has to be allowed to be played out without the interference of Evil to oppose or hinder it taking place during the thousand years reign of Jesus on the earth.

In the first manifestation of this *Day*, God *congealed* the consequences of Evil on the cross, which are sin and death, and removed their power to inflict damage on those who have taken shelter in the secret place of the Most High, which is His Grace by abiding under *the shadow of the Almighty*, which is God's covering and protection from the consequences of Evil.

Psalm 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the *shadow of death*, *I will fear no evil* (since the principle of Evil was defeated on the cross, see Psalm 22); for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they *comfort me* (seeing that sin and death are still present)."

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, *and over all the power of the enemy* (Satan), and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

What all this means is that on a very specific time and place called *Today*, but that from our time perspective took place two thousand years ago, God dealt with the principle of Evil and its consequences, which are sin and death, and disarmed them on the cross.

And yet, at another specific point in time called the *Day of the Lord*, which is yet to take place at a future time from our perspective, Evil will indwell the physical body of the Antichrist, and Jesus Christ Himself will deal with the physical manifestation of Evil in that future (*to us*) *Day* by conquering it physically and removing it from our physical realm causing no more manifestation of sin nor death for one thousand years, which is why it is also called *The Day of Rest*.

Hebrews 4:9 "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God."

Matthew 24:36 "*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*"

The incarnation of Evil into human flesh will take place at the beginning of a time span of 1290 days. During this time span God will allow Evil to run rampant on the earth without opposition. These 1290 days will begin after a *Day* which is known only to the Lord, in the middle of the seven years of God's Wrath; a penumbra will define this day, just like it did when Jesus hung on the cross, for they are the *one and same Day* from God's perspective—*The Day* of atonement.

Zechariah 14:7 "*It shall be one day which is known to the Lord*—neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen, that it will be *light* (*diminished light or penumbra, and a time to congeal, when Evil will enter into the physical body of the Antichrist*)."

The *Day of the Lord* is a reference to the *Day* when God will judge the world for seven years. This seven year period is divided into two parts of 1260 and 1290 days, with a five day interval between them: $1260 + 5 + 1290 = 2555$ days, which is the total of days in a seven year period.

It is at the conclusion of this five-day interval that the essence of Evil will indwell human flesh for the first time. In accordance with the grace of God and in total fulfillment of His promises,

this *Day of Evil* will not be allowed to begin until all those who are under the covering of God's covenant of mercy are completely secured from the Evil that is about to be unleashed.

So that time itself will stop before that dreadful *Evil Day* begins, to allow those who are fleeing the ***abomination that causes*** (*the removal of God's anointing from the earth*) ***desolation***, to safely reach their destination where they will be protected from the evil of that awful day.

Zechariah 14:5 "***Then you shall flee*** through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You."

Psalms 27:5 "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock."

Let me briefly explain the chronology of events that lead to this dreadful day, so that we can understand and follow the things that are taking place.

Daniel 9:24 "***Seventy weeks*** (*490 years*) are determined for your people and for your holy city, To finish transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, and To anoint the Most Holy."

Six is the number that represents time, man, and the completion of the work that must take place before physical man can enter the seventh Day of God's Rest.

Seventy weeks of years equals 490 years ($70 \times 7 = 490$). From God's reckoning of time, six things have to take place before the seventh day of rest can begin; To *finish transgression*, To *make an end of sins*, To *make reconciliation for iniquity*.

These first three were accomplished in principle only when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Their final completion will take place when Jesus comes back and raises the saints from the dead, raptures the living saints and gives them eternally perfect sinless physical bodies.

To *bring in everlasting righteousness*, To *seal up vision and prophecy*, To *anoint the Most Holy*:

The completion to these last three will take place when the False Prophet and the Antichrist are captured alive and are thrown into the Lake of Fire, at the end of the forty-two days of their final judgment, which begins at the end of 1290 days during which they rule unopposed.

Daniel 9:25-26 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be ***seven weeks*** ($7 \times 7 = 49$ years) and ***sixty two weeks*** ($62 \times 7 = 434$ years. *49 years and 434 years equal 483 years, seven years short of the 490 years required to terminate the shadow of Evil*)...And ***after the sixty-two weeks*** (*which when added to the first seven weeks adds to 483 years*) ***Messiah shall be cut off***..."

Messiah shall be cut off: Here we have the first reference that reveals to us that the *Day* that God has appointed for the consummation and the destruction of the shadow of Evil will manifest itself as more than one unique event in the time and history of man.

After Messiah was *cut off*, a reference to the death of Jesus on the cross, He was taken up to heaven, and the final seven years of God's judgments that will bring to an end the shadow of Evil, were put on hold, to allow for the manifestation of God's grace to be revealed to the entire world, allowing men to have a place of refuge under the shadow of the Almighty before the final judgment of the shadow of Evil begins! Thus, completing the revelation of both *His own purpose and grace* which was destined to be given to us *in Christ Jesus before time began*."

So here is the chronology: On the cross, Jesus dealt with the principles of transgression, sins, and iniquity, which manifested themselves in death, which means separation from God.

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said to her, **I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?**"

Jesus became High Priest and Distributer of God's provision of grace, in accordance with God's purpose, which was to provide the *Antidote* that atones for the consequences of the shadow of Evil being introduced into the creation—which are sin and death—through the demonstration of the power of an indestructible life in Jesus. Commanding that this resurrection power is to be proclaimed to the entire world as the Good News of God's grace before He returns.

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

The declaration of this Gospel of Grace is to be proclaimed to the entire world, before God sends Jesus back—at the start of these last seven years—to judge the world and the Antichrist after he becomes Evil personalized in the middle of these last seven years. These seven years are seen by God as the final manifestation of the *Day* that will complete the demise of the shadow of Evil at the hands of the Man Jesus Christ.

The vehicle that God employs for the proclamation of His Gospel of grace is His church. At the conclusion of the church age, God will usher in the beginning of these last seven years, which are the days of the Wrath of God against all that is evil, and its consequences.

Matthew 24:14 "**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**"

For two thousand years the church of Jesus Christ has been proclaiming to the nations the grace of God, represented as a shadow from the Almighty, that not only protects and delivers humanity

from the consequences of our present evil day—sin and death—but that will also keep us safe in the *Day* when His Wrath is finally revealed and the fullness of God's purpose is completed.

The church age ends with the bodily resurrection of all the saints from the dead and with the rapture of the believers who are alive and are keeping God's Word and not denying the deity of Jesus. It is at that time that the covering of God's grace will be removed from the earth.

It will be at that time that the remaining seven years left—after Messiah was cutoff—to complete the purpose of God's will begins. This period of time will be known as the Day of the Lord. The *Day* when God's Wrath will be poured upon all the inhabitants of the world, to test them.

This very special *Day of the Lord* began two thousand years ago with Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, rising from the dead on the third day, thereby removing the consequences of Evil which are sin and death. That was the *Day* when the purpose of God's grace was revealed to all mankind, and which has been proclaimed by His church for two thousand years now.

The end of the church age—the *Day* of God's grace—will usher in the second phase of the Day of the Lord with the introduction of the opposite of grace, which is His wrath.

Since the church age began with the defeat of the consequences of Evil—sin and death—in principle only, it must end with the complete defeat of sin and death in essence as well.

