

The Salvation of Animals : Fact or Fiction? Part 1

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Animals In Heaven, Extensive Mention Of Animals In The Bible, Animal Symbolism Throughout The Scriptures, Pharaoh A Dragon, Satan The Serpent And Red Dragon, Serpents And Vipers In The Gospels, Lion Of The Tribe Of Judah And Satan A Roaring Lion, Herod The Sly Fox, Animal Symbolism In Daniel And Revelation, Sheep Wolves Goats Swine And Dogs, Greedy Shepherds Of Israel, Filthy Lucre, Holy Spirit Is Symbolized By A Dove, Jesus Is The Lamb Of God, Beast And False Prophet Symbolized By Horned Beasts, Four Beasts By The Throne Of God, The Four Horsemen

Quite a few years ago in 1997, one of the former members of our now-defunct EDGE -- Endtime Discussion Group Exchange -- mailing list made the following interesting comment:

----- Begin Quote -----

"True, but there is a big difference between humans with a spirit and plants and animals without."

----- End Of Quote -----

Although that person's comment was brief, it immediately caught my attention. Up until that point, I had never given much thought concerning the spiritual nature of animals, or the possible salvation of the same. However, I have always assumed that animals do exist in the Heavenly Realm. After all, there is extensive mention of animals throughout the Bible; far too many to mention here. If the natural world is only a pale reflection of the realities of the Spirit Realm, then in my view, it only stands to reason that there must be magnificent creatures of some sort in Heaven as well.

Of course, as you may know, there is also a lot of animal symbolism to be found in the Scriptures. For example, we find Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, being referred to as a dragon in the following verses:

"Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."

Ezekiel 29:3, KJV

"Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and thou art as a whale in the seas: and thou camest forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers."

Ezekiel 32:2, KJV

Please note that while in the second verse above the word "whale" is used, in both verses, the Hebrew word "tanniyn" is used. According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, this word means dragon, serpent, sea monster, dinosaur, sea or river monster, or venomous snake.

As I mention in articles such as "Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future" and "Leviathan: An Ancient Dragon of the Sea?", we likewise see Satan being referred to as a dragon and a serpent in both the Old and the New Testaments. Consider the following verses:

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil . . . And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:"

Genesis 3:1-5, 13-14, KJV

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from

the simplicity that is in Christ."

2 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent."

Job 26:13, KJV

"In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea."

Isaiah 27:1, KJV

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born . . . And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him . . . And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood."

Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9, 14-15, KJV

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

Revelation 20:1-3, KJV

I find it very interesting that in the Gospels, both Jesus and John the Baptist refer to the Jewish religionists who persecuted them as serpents and vipers. Why would they do

this? Because as Jesus told them flat out in John chapter eight, they were of their father the Devil, who is also a serpent, and of course, the father of lies. Consider the following set of verses:

"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Matthew 3:7, KJV

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Matthew 12:34, KJV

"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

Matthew 23:33, KJV

"Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Luke 3:7, KJV

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

Continuing with our examples of animal symbolism that are found in God's Word, just as Jesus is described as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah in the Book of Revelation, the Apostle Peter also describes the Devil as a roaring lion who walks about, seeking whom he may devour. Compare the following two verses:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

1 Peter 5:8, KJV

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

Revelation 5:5, KJV

Students of Bible prophecy will likewise be aware of the fact that in the Book of Daniel, we find a number of kings and empires -- particularly Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome -- being represented by a lion, bear, leopard, ram and he-goat. Some of this very same symbolism is carried over to the Book of Revelation as well, such as in the following verse:

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

Revelation 13:2, KJV

Likewise, in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus refers to King Herod as a fox, apparently because Herod was a very sly king.

Consider the following verses:

"The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."

Luke 13:31-32, KJV

In John chapter ten, Jesus informs us that He is our great Shepherd, and that we are His sheep. He likewise warned His Disciples to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, because He was sending them forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. The Apostle Paul likewise warned the Christians of the First Century to beware of deceptive wolves within their midst. At the same time, the Lord referred to unbelieving reprobates as dogs, swine and goats. Consider the following group of verses which confirm these various points:

"[A Psalm of David.] The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Psalms 23:1, KJV

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

Matthew 7:15, KJV

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

Matthew 10:16, KJV

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the

holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."

Matthew 25:31-33, KJV

"Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad."

Matthew 26:31, KJV

"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."

Luke 10:3, KJV

"But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice . . . Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them . . . I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

John 10:2-4, 7-8, 11-16, KJV

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

Acts 20:29, KJV

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"

Hebrews 13:20, KJV

"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

1 Peter 2:25, KJV

You may also recall that in the thirty-fourth chapter of the Book of Ezekiel, the Lord rebukes the greedy shepherds of ancient Israel -- meaning the religious leaders -- who were guilty of abusing their flocks -- meaning the people -- and enriching themselves at their expense. Jesus exposed the very same group of people in John chapter ten and elsewhere in the Gospels, as do the Apostles in the following verses where they talk about filthy lucre, or personal material gain:

"Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous . . . Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;"

1 Timothy 3:3, 8, KJV

"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre . . . Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."

Titus 1:7, 11, KJV

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;"

1 Peter 5:2, KJV

"And through covetousness shall they with feigned words MAKE MERCHANDISE OF YOU: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

2 Peter 2:3, KJV

As many of you will know, when Jesus was water baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, it was reported that the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. In fact, this particular point is made in all four of the Gospels. Consider these four verses:

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting

upon him:"

Matthew 3:16, KJV

"And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:"

Mark 1:10, KJV

"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."

Luke 3:22, KJV

"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him."

John 1:32, KJV

As I point out in the series entitled "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God. In the Book of Acts, the Ethiopian eunuch is reading from the Book of Isaiah where Jesus is described as a sheep which silently goes to the slaughter. Jesus is also called a Lamb multiple times in the Book of Revelation. Consider the following group of verses:

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

Isaiah 53:7, KJV

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world . . . And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God . . . And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"

John 1:29, 34, 36, KJV

"The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:"

Acts 8:32, KJV

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without

blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"

1 Peter 1:18-20, KJV

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth . . . And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints . . . Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

Revelation 5:6, 8, 12-13, KJV

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see . . . And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:"

Revelation 6:1, 16, KJV

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb . . . And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb . . . For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Revelation 7:9-10, 13-14, 17, KJV

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto

the death."

Revelation 12:11, KJV

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Revelation 13:8, KJV

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads . . . These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb . . . The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:"

Revelation 14:1, 4, 10, KJV

"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

Revelation 15:3, KJV

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 17:14, KJV

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready . . . And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

Revelation 19:7, 9, KJV

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife . . . And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had

no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof . . . And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Revelation 21:9, 14, 22-23, 27, KJV

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:"
Revelation 22:1-3, KJV

Thus far, we have seen a number of horned animals which are used as symbols in the Scriptures. In fact, you may have noticed that in the previous group of verses, the Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes, just as the dragon has seven heads and ten horns. Not surprisingly, in Revelation, we also find the Beast and the False Prophet being represented by two great horned beasts which rise up out of the Earth and out of the sea. Furthermore, the ten leaders or nations who follow them are also described as ten horns, as we see by the following group of verses:

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy . . . And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

Revelation 13:1, 11, KJV

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns . . . And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns . . . And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast . . . And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and

shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

Revelation 17:3, 7, 12, 16, KJV

Also in the Book of Revelation we find mention of the four beasts which surround the Throne of God in chapter four, as we see by the following set of verses:

"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

Revelation 4:6-8, KJV

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints . . . And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."

