

The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men : Part 1

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Some time ago -- actually, over fourteen years ago when I wrote the original version of this series -- I was involved in a conversation in which we were discussing the fact that the Bible states that Jesus was made a little lower than the Angels while He inhabited human flesh. There are actually three verses in the Bible which mention this point. I will quote the verses around them in order to provide the proper context for each one:

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour."
Psalms 8:4-5, KJV

In his Epistle to the Hebrew brethren, we find the Apostle Paul reflecting back on the words of David the Psalmist in describing Christ's Ministry on Earth, as we see by these verses:

"But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 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. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the

angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

Hebrews 2:6-10, KJV

From this point, the discussion that we were holding at that time branched out to include the topic of the judgement of Angels by actual human beings. As surprising as this truth will no doubt be for some of you, this amazing fact can be scripturally verified through the following verse that is found in Paul's first Epistle to the brethren at Corinth, as we see here:

"Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?"

1 Corinthians 6:3, KJV

If one takes sufficient time to read the Epistles in their entirety, he will come to understand that the Apostle Paul was knowledgeable of a number of deep spiritual truths which he only touched on lightly in his letters to the Christian brethren. As he himself said "Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age", as we see by the following verses:

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 5:12-14, KJV

While Paul hinted at certain meaty topics in his Epistles, he didn't provide us with a lot of detail concerning some of them; and quite frankly, he left us wondering about exactly what he meant. This certainly appears to be the case when it comes to his comments concerning the judgment of Angels by human beings. Exactly what Paul meant by this is difficult to say, and is open to personal speculation. An interpretation that I have heard over the years which seems logical and makes sense, is that having partaken of this life as well as the next -- at least when we finally get there -- this will place us in a unique position; just as Jesus also acquired a unique status by having partaken of both the Heavenly Realm, as well as the Earthly Realm.

In fact, we are told that through His physical death on the Cross, Jesus also became the Firstfruits of the Resurrection; that is, the Firstborn, and the progenitor of a new race of beings, which somehow combines flesh and Spirit, as we see by the following verses:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

1 Corinthians 15:19-23, KJV

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature . . . And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:12-15, 18, KJV

"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"

Hebrews 12:23, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

It has been said -- and rightly so -- that one reason why Jesus makes such a great Intercessor for us, is because He came to our planet and lived in the flesh. He experienced all of the feelings and emotions, trials and tribulations, heartaches, temptations, etc. that we humans experience. He truly understands our human frailties, our weaknesses and our shortcomings. The Apostle Paul makes mention of these very points in several of his Epistles, as we see by the following verses:

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Romans 8:34, KJV

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 4:15, KJV

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"

Hebrews 5:8, KJV

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Hebrews 7:25, KJV

For these reasons, Jesus is the very best Defense Attorney

that we can possibly have against the accusations of the Devil, who in a sense is the Prosecuting Attorney in the Heavenly Courts. In fact, the New Testament refers to that old serpent as the Father of Lies, as well as the Accuser of the Saints, as we see by these verses:

"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

"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."
Revelation 12:10, KJV

Imagine a slick prosecuting attorney who uses every legal trick in the book in order to try to convince the jury to deliver a guilty verdict for the accused. That's Satan. He believes in no leeway, no mercy and no compassion; just the cold, hard letter of the law; and according to God's Laws, we are all guilty as charged, and worthy of death. Thus, it is written:

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"
Psalms 130:3, KJV

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 6:23, KJV

That is precisely why Jesus accused the Scribes and the Pharisees of being the children of the Devil. When it came to their treatment of the common people, they were just as cold, hard, uncaring and legalistic as the Devil himself. But, as Jesus and the Apostle Paul both tell us:

"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."
2 Corinthians 3:6, KJV

"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."
Romans 2:28-29, KJV

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
John 4:24, 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

Just as we are told that Jesus learned obedience through the things which He suffered, in like manner, hopefully, we are also learning -- or at least will learn -- obedience through the things which we suffer in this life, and in the times to come. I am reminded of what Jesus said concerning John the Baptist being the least in the Kingdom in Heaven. Consider this verse:

"Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Matthew 11:11, KJV

Considering that John the Baptist was not only His cousin, but in fact prepared the way of the Lord in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, it doesn't seem likely that Jesus meant for His words to be viewed as a put-down of John. In fact, as I explain in the series "Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?", Jesus informed us that John carried the very same spiritual anointing as the Prophet Elijah of Old Testament fame, as we see here:

"And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come."

Matthew 11:14, KJV

So, the question is this: Why would Jesus say that John was the least in the Kingdom of Heaven? One possibility which has occurred to me is that the Lord may have been implying that until one has received their stripes by going all the way and giving their life for the Lord -- as John eventually did -- they are still low in status insofar as God's scale of greatness is concerned. There just seems to be something about self-sacrifice and martyrdom which really gets God's attention and touches His heart. I am reminded of verses such as the following:

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

Luke 9:23-24, 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

Now, please don't misunderstand what I am saying here. I am not suggesting that anyone should go and do something crazy like kill themselves in order to prove their faithfulness and loyalty to God and His Kingdom. Unlike certain death cults we have heard about and read about in recent decades, such as Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple, Heavens Gate, Order of the Solar Temple, etc., God wants all of us to remain alive for as long as possible, so that we can continue preaching the

Gospel of Salvation to the lost. He needs us alive, and not dead. After all, as the Apostle Paul writes:

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"
Romans 10:13-15, KJV

For a more in-depth examination of the topic of suicidal death cults, please consider reading my series entitled "Heaven's Gate, Suicide And Other Death Cults".

While at this current time self-sacrifice may simply involve denying our personal wants and needs and dedicating our lives to God's service on a daily basis just as the first Disciples were called to do, who knows what the future may hold. While none of us really knows how bad the situation may eventually become for Bible-believing Christians, in these Latter Days, some of us may eventually be called to give up our physical lives as a testimony to this ungodly world, of our faith in Jesus Christ. Even now, while most Western Christians never worry about being persecuted in a serious way, beyond verbal persecution for the most part, in other parts of the world, -- such as in Muslim and communist countries -- our brethren are already suffering heavy persecution, imprisonment and even death, as a result of their faith in Jesus Christ.