That is why the church age ends with the bodily resurrection of the saints from the dead and the catching away of the saints who are still alive and under God's grace, who must be removed out of the world before the day of God's Wrath begins.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 "*For God did not appoint us to wrath*, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thereby completing the defeat of sin and death, with the resurrection of the dead saints and with the endowment of eternal life to all who believed in the power of God's grace. The opposite of sin and death is the grace and life which has been promised to the world through the church!

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 "So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' The sting of death is sin, and *the strength of sin is the law*. But thanks be to God, *who gives us (His church) the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*."

During the first 1260 days of these seven years of the Wrath of God, the entire world, those who have been left because they refused to receive the grace of God will be placed under *the Law of God*, to expose *the strength of sin* that is left in the world after the grace of God is removed.

Hebrews 10:1 "*The law is only a shadow (of the Grace that preceded it from the foundation of the world, and which has now been manifested to the world through the church) of the good things that are coming*—not the reality themselves..." NIV

During the church age the power of God's Grace was given to man after sin and death were defeated in principle on the cross.

Those who accept God's Grace pass from death into life. They go from cursed to blessed, but those who willfully reject the free gift of God's Grace are still under the curse and will be left behind. They must face the consequences of their sins which is death, as prescribed by the remaining agent left to men after the rapture. The shadow or opposite of Grace which is the Law of God that declares that the soul that sins must die.

1 Corinthians 16:22 "If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, *let him be accursed (anathema maranatha: under the curse of the law until the Lord returns)*. **O Lord, come!**"

And since it remains that the nation of Israel who rejected God's offer of Grace, along with those who are left in the world after the rapture must take part of these last seven years that are left to be completed before the day of His Rest can enter in.

Those who refuse to take shelter under the covering of God's Grace, by not obtaining salvation now, must find shelter under the only option left to them: the shadow of God's Grace, which is the Law with its righteous requirements and punishments against sin, which is death.

Chapter Four: The Curse of the Law

Galatians 3:13 "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, *having become a curse for us* (for it is written, '*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*')." Parenthesis are in the original text.

Everyone who rejects God's Grace rejects Jesus Christ in the same manner. Everyone who rejects Jesus Christ is still under the curse of the law. Once the age of grace comes to an end with the resurrection of the saints of old from the dead, and the removal of the saints who are alive under grace in the rapture, the countdown of the last seven years appointed by God to complete the destruction of Evil begins.

Revelation 11:3,7-8 "And I will give power to my *two witnesses*, and they will prophesy *one thousand two hundred and sixty days* (1260), clothed in sackcloth...When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And *their dead bodies will lie in the street* (*three-and-a-half days*) of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

Everyone who is left in the entire world after the rapture of the church takes place will be placed under God's laws and commandments, which will be strictly enforced by the *two witnesses*.

Revelation 11:10 "And *those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them* (*the two witnesses, after they are killed by the beast*), because these two prophets *tormented those* (*by enforcing God's righteous laws against their evil deeds*) *who dwell on the earth*."

During the reign of God's *two witnesses*, lawlessness by any of the nations of the world will not be tolerated. They will be immediately punished when they violate the ordinances given by these *two witnesses*. They will be punished with droughts, their water reserves will be polluted, and all kinds of plagues will be unleashed against those nations who do not observe God's laws.

Revelation 11:6 "*These* (*two witnesses*) have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; *and they have power over the waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire* (*over those who do not repent*)."

Revelation 9:21 "And *they did not repent* of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."

By allowing Evil to become its own agent in the physical body of the beast, Evil ceases to exist as a shadow, and it must now contend with the shadow of the Grace that defeated it on the cross, which is the law of God with all its righteous requirements.

The beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

In the same manner that Jesus by dying on the cross and rising from the dead brought about the defeat of the principle of Evil in the heavenly places; it follows then, that the principle of Evil needs to descend into the world as the spirit of antichrist. God's goodness is revealed to the world in His grace. Evil is revealed to the world through the big lie, which is the denial that Jesus is the Word of God who came into the world in the flesh and rose from the dead physically.

Now the *two witnesses*, after having been killed by the antichrist will also rise from the dead. At which point, it will allow Evil to be fully personalized in the world after it enters into the body of the beast that kills them, which is the antichrist, the opposite of all that Christ is!

Let us pause a minute and follow how this principle works: God is the only Good—the absence of God is Evil—which is the sum of all that is bad. *Goodness* is the manifestation of the essence of God, and it casts as a shadow, which has no essence, what I call the principle of Evil which defines everything that God is not.

In order to remove the potential to harm that the principle of Evil creates, God must allow Evil to become *essence* in a secure environment, to take on *form* within the confines of time, and to be publicly *demonstrated*—without restrains—as exceedingly sinful, before encapsulating it and placing it on display for all to see the harm that the hideousness of Evil is capable of producing.

God allowed the principle of Evil to become *essence* in the spiritual body of Lucifer and confined him to the second heaven, the underworld, a place where Evil is restrained.

Then God allows the principle of Evil to take on the spiritual *form* of antichrist, after Jesus Christ brought the antidote into the world which is the blood that Jesus shed for us.

1 John 2:18 "Little children, *it is the last hour*; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now *many antichrists have come*, by which we know that it is the last hour."

I believe the reference that this *is the last hour* to mean the church age, for it is Jesus Christ who founded the church, and without the manifestation of the real Christ there is no need for an antichrist. But John also tells us that the many antichrists will lead to the coming of the final Antichrist, who after killing the two witnesses will reign unopposed, and *demonstrate* the very essence of all that Evil is to the world.

Adam, by his failure to trust in the Word of God, allowed Evil entrance into our physical realm which is the first heaven. Adam not only lost the dominion that God had given him over the physical realm, but through his interactions with the contaminated underworld allowed our physical realm to be compromised by opening a door between the first and second heaven.

On the day that this happened Adam died spiritually and was driven from the Garden of Eden. So that it was death that allowed the essence of Evil to gain entrance into our physical world.

1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, 'The first Adam became a living being.' The last Adam became a life giving spirit."

It was the spiritual death of the first Adam that allowed Evil to gain a foothold on the earth. Likewise, it was the physical death of the last Adam on the cross and His resurrection from the dead that allowed the form of Evil to congeal and to be defeated in principle on the cross, where the dominion of the earth was once and for all returned to man in the last Adam, Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:24-25 “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...”

But after Jesus rose from the dead the *form* of Evil, which was defeated by Christ on the cross, descended into the world as the spirit of antichrist, who was released into the world, in spirit form, after the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead took place.

It will be after the resurrection of the first Adam, when the resurrection from the dead of all the saints of old and the rapture takes place, that Evil, which is now in the *form* of the spirit of antichrist will find a more suitable *form* in the body of the beast, with which he will wage war against the *two witnesses* who are the enforcers of God's law for the duration of *one thousand two hundred and sixty days (1260)*.

And it will be that after the death and resurrection of the *two witnesses* that Evil will finally indwell physically the body of the beast and be demonstrated once and for all as exceedingly sinful for the period of *one thousand two hundred and ninety days (1290)*. It is at the end of the *one thousand two hundred and ninety days (1290)* that God's final judgment against the demonstration of Evil will begin.

Let's see if we can follow the score card of how the curse of the law, which is death is overcome by life and the resurrection from the dead.

The first Adam dies spiritually, and Evil enters into the world; *the first heaven*. Jesus, the last Adam dies physically. Evil congeals on the cross and it is judged. Jesus the last Adam rises from the dead and the consequences of Evil, sin and death are defeated in principle, only to be opposed by the spirit of antichrist. After the first Adam is resurrected from the dead, which means that his physical body is removed from the earth, the beast rises out of the pit and wages war against the laws and commandments of God.