Revelation 5:6-8, 14, KJV

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see . . . And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

Revelation 6:1, 6, KJV

"And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,"

Revelation 7:11, KJV

"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

Revelation 14:3, KJV

"And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever."

Revelation 15:7, KJV

"And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia."

Revelation 19:4, KJV

In Revelation chapter six we also find the four horsemen of the Apocalypse which represent different spiritual forces working on the Earth. Consider the following verses:

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

Revelation 6:1-8, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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The Salvation of Animals : Fact or Fiction? Part 2

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Prophet Ezekiel's Vision Of Four Winged Creatures, Physical Bodies And Spiritual Bodies, Animals In Heaven And On The New Earth, Flesh And Blood Cannot Inherit The Kingdom Of God, Flesh Is Flesh And Spirit Is Spirit, Is The New Earth Physical Or Spiritual In Nature?, Adam And Eve And The Lord In The Garden Of Eden, Jesus' Appearance After Resurrection From The Dead, Spiritual Beings Interacting With The Physical World, Multiple Planes And Dimensions Of Existence, Pauses In Prophetic History, The Word Of God Will Be Fulfilled In God's Way And In God's Perfect Time, Stories Of Journeys To Heaven, Visits To Heaven Or Visits To The New Earth, Prophet Elijah's Journey To Heaven, Jewish Mysticism And The Merkabah, God's Throne-Chariot In Ezekiel, Riding White Horses At The Battle Of Armageddon, Pegasus The Winged Horse And Ancient Legends, Our Beloved Pets In Heaven, God Creates Adam And Breathes The Spirit Of Life Into Him, God Creates Animals From The Dust Of The Ground Just As He Did With Adam, Man And Beast Are Not So Biologically Different, Man Was God's Final Creation During The Six Days, Physical Advantages The Animal Kingdom Has Over Human Beings, Before The Age Of Modern Technology, What Were Adam's First Impressions Of Eden?, Our First Reaction Upon Entering God's Kingdom, Adam's Reactions To The Animals And His Own Human Limitations, Our Desire To Imitate Abilities Of The Animal Kingdom, A Right Attitude Towards God's Creations, Man's Violent Oppressive Destructive Nature, Our Similarities To Animals, Animals Have Emotions And Are Not Led By Instinct Alone, A Vast Web Of Life, God Creates Eve From Adam's Rib

Continuing our discussion from part one, I am also reminded

of the amazing winged creatures which were observed by the Prophet Ezekiel, and which are amply described by him in the first and tenth chapters of the Book which is named after him. Being as the description of these creatures is rather long, I will leave it to you to take the initiative to read those two chapters. If you are not familiar with them, you will be amazed by what Ezekiel saw. I also discuss them in articles such as the series entitled "Under the Cloud: UFOs and the Holy Bible".

In the previous paragraphs I have shared with you some of the many examples of animal symbolism which can be found throughout the pages of the Holy Bible. There are many other mentions of both physical and symbolic animals in the Word, which I hope you will take the time to personally discover.

In addition to the examples I have cited here, there are also examples to be found here and there in the Scriptures which seem to indicate that there are animals in Heaven -- or on the New Earth -- which have spiritual bodies. After all, if Jesus taught that God is a Spirit, and if Heaven is a purely spiritual place which is inhabited by spiritual beings, and if the Kingdom of God comes without physical observation, as Jesus also taught, then it stands to reason that if there are animals in Heaven and/or on the New Earth, then they must be spiritual in nature as well. Consider the following verses which seem to support this point:

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24, KJV

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

Luke 17:20-21, KJV

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in

power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:40-57, KJV

So, if, as the Apostle Paul writes, "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God", I can only conclude that just as we will inherit new, spiritual bodies, any animals which exist in Heaven -- or on the New Earth -- must also be just spiritual in nature, and not physical creatures. In short, for many years, I assumed that the new heavens and the New Earth which we find described in the final two chapters of the Book of Revelation, and in other places in the Bible, are a real, physical place. However, in light of verses such as the previous ones, I am no longer absolutely certain of this. After all, why would spiritual beings -- whether God Himself, Jesus, the Angels and other Celestial Creatures, or saved souls -- require a physical place in which to dwell? As Jesus told Nicodemus, and later also told His Apostles:

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

John 3:6, KJV

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 6:63, KJV

So many of us have somehow arrived at the conclusion that the New Earth is a physical planet. But what if it isn't? What if we have understood it incorrectly? We have this wonderful picture in our minds of the beautiful Heavenly City -- New Jerusalem -- descending down to the surface of the New Earth, or possibly hovering above the same. But again, if New Jerusalem -- which is the habitation of God Himself, who is a Spirit Being -- is really spiritual in nature, in my opinion, it makes a lot more sense for the City to descend to a spiritual New Earth as well, wherein dwell all of God's saved, spiritual children.

Of course, I admit that I cannot conclusively prove this point; and even I recognize that it is not a water-tight argument. Why not? Well, for one thing, we know from reading the Book of Genesis that long before Jesus Christ assumed physical form in the New Testament, He walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of day. At least that is how I personally understand the following verse. As you read this verse, ask yourself why Adam and Eve would hide "from the presence of the LORD", if He was not actually there:

"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."

Genesis 3:8, KJV

It sounds very much like Jesus was physically or spiritually in the Garden of Eden in some tangible form. If this is correct, then a Spiritual Being was enjoying the beauty of a very physical Garden on a very physical Earth. Another clear example which I have mentioned before concerns how the Lord appeared to the Apostles, allowed them to touch Him, and even ate and drank with them, following His Resurrection from the dead. So here again we see a Spiritual Being interacting with the physical world. I discuss this and related issues in the article "Sex, a Bowl of Soup, and the Nature of Angels". So my point is this: In certain instances, Spiritual Beings can interact with the physical world. That being the case, maybe the New Earth is a real, physical planet.

But am I personally convinced of this point? As I mentioned earlier, not any more. In fact, although I haven't mentioned it in any articles yet, I am even wondering if perhaps the new heavens and the New Earth already exist, and have in fact existed for some time now. For a number of decades now, more forward-thinking scientists and theoretical physicists have pondered the possibility of the existence of multiple planes or dimensions of existence, beyond the four dimensions we currently know. At this current time, some theories propose as many as ten or more dimensions. Central to proving these theories is the LHC -- or Large Hadron Collider -- which is located on the French-Swiss border.

As some of you may know, some theoretical physicists likewise propose the existence of multiple universes, or what has been referred to as a Multiverse. While these ideas regarding ten or more dimensions, and multiple parallel universes have not been proven yet, what if the new heavens and the New Earth now exist in one of these parallel dimensions? That is to say, in a parallel spiritual dimension. What if the Spiritual Beings who reside in that spiritual dimension are able to cross over into, and interact in, our physical plane? Isn't this more or less what Angels did in the Bible? Isn't this what Jesus also did following His Resurrection from the dead?