In contrast to the above, let us now consider the state of the Angels in Heaven. As far as we know, they have always lived in the Spirit Realm; and therefore, they have always been Spiritual Beings. They have never suffered the hassles of an Earthly life and human existence. And let's face it; this life can indeed be hard at times; particularly as one acquires new responsibilities, grows older, and then the body begins to slowly break down, and succumbs to a variety of illnesses until death eventually takes its toll. I discuss this topic at length in such articles as "Death: Final Battle, Final Victory".

So considering that the Angels in Heaven are free of all of these things, I would think that they lead a relatively easy existence in the Presence of God. Yes, there are spiritual battles to be fought, but at the same time, from the Book of Revelation, we are given the impression that there is quite a bit of shouting and praising going on near the Throne of God night and day. Not only that, but even though they do partake in spiritual battles, which is made plain by accounts such as we find in both the Books of Daniel and Revelation, they have spiritual bodies which obviously do not tire, grow frail or die as our human bodies do.

So if we consider the situation from this perspective, maybe this explains why human beings can somehow acquire a status which is even higher than that of the Angels. While this may seem plausible to some people, I have concluded that this is not sufficient evidence to support such a belief. My primary reason for embracing this position is simply this: If these Angels have always lived in the Presence of God, and have

always been obedient to His Will, then why would there even be any need for us to judge them? It just doesn't make any sense, in my view. Therefore, I believe that it is rather improbable that we will judge the Angels who are currently in Heaven, and obedient to the Lord.

Having said that, there are two other possibilities which come to mind. The first one is that God may possibly allow us to pass judgment on the Fallen Angels who will rebel against Him, and who will follow Satan to the Earth during the Great Tribulation period. As you may recall, the Book of Revelation informs us of the following:

"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 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."

Revelation 12:3-4a, 7-10, KJV

While the Scriptures clearly inform us that "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." -- Romans 12:19 -- is it possible that God will still allow us to pass judgement on these devils and demons who will persecute God's children during the Great Tribulation? To answer in the affirmative would seem to contradict exactly what that verse is stating. In fact, in Revelation chapter nineteen, we learn that after the Battle of Armageddon has come to its conclusion, it is one of the Lord's mighty Angels who binds Satan, and casts him into the Bottomless Pit, where he will remain during the thousand-year Millennial Rule of Jesus Christ and the Saints, as we see here:

"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

As I explain in such articles as "Satan: Origin, Purpose and Future", following this one-thousand-year imprisonment, the Book of Revelation informs us that Satan will be loosed for "a little season", in order that he might deceive the nations of the world once more. However, ultimately, that foul demon meets his final fate when he is cast alive into the Lake of Fire, as we see by these verses:

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be

loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."
Revelation 20:7-10, KJV

In none of the verses that we have examined, do we find any mention of the Saints passing judgment on Satan, or on any of his cohorts in sin. Apparently then, his judgment, as well as the execution of his sentence, will be carried out either by God Himself, or by Jesus, or by one of the Angels. That the Saints of God do sit in judgment during the one-thousand-year Millennium is a scriptural fact; however, my impression from the following verse is that they will be judging the people of Earth:

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."
Revelation 20:4, KJV

Who then are these Angels that the Apostle Paul says that we will judge? There is another possibility which is worthy of our consideration. As I explain in considerable detail in the series "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis", as well as in the article "The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?", it is my understanding that at this current time, there is a group of rebellious Angels -- the Fallen Angels who are mentioned in various places in the Bible, as well as throughout the Book of Enoch, and in the Book of Jubilees -- who are currently awaiting Judgment from the Lord.

Being as I discuss this topic in the aforementioned articles, I won't be going into a lot of detail here. However, let me at least provide you with a basic background. The primary sin of these rebellious Angels is that they abandoned their First Estate -- that is, Heaven -- and descended to the Earth, where they engaged in sexual intercourse with the beautiful women of Earth. The result of their vile deeds was the birth of a wicked race of violent giants who are known as the Nephilim. The Book of Genesis and the Book of Enoch both inform us that the situation on Earth grew so violent, and so evil, that God finally determined that He simply had to destroy mankind. In fact, this is precisely what He did when He sent the Flood in the days of the Patriarch Noah. Following is the account from the Book of Genesis:

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for

that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. 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. 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 6:1-7, KJV

As a result of their sins against the Lord, these rebellious Angels are at this time imprisoned in chains in the deepest parts of the Earth. While in the King James Version of the Bible, the Apostle Peter writes that they were "cast down to hell", in the original Greek, the word used is "tartarus". This word signifies the deepest abyss of hell. As I explain in "What Happened to the Evil Spirits Known as Legion?", this is the same place that Legion was sent. I also explain in that article, as well as in a few others, that this abyss is another name for the Bottomless Pit, out of which Abaddon -- or Apollyon -- the Destroyer will arise, accompanied by his demonic horde. Consider the following verses which were written by Peter:

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

1 Peter 3:18-20, KJV

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"

2 Peter 2:4-5, KJV

Please notice in the previous verses that Peter very clearly tells us that these rebellious Fallen Angels are currently "reserved unto judgment". In other words, apparently, they have not been judged yet; at least they hadn't been judged at the time that Peter wrote his Epistle. In his brief Epistle, the Apostle Jude likewise informs us that because they left their First Estate, and committed such a grave sin with the women of Earth, these rebellious Angels are imprisoned in the darkest parts of the Earth, where they are awaiting judgment from the Lord, as we see here:

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

Jude 1:6, KJV

It is clear then, that unless it already occurred sometime during the past two thousand years, these Fallen Angels are still waiting for their judgment from God, which Jude tells us will occur on the "great day". This begs two questions. First, why haven't these Angels been judged yet? What is God waiting for? Is it possible that they still have some mission to fulfill? And second, when the time of their judgment does arrive, exactly who is going to judge them? While I have a personal theory regarding why God may be waiting on judging these Fallen Angels -- which I may discuss in a separate article at some future date -- I would like to address the second question instead.

In a word, if we consider the fact that these Fallen Angels were directly responsible for corrupting and perverting early mankind, which ultimately led to the destruction of the human race, save for Noah and his immediate family, is it possible that God may leave their final judgment to the Saints? While this is a very interesting question indeed; I am sorry to inform you that at this current time, I do not possess any clear scriptural evidence to say one way or the other.