After the *two witnesses* die and rise from the dead, the essence of Evil itself, which still resides in the old dragon and Satan the old serpent, that is when the devil will finally possess the physical body of the antichrist and rule the world, the domain that Satan has always lusted after.

Chapter Five: The Parenthesis

As we noted earlier, the seven years left of the four hundred and ninety years which God has ordained To *finish transgression*, To *make an end of sins*, To *make reconciliation for iniquity*, To *bring in everlasting righteousness*, To *seal up vision and prophecy*, and To *anoint the Most Holy*, comprise a period of two thousand five hundred and fifty five days (2555).

Three hundred and sixty-five days (365) multiplied by seven years (7) equals (2555) days.

The *two witnesses* prophesy for a total of 1260 days.

Revelation 11:3 "And I will give power to my *two witnesses*, and they will prophesy *one thousand two hundred and sixty days*, clothed in sackcloth."

After the *two witnesses* are killed by the beast, their dead bodies will lay on the place where they were killed for three-and-a half days.

Revelation 11:9 "Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations *will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days*, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves."

The beast who kills them will rule the world unopposed by any godly authority for 1290 days.

Daniel 12:11 "And from the time that *the daily sacrifice is taken away* (when the *two witnesses* are killed), and *the abomination of desolation is set up* (after the *two witnesses* are resurrected), there shall be *one thousand two hundred and ninety days*."

If we add up 1260 and 1290 days it equals 2550 days, five days short of the 2555 days in a seven-year period. Since there is a time lapse of three-and-a-half days between the *two witnesses* being killed and before they are resurrected, after which Evil will be physically demonstrated by the setting up of that which is abominable, it means that God has placed a *time* parenthesis between these two very specific events.

Revelation 11:11-12 "Now *after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them* (the *two witnesses*), and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them."

In accordance with God's grace, of which the law is a shadow of, an opportunity must be given for the elect who remain, to flee at the end of these 1260 days before the fullness of the measure of Evil is set up as the abomination that causes desolation which ushers in the last 1290 days.

Matthew 24:15-16 "Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation,*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), *then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*" Parenthesis are in the original text.

It is clear that this *time* parenthesis between the end of the 1260 days of the judgment of the curse of the law, and the beginning of the demonstration of the fullness of Evil is to allow those Jews who will be chosen at that time, both male and female, to repopulate the nation of Israel during the millennial reign of Christ to find a place of shelter where they can physically hide until Evil is fully demonstrated and judged at the end of the 1290 days.

Zechariah 14:5 "*Then you shall flee* through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley *shall reach to Azal...*"

Shall reach to Azal: This is a reference to the Day of Atonement on which two goats are selected.

Leviticus 16:7-10 "He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the *scapegoat* (*Azazel in the Hebrew*). And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell and offer it as a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be *presented* (*physically*) alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness."

These two goats represent the nation of Israel on their final Day of Atonement at the end of the 1260 days, under what I refer to as the curse of the law. This is the time when God will complete the judgment of the nation of Israel under the fullness of His law which they failed to keep. Thereby completing the duration of their punishment, which is four hundred and ninety years, after which their sins are once and for all purged.

Azazel translated as *scapegoat* is a Hebrew word that means *goat of departure*. It comes from the root word *Azal*, which means *to go away, hence, to disappear*.

During the 1260 days of the whole earth under God's law, one third of the earth's population who are left after the rapture will be killed. As far as the nation of Israel is concerned, many of the Jews that will die during this time period are representatives of the goat on which the Lord's lot fell. They are offered as a sin offering, and will be resurrected when the *two witnesses* are raised.

However, there is a remnant that will be kept physically alive. They will be the ones chosen to flee to Azal and disappear for the remaining three-and-one-half years left of their allotted time for their judgment to be fully completed.

Revelation 12:14 "But the *woman* (*the remnant of Israel*) was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly *into the wilderness* to her place, where she is nourished for *a time and times and half a time*, from the *presence of the serpent* (*who will rule during these last 1290 days*)."

Let us keep in mind that during the unveiling of these last seven years, before God *can anoint the Most Holy*, God will have to complete the judgment of three entities whose judgments have yet to be completed, before we can enter the Day of Rest.

These three entities are the dispensation of Grace, which the church age represents. When the Philadelphia church is taken up and away in the rapture and the Laodicea church is left behind, the judgment of the church age ends, and marks the beginning of the seven years of God's final judgment upon all who dwell on the earth.

Israel is the representative of the dispensation of Law. Their judgment takes place under the law during the 1260 day period of the Day of Atonement, and it is completed at the end of the 1260 days, when one goat is chosen to be a *sin offering* and the other is sent into the *wilderness* to be kept safe until the remaining 1290 days judgment of the Kingdoms of this World takes place.

The kingdoms of this world will be represented by Evil incarnate, the antichrist, after the *woman* is safely tucked away in her place of refuge to await the completion of the second part of the seven years.

If you have been following the math, there seems to be one-and-a-half days missing. The *two witnesses* are resurrected after being dead for three-and-a-half days completing the 1260 days of their prophesying, but before the 1290 days begin.

God is that precise! Every minute and every hour is accounted for.

$1260 + 1290 + 3.5 \text{ days} = 2553.5 \text{ days}$, which falls short of the 2555 days that comprise a seven-year period. Short by one-and-a-half days. What happens during this remaining time is a mystery.

Matthew 24:36 "**But of *that day and hour no one knows*, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**"

Jesus is clearly referring to the Day of Atonement when the two goats are presented before the High Priest and the lots are cast, and one is taken away to live, and the other one is left to die.

Matthew 24:40-41 "**Then two *men* will be in the field: *one will be taken and the other left*. Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: *one will be taken and the other left*."**

Revelation 13:10 "If anyone is to go *into captivity* (*may be a reference to go away, hence, to disappear*) *into captivity he will go*. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed." NIV

I believe Scripture teaches that time will stop after the *two witnesses* are resurrected, before that day comes to an end in the evening time. Somehow all the time keeping devices, man-made and natural, all around the cosmos will stop for an undetermined amount of time.

But of *that day and hour no one knows* not even the angels of heaven.

It is hard to imagine an event when we cannot keep track of time because of worldwide and diverse mechanical failures, but think about it, evening comes, and it is still daytime. The heavenly bodies cease their time keeping motions and the computers try to cope with the loss of their internal clocks which is what keeps them on time.

I know that this is not a subject that you have probably heard about. I know I never heard anyone teach it, but Scripture has a lot to say about this future event, for it is the main feature point of the Day of the Lord's Wrath.

Zechariah 14:7 "*It shall be one day which is known to the Lord—neither day nor night.* But at evening time it shall happen, that it will be *light*."

The key to understanding this unique day is by finding the answer to the question why? What is so important about this day that prompts God to pause time?

Jeremiah 33:20-21 "Thus says the Lord: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that *there will not be day and night in their season*, then *My covenant may also be broken with David My servant*, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, *the priests (who are responsible for offering the required sacrifices before the Lord—which will ceased to be offered at that time)*, *My ministers*.'"

As soon as the *two witnesses* are removed from the earth and seeing that the faithful church has already been removed from the earth, there will be no godly agency on earth to represent God before man. The *two witnesses* are representatives of Israel and the church. They are the two agencies responsible for manifesting the Law and Grace of God before men. Also known as Judeo Christian values, which many in the world have already renounced.