Quite frankly, other than the saving of human souls here on the physical Earth, it just seems a bit strange to me that God would pause prophetic history, and the fulfillment of His Word, as many Christians widely believe and are taught today. It is increasingly becoming my impression, based on my study of the Holy Scriptures, that God's Plan, and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, is an ongoing and continuous development. Furthermore, I suspect that the long pauses in time in some prophetic events -- such as the Seventy Weeks prophecy that was given to the Prophet Daniel -- may be the doctrines and opinions of misguided theologians and Bible teachers, who have applied such meanings to the Word, because that is what fits into their personal interpretation of the same. But what if they are wrong? What if the prophecies of the Bible did not just suddenly stop sometime during the First Century, and the new heavens and the New Earth already exist now in some parallel dimension or plane of existence?

I will be discussing these issues more at length in upcoming articles. Whatever the case may be, I am convinced that God will fulfil all of His Word, in His time, and in the way in which He deems most appropriate. Consider the following

verses:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19, KJV

". . . For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

Psalms 119:89, KJV

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

Psalms 119:160, KJV

"The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."

Psalms 33:11, KJV

This leads us to a related point. We often hear of people who claim to have gone to Heaven, or who have dreamed of going to Heaven. Whether or not they really have, I honestly do not know; but personally, I take such accounts with a huge grain of salt, because there are certain elements of their stories which do not seem Scripturally sound to me. However, if what they say is true, and if my theory regarding the new heavens and the New Earth already existing in a parallel dimension is correct, it has occurred to me that maybe these people have not really gone to Heaven, but rather to the New Earth. After all, as we discussed earlier, the Bible plainly states in the Book of Revelation that the Heavenly City descends to the New Earth, and that God the Father and Jesus Christ make their dwelling with the saved citizens on the New Earth, as we see by the following verses:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell

with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

Revelation 21:1-3, KJV

Returning to our main theme regarding there being spiritual animals in Heaven, a clear case in point concerns the Prophet Elijah's final minutes on the planet Earth, and how he was taken to Heaven. Many of you will be familiar with the story. Consider the following set of verses:

"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces."

2 Kings 2:11-12, KJV

Is the previous account just a figure of speech, or perhaps the author's best attempt at describing something with which he was totally unfamiliar? It certainly does not seem like it. Some people have considered the possibility that this event might be a reference to some type of Celestial Craft, or what is commonly interpreted today as a UFO, or as a UAP, the latter of which means Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon, or Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena. In ancient Jewish mystic literature, this chariot-like vehicle is referred to as a "merkabah". In most cases, while this Hebrew word refers to a regular chariot, when it comes to Jewish mysticism, it is associated with God's throne-chariot, as described in Ezekiel chapters one and ten.

I include the same verses in the aforementioned series called "Under the Cloud: UFOs and the Holy Bible". While the author may be writing in a symbolic sense, his description does seem quite literal. If such be the case, these were obviously not physical flesh and blood horses as we know them. After all, horses cannot fly up into the sky, or be surrounded by flames and survive. Thus, I conclude that they must have actually been spiritual creatures.

As many of you will know, this is not the only place in the Bible where we find the mention of Celestial Horses. In the Book of Revelation, we discover that just as Prophet Elijah was taken up to Heaven by a chariot of fire which was drawn by horses of fire, so too, Jesus returns with the Host of

Heaven for the Battle of Armageddon, riding upon magnificent white horses. Consider the following set of verses:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

Revelation 19:11-14, KJV

This wonderful event sounds very similar to ancient legends regarding mighty godlike beings who rode upon winged horses. As you may know, even in the field of astronomy, there is a constellation called Pegasus, which is a starry image of a winged horse. Are these accounts in the Bible -- as well as other ancient myths -- simply highly exaggerated stories of something more mundane? Or is it possible that the authors described and wrote exactly what they saw? If they are very literal, then what a wonderful encouragement they should be for those of us who have lost our beloved pets due to old age, or due to other causes. After all, if horses exist in Heaven, then it is quite probable that other creatures can be found there as well. Perhaps someday we shall meet our beloved pets again; either in the Halls Of Heaven, or on the surface of the New Earth, or maybe romping in the streets of the Golden City called New Jerusalem.

But let's back up a minute to the beginning of our story. From what I understand from the Scriptures, animals have spirits just as much as we humans do. Stop and think about this for a minute: The Lord made Adam from the dust of the Earth. When he was first created, Adam was just a lifeless mass of flesh. In other words, while Adam was fully formed, he was not yet alive. Consider the following verse which proves this point:

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Genesis 2:7, KJV

Please carefully note that Adam didn't become a living soul, a living container or vessel, until God actually breathed

into him His life-giving Spirit, His life force, a spark of energy from the Eternal. It is only then that Adam became a self-aware, conscious, thinking, fully-functioning, living being.

Now let us consider the creation of other animals. First of all, it is important to note that they were made before man. This tells us something interesting: When God formed Adam from the ground, just like from a mold, I suspect that He must have been repeating a process and method which He had already used previously to create animal life. If not from the ground, then from where else did animal life originate? Personally, I do not believe that the Lord just zapped them into existence. They came from the very same place as Adam. They came forth from the ground. Everything was made from the minerals of the very Earth itself.

If you doubt what I am saying here, then please consider the following group of verses. As you read them, in particular, notice phrases such as "Let the earth bring forth" and "out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field". That seems rather clear to me:

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so."

Genesis 1:11, KJV

"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven."

Genesis 1:20, KJV

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."

Genesis 1:24, KJV

"And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof."

Genesis 2:19, KJV

So as you can plainly see, everything, both man and beast, came forth and was created from the ground. In that respect,

they are really equal. In the case of marine life, perhaps creatures of the sea were formed from the mud in the bottom of the worldwide ocean. Of course, being God, He could also have created them on the dry land and then transported them, still unconscious, to the water, where He then proceeded to breath the Spirit of life into them. The exact step-by-step mechanics is not really important insofar as our current discussion is concerned.

What is important here, is the overall process; and that is that similar to Adam, all animal life must have likewise had God's life force -- that is to say, His Spirit -- placed in them in order to make them alive. So then, what we have seen is that insofar as the creation itself is concerned, man and beast are equals, because they were created by the very same process, and they both originated from the very same place. That is to say, the ground.

Therefore, based upon the manner of creation, man is not so different from animals in a purely biological sense. Dare I say no better? Furthermore, as you may already know, man was in fact the very last thing that God created during those Six Days. As I will explain shortly, I believe the Lord may have had a good reason for doing things in that particular order.

If we really stop to think about it, in a physical sense, the animal kingdom outdoes man in many regards. For example, in speed, in the ability to jump, or to swim, or to fly, in strength, in natural defense mechanisms, in beauty, in the ability to camouflage, in navigational systems, in sensory perception, in reproduction, etc. No doubt some proud, vain people will take offense by my statement; particularly by the beauty part.

The truth of the matter is that in order to match or better any of these amazing qualities that we find in the animal kingdom, man has had to resort to both his intelligence and artificial means, without which he really is not such a fantastic being after all. That can be quite a blow to our human pride and vanity. I will be delving more deeply into this point in a moment.

If you are old enough to remember, just think for a moment of what the world was like even sixty or seventy years ago before we had all of our modern technology. As a matter of fact, go all the way back to Eden and consider some of the

impressions and ideas which may have passed through Adam's mind and heart when the Lord first made him a conscious, living being. Naturally, I would imagine that he must have been overwhelmed by the beauty of the Garden of Eden: the vibrant life, the wonderful colors, the peace, the love he must have felt from and towards his Creator. It must have been a very powerful experience for Adam.