At the time that I wrote the original version of this series fourteen years ago, someone asked me a question concerning the demons which apparently are still allowed to roam the Earth, even in our present day. To clarify, while the Book of Enoch informs us that the angelic leaders of the rebellion were cast into the Abyss, or Bottomless Pit, and the physical bodies of the giant Nephilim were destroyed during the Flood, it leaves open the question regarding what happened to the spirits of the Nephilim. Some Christians -- myself included -- suspect that these constitute the evil spirits which plagued people in Jesus' day, and which still attack and possess people today as well.

At any rate, this person was wondering if these demons were given a lesser judgment -- that is, by not being outright imprisoned along with the Fallen Angels -- and if God may possibly be giving them a final opportunity to turn back to the Light. He was wondering if all of the Angels who took part in the original rebellion are irreparably doomed.

Well, obviously, I am not God, and therefore, I do not know the Mind of God, or His intentions concerning these demons, or what will be their ultimate fate. Neither do I know if all of the Fallen Angels are irreparably doomed. All that we are told in the various sources that are available to us at this current time, is that they are currently imprisoned, and that they are waiting for their final judgment on that "great day".

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

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Book Of Enoch: Demons Are Departed Spirits Of The Nephilim Giants Which Are Condemned To Roam The Earth, God's Ways And Thoughts Are Past Finding Out, Demons Serve God's Purposes, Paul's Messenger Of Satan, Lying Spirit Deceives King Ahab, We Invite Delusion When We Reject The Truth, God Will Choose Our Delusions For Us, Mary Magdalene: The More We Love The More We Will Be Forgiven, God Is A Righteous And Merciful Judge, God Takes No Pleasure In Death Of The Wicked, God's Desire Is That All Men Come To Repentance, Rebellion Of The Ancient Israelites, Murderers Of God's Prophets, Patriarch Abraham Pleads For Sodom And Gomorrah, God's Patience And The Genesis Flood, Jonah: God Temporarily Spares Nineveh, Jesus Preaches To The Imprisoned Spirits Deep In The Earth, Jesus Preached Deliverance To The Prisoners Who Sat In Darkness In The Shadow Of Death, Does A Possibility Of Forgiveness And Salvation Still Exist For The Imprisoned Spirits?, The Only Unforgivable Sin Is Blasphemy Against The Holy Ghost, What Is The Holy Ghost?, Power And Indwelling Of The Holy Ghost, God Is Not A Liar, Is There Still Hope For Fallen Angels?

As I concluded in part one, I do not know the Mind of God, or His intentions concerning the demons which now roam the Earth. Neither do I know what their ultimate fate will be. As I mentioned earlier, it is my current belief that these demons are the spirits of the fallen Nephilim giants which were destroyed during the Great Flood thousands of years ago. As I point out in the nine-part series "Nephilim: The Giants Of Genesis" my belief is based in large part on the following excerpts which are found in the Book of Enoch:

"And now, the giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits upon the earth, and on the earth shall be their dwelling. Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies; because they are born from men, and from the holy Watchers is their beginning and primal origin; they shall be evil spirits on earth, and evil spirits shall they be called. As for the spirits of heaven, in heaven shall be their dwelling, but as for the spirits of the earth which were born upon the earth, on the earth shall be their dwelling. And the spirits of the giants afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle, and work destruction on the earth, and cause trouble: they take no food, but nevertheless hunger and thirst, and cause offences. And these spirits shall rise up against the children of men and against the women, because they have proceeded from them. From the days of the slaughter and destruction and death of the giants, from the souls of whose flesh the spirits, having gone forth, shall destroy without incurring judgement -- thus shall they destroy until the day of the consummation, the great judgement in which the age shall be consummated, over the Watchers and the godless, yea, shall be wholly consummated."

Book Of Enoch 15:8-16:1

Whether or not the Fallen Angels of Genesis are irreparably doomed is likewise a question which I cannot answer with any degree of certainty. All we know is that their final judgment awaits them on that "great day", as the Apostle Jude informs us. If you are disappointed by my lack of solid answers, then allow me to remind you of the following verses which can be found in the Old Testament Books of Job and Isaiah, as well as in Paul's Epistle to the Romans:

"Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number."
Job 9:10, KJV

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"
Romans 11:33, KJV

So as we can see from the previous verses which are found in the Book of Enoch, the demons who currently roam among us are spirits of the Earth, and not spirits of Heaven. They are the incorporeal spirits of the Nephilim giants, and they are here to serve God's purposes. Perhaps their torments, attacks and deceptions are meant to keep us all humble, and in line, and desperate with the Lord. As I thought about this issue, I was suddenly reminded of something that the Apostle Paul wrote in his second Epistle to the Corinthians. He said:

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."
2 Corinthians 12:7, KJV

Wow! What a scriptural confirmation! I find it so amazing when the Lord suddenly brings verses to my mind which I would have never thought of on my own! It's wonderful!

I am also reminded of another story that is found in the Old Testament, where God purposely allowed a lying spirit to go and deceive King Ahab. These verses are quite interesting as they provide us with a brief glimpse into the goings on in the great Halls of Heaven. Consider what we are told in the First Book of Kings:

"And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning

thee."
1 Kings 22:20-23, KJV

Why did the Lord allow this to occur? Apparently for the very same reason that the Apostle Paul tells us that God will send strong delusion during the Last Days. That is, because people will no longer love the truth of God's Word, and they will purposely want to be deceived, as we see by these verses:

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"
2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, KJV

So the fact of the matter is that we actually invite delusion into our lives when we choose to reject the truth. As I have mentioned before, in the Old Testament Book of Isaiah, God even tells us that He will choose our delusions. Consider this verse:

"I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."
Isaiah 66:4, KJV

The same person who asked me about the ultimate fate of the Fallen Angels and the demons, was also wondering if some of the Angels will be saved, while others will be damned when they are judged by the Saints. Again, this is a question to which I can't possibly provide a definitive answer. However, as I was thinking about this issue, I was reminded of the story in the Gospels where Mary Magdalene washed Jesus' feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and then anointed them with ointment. Simon the Pharisee, in whose house the Lord was a guest at the time, self-righteously judged Jesus in his heart, thinking that Jesus would have surely known that the woman was a sinner. In the exchange which ensued, Jesus said the following to Simon:

"Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."
Luke 7:47, KJV

In other words, what Jesus appears to be saying is that the more we love others, the more we will be forgiven ourselves, because in reality, to love is to forgive. This thought goes hand-in-hand with the following verses:

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
Matthew 6:14-15, KJV

For a deeper look at this topic, please consider reading my article entitled "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement".