Daniel 12:11 "And *from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away*, and the *abomination of desolation is set up*, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days."

The very day when the *two witnesses* are resurrected from the dead, the evening that is supposed to bring an end to that day will no longer be bound to God's seasonal covenant between day and night. Desolation means vacant, meaning the throne of David is empty. The covenant has been broken and sacrifices have ceased. Evening time will refuse to usher in the night at its appointed time.

This astonishing event will serve two very important purposes.

The first is that there is no godly agency representing God on the earth after the *two witnesses* are resurrected and taken away. That means that David has no son left on the earth to reign in his throne and there are no priests left to serve God in His temple.

Remember that Jesus who has been ruling on the earth through His church for two thousand years is seen by Scripture as the righteous heir to David's throne.

Once the age of God's Grace and the dispensation of Law are completed and the daily sacrifices are taken away, the way is cleared for the antichrist to receive the dragon's power, throne, and great authority ruling the earth for 1290 days; Evil will have his day and his way.

The second purpose is to aid those who are fleeing through the mountain valley to Azal, the physical place where they are taken away to disappear.

It is my belief that the prophesying of the *two witnesses* will begin on a Sabbath day and will end on a Sabbath day, seeing that 1260 days are divisible by seven.

That means that they will be killed at the beginning of the week. The day after the Sabbath day, which completes the 1260 days of their prophesying, and after lying dead for three-and-a-half days they will be taken up and away. It is at that time the abomination that causes desolation takes place, meaning there is no anointed covering left on the earth for the faithful who remain on the earth at that time.

The chosen Jewish remnant must flee and take refuge in one of three cities of refuge.

Matthew 24:15-16 "Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation,*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), *then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*" Parenthesis not mine

Those fleeing will still be under the law which limits them as to how far they can travel on the Sabbath day, even if being pursued by those who are trying to kill them.

Judging from what Hosea the prophet wrote, it will be a three-day journey before all the remnant will reach their appointed destination. As long as the evening does not start, the sun does not set, the Sabbath cannot begin. Allowing those fleeing to reach their destination without fear of violating the Sabbath.

Matthew 24:20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or *on the Sabbath.*"

Moses commanded the children of Israel to build six cities of refuge. Three east of the Jordan river and three west of the Jordan river, where those who were responsible for the accidental shedding of blood could find refuge until they stood before the congregation in judgment.

Numbers 35:14 "You shall appoint *three cities on this side of the Jordan,* and three cities you shall appoint in the land of Canaan, *which will be cities of refuge.*"

At the completion of the day of atonement the scapegoat is chosen *to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness,* where the woman which represents the chosen remnant of Israel, *so that she might fly into the wilderness to her place of refuge.*

Daniel 11:41 "*He (the antichrist)* shall also enter the *Glorious Land (Israel)*, and many countries shall be overthrown; but *these shall escape from his hand*; Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon."

The two things that all three of these places have in common is that they are all east of the Jordan river, and all three will at first escape the wrath of the antichrist who is in hot pursuit of the fleeing remnant of Israel at that time.

Revelation 12:15-17 "So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the *woman (the fleeing remnant of Israel)*, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went *to make war with the rest of her offspring (the goat offered as a sin offering)*, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

It is at this time that the feet of Jesus will split the mount of olives, and half of the mountain will move north, and the other half will move south creating a large valley that will allow the chosen remnant to flee to Azal across the Jordan river to the three remaining cities of refuge.

Zechariah 14:4 "And *in that day (the day that time will stop before the evening takes place)* His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."

The Mount of Olives faces Jerusalem on the east side, blocking the escape route that will lead those fleeing Jerusalem eastward to cross the Jordan river to gain access to the caves that will act as the cities of refuge during this time. By splitting the mountain half north and half south, Jesus creates a very large valley that will give those fleeing a direct path to their destination.

Zechariah 14:5 " Then you shall flee *through My mountain valley*, for the mountain valley *shall reach to Azal (the place of refuge where they will disappear into)*..."

Jesus not only creates a path for them, but He also gives them the necessary time needed to reach their destination before the Sabbath begins.

Zechariah 14:6-7 "And it shall come to pass in that *day (the day that they flee through the mountain valley)* that the light shall not be clear, nor dark. But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day nor night: *but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*" KJV

This is their destination, Azal, which will serve them as their cities of refuge during this time.

Isaiah 2:19 "They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and *into the caves of the earth*, from the terror of the Lord and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily."

As soon as the entire remnant reaches their destination time will start up once again. Which begs this question, what time and what day will it be when evening and morning are restored?

Daniel 7:25 "*He (the antichrist)* shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend *to change times and law*. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for *a time and times and half a time* (1290 days)."

When time resumes the antichrist will introduce a new order of time keeping and will start a new calendar.

Since our present calendar is based on the day that Messiah Jesus was born in the nation of Israel, it is safe to assume that on the very day that Evil is consummated in human flesh, and with the opportunity to reset time the antichrist will mark the start of a new calendar, with a new year and a new date that will point to this accomplishment of Evil ruling over our physical realm without godly opposition for the first time in human history.

Chapter Six: The Beast, Evil Incarnate

Revelation 13:2, 4 "...The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority...So they worship 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?'"

Who is this beast and where does he come from? How long will he rule, and why does the dragon give him his power, his throne, and great authority?

John 17:12 "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."

First, we need to recognize that in God's plan for exposing and removing the shadow of Evil, even the physical body that Evil is destined to personally indwell was prepared beforehand and foretold in Scripture. It was called the *son of perdition*, which means *destined for destruction* and *destined to be destroyed*.

Just like God prepared a physical body for His Good Word to indwell when Jesus came into the world as the Word made flesh, a body has also been prepared for Evil to indwell in the flesh when its time comes to be demonstrated to the world.

Unlike God's Word who needed a perfect body to indwell, hence the virgin birth, God used physically redeemed bodies to be His *two witnesses* who testify of the fulfillment of God's Law and Grace before man at the end of the age. In the same manner, God has ordained two physical bodies that rejected His plan of redemption to be given to be Evil's two witnesses at the end of the age. These two evil witnesses are the antichrist and the false prophet.

For us to know more about who the antichrist and the false prophet are and what they do, we need to look at who the *two witnesses* are and what they represent, for these are antonymous.

Genesis 5:23-24 "So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for **God took him** (*physically alive into heaven without dying*)."

Enoch is the seventh from Adam, and since seven represents the end of the age, the day of rest, the body of Christ, which is the church, who are the first physically glorified living ones who will enter into God's rest in the rapture Enoch represents and bears witness to God's Grace. The completion of the church age, and the rapture of the church as well.

Isaiah 34:8 "For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, *the year of recompense* for the cause of Zion."

Isaiah 63:4 "For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and *the year of My redeemed has come.*"

These last seven years, the Day of the Lord's vengeance in which God deals with Grace, Law and the Kingdoms of this World are seen by God as a year of Sabbaths, since it is for the violation of God's Sabbaths that the Lord's vengeance is executed upon the whole world.

A period of seven years has 2555 days which of course are divisible by seven 365 times. That means that the Day of the Lord, the last seven years of God's final judgments, which begin on a Sabbath day will also end on a Sabbath day.

Since there are **365 Sabbath days** (*Saturdays*) within this last seven-year period, the Day of the Lord is also called *the Year of My redeemed* and *the year of God's recompense*, for within these seven years there is a year of 365 Sabbath days. God will complete the redemption of all the saints during this time and will also complete the judgment of all the sinners as well.