Undoubtedly, it will be very much the same for us Christians when we finally meet the Lord face-to-face, and behold with our own eyes, the beautiful Heavenly City, New Jerusalem, which God has prepared for those who love Him. I am certain that we will be breathless! We will be speechless! We will be totally floored! We will be awed out of our wits! This is a subject I discuss more in-depth in articles such as "This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future" and "New Jerusalem: Heavenly City and Mountain of the Lord's House". I am reminded of the following group of inspiring verses:

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

1 Corinthians 2:9-12, KJV

To continue, as you will know, sometime after the Lord had created Adam, He gave him the responsibility of naming all of the animals. Think for a minute about what Adam may have possibly experienced as he explored this wonderful, amazing, new world, and gazed upon the myriad of life forms which God brought to him to name. Aside from the obvious wonder of it all, it has occurred to me that Adam may have possibly begun to realize his own human limitations. For example, as Adam gazed upon the eagle soaring way above his head in the sky, is it possible that he thought to himself, "Wow! I wish I could fly like that!"? Or when he saw the male peacock, or the beautiful butterflies, "Gee, I wish I had colors like that!" Or when he saw the speed and grace of the gazelle, or the cheetah, "Oh, if only I could run as fast as they do!" Or when he saw fish swimming in a lake or in the ocean, "If

only I could hold my breath and swim under the water for a long time as they do!" Or when he beheld the strength of a gorilla, "Wow! What strength! If only I was that strong!"

To be honest, how many of us think similar things today as we behold the wonders of the amazing animal kingdom? I know that I have done so. In fact, as I mentioned earlier, it is because of these very normal and natural human desires to acquire these abilities which are possessed by the animal kingdom, that man has created such things as airplanes, boats, trains, cars, boats, SCUBA gear, paragliders, etc.

But concerning Adam, with each new animal that he named, it seems likely that he may have discovered a new limitation of his own. Perhaps he even became conscious of his own human shortcomings. Maybe he began to see his own lacks and needs. Surely, Adam must have begun to realize that he was not the strongest or the most powerful of God's creatures. He knew that there were many things which the other creatures could do which he could not do. It is my belief that this could be part of the reason why God made Adam last, and then brought all of the other creatures to him. Maybe God wanted Adam to understand his rightful place in this new world. He wanted to make sure that Adam had the proper attitude and respect for the rest of creation. That is to say, a humble attitude. As the Apostle Peter writes in his first Epistle:

Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

1 Peter 5:3, KJV

While the previous verse is obviously referring to shepherds and their spiritual flocks, I believe that the same attitude and lesson can also be applied to the kind of relationship that the Lord wanted Adam -- and by extension, us as well -- to have with His other creations. In our day and age we have such a high and mighty opinion concerning ourselves. It is really sickening. But as I mentioned earlier, take away all of our false trappings of modern technology, and we become rather weak and helpless. We like to think that we are so much better than the rest of God's creation because of our level of intelligence, but are we really that much better?

As I point out in the article "Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?", a brief look at our history of wars, at our destruction of the environment, and at the current level of worldwide oppression, poverty and famine due to

greed and unscrupulous politics, will quickly confirm to any open-minded individual that we are the most violence-prone, destructive, oppressive and wasteful creatures upon the face of the planet! Of course, humanists and Dominionists do not like to hear this kind of talk.

If it were not for the fact that we are made in God's image, -- that is to say, with two arms, two legs, a head, a torso, two feet, etc., plus with a higher intelligence -- we would be exactly the same as the rest of creation. Just like them, we eat, we sleep, we play, we fight, we kill, we teach and protect our young, and we live socially. At least some of us do.

In fact, as you may know, we are learning more each day how each animal species has a language of its own with which it communicates with its peers. We are also learning how some of these creatures are much more intelligent than what was at first realized. Contrary to outdated ideas, animals are NOT ruled merely by their instinct as some proud people like to insist. Animals actually do learn from their experiences. They also know how to make decisions. They have emotions, including love, fear, loneliness, sadness, caring, etc.

Whether we are a human being or other mammal, reptile, fish, or amphibian, we all share some of these same common traits. Even the insect world shares many of these characteristics. We are all part of the same vast web of life; and just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, so too, the web of life is only as strong as its weakest strand. Could it be that we are that weak strand, the one chosen by God to support and dominate the entire web?

In spite of the fact that Adam was created by the very hands of God, we know that he was every bit as human as the rest of us today. He possessed the very same pride and self image that we all possess. I wonder if things would have been any different if God had created Adam BEFORE all of the rest of the animals. So then, after allowing Adam's pride and vanity to be humbled a bit by the greatness and beauty of the other creatures in the Garden, after Adam had come to understand his own true nature, that is when we are told that the Lord made Eve from his rib. As we read in the Book of Genesis:

"And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a

deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis 2:20-23, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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The Salvation of Animals : Fact or Fiction? Part 3

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Was Adam Saddened To Find Himself Alone And Without A Human Mate?, Adam's Reaction To Meeting Eve, God Made Adam And Eve The Stewards Of Creation Over Which He Granted Them Dominion, Adam And Eve Were Free Will Beings, Was Evil Working In Adam And Eve's Hearts Before Their Encounter With Satan?, Why Were Adam And Eve Close To The Forbidden Tree?, Satan's Creation Rebellion And Fall From Heaven, Our Unregenerate Wicked Human Heart, Satan Causes Eve To Doubt God's Word, Resist The Devil And Beware Of His Devices, Satan Outright Lies To Eve And Eve Succumbs To His Temptation, Misguided Eve-Satan-Cain Theory, The Fallen Angels And Birth Of The Nephilim, The Importance Of Controlling Our Thoughts, Cain Was Fathered By Adam, The Ease With Which Adam And Eve Were Deceived By Satan, Beware Of The Lusts Of The World, Sin Is The Transgression Of God's Laws, How Adam And Eve's Fall Affected The Entire Creation, From Strict Vegetarians To Being Carnivores And Omnivores, Canopy Of Water Ultraviolet Radiation And Accelerated Aging, Fear Of Man Comes Upon All Living Creatures After The Flood, Three Conditions God Set Following The Genesis Flood, Animals Are Under Human Subjection, Eat According To Your Own Faith

Continuing our discussion from part two, I have wondered if up until that point in which God created Eve, Adam may have been a little saddened after having come to the realization that he was the only being of his kind. There was no other creature exactly like him in the entire Garden of Eden. Did Adam feel alone? Would you if you were in his situation? All of the animals had a mate, yet he did not. Coupled with the realization of his own limitations compared to the amazing abilities of some of the rest of the creatures in Eden, the Lord must have gotten him in the right frame of mind so that when Eve was finally presented to Adam, he must have been extremely overjoyed and very appreciative.

Imagine the thoughts that may have run through Adam's head: "Wow! She looks just like me! Well, almost! Man oh man is she gorgeous! What a knockout!" Please notice also that Eve was made from Adam's side. Perhaps the Lord did this as a sign that Eve was to be Adam's equal and a copartner in the Lord's creation, and not someone over whom Adam was to be a lord. She wasn't made from an arm, or a leg, or a foot bone, but rather from a rib near to Adam's heart. We are then told that the Lord made Adam and Eve to have dominion over the rest His creation, as we see by the following verses:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

Genesis 1:26-28, KJV

After having made Adam aware of his proper relationship with his fellow creatures, the Lord made him and Eve the stewards of creation. As the previous verses indicate, even before He had actually created them, the Lord knew exactly what He had planned for them. In spite of the fact that they weren't the biggest, or the fastest, or the most powerful of the Lord's creations on the Earth, nevertheless, God still chose Adam and Eve from before the foundation of the world to become

the dominant species on this planet.