So regardless of who these Angels are that the Apostle Paul

says the Saints will judge, it seems to me that being as God the Father has extended so much Love, Mercy and Forgiveness to His wayward children on this Earth, even going so far as to sacrifice His own dear Son, He would expect us to extend the very same Love, Mercy and Forgiveness to others as well, including to these Angels. If there is anything that we know about God, it is that He is a Righteous and Merciful Judge, and that He goes the extra mile with everyone, not desiring that anyone should perish. As King David, the Prophet Ezekiel and the Apostle Peter write:

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple . . . The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether."
Psalms 19:7, 9, KJV

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."
Psalms 119:160, KJV

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"
Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"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

Regarding these verses, I am reminded of a number of stories that are found in the Old Testament where God provided ample opportunity for people to repent. As I explain in such series as "The Fruits Of Disobedience", time after time after time, by way of His holy Prophets, God pleaded with the rebellious, backslidden Israelite nation to turn from their wicked ways, before He finally lowered the Rod of Chastisement by way of famines, droughts, pestilences, attacks from and domination by their enemies, etc. Twice the temple was destroyed, and at the time of Jesus Christ, Israel was still under the foreign occupation of Rome. Not only that, but as I explain in other articles, Jesus blasted the Scribes and the Pharisees, and accused them of being the children of the murderers of the Old Testament Prophets, as we see by the following verses:

"Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the LORD."
Jeremiah 29:19, KJV

"I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me."
Jeremiah 35:15, KJV

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Matthew 23:29-39, KJV

Consider also how the Patriarch Abraham pleaded with God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah, if He could find ten righteous souls in those two wicked places. Of course, we know that none were found, and the cities of the plains were utterly destroyed by fire and brimstone sent by God. You can find the story in Genesis chapter eighteen. Going back further in time, we discover that God actually waited one hundred and twenty years before He finally sent the Flood in the days of the Patriarch Noah. Consider this verse that is found in the Book of Genesis:

"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."
Genesis 6:3, KJV

In the case of the ancient metropolis of Nineveh -- which was situated near the modern Iraqi city of Mosul in the Ninawa Governorate -- God actually chose to stay His judgments until a later time, because the people of Nineveh harkened unto the warnings of the Prophet Jonah, and repented of their sins. In fact, Jesus made mention of this during His time on Earth, as we see by this verse:

"The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here."
Matthew 12:41, KJV

These are just a few examples which demonstrate God's Divine Patience and Mercy with sinful, rebellious men. But is it possible that God's Mercy may even extend beyond this current physical life in certain cases? Before you are too quick to offer an answer, please consider the following information. As we learned in part one, during the time that His physical

body was laying in the sepulchre following His Crucifixion, Jesus went and preached to the spirits which are imprisoned in the Earth, as we see by these verses:

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;"

1 Peter 3:18-19, KJV

After having received the powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter two, we find the Apostle Peter and his fellow Apostles preaching boldly concerning the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Considering that the New Testament had not yet been written at that time, it was only natural that the Apostles would quote from what we today refer to as the Old Testament. By quoting from some of King David's prophetic Psalms, Peter again reminds his audience how Jesus was not left in the underworld, or Hades, as we see here:

"He [King David] seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."

Acts 2:31, KJV

So the question in my mind is this: Why did Jesus go to this dark place of gloom and doom that is located deep within the bowels of the Earth, and preach to those imprisoned spirits? Based upon the original Greek word that is used in 1 Peter 3:19 -- "kerusso" -- some people have suggested that Jesus didn't actually preach to them; rather, He proclaimed His victory over them, as a herald would do. However, personally, I find that interpretation rather troubling, because I have never pictured Jesus as being a braggart, have you?

Not only that, but in the sixty-one times that "kerusso" is used in the New Testament, it is translated fifty-one times as the word "preach", and only twice as "proclaim". In my opinion, this seems to indicate that Jesus did in fact go to that dark prison in order to preach to the lost spirits, and not simply to boast of His victory over them.

The next obvious question is this: Why would Jesus do this unless there was still a chance for those imprisoned spirits? Again, I honestly do not believe that Jesus would go to that dark, dreadful place just to torment them, do you?

As I thought on these things, some very interesting verses came to mind which I have shared a number of times before. However, in this case, I have seen them in a very different light. In the fourth chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke we find the following verses:

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."

Matthew 4:16, KJV

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and

recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."
Luke 4:18-19, KJV

Up until now, I have always understood the previous verses to be referring to Jesus' Ministry to the people of Israel, and I still believe this. But is it possible that these verses actually have a double meaning? Let me point out a few things to you. First of all, that word "preach" is translated from the very same Greek word that Peter uses in his Epistle; that is, "kerusso". To me, this confirms that when Peter writes that Jesus preached to the spirits in prison, that is exactly what he means. Allow me to also call your attention to several phrases that are used in the previous verses: sat in darkness, them which sat in the region and shadow of death, to preach deliverance to the captives, and to set at liberty them that are bruised.

While we know that those phrases can certainly be applied to people who are the prisoners of death and sin, as we all are, or at least were at one time before we repented and accepted God's Forgiveness through Jesus Christ, I propose that they can likewise be equally applied to those spirits who now sit in darkness, "in the region and shadow of death" of Hades -- the underworld -- and even in the Abyss itself. Surely, they are captives who require deliverance from that dark place as well. So again I ask: Is it possible that the reason why the Lord went to preach to the spirits in prison is because He knew that there was still some degree of hope for them of finding forgiveness, deliverance, and even Salvation? What do you think?

Something else which we need to consider is the following. The fact that those imprisoned spirits are still waiting for their final judgement seems to imply that a final decision has not been made yet concerning them. If they were already fully condemned, one would think that there would no longer be any need to judge them. Of course, one could argue that the judgement is just to determine the degree of punishment. Another possibility is that they have already been judged, but their sentence simply hasn't been handed out yet. But, based upon 2 Peter 3:9, I am still wondering if there might possibly still be a chance for them.