1260 days under the law, five evenings and mornings in between, 1290 days of the antichrist ruling unopposed by God completes the seven years *Day of the Lord*; and the **365 Sabbaths** within them, *the year of My redeem* and *the year of God's recompense* ($1260 + 5 + 1290 = 2555$ days), after which Evil itself, and all those who bare his mark will be judged for forty-two days.

It is no coincidence that Enoch was 365 years old when he was taken. For that is what he represents and what he is going to be prophesying about before he is killed by the beast. Enoch is going to bear witness to the *Year of My redeemed* and to *the year of God's recompense*.

2 Kings 2:11 "Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and *Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven* (*physically alive without dying*)."

Elijah was one of Israel's greatest prophets demonstrating God's power in his ministry. He will return as a witness to God's Law, and with Enoch by his side, they will both die together and fulfill the Scripture that declares that it is appointed unto men to die once.

We can see then that God has **two witnesses** in heaven right now, who although taken up there physically at different times, they are both privileged to see how God deals and has dealt with the children of Adam since time began, in accordance with God's purpose and Grace.

These **two witnesses** are the very same ones who will return to the earth after the rapture of the church takes place, which is immediately after all the saints are resurrected from the dead.

The saints that go up in the rapture without dying, do so because they have *died* in principle already when they accepted Jesus as their Savior. Therefore they are spared the death that all but the remnant of Israel, those chosen as the scapegoat must now experience during these last seven years *Day of the Lord* in order to enter into the Day of His Rest.

The message of these *two witnesses* will be according to the Law, which is that, without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sin; so that a sacrificial death is the only way of salvation in the last seven years on the earth. The *two witnesses* will set the example themselves by dying a sacrificial death at the end of their ministry.

Are there two false witnesses in hell right now who will come to the earth and oppose God's *two witnesses* who are in heaven right now, when they return to the earth to prophesy for 1260 days?

As a matter of fact, the bible teaches that there are two false witnesses in hell right now who will come to the earth and not only oppose them, but they will kill the two heavenly witnesses.

Numbers 16:29-30 "*If these men die naturally like all men*, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord *creates a new thing*, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down *alive (physically) into the pit*, then you will understand that *these men have rejected the Lord.*"

As we read about Korah's rebellion, we see that *The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So, they and all those with them went down alive into the pit...*Numbers 16:32-33

The earth opened underneath the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and took them all under with everything that they had, including their wives, sons, and little children, except Korah's children who were spared, and then the earth closed over them all.

Immediately after, the two hundred and fifty leaders who had brought their censors before the tent of meeting were consumed by fire that came down from the Lord upon them for their rebellion against Moses.

We need to pay close attention to the fact that Dathan and Abiram were the only two of the two hundred and fifty-three men that rebelled against the Lord that day, who refused to show up before the Lord to hear the Lord's judgment in the matter for which they were complaining. They were the ones who told Moses to his face we will not come up!

If they truly believed that Moses was not doing the right thing concerning how he was setting up the priesthood, and they tell Moses their discontent as they did, and Moses' response to them is, let us go up to the tent of meeting and ask the Lord...if they truly believed in the Lord, then they would not have a problem if the Lord told them that what Moses was doing was the right thing.

By Dathan and Abiram's refusal to go before the Lord to the tent of meeting, and hear the Lord's judgment on the matter proved that it wasn't Moses they were rejecting but the Lord Himself: *These men have rejected the Lord*. So that when Moses said: *If these men die naturally like all men* he was referring specifically to the fate of Dathan and Abiram.

Numbers 16:12 "And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, '*We will not come up!*'"

But if the Lord *creates a new thing!* What is the new thing that the Lord created to prove that those who were rebelling against Moses were wrong? These two men went down to hell alive with their physical bodies intact! For surely before this day people had fallen alive into pits that covered and killed them, especially during the flood of Noah's day. I am sure that being buried alive and dying in a pit was nothing new back then, even as it is not new right now.

The new thing that God created that day was that for the first time in the history of mankind, two humans were judged by God without having physically died first.

While all the other ones who were buried alive that day, including Korah and the families of Dathan and Abiram, they died a *normal death* in the sense that they were crushed or asphyxiated when they went into the pit alive, where they died and their bodies decomposed after a time, like anyone else would have, who had endured the same fate they did.

Dathan and Abiram by their refusal to go before the Lord that day were judged with God's final judgment, and their physical bodies have been kept alive all this time in the pit of hell by the same power that is keeping God's *two witnesses* in heaven alive right now.

While the *two witnesses* wait for the day when they will be brought down from heaven to fulfill their heavenly witness and die, the *two false witnesses* wait as well to be brought up out of hell in order to fulfill their destiny and become the host of Evil itself and its shadow.

God has kept His *two witnesses* Enoch and Elijah physically alive in heaven all this time, waiting to return to the earth at their appointed time immediately after the rapture and resurrection. As well, these *two false witnesses* Dathan and Abiram also wait to be brought out of hell on the day that the saints are raised from the dead.

Numbers 16:5 "And he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning *the Lord will show you who is His* (messenger, a reference to Moses whom God had clearly called) and who is *holy* (I believe this to be a reference to those whom God was going to set aside that day for a very specific purpose to be fulfilled at a future time)..."

You might be asking yourself; how can I be so sure that the antichrist is in hell right now?

Revelation 19:19-21 "And I saw *the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies*, gathered together to make war against *Him* (Jesus) who sat on the horse and against His army. Then *the beast* (the antichrist) *was captured*, and *with him the false prophet* who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. *These two were cast alive into the lake of fire* burning with brimstone. *And the rest were killed with the sword* which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."

Ask yourself, why does the Lord kill with His sword the kings of the earth who are opposing Him, along with their armies, but captures alive the antichrist and the false prophet? Why doesn't

He kill them as well? And why are they thrown alive into the lake of fire, which is the second death, without tasting the first death, and a thousand years before anybody else goes in there? Why?

Revelation 20:5-6, 14 "But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. *This is the first resurrection*. Blessed and *holy is he who has part in the first resurrection*. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years...Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. *This is the second death*."

One thousand years pass between the first resurrection and the last resurrection, which will be the second death of the great many who were not resurrected in the first resurrection. Who after being resurrected will then be thrown alive into the lake of fire as their final judgment.

The great majority of humans who are alive when the Day of the Lord comes, who are not rapture or resurrected somehow during the first resurrection, or who are not hidden away as part of Israel's remnant before the Day of the Lord ends, they will be lost forever. For all these events are connected to the first resurrection, which happens in three stages.

First stage of the first resurrection: The resurrection of the dead saints and the rapture of the living saints which triggers the start of the seven years long Day of the Lord.

Second stage: The resurrection of the *two witnesses* and all those who heed their message and die a sacrificial death during the 1260 days of their prophesying, which triggers the fleeing remnant of Israel to be taken away and hidden for a time, times, and half a time—1290 plus days.

Third stage: Takes place at the end of the 1290 days when all those who are killed by refusing to receive the mark of the beast are physically resurrected.

Those who are alive before the Day of the Lord commences, if they die and are not resurrected, will remain dead for one thousand years. Then they will be physically resurrected, judged, and thrown alive into the lake of fire.

The fact that the antichrist and the false prophet are captured alive and thrown into the lake of fire a thousand years before the final resurrection of the dead takes place means that they had already died, had already been judged, and had already been *resurrected* from hell to oppose the *two witnesses* who came down from heaven during the first stage of the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 "...*Holy* (set apart for a special purpose) is he who has part in the first resurrection..."