In short, for His own divine reasons, God chose human beings to rule over the rest of His creatures. We might say that He purposely ordained Adam and Eve to be the king and queen of the prediluvian or antediluvian creation, meaning before the Genesis Flood occurred. However, as I have already pointed out, they were both merely human beings, and not gods. They also had the ability to choose between good and evil. They were free will beings, just as Satan and the other Angels were likewise free will beings. Having said that, I suspect -- but cannot conclusively prove -- that evil may possibly have already begun working in their hearts, even before their fateful encounter with Satan in Genesis chapter three.

As I said earlier, I believe that it is possible that Adam's pride and vanity may have already begun working against him the minute he came into contact with the other creatures and saw that they could do things which he couldn't. While we do not know the precise size of the Garden of Eden, doesn't it make you wonder exactly how it was that Adam and Eve were so close to the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil on that rather fateful day? Did they want to be tempted?

While the previous thought may surprise some of you, let us not forget that even though Satan himself was created by the very hand of God, nevertheless, he still had free will, he had his pride, evil was found in his heart, and ultimately, he chose to rebel against the Lord. I am reminded of what the Prophet Ezekiel said in the twenty-eighth chapter of his Book regarding Satan's sin, and likewise of what the Prophet Isaiah wrote as well. Consider the following group of verses:

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, TILL INIQUITY WAS FOUND IN THEE."

Ezekiel 28:13-15, KJV

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the

morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

Isaiah 14:12-15, KJV

As I point out in the articles "Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future", "Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires", and "When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven?", we discover that in three of the Gospels, Jesus likewise spoke of how the Devil was cast out of Heaven, and cast down to the Earth. Consider these astounding verses. Notice in particular how the Lord says "now shall the prince of this world be cast out" -- meaning cast out of Heaven -- and "for the prince of this world cometh" -- meaning to the Earth -- thus becoming the god of this world, exactly as the Apostle Paul wrote, and exactly as we read in the Book of Revelation:

"And he [Jesus] said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

Luke 10:18, KJV

"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."

John 12:31, KJV

"Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."

John 14:30, KJV

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens,

and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Revelation 12:7-12, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

Tying all of these thoughts together, the key point I wish to make is the following. If it was possible for the Devil to rebel, even though Adam and Eve were also created by the very hand of God, they too possessed this same potential for rebellion. I am reminded of what the Prophet Jeremiah wrote regarding the wicked nature of the unregenerate human heart:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

In fact, only three chapters later in the Book of Genesis, we find Moses writing the following regarding conditions on the Earth prior to the Genesis Flood:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Genesis 6:5, KJV

As I have shared in a number of other articles, in two of the Gospels, we also find Jesus saying the following with regards to the evil nature of the unregenerate human heart:

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen

hands defileth not a man."

Matthew 15:18-20, KJV

"And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

Mark 7:20-23, KJV

At any rate, by the time we arrive at the opening events of Genesis chapter three, wicked Satan has apparently already accomplished his rebellion against God, and has already been at work endeavoring to foil God's plans for His creation. In Genesis chapter three we read about the fateful encounter between Eve and that vile serpent, as we see by this verse:

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Genesis 3:1, KJV

Thus we behold the first part of the Devil's attack, when he purposely causes Eve to doubt God's Word. Satan already knew the answer to the question. However, he had to begin slowly by causing dear Eve to stop and think on her own, instead of continuing to trust in the Lord. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Romans, and as we also find in the Book of Proverbs:

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

Romans 8:7, KJV

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6, KJV

Thus, instead of just ignoring Satan, resisting his wicked, fleshly temptation, and running the other way as she should have done, Eve leaned to her own understanding and basically invited the Devil to pull up a chair and have a conversation with her, as we see by these next two verses:

"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

Genesis 3:2-3, KJV

Clearly, Eve was very much aware of God's rule concerning the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. So did she explain this to Satan due to her innocence? Or was she actually hoping to be tempted by him? That's a good question to which none of us know the answer. I am reminded of the wise counsel we find in the first two verses of Psalm 1, as well as in a number of other verses which are found in the Old and New Testaments. Consider the following verses and be warned:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

Psalm 1:1-2, KJV

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

1 Corinthians 10:13, KJV

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT."

John 8:44, KJV

"Neither give place to the devil."

Ephesians 4:27, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7, KJV

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ . . . And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

2 Corinthians 11:3, 14, KJV

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

So once dear Eve had clearly explained to the Devil what he obviously already knew in the first place, that vile serpent then proceeded to her an outright lie in direct contradiction to what the Lord had actually said, as we can determine by the following two verses:

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:4-5, KJV

And there it is! A direct hit on Eve's womanly pride and vanity! "Hey Eve, baby! You won't die, honey! You will be just like Him! You'll be a goddess!" Yes, I realize that I am being a bit dramatic here, but it is to make a point. I imagine that Satan must have really been lusting after Eve. After all, having been made by the very hands of God, maybe even modeled after one of His angelic entities, Eve must have been an absolute dream! She must have made ole Satan's heart go pitter-patter.

In case you are not aware of it, there are those people who actually believe that there is much more to this seduction story than what we currently find in our modern Bible. More to the point, some of them -- such as the Jews in their work "Legends of the Jews" -- claim that Eve actually engaged in sexual intercourse with Satan -- or some other Fallen Angel -- and that this illicit act resulted in the birth of Cain. The Wikipedia website notes the following regarding this particular theory:

----- Begin Quote -----

In one of the Legends of the Jews, Cain is the fruit of a union between Eve and Satan, who is also the angel Samael

and the serpent in the Garden of Eden, and Eve exclaims at Cain's birth, "I have gotten a man through an angel of the Lord."

In Jewish tradition, Philo, Pirke De-Rabbi Eliezer and the Targum Pseudo-Jonathan asserted that Adam was not the father of Cain. Rather, Eve was subject to adultery having been seduced by either Sammael, the serpent (nahash, Hebrew: נחש) in the Garden of Eden, or the devil himself. Christian exegesis of the "evil one" in 1 John 3:10–12 have also led some commentators, like Tertullian, to agree that Cain was the son of the devil or some fallen angel. Thus, according to some interpreters, Cain was half-human and half-angelic, one of the Nephilim (Genesis 6). Gnostic exegesis in the Apocryphon of John has Eve seduced by Yaldabaoth. However, in the Hypostasis of the Archons, Eve is raped by a pair of Archons.

----- End Quote -----

As I point out in articles such as "The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?" and "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis", one thing I will agree to is the fact that some of the Angelic Beings -- meaning the Fallen Angels -- definitely longed for human women because they found them very beautiful. Furthermore, their sexual union with human women did result in the birth of various races of giants, or Nephilim. However, aside from that, personally, I am not aware of any direct evidence in the Bible of this claim of Cain being fathered by the Devil. One set of verses which some of these people seem to pervert in order to supposedly support their theory are apparently the following ones:

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

1 John 3:10-12, KJV

However, please note that the phrase "of that wicked one" does NOT literally mean that Cain was born as a result of a sexual union between Eve and the Devil. If for the sake of argument we accept their wayward interpretation, should we likewise believe that when the Lord told the unbelieving

Jews in John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil", He was saying that they were literally and physically born of the Devil? Or should we also believe that when Jesus calls them the children of hell in the twenty-third chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, and likewise "the synagogue of Satan" in Revelation chapters two and three, He also meant that they were literally born as a result of an actual sexual union with Satan? I think not.