We also need to remind ourselves that according to Jesus, the only unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. He made this very clear in the following verses:

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

Matthew 12:31-32, KJV

Clearly, blasphemy against the Holy Ghost is considered to be a very serious sin by the Lord. But exactly what is meant by blasphemy against the Holy Ghost? Stepping back further, what exactly is the Holy Ghost? As I explain in other articles, it is my personal belief that the Holy Ghost -- or Holy Spirit,

if you prefer -- is an extension of God the Father Himself. I believe that it is the very essence of God's Being. It is His Presence in some intangible form. It is a Creative Force and a Power which proceeds from the Central Throne of God, which miraculously creates, heals, and empowers those people who are touched by or filled with it, so that they are able to perform mighty signs and wonders, just like Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit is the same Force and Power which was present at the moment of Creation, and it is the same Force and Power which resided within the very body of Jesus Christ during His Earthly Ministry, and without measure no less. It is also the same Force and Power which can dwell within a saved Christian, according to God's Divine Purposes. The Holy Ghost is also our Comforter and Teacher. Consider the following verses which confirm all of these points:

"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."
Genesis 1:2, KJV

"The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."
Job 33:4, KJV

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."
Luke 1:35, KJV

"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

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."
John 3:34, KJV

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."
Colossians 2:9, KJV

"But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you."
Matthew 12:28, KJV

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."
John 14:12, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
John 14:26, KJV

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth

from the Father, he shall testify of me:"
John 15:26, KJV

"For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ."
Romans 15:18-19, KJV

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."
1 Corinthians 3:16-17, KJV

To reiterate, it is my view that to blaspheme the Holy Ghost is the same as blaspheming God the Father Himself, because the Holy Ghost is a part of Him. It is the Spirit of Truth. Furthermore, to deny the Ultimate Truth and most important message that is contained in the Bible, which is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only Savior and Redeemer of the world, is to call God a liar. That is why Jesus informs us that blasphemy against the Holy Ghost is the one sin for which a person cannot find forgiveness. To blaspheme Jesus is one thing, but to blaspheme His Father is quite another. Furthermore, we know that our Heavenly Father is not a liar, as the following verses plainly reveal:

"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

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."
Romans 3:4, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"
Titus 1:2, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."
1 John 5:10, KJV

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."
1 John 1:10, KJV

While we have taken a slight detour in our discussion, the reason why the previous paragraphs and verses are important, is because they reveal to us that blasphemy against the Holy Ghost is the only unpardonable sin. The implication then, is that all other manner of sin can be forgiven. What does this say then about the Fallen Angels and other spirits which are now imprisoned within the bowels of the Earth? Does this seem to offer some level of hope for them? If they are willing to

repent of their rebellion, and accept Jesus' dominion and authority over them, is it possible that both Forgiveness and Salvation are still within their reach? I will be offering my personal view in part three of this series.

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

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The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men : Part 3

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Millions Of People On The Earth By The Time Of Genesis Flood, Book Of Enoch: Men Devoured By Bloodthirsty Nephilim Giants, A Provision For Salvation Of The Antediluvian Inhabitants?, Looking Forward And Backwards In Faith To The Messiah, Are Pre-Flood People Eternally Lost?, A Post-Crucifixion Mass Resurrection In Gospel Of Matthew, Who Were The Resurrected Saints?, Era Of Forward-Looking Salvation And Old Testament Sainly Designation, Dark Difficult Time Following The Fall In The Garden Of Eden, A Full Restoration And Peace With God Through Jesus's Sacrifice, God's Foresight And Foreknowledge, Predestinated And Chosen Before The Foundation Of The World, Salvation Available To All Men, Straight Gate And Wide Gate, Ye Shall Die In Your Sins, We Get Only One Lifetime To Live, Gospel Preached In All The World, God Thoroughly Warns The World And Then His Divine Judgments Fall, Unbelieving World And The Beast Blaspheme God, God's Banquet For The Buzzards, Beast And False Prophet Are Cast Alive Into The Lake Of Fire, Satan Imprisoned In The Bottomless Pit, Christ Rules During The Millennium, First Resurrection And Reign Of The Saints, Satan Loosed One Final Time To Deceive The World Once More, Final Battle Of Gog And Magog, Fire From Heaven And Satan Is Cast Into The Lake Of Fire, The Fate Of The Fallen Angels

One important point which is worth mentioning here is that while we have been primarily discussing the fate of the Fallen Angels, the Nephilim, the demons and the imprisoned spirits who both Peter and Jude mention in their Epistles, these were not the only living beings who were affected at the time of the Great Flood. Consider that from the time of Creation up until that point, over sixteen hundred years had passed. It seems likely that by that time, the descendants of Adam and Eve and their children -- the precise number of whom is not made clear in the Scriptures -- must have numbered in the millions. The casualties of the Great Flood must have also included Noah's ancestors as well.

While the Book of Enoch informs us that many people were

devoured by the violent offspring of the Fallen Angels -- the bloodthirsty Nephilim giants -- when the resources of the Earth were no longer sufficient to sustain them, there must have still been a lot of regular human beings living upon the Earth at the time of the Flood. These people lived thousands of years prior to the time when Jesus Christ was manifested upon the Earth, and obviously before He died on the Cross for the Remission of our sins. That being the case, knowing that God is a fair, merciful and righteous Judge, doesn't it seem possible, even likely, that He would have put in place some kind of provision for the Salvation of these antediluvian inhabitants of the Earth?

As I have mentioned before, it is important that we remember that the people of the Old Testament era looked forward in faith to the time of the arrival of the Messiah, while we people of the New Testament era look backwards in faith to the time of Jesus Christ. Of course, there are also those people who actually lived during the time of Jesus Christ as well. Being as many of them personally witnessed the great miracles of the Son of God in the flesh, and yet in the end, still rejected Him and the Salvation which He offered them, I have wondered if perhaps some of those people will receive the harshest judgment of all, namely the unbelieving Jews.

While I have some doubts concerning whether or not God will give the Fallen Angels another chance, being as they were created by God, and previously existed in the very Presence of God, and knew His Benevolence, Mercy and Salvation, the same cannot be said regarding the people who lived upon the Earth prior to the time of the Great Flood. Is it possible that they are included in the spirits who the Apostle Peter mentions in his Epistles? If so, exactly what provision did God make for them, if any? Or will those lost souls meet the same judgment as the Fallen Angels? In other words, are they eternally lost?

For a number of years now, I have pondered an interesting set of verses which are found near the end of the Gospel of Matthew. According to Matthew -- and he is the only one who even mentions this event in the four Gospels -- at the time of Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead, many other people were likewise resurrected as well, as we see here:

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

Matthew 27:52-53, KJV

As you will recall, in part one of this series, I explained that the Bible informs us that as a result of His physical death on a Roman Cross, and His subsequent Resurrection from the Dead two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ is referred to as "the firstborn among many brethren", "the firstborn of every creature", "the firstborn from the dead", "the first begotten of the dead", and finally, the "firstfruits" of the Resurrection.