Numbers 16:5 "...And who is *holy*..."

Set aside for His use only.

Dathan and Abiram were *set apart* by God (*holy means to be set apart for a purpose*), not because they were good, but because they had rejected the Lord even before the day of the Lord's final judgment arrived.

They did so for the purpose of providing Evil with the physical body and the shadow that it casts, so that when Evil is fully demonstrated for the predetermined amount of time set by God Himself, Evil can be encapsulated and contained for the ages in physical form as a demonstration of all that is exceedingly sinful.

Revelation 9:1-2, 11 "Then the fifth angel sounded: and I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the *bottomless pit* (*hell*). And he opened the bottomless pit...And they had as king over them the *angel* (*messenger*) of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is *Abaddon* (*Destruction*), but in Greek he has the name **Apollyon** (*Destroyer*)."

The *son of perdition*—the one destined to be *destroyer* and to be *destroyed*—is released from the bottomless pit to oppose the two heavenly messengers who descend from heaven, which is the same day that the first stage of the first resurrection takes place; the day when the physical resurrection of the saints of old takes place, followed by the rapture of the church.

The *son of perdition*, the antichrist and his shadow, the false prophet will oppose and make war against the *two witnesses* for 1260 days. After the 1260 days end, they kill the *two witnesses* and allow their dead bodies to lay unburied for three-and-a-half days.

That is when the second stage of the first resurrection takes place, when the two witnesses are physically raised from the dead along with the 144,000 and those who believed their message.

It is at this time also that time will stop, and the day known only to the Lord will take place. The day when the sun refuses to set in the evening and usher in the Sabbath allowing for the necessary time needed by the fleeing remnant of Israel to safely reach their destination.

After the sun finally sets, time will start up again and complete the five evenings and mornings between the 1260 days and the 1290 days. It is at this moment in time that the reign of Evil incarnate will begin unopposed by God for 1290 days.

Abiram will be the antichrist, since his name means *father of loftiness, father of altitude*.

Daniel 11:37 "...*He* (*the antichrist*) shall exalt himself above them all."

Isaiah 14:13-14 "...*I* (*Satan himself said this in his heart*) will ascend into heaven...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds..."

Since Abiram and Dathan have been in hell with the devil for about 3500 years now, they have been groomed by the devil to be the receptacles of Evil and the shadow that it will project over the world once they are released back into the earth with their physically immortal bodies.

Revelation 13:3-4 "And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and follow the beast. 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?*'"

The message of the *two witnesses* is that after missing the rapture, the only way of salvation left for those who remain on the earth is through a sacrificial death. The form of which is hidden from us now, lest we presume that we can miss the rapture and do this other thing afterwards.

Revelation 10:4 "Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, '*Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered*, and do not write them.'"

The *two witnesses* preach for 1260 days the message of having to die a sacrificial death, in order to be physically resurrected from the dead and to be able to enter into the Kingdom Age with Jesus.

The *two false witnesses* preach to the world that they do not have to die for God's cause in order to receive physically immortal bodies. They will use themselves as examples, seeing that not even God's *two witnesses* can kill them. They deceive the world to the point that those who are deceived say to themselves, *Who is able to make war with him (the antichrist)!*

Revelation 10:7 " But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, *the mystery of God would be finished (completely revealed)*, as He declared to His servants the prophets."

The seventh angel sounds his trumpet immediately after the *two witnesses* are resurrected and time resumes. It is at this time that the mystery of God, the purpose behind the creation is revealed.

The shadow of Evil becomes flesh and is demonstrated to the entire world for what it truly is, exceedingly sinful.

The names of Dathan and Abiram in the Hebrew text should have the numerical value of 666, for their reign will be composed of two sets of 666 days each: $666 + 666 = 1332$ days. That means at the end of 1290 days God will begin the judgment of Evil itself and all of its consequences. This judgment will be swift. It will last only forty-two days and will begin on a Sabbath day, and it will end on a Sabbath day. $1290 \text{ days} + 42 \text{ days} = 1332 \text{ days}$.

The antichrist and the false prophet make war against God's *two witnesses* for forty-two months, (*1260 days*). Jesus will make war against the antichrist and the false prophet for forty-two days.

Six is the number of time, flesh, and man. Seven is the number which brings time to a conclusion, the redemption of the flesh, and the restoration of man, $6 \times 7 = 42$.

Chapter Seven: Evil Conquered

Hosea 6:1-2 "Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. *After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.*"

Earlier I noted that according to Hosea it would be a three day journey before the fleeing remnant of Israel could reach their hiding place. I based that on our text that declares that it will take three days before the returning remnant is brought back to the land to *live in His sight*.

The third stage of the first resurrection takes place at the conclusion of the 1290 days, when all those who refused to receive the mark of the beast and were killed during the 1290 days of Evil will be raised from the dead.

It is at this time that God will commence the judgment of Evil which will last for forty-two days, after He has fully demonstrated Evil for what Evil really is, exceedingly sinful. And the opposite of all that God is and all that the goodness of God encompasses.

Revelation 16:17 "Then *the seventh angel poured out his bowl* into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, '*It is done!*'"

The judgment of Evil will conclude on the forty-second day after the seventh bowl is poured out. If you begin the forty-two days on a Sabbath day, you will have seven Sabbaths in a forty-two-day period, $7 \times 6 = 42$.

The first angel pours out the first bowl on the first Sabbath day and the seventh angel pours out the seventh bowl on the seventh Sabbath day which will be the forty-second and final day of the judgment of Evil.

Evil has many facets, for it permeates through the entire creation with its bondage to corruption, death and destruction. The bowls of the wrath of God are poured out for the purpose of cleansing the entire creation from the consequences of allowing Evil to be manifested within it.

On the first Sabbath the first bowl is poured out upon the earth, the dwelling place of fleshy man. At this time a clear demarcation has taken place between redeemable men and those who have been marked for destruction by receiving the mark of the beast. Incurable foul and loathsome sores come upon flesh of all those who have been marked as unredeemable by accepting the mark of the beast.

On the second Sabbath, a week later, the second bowl is poured out over the sea which is the dwelling place of the seven headed dragon, the Leviathan of old. The sea is symbolic of all the

hidden corruption that lies under the surface. All the salt in the ocean cannot neutralize the pollution that has been exposed, as the sea becomes as blood, the blood of a dead man.

On the third Sabbath, the third angel pours out his bowl on the rivers and springs, and all the fresh water sources expose the contamination that Evil that caused them to spread throughout creation and the ages. It is at this time that an explanation is given.

Revelation 16:5-6 "And I heard the angel of the waters saying: 'You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, *because You have judged these things*. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and *You have given them blood to drink*. For it is their just due.'"

Remember that during this time Evil indwells physical flesh and has a vast following of humans who are now destined to be with Evil forever. So it is to this unredeemable flesh that God causes them to drink in the consequences of Evil. Notice that it refers to Jesus *as the One who is and who was and who is to be*, meaning that these judgments transcend the present. God is taking all the consequences of Evil throughout the ages and is demonstrating it in this present generation.

Keep in mind that what God is doing here is exposing Evil itself as the cause for all that is bad, painful and destructive. God is portraying Evil in a way that future creatures who are created in God's image and sovereign likeness, would never, ever, think of Evil as an acceptable option.