My personal belief is that the Lord was simply saying that they were being influenced by the Devil in their thoughts, and that Satan was blinding them to the truth. As we read earlier, the Apostle Paul wrote "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not." It is for this very same reason that in his second Epistle to the Corinthians, Paul also advises his readers to control their thoughts, as we see by the following verse:

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"
2 Corinthians 10:5, KJV

The truth of the matter is that the Book of Genesis very clearly informs us that Adam was the biological father of Cain. Let me mention here that in the following verse, the word "knew" is actually a euphemism for engaging in sexual intercourse in certain places in the Holy Scriptures:

"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD."
Genesis 4:1, KJV

But returning to the account of Eve being deceived by Satan, doesn't it seem strange that this is all it took, only three verses in the whole Bible, and Adam and Eve succumbed to Satan's lies? The very next verse tells us the following:

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."
Genesis 3:6, KJV

Thus we see that without a second thought, Eve, and then her husband Adam-- who just happened to be right next to her --

took of the forbidden fruit and caused the downfall of the human race. Due to their pride and vanity, which must have been steeping for some time prior to the event, they ignored the Lord's very clear warning, and turned their backs on the wonderful relationship they had with Him, and the blessing of living in the Garden of Eden. Towards the very end of the Bible, the Apostle John really exposes the tactics that Satan used to tempt and deceive Adam and Eve. Consider this group of verses:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17, KJV

Sadly, because Adam and Eve did NOT do the will of God, but chose to rebel against Him, they did NOT abide forever, as the Apostle John writes. Instead, not only were they doomed to die physically, but their close relationship with God was broken that day as well.

Notice how similar the above verses are to Genesis 3:6. The very same three elements are present in both verses. That is to say, the lust of the flesh -- "the tree was good for food" -- the lust of the eyes -- "it was pleasant to the eyes" -- and the pride of life -- "a tree to be desired to make one wise". Satan knew EXACTLY how to lead Adam and Eve into sin, thus breaking God's law. As the Apostle John writes, that is precisely what sin is, as we can determine by this verse:

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

1 John 3:4, KJV

At this point in our discussion, you may possibly wonder how the story of the fall of Adam and Eve relates to our primary discussion regarding the salvation of animals. Well, let me tell you. The point is that The Fall didn't just affect Adam and Eve and their offspring. It in fact affected the entire creation, including the animal kingdom. It threw EVERYTHING out of balance. For example, prior to The Fall, the Book of Genesis indicates that both man and beast were vegetarians, as we can easily determine by the following two verses:

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so."

Genesis 1:29-30, KJV

Animals did not kill each other for food, and man did not kill animals for food. As I explain in other articles, the first clear reference we find where the Lord permitted the eating of meat, is after the Great Deluge which occurred in Noah's day. Some Bible students -- myself included -- hold the view that it was quite possibly the removal of the canopy of water which surrounded the Earth -- as a direct result of the Flood -- which contributed to the acceleration of the aging process in human beings.

In other words, the canopy of water acted as a filter. Once that canopy was removed, there was a sudden increase in the intensity of ultraviolet rays striking upon the world. I am not a scientist or a doctor, but it seems to me that it thus became necessary for our bodies to absorb more protein in order to counteract this harmful affect upon our frail human flesh. Following the Flood, we find God saying the following to Noah:

"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."

Genesis 9:1-6, KJV

Notice that it is at this point that animals first become afraid of man because the Lord lets them know that they are

now fair game to be caught, killed and eaten by humankind. Before The Fall, this was not so. Adam and Eve lived in communion with the animals. They were friends. Who knows, maybe they could even talk to each other. Is that too wild of a speculation for you? Well, what if that serpent in the Garden really was a serpent, and not symbolic of something else as some of us like to think? The main point to consider here is that the disobedience by Adam and Eve caused a major breach in creation. They totally upset the applecart. They threw things off balance; and the Lord has been working ever since to repair the damage which was caused by their foolish rebellion.

Notice that in the previous pronouncement to Noah and his family, the Lord sets three conditions: First, they must remove the blood from the meat before consuming it. Second, any animal which kills a human will be held accountable by God. Third, any man who kills another man will also be held accountable by the Lord. So again, because of the original transgression which had been committed by Adam and Eve due to their pride and vanity, all of creation has been put at our mercy. All animals have been, and will remain, under our human subjection until God grants them freedom from bondage and their full salvation, just as He will do with us as well.

Until that day arrives, those of us who eat meat will thus continue to go to the grocery store without a second thought or feeling of guilt and buy our pound of ground beef, or our hot dogs, or our roasted chicken, or our steak, or our spare ribs, or whatever it is that appeals to our taste. One thing we all need to remember, whether we are meat eaters or else vegetarians, is that God receives us all by our faith in His Son, and not by what we put into our mouths. As Jesus said in the Gospel of Mark:

"There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man . . . Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?"
Mark 7:15, 18-19, KJV

The Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Disciples at Rome, also expounded upon this very same topic. In Romans chapter fourteen, Paul writes in part:

"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him . . . Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind . . . Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost . . . For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin. We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."

Romans 14:1-3, 5, 13-17, 20-23, 15:1-3, KJV

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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The Salvation of Animals : Fact or Fiction? Part 4

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God Curses The Ground And Causes Thorns And Thistles To Grow, Did God Kill The Very First Animal To Clothe Adam And Eve?, Why Did God Clothe Adam And Eve In Animal Skins?, The Entire Creation Was Negatively Affected By Adam And Eve's Rebellion, Rebellion Of The Fallen Angels And The Nephilim, God Regrets Having Created Humankind Due To Their Wickedness, God Decides To Send A Flood To Destroy All Land-Based Life In The World, The Bible Is Similar To An Interconnecting Crossword Puzzle, Death And The Grave: The Common Fate Of Man And Beast, We Are The Same, Possible Reasons For The Downfall Of Adam And Eve, A Devilish Conversation, King Solomon Exposes The Vanity And Pride Of The Human Condition, Our Wicked Human Heart, All Of Creation Is Waiting For Deliverance From Bodily Corruption And Transformation To Immortal Bodies, God Placed The Animal Kingdom Under The Subjection Of Man, Vain Miserable Hopeless Existence Without Faith In Christ And Resurrection, Universal Reconciliation, God's Ultimate Plan And Will, We've Not Been Faithful Stewards Of The Earth, My Environmental Statement, The Whole Creation Groaneth And Travailleth In Pain, A Stiff Warning In Revelation, A Day Of Salvation And Restoration, Verses Regarding Coming Restitution, Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part three, and returning to the Garden of Eden, not only was the animal kingdom affected by The Fall, but we are even informed that the plant kingdom suffered as well. This was due to the sad fact that the Lord also cursed the ground, and caused thorns and thistles to grow, as we can determine by the following two verses:

"And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;"

Genesis 3:17-18, KJV

Notice that at this point, the Lord is still indicating that man will only eat herbs, and not meat. The only difference after The Fall is that man would now have to grow them for

himself in an unyielding soil. One school of thought also suggests that through their act of disobedience, the Lord was forced to kill His own creation in order to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve, as we see by the following verse:

"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

Genesis 3:21, KJV

It could be that the Lord did this for shock value to show Adam and Eve exactly how serious their sin was. Imagine; they had never seen anything killed before. The horror of having to wear the coat or skin of another animal must have really shaken them up. Perhaps this is similar to when the Lord would later put a mark on Cain after he had slain his brother, Abel. Adam and Eve would be constantly reminded of their transgression, and of how they had upset God's entire plan. Not only that, but because of the extended life span in those days, they would watch as their descendants grew up suffering and toiling because of their mistake.