Jesus is in fact the very progenitor of a new race of beings, which, in some way that is not yet fully understood by mere humans, somehow combines the properties of flesh and Spirit.

This becomes evident when we consider the fact that following His Resurrection from the Dead, Jesus was still able to be seen and touched, and still able to eat and drink. Yet, at the same time, the Lord could also pass through closed doors, vanish at a moment's notice, and transport Himself from one place to another apparently instantaneously.

The fact that Jesus Christ is the Firstfruits implies that other people will follow Him, and will likewise experience a resurrection, resulting in a miraculous transformation of their mortal bodies of flesh. The Gospel writer Matthew is describing just such an event in the previous verses.

For me personally, the challenge isn't only in wondering why Matthew is the only one to have mentioned such a miraculous and glorious event -- one would think that all four of the Gospel writers would do likewise, as well as the Apostle Paul -- but also in properly understanding exactly who Matthew is referring to when he states "bodies of the saints". I have always assumed that he is writing about the famous Israelite leaders, the Prophets and other people of the Old Testament era who looked forward to the arrival of their, as well as our, Messiah. As I mentioned earlier, even though Jesus had not yet died on the Cross, they were sanctified by faith, just as Abraham was saved by faith.

But the question is this: At one point in time in the history of the ancient world did God begin to consider certain people to be His Saints? Did this Sainthood first begin with Adam and Eve? Did it begin when God made the Covenant of Circumcision with the Patriarch Abraham? In other words, at what particular point in the early history of the world did forward-looking Salvation go into effect? If we assume that it began with the Covenant of Circumcision that God made with Abraham, does that imply that everyone prior to that time is forever lost?

Well obviously, it doesn't seem likely, does it? After all, if the era of forward-looking Salvation began with Abraham, it would even rule out the Patriarch Noah, who God used to save the remnant of mankind, and who the Bible even informs us found Grace in the sight of the Lord, as we see here:

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."
Genesis 6:8, KJV

If we begin with the Covenant of Circumcision, it would also leave out Adam and Eve -- who are the parents of all living -- righteous Abel, Seth his replacement, and even Enoch, who walked with God. One interesting verse which comes to mind is the following:

"And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD."
Genesis 4:26, KJV

It has long been my impression that following the Fall in the Garden of Eden, and particularly after Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden, that early humanity faced a very difficult and dark time. I can't begin to imagine the great trials that must have beset Adam and Eve; the feelings of failure, guilt

and condemnation; wondering if God still loved them or not, etc. I am reminded of how children and parents react to each other immediately after some disobedience has occurred. It is quite common for the children to not want to see the parents, partially out of fear of receiving further retribution, and the parents to not want to see the disobedient child, just because they are still simmering.

Perhaps this is what Moses means when he writes "then began men to call upon the name of the LORD". In other words, maybe it was not until the birth of Adam and Eve's grandson Enos occurred, that the close relationship between God and man began to be restored. Of course, the Bible makes it rather clear that the possibility of full restoration did not occur until Jesus Christ died on a Roman Cross for the sins of the world. It is this restoration and peace between God and man that is often referred to in the New Testament. Why peace? Because God is at war against sin and rebellion. Consider the following verses:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
John 14:27, KJV

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33, KJV

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"
Romans 5:1, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."
Ephesians 2:13-18, KJV

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:7, 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. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:"
Colossians 1:19-22, KJV

So this is the kind of peace that Jesus was talking about,

and the kind of peace that the Apostles wrote about. It is not simply a mental peace or state of being as some people may suppose -- although it includes that as well -- rather, it is a peace between God and man, and a restoration of our relationship with Him, which was wrought by the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus -- the Second Adam, as the Apostle Paul refers to Him -- through His Sacrifice on the Cross, closed the breach that was opened by the first Adam in the Garden of Eden.

Taking the previous thoughts into consideration, we arrive at a very interesting realization; and that is that contrary to what some people may believe, the concept of being a Saint isn't something which suddenly materialized at some certain point in human history. It was not a human invention. If we consider the actual meaning of the word "saint" -- one who is chosen, holy and set apart by God -- then we realize that the concept of Sainthood, as well as forward-looking faith, really began in the Halls of Heaven before the world began. Why is this? Because according to the Bible, that is when God the Father first put the Plan of Salvation in motion, even before Adam and Eve had ever been created. Consider the following verses which clearly reveal God's Plan and Foreknowledge:

"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

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."
Romans 8:29, KJV

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."
Ephesians 1:3-6, KJV

So as you can see, even before the foundation of the world, God chose certain people to become His adopted children. The mechanism which He used to accomplish this task is the Death of His own dear Son on a wooden Roman Cross. Clearly then, long before Adam and Eve were ever created, long before the Fallen Angels chose to move against God and create the giant Nephilim, long before the Great Flood occurred in the days of Noah, long before demons began to roam the world, due to His Divine Foresight and Foreknowledge, God set the Plan of Salvation in motion. He chose a people for Himself, who would be holy and set apart from the world -- His Saints.

What this implies is that Salvation has been available to everyone since the very beginning of time. As I explain in such articles as "Is The Message Of Salvation Meant For All

Men?", while Salvation is available to everyone, and always has been available to everyone, it does not mean that every single person will accept it. In fact, despite God's desire for everyone to be saved -- remember 2 Peter 3:9 -- most people will reject His offer of Forgiveness, Redemption and Eternal Salvation. As you may recall, even Jesus tells us the following in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."
Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

While we have discussed the Fallen Angels, the Nephilim, the demons, the antediluvian people of the Earth, as well as the post-Flood people of the Earth, what about those people who have been born since Jesus gave His life on the Cross? After having heard the truth of the Gospel, what will happen to them if they reject it and die in unbelief? As we saw in part two, Jesus seems to equate unbelief with blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, because to not believe is to call God a liar. That being the case, it appears that such people will not be forgiven in this life or in the next. Just like the Scribes and the Pharisees of old, they will simply die in their sins without having ever received any Forgiveness. As Jesus said of them:

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."
John 8:21, 24, KJV

The very same thing can be said of anyone else who has lived since that time. They too have sealed their fate by their own stubbornness and hard-heartedness. One verse which adds a degree of finality to the life, death and judgement cycle is the following:

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"
Hebrews 9:27, KJV

This verse not only knocks the possibility of reincarnation out of the ring, but it also tells us that we only get one chance to do it right. However, we have our entire life to do it. Of course, what constitutes an "entire life" can be very different for each individual. Let us not forget verses such as the following:

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"
Luke 12:20, KJV

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."
James 4:14, KJV

Some people might argue, "Well, what if a certain individual never had an opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ? What if they are part of some forgotten tribe that lives back in the jungles of South America or Indonesia, for example? Is your God just going to send them to hell?" Personally, I believe in the absolute Righteousness of God. I also believe in His Love, Patience and Mercy as well. But I also believe in His fairness and His firmness. As such, I must believe that every single person will be given an opportunity at some point in their life to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus promised this in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, as we see here:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:14, KJV

As if that is not enough, the Scriptures inform us that prior to the Lord's Return, there will be Angels blasting on their shofars -- or trumpets -- during the Great Tribulation. There will be God's Two Sackcloth Witnesses who will proclaim the truth of the Gospel to the world from the city of Jerusalem for the entire three-and-a-half-year period, letting everyone know exactly what is going on, and why it is happening. There will be all kinds of plagues and Divine Judgements afflicting the unbelieving wicked. In short, I believe that God is going to give everyone a fair chance. He is going to go out of His way to wake up everyone to the Truth. That is why His Divine Judgments will be so righteous when they begin to fall upon the world. His Judgments will not be falling on a world that has never heard the Gospel before. Quite to the contrary, the world will be saturated with the Gospel, even more than it is now.

In spite of all of these Divine Judgments and Chastisements occurring during the final years of man's corrupt rule upon this Earth, we are told in the Book of Revelation that some hard-hearted people will still be so foolish as to utterly reject the truth, and will blaspheme against God's Spirit, beginning with the Beast himself. It seems that the more that the Lord deals with them through the various Judgments that fall during the Great Tribulation, the more they rebel against Him and blaspheme Him. Consider the following verses:

"And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory."
Revelation 16:9, KJV

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven."
Revelation 13:4-6, KJV

Here we see a picture of the totally incorrigibles; what we

might term the hardened criminals in God's eyes. They have clearly chosen the wide gate and the broad way which leads to destruction. So what will be the fate of the followers of the Beast and the False Prophet? The Book of Revelation informs us that the deceived armies of the Beast are going to find themselves invited to a very special dinner. However, I am not referring to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, but rather to a huge banquet which will be held for the buzzards of the air; and the bodies of these rebellious armies will be the main course, as we see here:

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."
Revelation 19:17-21, KJV

Such will be the horrible fate of the followers of the Beast and his False Prophet, because they will have accepted their lies, embraced Satan as their "savior", and totally rejected Jesus Christ. Let me draw your attention to the fact that we are told that the Beast and the False Prophet are cast alive into the Lake of Fire. These are two real human beings. They are not spiritual entities as some people may suppose. But, of course, they will be influenced by, and perhaps possessed by, evil spirits.

But this is not the end of God's Wrath and Judgments at this time. In addition to destroying the armies of the Beast and the False Prophet, and casting this ungodly pair alive into the Lake of Fire, the very next chapter in Revelation informs us that an Angel with a great chain in his hand descends from Heaven, binds Satan with it, and casts that old serpent into the Abyss; that is, into the Bottomless Pit, which is also the same dark prison where the Fallen Angels are now bound. There that vile demon and Father of Lies will remain for one thousand years, while Christ gloriously reigns upon Earth, as we see with these verses:

"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

Following the defeat of the unholy trio -- Satan, the Beast and the False Prophet -- and their ungodly armies at the Battle of Armageddon, and the imprisonment of Satan in the Bottomless Pit, John describes for us the First Resurrection and the Millennial Reign of the Resurrected Saints, who will rule with Jesus Christ. The Bible specifically states "the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." In other words, the First Resurrection is only for those Christians who have died in Jesus Christ. It is not for the rest of the people of the world who have died. Consider these verses:

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."
Revelation 20:4-6, KJV

Following the Millennial Rule of Jesus Christ on Earth with His saved and resurrected Saints, Satan will be released from the Bottomless Pit, and will be given one final opportunity to deceive the nations of the world. As surprising as it may seem, that old serpent will still be able to find unrepentant and incorrigible souls who are willing to rebel against the Lord and the Camp of the Saints, in spite of the fact that they will have actually seen and witnessed Christ's rule on the Earth for a thousand years. Such will be the hardness of their hearts. Even though they will have been given a full thousand years to learn the lessons that the Lord has been trying to teach us all for millennia already, yet they will fail miserably. As we are told by the Prophet Jeremiah:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

But this time, God has had enough of their foolish rebellion. Notice in the following verses how quickly God's judgements will fall, and His Wrath will be revealed upon these wicked people. God is simply done wasting time with such reprobates. Thus, He sends fire from Heaven and devours them all:

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."
Revelation 20:7-10, KJV

While John the Revelator does not mention it clearly in the previous verses, I think it is important to point out that according to what Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew, the Fallen Angels who are in rebellion with Satan will meet the very same fiery fate as he does. To refresh your memory, these Fallen Angels are mentioned in the following verses that are found in Revelation chapter twelve:

"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."
Revelation 12:7-9, KJV

Concerning these Fallen Angels who rebel against the Lord right along with Satan, consider now what Jesus says in the twenty-fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew:

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"
Matthew 25:41, KJV

While it is only personal speculation on my part, it seems to me that if this is the fiery fate which God has ordained for the Fallen Angels who rebel against Him in Revelation chapter twelve, then I would think that in similar fashion, the Fallen Angels who led the rebellion thousands of years ago in Genesis chapter six, and who apparently now remain imprisoned in the bowels of the Earth, would meet the very same fiery fate. In fact, the Book of Job suggests that God charged these misguided Fallen Angels with folly, as we see by this verse:

"Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:"
Job 4:18, KJV

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

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The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men : Part 4

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The Great White Throne Judgment, Not Saved By Our Own Works Of Righteousness, Who Could Possibly Stand?, People Will Be

Judged According To Their Works, Rewarded For Eternity Or Shamed And Embarrassed?, The Lord Lord Group, Lake Of Fire, New Heavens And A New Earth, City Of New Jerusalem Descends From Heaven, Description Of The Heavenly City, Invitation