Seeing that only God is Good, and knowing full well all that Evil is and what it causes, no creature in their right mind would ever think of straying away from all the goodness that God provides.

On the fourth Sabbath, the fourth angel pours out his bowl on the sun and causes the men to be scorched with fire. The sun has always been a symbol of God's righteousness and blessings.

God created the sun on the fourth day, and Jesus came to die for our sins on the fourth millennium, but the evil in man has caused men to worship the creature instead of the Creator. That throughout the ages the sun has been worshiped, and now this truly *evil generation* must face the consequences of the evil that has been committed in days pass by their human ancestry.

Malachi 4:1-2 "'For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And *the day which is coming shall burn them up*', says the Lord of Hosts, 'That will leave them neither root nor branch. But *to you who fear My name (refused to receive the mark of the beast)* the *Sun of Righteousness* shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.'"

As in the four horsemen, and as in the four trumpets, and as in the four winds; four is the number that sums up the entire tally and its followed by the product of that which has been completed.

Revelation 16:10 "Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and *his kingdom became full of darkness*; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain."

At the beginning of this writing, I said that the battle between Good and Evil can also be compared to the battle between light and darkness. So here it is for all to see God is light, Evil is darkness.

Now that Evil has been finally exposed for what it truly is, utter darkness; and that all Evil produces is exceedingly sinful, and that Evil has been personalized at a very specific point in time and space. It is time for God to put it all together in one place. Wrap it up and ship it to its final destination, which is the lake of fire.

Revelation 16:12-14 "Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw *three unclean spirits like frogs* coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, *to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*"

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are the three spirits of demons that have led many through the ages into the clutches of evil.

Now these three entities themselves are going to be judged by God after the Lord Himself judges the masses that they have deceived, and gathered to be slaughtered by the double edged sword word that comes out of our Lord's mouth; at a place called Armageddon, when the seventh bowl is poured out.

For after the seventh bowl is poured out, all the fallen angels who became demons and served the evil desires of the devil will be judged and locked in a prison called Babylon the Great.

Revelation 18:2 "And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!'"

The judgment of Evil, and all that it represents, and all the entities through which Evil was represented will be completely judged by the time that the seventh bowl is poured out.

Revelation 16:17 "Then *the seventh angel poured out his bowl* into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, '*It is done!*'"

Now remember that Evil have being personified in *the beast and the false prophet* for a period of 1332 days, so that Evil could be fully demonstrated. On the very last day *the beast and the false prophet* are taken alive into the lake of fire never to be released again. But the spiritual entities that aided them in our physical realm, the demons and the devil himself will be locked away for one thousand years.

Revelation 20:1-3 "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while."

Since at this time God has already dealt with Evil incarnate and put them away in the lake of fire, why does He now allow the devil to remain, although neutralized for a thousand years?

Chapter Eight: The Thousand Years Reign of Christ

In order to answer this question, we need to look at the remnant of Israel, their estate, and their future after the thousand years are up. As well as the future of the very few humans, besides the remnant of Israel who will somehow survive the seven years of judgment, and will abide and multiply on the earth during these thousand years.

Revelation 20:7-10 "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and *will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth*, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, *whose number is as the sand of the sea*. They went up on the breath of the earth and *surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city*. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And *they will be tormented day and night forever and ever*."

It is clear within the context that the remnant of Israel will repopulate as the *camp of the saints and the beloved city* on the earth after the Day of the Lord's wrath takes place, and Jesus begins His reign as Lord and King over all the earth for a thousand years.

During these thousand years, in the absence of demons and the devil to hinder humanity, every good thing on the earth will prosper and reproduce in great abundance. Death will be almost nonexistent. There will be no wars, no accidents, no venomous creatures to kill or injure, no viruses or debilitating germs. It will be a real utopia for those humans who will repopulate the earth.

It is also clear from the context that the few humans that will survive the ordeal of the Day of the Lord will reproduce as well, whose number at the end of the thousand years will be *as the sand of the sea*. And that it will be them and their seed, the ones who become the nations that are deceived into going after *the camp of the saints and the beloved city*, once the devil is released after the thousand years are up.

Let us remember that all of them are still in their natural sinful bodies that remain unredeemed, seeing that they can reproduce and replenish the earth.

Since we know that the glorified bodies of all those who are raised from the dead will be like the bodies of the angels of heaven who do not reproduce, there must be a judgment at some point in time for all those who have not received their glorified bodies yet.

Matthew 22:30 "For in the resurrection *they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven*."

Why would God not judge those who survived after He judged Evil, and spare those who are born during the thousand years from facing temptation again?

Let us remember that the reason that God created our universe was for the purpose of demonstrating the difference between Good and Evil, and no humans have ever lived in the absence of Evil before these thousand years begin.

So, for a thousand years, God demonstrates what life would have been like without Evil to interfere with it. No death, no fear, no sorrow, no pain, no lack, no need, no suffering. That is what life would have been like had the first Adam overcome the original temptation.

Here we see that God proves during these thousand years that even after placing unregenerate human kind in a place where they live at peace and harmony with God in utopia, but without making an eternal choice between God and not God, that they cannot be trusted.

But look at what happens when their sovereign choice is restored to them. How easily they can be deceived, *proving once and for all that without removing the shadow of Evil first*, God could not risk creating creatures after His likeness without the certainty of contaminating Infinity Time.

Isaiah 65:23, 25 "*They shall not labor in vain (the saints in the camp of the Lord)*, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be *the descendants of the blessed of the Lord*, and their offspring with them... 'The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,*' Says the Lord."

Those who were in the camp of the Lord made a choice, they chose God.

But since it is appointed unto men to die once and then face the eternal judgment that will determine their final destination, for all God's sovereign creatures must make a choice between Good and Evil at some point in their existence, so that at the end, a choice must be given to those who are born during these thousand years of bliss. A choice between God whom they know and the Evil that most of them have never experienced but heard about from the survivors.

Since they are all still descendants of Adam and Eve in their flesh, those in the camp of the saints had to make their choice to follow Jesus even in the absence of trouble. That is why they are called saints and live in His camp with Him, and they are called *the descendants of the blessed of the Lord*.

Meanwhile those outside of the camp of the saints have chosen to enjoy the benefits of the goodness of God without choosing Jesus to be their personal Lord and Savior. They just obey Him for the goodies that He will provide to those on the earth during the thousand years.

So it is that when the devil is released to face his final judgment, he goes out to deceive those who are outside of the camp of the saints. That is because he knows they lack the covering that the truth of the Son of God provides the saints who are with Him in His camp.

As soon as those outside of the camp are given a choice, they make their choice to go after the saints and steal their inheritance, and then, God Himself consumes them with fire from heaven.

It is at this time that Evil itself and its interactions with humanity come to a close. Satan who was the first to give Evil a spiritual body to abide in is now thrown into the lake of fire with those who gave Evil their physical bodies to abide in, the beast and the false prophet, along with all those who received his mark and have rejected God's plan of salvation through the ages.

They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. They have now become prime exhibits of all that Evil is, and what all of Evil's consequences are; contained and engulfed in a purifying lake of fire that will never allow any of its contaminants to escape while visible to all.

Testifying to all infinity that only God is Good, and that without God there is no true liberty.

After the devil is thrown into the lake of fire, the great white throne judgment takes place. After this final judgment, Death and Hades are also cast into the lake of fire and all the consequences of Evil will finally be done away with forever and ever. Hallelujah!