So, as we can see, all of creation was affected, and not just humankind. The web of life was forever altered. From that point forward, death, violence and wickedness entered the world, as was manifested some time later beginning with the story of Cain and Abel. As I briefly mentioned in part three, a few short chapters later in Genesis chapter six, we are told that Satan launched a second major attack against the Lord's creation. During that incident, the rebellious angelic sons of Gods, known as the Watchers, led by Azazel, Semjase, and others, descended to the Earth on Mount Hermon, and engaged in sexual intercourse with human women.

As a result of this angelic rebellion, the situation became even worse, being as an evil, violent race of hybrid giants -- known as the Nephilim, or Fallen Ones -- were spawned from these illicit unions of beings of flesh and beings of spirit. For a more in-depth look at this subject, please refer to my two series "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis" and "The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?", which you will find listed at the end of this same series. To continue, as we know from the Biblical record, the Lord finally repented Himself of having even created humankind, as we see by the following two verses:

"And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will

destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them."

Genesis 6:6-7, KJV

Allow me to point out that in the previous two verses, the word "repented" is derived from the Hebrew word "nacham", one of the meanings of which is to be sorry, or to regret something. In short, God regretted creating humankind due to their continual wicked deeds. Thus, as I point out in articles such as "Noah's Ark and the Genesis Flood", as well as in "Genesis Flood: The Urantia Book Exposed Again!", in the terrible flood which occurred during the days of the Patriarch Noah, we witness the total destruction of all land-based and air-breathing creatures. That is to say, except for those animals which were rescued by Noah and his family.

One thing I have pointed out in a number of my articles, is the fact that the entire Bible is interconnected like a big jigsaw puzzle. Being as the Bible is the Word of God, you might wish to refer to it more as a crossword puzzle. After all, the Bible is the Word, and its main message is indeed the Cross of Salvation. We just have to follow the hints in order to figure out where each of the words goes, so that we can make some sense out of it all. As we prayerfully connect one word, or one verse, with another, everything begins to slowly fall into place. In this way, we discover that there are central themes which are carried throughout the entire Bible from beginning to end.

Having now clearly established the common creation of man and animal, the downfall of both through the sin of Adam and Eve, and their subsequent destruction, let us move up to the Book of Ecclesiastes where we find other verses which share the same theme regarding creation. It is my observation that many people do not read the following verses correctly. They usually pick out just the last verse, and ignore the verses which come before it, so as to supposedly validate their own personal interpretation. Not only that, but they fail to recognize that the final verse has a question mark at the end of it, rather than a period. In my view, the writer is not really making a statement of fact. He is speaking in a rhetorical sense:

"I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see

that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

Ecclesiastes 3:18-21, KJV

Notice, first of all, that he says that both man and beast follow the same fate. That is, we all die and return to the ground. Death is inevitable for all of us. But then he tells us "yea, they have all one breath." We all share the same spirit or life force from God. We each have a spirit. When that spirit or spark of Divine Energy departs from each of us, whether we be man or beast, we die. But then notice what he says: ". . . man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity." What does he mean by that? Well, I believe it may mean he is saying, just as I pointed out earlier, that we are no better than the beasts of the Earth. We all suffer the same fate. To think otherwise is vanity. It is vain for us to think that we are better than God's other creations. He made us all, so why should they be considered any less than we? After all, we all die and return to the ground.

As I said earlier, perhaps this is partially what led to the downfall of Adam and Eve. Beginning with Adam first, they realized that they lacked certain of the abilities of some of the other creatures in the Garden. They could not fly up into the sky. They couldn't swim under water. They couldn't run as fast as a deer. And some of those animals sure had beautiful colors! So in their own pride, maybe Adam and Eve exalted themselves in their hearts above everything else to heal their own hurt. That is to say, to heal their wounded pride.

While it is true that the Lord had given them dominion over the rest of creation -- that is, to take care of it -- they were not satisfied. They wanted more, and Satan knew it. So, he looked for the weakest chink in their armour, and he found it. It was the same thing which had caused his own downfall: his pride and vanity in wanting more, and his dissatisfaction with the job and responsibilities that God had given him to do. So Satan used these very same things and attacked Adam and Eve in their thoughts. Perhaps the conversation went

something like the following:

"Hey guys, I know you aren't satisfied with just being the keepers of God's creation. You can't even do everything that they can do. So, being as I am your good buddy, I will let you both in on a little secret: God lied to you! Yep . . . He sure did; because He doesn't want you to be as powerful as He is. You see that tree over that? Yeah, that one you've eyeballing for a while now. Hey, don't worry. I know you've been hanging around this part of the Garden for a reason. So listen "friends", if you really want the power of the gods, just take a bite out of that fruit and wallah! You will be just like Him! All-powerful! You'll be the absolute tops in creation! I guarantee it!"

As I point out in a number of other articles, that is what is meant by not being ignorant of Satan's devices. That is to say, the lies and doubts which the Devil speaks to our minds which cause us to question God and finally rebel against Him. The writer of Ecclesiastes, who is commonly believed to be King Solomon, then repeats himself by saying that we all die and return to the Earth. And then he pops his heavy question. It isn't so much of a question as it is a challenge to those who are reading his words: "How do you know that our spirits go up -- to heaven -- while the spirits of animals go down to the Earth?"

In essence, I believe that Solomon is rebuking humanity for their haughtiness, and thinking that we are somehow better, or that we deserve a better fate than the animal kingdom. Remember, King Solomon had been around for a while. Being so rich and famous, he must have entertained a lot of people of stature from foreign lands. The Lord had likewise granted him the gift of wisdom far above his peers. He knew what resided in the vain hearts of man. Let me remind you again of what the Prophet Jeremiah wrote regarding this very same issue:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

So, it appears that Solomon was aware of some deep spiritual truths which he tried to share through his writings. Moving up to the New Testament, we find some additional Scriptures which deal with the creation of man and animals, The Fall, the effect of The Fall on man and beast, and the final hope of both. In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul

writes the following:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

Romans 8:18-23, KJV

My friends, that is pretty heavy stuff! It appears that Paul is making a clear distinction between human life and animal life in these verses. Notice that he says the creature -- which I suspect really means animals -- is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. You can interpret this in two ways. First, just like us, the animal kingdom is waiting for the restoration of all things, so that like us, they can finally be delivered from the corruption -- or the physical decay -- which follows death, and thus be clothed in immortal bodies.

It is also possible that the term "sons of God" refers to us -- that is to say, God's saved children on Earth. In other words, they -- meaning the creatures -- know that when we are delivered and transformed, they will likewise be delivered as well. Paul makes this very clear when he says "also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption". In other words, "in addition to humankind." In short, I believe that Paul may be trying to help his readers to understand that he's talking about salvation and deliverance for two separate parties here: humankind and animal kind. This is further confirmed when he uses the phrase "And not only they, but ourselves also."