Following the short-lived Battle of Gog and Magog, and the final defeat and judgment of Satan, who will be cast into the Lake of Fire along with the rest of his Fallen Angels, we arrive at the scene of the Great White Throne Judgment. Whereas the Saints of the Most High God will have already received their reward one thousand years earlier, and will reign with Jesus Christ on the Earth during the Millennium, this Second Resurrection will be for everyone else who has ever lived on the Earth. They will all be raised to life, in order to face their Final Judgment before the Throne of the Almighty God, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Whereas the Saints were judged according to their faith in Jesus Christ, and the works which they have done for Him in this current life, it seems that at the Great White Throne Judgment, the Books will be opened, and everyone else will be judged according to their works alone, as we see by the following verses:

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:11-15, KJV

As I concluded in part three, following the very short-lived Battle of Gog and Magog, in which Satan is defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire, the Great White Throne Judgment will occur. Whereas the Saints of the Most High will have already received their reward one thousand years earlier, and will reign with Jesus Christ upon the Earth during the Millennium, this Second Resurrection will be for everyone else who has ever lived on the Earth. They will all be raised to life, in order to face their Final Judgment before the Throne of the Almighty God, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Whereas God judges the Saints based upon their faith in Jesus Christ, and the works which they have done for Him in this current life, it seems that at the Great White Throne Judgment, the Books will be opened, and everyone else will be judged according to their works alone.

Even as one who has placed his faith totally in the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone for my Salvation, I must say that I still find being judged according to one's own works a very unnerving thought. If you don't understand why I say this, then please consider the truth of the following verses:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."
Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"
Psalms 130:3, KJV

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"
Malachi 3:2, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
Romans 3:10, 21-23, KJV

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
Titus 3:5, KJV

This time of Final Judgment in which everyone is destined to appear before the Throne of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, during which they will have to give a full account of the lives they have lived, is mentioned in a number of other places throughout the Bible as well. As the Apostle Peter rhetorically asks, if those of us who belong to the household of God through our faith in Jesus Christ -- please see Ephesians 2:19 -- barely survive God's Judgments, what can possibly be the fate of those people who have not obeyed the Christian Gospel, and who have in fact willfully rejected the Salvation which Jesus Christ freely offers to everyone? Please consider the following sample verses:

"If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"
Proverbs 24:12, KJV

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."
Matthew 12:36, KJV

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."
Matthew 16:27, KJV

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:12, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"

1 Peter 1:17, KJV

"Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead . . . For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1 Peter 4:5, 17, KJV

". . . I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

Revelation 2:23b, KJV

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Revelation 14:13, KJV

Clearly then, a Great Day of accountability and judgment is coming for every single person on this planet, and we will all be weighed in God's Divine Balances when the Books are opened. Some people will be rewarded for all Eternity, while others will be left embarrassed, humbled and ashamed. As we are told in the Book of Daniel:

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Daniel 12:2, KJV

No doubt, as Jesus warns us in the Gospels, on that Great Day of Judgment, some people will be so full of themselves, and so full of their own pride and delusion, that they will deceive themselves into believing that they have done great. They will stand there proudly, just waiting for God to heap praises on them, and reward them for the so-called wonderful Christian lives they have led. However, consider what Jesus Himself had to say regarding this "Lord, Lord" group of self-righteous hypocrites:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Matthew 7:21-23, KJV

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."
Matthew 23:1-3, 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. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."
Matthew 25:31-46, KJV

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
Luke 6:46, KJV

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."
Luke 13:24-30, KJV

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."
Matthew 15:7-9, KJV

If we are not saved by our works, and if these people will be judged solely by their works, is it really any surprise then that many of them will meet their fate in the Lake of Fire? As the Apostle John writes in the Book of Revelation:

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."
Revelation 20:15, KJV

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."
Revelation 21:8, KJV

What a tragic and unnecessary end for such hard-hearted reprobates. Tragic indeed, because their destruction could have easily been avoided, if they would have only humbled themselves, forsaken their own pride and ego, admitted their sinful condition, and embraced Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Such will be the eternal fate of everyone who continues in rebellion against the Almighty God and His Son, Jesus Christ, whether it is that old serpent Satan and his Fallen Angels, the Nephilim, the demons who now roam the Earth, or mortal men. As the Apostle Paul told the ancient Athenians as he stood on Mars Hill two thousand years ago:

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"
Acts 17:30, KJV

God has given us an additional two thousand years to repent since the Apostle Paul first spoke those words, but time may be running out. These verses concerning the Lake of Fire are sobering indeed, and they should motivate every one of us to carefully examine our hearts, and to determine if our lives are truly in order, and if we are as pleasing to the Lord as we ought to be. There is always room for some improvement.

Following the Great White Throne Judgment, the Apocalypse -- or Book of Revelation -- concludes with the most inspiring chapters in the entire Bible. These two chapters describe the arrival of the New Heavens and the New Earth, and the descent from Heaven of God's beautiful city, New Jerusalem. Following are the opening verses of chapter twenty-one:

"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

I invite all of you to read these chapters in their entirety. Without a doubt, they will inspire your heart. As Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John, this Heavenly City, which the Bible refers to as New Jerusalem, is the wonderful place that He has gone to prepare for those of us who love Him, who believe in Him, and who also serve Him. It is in fact the very same place that the Saints and Patriarchs of old longed for, as we see by the following verses:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
John 14:1-3, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."
Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

So again, this is the wonderful Heavenly City which God has prepared for those who love Him, and we can't possibly begin to imagine how beautiful it really is. It is in this place where we will spend all of Eternity. Consider these 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."
1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, KJV

It won't be long my friends. As the old saying goes, this life will soon be past, and only what is done for Christ will last! That wonderful Heavenly City -- New Jerusalem -- awaits everyone who has placed their faith in the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and who has thus been washed in

and cleansed by the precious Blood of the Lamb of God. Have you? I certainly hope so. Please don't be so foolish as to allow your pride and ego to cause you to remain lost for all of Eternity, banished outside of the Gates of the Heavenly City, or worse yet, to be cast into the Lake of Fire. The choice is up to you. Please be smart. Repent of your silly unbelief, and choose Jesus today!

With these words I will bring this series to its conclusion. I pray that it has been informative, as well as a blessing and an inspiration in your life.

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