Revelation 20:11-15 "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ***The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them*** (this is the last resurrection, which leads those whose names are not written in the Book of Life to the second death, which is eternal damnation). And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

They are all resurrected and given immortal physical bodies, but only those whose names have been written in the Book of Life go into the New Jerusalem. The place where the goodness, grace, and mercy of an all-loving God will be displayed forever and ever as well. The rest go into the lake of fire with their immortal physical bodies like Dathan and Abiram went when they rebelled against the Lord and were judged by Jesus Himself.

It is here that the entirety of Evil, which ceased to be a shadow a thousand years earlier is finally subdued and encapsulated for the ages to behold it for what it truly is, exceedingly sinful.

First in line are the promoters of Evil incarnate, the beast and the false prophet; then the devil, the serpent of old in whom Evil became essence, who joins them in the lake of fire a thousand years later. Followed by those whom they deceived through the ages, who shipwrecked their souls by believing a lie, and have now become personal and physical examples of the ills and corruption of Evil, displayed in plain view for all eternity to review.

1 Corinthians 10:5-6, 11 "But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, *to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted*... 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*."

Daniel 12:2 "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, *some to shame and everlasting contempt*."

What about us, those who overcome Evil by the blood of the Lamb and by the words of our testimony, what do we become?

Daniel 12:3 "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*."

We started with the preposition that in Infinity Time, the Goodness of God casts an antonymous shadow called Evil, which prevented God from creating creatures after His sovereign likeness.

We stipulated that the heavens and the earth that God created were created for the purpose of removing the shadow of Evil, so that God could create creatures after His sovereign likeness.

Since the shadow of Evil exists as a contrast to the Goodness of God, and the Goodness of God is an infinite quality of God, who changes not, which can never be done away with; then Evil can never cease to exist anymore than the Goodness of God can ever come to an end.

The only way then to get rid of Evil is to neutralize it, expose it for what it is, exceedingly sinful, and then display it for all to see in all the ages to come.

God chose us, His human creation, to be the objects through whom He would display forever and ever, both the consequences of Evil and the blessedness of God's Goodness.

Some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Revelation 22:11 "He who is unjust, *let him be unjust* still; he who is filthy, *let him be filthy* still; he who is righteous, *let him be righteous* still; he who is holy *let him be holy* still."

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament.

Revelation 21:4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:25 "Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there)."

It is clear to me that in the age to come, the saints become the shadow of the Goodness of God, an eternal representation of all the good that God is, and of all the good that God does. And that

all the sinners who are placed on display eternally, become the representation, or shadow of all that is Evil, and of all that Evil does, which is being displayed as exceedingly wicked sinfulness.

Chapter Nine: The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:1-2 "Now *I saw a new heaven and a new earth*, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, *New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God*, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

It is clear from the context that something new is happening here. And by new I mean, something that did not exist before in Infinity Time, which has now been added here.

We as humans confined to the present tense are used to change; but to grasp the magnitude of what is taking place here we must see it through the prism of Infinity Time.

God is infinite and He dwells in infinity. God does not change; hence infinity does not change. This is the premise that we need to understand in order to follow what is going on here.

Since the original heavens and the original earth that God created were designed as a place where God could allow Evil to become essence and be demonstrated as exceedingly sinful in order to judge it, once they served their purpose and were not needed anymore: *For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away*. They were done away with, and that we understand.

It is the introduction of the new heaven and the new earth that are puzzling here.

Why not just take us back with Him into Infinity Time? Why is there a need for a new heaven and a new earth?

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. It is worth noting that the new heaven that John saw was singular, unlike the original creation of the *heavens* and the earth. We can learn from this that there is no need for a *containment room* in this new creation, since Evil and the manifestation of its shadow, has been placed in a unique infinite place called the lake of fire.

New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. The reason given for this new heaven seems to be that from out of it comes down to us the New Jerusalem. What does it all mean?

Psalm 85:10-11 "*Mercy and truth have met together*; righteousness and peace have kissed. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven."

It looks like a marriage ceremony is taking place here between the physical realm that God created and the spiritual realm that governs it! Jesus who is Faithful and Truth represents us the physical creation, and Jesus the Word of God brings in God's mercy; the righteousness of God imputed to man, through His Word who became flesh.

Revelation 1:2 "Who bore witness to the *word of God*, and to the *testimony of Jesus Christ*, to all things that he saw."

The Word of God is spiritual, has always been God and has always been with God. John 1:1 However, in order to get rid of Evil which always existed as a shadow, without essence or form, God had to give it essence in a confined setting of time and space. So, He created the heavens and the earth, placed a time limit on them, and confined the essence of Evil to the second *heaven*.

Then God allowed Evil to manifest itself in form in a physical place He called the *earth*. Then at a very specific time He called *today*, He allowed Evil to express itself in physical form and then, God judged Evil exposed it and its consequences as the opposite of all that is good.

He defeated and judged Evil by allowing His Word to also manifest Himself in the flesh as the testimony of Jesus Christ, revealing the goodness of God by saving to the uttermost those who were contaminated by the manifestation of Evil on the earth.

Evil will forever be displayed as exceedingly sinful in both essence and physical form in the lake of fire, to warn the future creatures of its many dangers.

There is a need also to display the contrast between Good and Evil by presenting God's goodness in both essence and form as well; hence the witness of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ displayed in a new heaven and a new earth, opposite of the lake of fire.

This means that a marriage must take place between Infinity Time and the product of Eternity Time, seeing that even though Eternity Time ceased to exist after the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, the fruit or produce of Eternity Time will remain as an eternal witness.

Revelation 22:14-15 "Blessed are those *who do (bear witness to)* His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and *may enter through the gates into the city*. But *outside (in the lake of fire)* are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie."

The New Jerusalem is the place where God's perfect love and infinite goodness will forever be displayed in both essence and form.

Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, '*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men*, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.'"

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men: The dwelling place of God is Infinity Time!

Once this happens, a new thing has taken place in the infinite everlasting; God has replaced the Evil shadow that followed His goodness with the reality of His goodness, which is the witness of His Word, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, who is His Word made flesh.

This coupling between the physical and the spiritual realms is now presented as a marriage between them. *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*, to be a witness for all the ages to come.

Psalm 57:10-11 "For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, and Your truth unto the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth."

Although this seems lineal to us and by that, I mean that we may think that God was limited somehow before He created Eternity Time and defeated Evil, but the reality is that in the spiritual realm the reckoning of time is different.

I am sure that the All-Knowing God has always ruled over Evil and has never been restrained by it. To us it is a new thing, as it will also be for all the new creatures that God creates in the future, as they witness for the first time the victory of God as He triumphs over Evil.

What is new to us, His physical creation. It is that we are somehow part of the physical human creation that testifies against the exceedingly sinfulness of Evil. For we all have been touched by Evil and have been defiled by it and had to overcome it by the blood of the Lamb and by the words of our testimony in the here and now.

The conclusion of the matter is that, in the here and now, ***we are!*** And it is incumbent upon each and every one of us to make a choice between Good and Evil every moment of our lives.

Psalm 57:1 "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the *shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by.*"

We all have been touched by evil and we all have been touched by God's Goodness. We know good is good and evil is bad. We will bear the eternal witness of one or the other.

The question that stands today, which one will it be for you dear reader?

I conclude with the testimony of David, a man touched by both Good and Evil:

Psalm 57:2-3 "I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me. He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches *the (Evil) one* who would swallow me up.

Selah (think about it, but don't take too long, the time is short)

God shall send forth His mercy and His truth."

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!