Please notice what Paul says right before that regarding how the animal kingdom has been placed in subjection due to the vanity of man: "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope . . ." As we know from the verses in Genesis, the Lord gave Adam and Eve dominion over the plant and animal

kingdoms. The animals did not ask for this. It was not their idea. As this verse states, in spite of the vanity which God already knew existed in the hearts of Adam and Eve, He did it hoping that Adam and Eve would be good keepers over the plant and animal kingdoms and do the right thing. God hoped that they would maintain the correct attitude toward their fellow creatures and take proper care of them.

I am even wondering if perhaps God didn't purposely do this to try to appease their vanity, just like when we sometimes spoil our children with certain things. As I noted earlier, after seeing all of those wonderful animals, Adam and Eve must have become aware of their own physical shortcomings. So perhaps they felt somewhat intimidated, and a little humiliated. Thus, in their pride and vanity -- which God obviously foresaw even before He had created them -- maybe they asked the Lord to place them in charge of the rest of creation. The Lord knew from the beginning how things would turn out, so this could be why we find Him counseling with His Father -- or whoever else was present -- and saying:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Genesis 1:26, KJV

As I explained earlier, this subjection to humanity became even more drastic after the Genesis Flood when the Lord made it permissible to eat meat. Since that time, all of creation has groaned in the spirit waiting for their deliverance from the atrocities committed by humankind. So as I said before, the Apostle Paul appears to be making it clear that he is talking about the salvation of both man and animals when he writes "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also." Exactly what is it that both we and all animal life are waiting for? As Paul continues to say, "waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

As we learned a few paragraphs earlier, King Solomon wrote that the vanity of life is that we all live, die and decay in the ground. The Apostle Paul takes this thought even a step further when he writes that if this life is all there is, and if there is no hope of resurrection, transformation

and eternal life, then truly, we are one miserable lot who live without hope, as we see by the following set of verses:

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

1 Corinthians 15:19, KJV

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"

Ephesians 2:12, KJV

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

1 Thessalonians 4:13, KJV

In short, what we are discussing here is what some people refer to as "Universal Reconciliation". The Bible indicates that God's plan of Restoration and Salvation will not be complete until everything He has created on Earth, both human and animal, has been reconciled to Himself as much as possible. In fact, not just here on Earth in the physical plane, but in the spiritual plane as well. Furthermore, if God created life on other planets -- a possibility which I amply discuss in articles such as the series called "Alien Life, Extrasolar Planets and Universal Atonement" -- then there as well. Anything short of that, and God will have failed to some degree in His plan and purpose, which is the following:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent . . . All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will

raise him up at the last day."

John 6:29, 37-40, KJV

Of course, as I point out in the article entitled "Free Will and Personal Choice", we must also remember that we are all free moral agents. As such, we must each choose Salvation of our own free accord through faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, when we are drawn to Jesus by the Father.

To wrap up this series, let us now consider the totality of the verses I have shared with you in this series, and apply them to our current time. As we continue to march through the first half of the twenty-first century, if there is one thing of which we can be certain, it is that humankind has not been a faithful steward over the rest of creation which has been placed in subjection to him. As I pointed out at the beginning of the series, not only have we consistently destroyed ourselves through our many wars, but we have also polluted, and continue to pollute and destroy, what is left of our very fragile environment. We have polluted skies, polluted oceans, polluted streams, rivers and lakes, and polluted land.

Furthermore we have literally thousands of manmade devices such as satellites and other junk orbiting in our upper atmosphere. We have left junk on the Moon and other worlds beyond. We have a weakening ozone layer. We have acid rain which is destroying our forests. We have had countless oil spills in our oceans. We have worldwide air pollution due to a variety of motor vehicles and other devices which utilize fossil fuels, even though it has been said that free energy could be made available to all. The Gulf War oilfield fires also left their mark on our environment. We have toxic fluids and radioactive materials stored or dumped all over the world, some in our oceans, as well as some on and in the land. We continue to destroy our forests -- particularly the tropical rain forests -- at an alarming rate due to the expansion of farmlands, and our need for paper and other wood products. Meanwhile, the Earth's population continues to grow each year.

All of the negative activity we conduct is not only affecting humankind, but it is also radically affecting both the plant and animal kingdoms. Many environments -- terrestrial as well as aquatic -- have been destroyed, or at least drastically altered, forcing many animal species to seek new habitats. In many areas, the food chain has been broken, threatening some

species with possible extinction. We have over hunted certain animals for sport, for trophies, for financial gain, for food, or because they are a nuisance like the buffalo, the elephant, the wolf, the rhinoceros, the fur seal, the whale, and the tuna, to name a few.

In the process of capturing food from the oceans of the world, thousands of other valuable species -- such as the dolphin -- are needlessly caught in our nets and destroyed. Many other animals are maimed or killed due to our aquatic pleasure craft conflicting with their environment, like the Florida Manatee which now faces almost certain extinction in the foreseeable future. So as the Apostle Paul wrote, "the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

The animal kingdom truly groans and waits to be delivered from the corrupt, destructive, egotistical ways of humankind, because we have not taken proper care of them as the Lord commanded us to do. In thinking about these things, I am reminded of a serious warning that was found in the Book of Revelation. It states the following:

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; AND SHOULDEST DESTROY THEM WHICH DESTROY THE EARTH."

Revelation 11:18, KJV

However, we can also take comfort in the fact that the Bible informs us that one of these days, the Lord will offer full redemption and restoration to us, meaning a new resurrected body. Considering that He knows how much we love and cherish our pets, whatever they happen to be, His restoration plan will hopefully include our beloved pets in Heaven as well. In that day, all of creation will finally be brought back into perfect harmony and restitution with God, and with each other, and then we will all praise the Lord together. All of creation, both physical and spiritual, will be brought back into subjection to Him who is all in all, by the hand of His Son, Jesus Christ. And then, even Jesus Christ will submit Himself unto His Father's will. For as we are told in the Holy Scriptures:

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

Isaiah 11:6-9, KJV

"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."

Isaiah 65:25, KJV

". . . the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Acts 3:19-21, KJV

"For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

1 Corinthians 15:27-28, KJV

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:10-11, KJV

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;"

Philippians 2:10, KJV

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned

like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Philippians 3:21, KJV

"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Colossians 1:19-20, KJV

"Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him." Hebrews 2:8, KJV

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11, KJV

"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Revelation 5:13, KJV

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:1-5, KJV

With these exciting verses concerning our bright future, I will bring this series to its conclusion. I trust that you

have enjoyed it, learned something from it, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life. Until that great and glorious day of your graduation arrives, I encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and the Finisher of your faith!

If you have enjoyed reading this series, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics that are related to this series. All of them are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

Alien Life, Extrasolar Planets and Universal Atonement
Child of the Lamb, or Child of the Goat?
Free Will and Personal Choice
Genesis Flood: The Urantia Book Exposed Again!
Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?
Leviathan: An Ancient Dragon of the Sea?
Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis
New Jerusalem: Heavenly City and Mountain of the Lord's House
Noah's Ark and the Genesis Flood
Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future
Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires
Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?
Sex, a Bowl of Soup, and the Nature of Angels
The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?
The Lamb of God Was a Goat!
This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future
Under the Cloud: UFOs and the Holy Bible
What About the Poor?
When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven?

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