

*The*  
**BEGINNING**  
PRELUDE TO THE APOCALYPSE

COMPANION STUDY GUIDE

Bruce S. Campbell



*<sup>12</sup> I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. John 16:12-13 (NKJV)*

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# THE BEGINNING: PRELUDE TO THE APOCALYPSE

Bruce S. Campbell

## COMPANION STUDY GUIDE

If you have recently purchased *The Beginning: Prelude to the Apocalypse*, you might be interested in the theology of the story line. This downloadable content/Study Guide is for the purpose of understanding the various themes in the story. I want to give you the scriptural basis for the themes in order to help you understand deeper concepts about life and God. In church, we are often told what to believe rather than how to think. Most religious institutions want you to conform to their particular viewpoint. It is the search for truth that has inspired many of the concepts found in the story of *The Beginning*. This brief attempt will hopefully shed light on some of the basic paradoxes that are in the Bible. They are based in this simple reality: believe every word that comes out of the mouth of God.

Have you ever wondered what the end of the world will be like? We have seen movies and bought books giving many possibilities. They are often entertaining, sometimes a little scary, but always interesting to think about. Enoch (the main character) is one of the two witnesses at the end of the world described in Revelation chapter eleven. Although the two witnesses have power and can show great signs, they are nevertheless human and will die after three and a half years of testifying. What will these two great men testify about? What message will they preach? Will they give us new revelation and insights into God? Perhaps they are alive today and are preparing to tell the world the message of God. Do you wonder if they are super human or perhaps they are more like you and I. Maybe they will struggle with the call and message in the same way you and I must struggle with our faith.

The reason I have chosen Enoch as one of the two witnesses is because God Has decreed that the wages of sin is death (Rom 3:23). *And it is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment* (Heb 9:27). Since Enoch was taken by God and did not see death (Gen 5:24), it's logical that He should be sent back to earth to fulfill Gods law.

<sup>17</sup> *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.* <sup>18</sup> *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.* Matt 5:17-18 (NKJV). Because of the law I don't believe in the popular rapture theory. Where many believe that people will disappear during the "rapture," it may be more likely their bodies will simply fall off and they will be changed

in a moment into their eternal state. I say this because the Scripture records: <sup>50</sup> *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 1 Cor 15:50-53 (NKJV)*. It seems more likely that many bodies will be found and it will be blamed on some pestilence or disease. The reason for this thinking is that the book of Revelation declares that the people of the earth do not repent or give glory to the God of heaven. <sup>20</sup> *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. <sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. Rev 9:20-21 (NKJV)*

A strong theme in the book is God's law and the paradoxes that are in the Scripture. Paradox is defined as: a statement or proposition that, despite sound reasoning from acceptable premises, leads to a conclusion that is self-contradictory but is true. The Christian faith is full of such paradoxes and yet we believe they are true. Some sects of Christianity do not accept the paradox that is clear in Scripture. The rejection of the paradoxes caused the apostles to warn against the heresies of rejecting the whole council of God's word. For instance, the Gnostics of the first century could not accept the paradox that Christ was fully God and fully man. They tried to use their intellect and reasoning to explain away the Scriptures that did not conform to their viewpoint. In the same way, we often do the same thing without realizing it.

One of the early paradoxes in the life of the church was faith and works, or law and grace. The message of grace was so compelling that people stopped worrying about sin and began to live care free where sin was concerned. It became bad enough that Paul, James and Peter, all wrote admonishing the early church about the danger of sin. Paul reaffirmed the law as a tutor; James said that you cannot separate your faith from your works. Peter said people were twisting Paul's message. *Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:15-16 (NKJV)*.

Some of the paradoxes that Enoch, the main character, struggles with are questions many Christians have had, but were afraid to address. Fear of questioning comes from a fundamental concern that if the Word of God contradicts itself, maybe it is flawed and therefore not true. Perish the thought! In truth, I want to take you into a larger realm of understanding in which paradox is not only embraced, but cherished as normal. Not only do I want you to embrace paradox, but to understand that it is at the heart of faith. Without paradox, faith is not needed. If all things are revealed and plain, what need do

we have for faith?

The Scripture records, <sup>6</sup> *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Heb 11:6 (NKJV)*. Why has God chosen the way of faith? Why didn't He just make everything crystal clear? It is with this in mind, that I hope you will explore the nature of faith with me and grow in a deeper level of understanding the ways of God.

The deeper questions of God's ways are at the core of the following areas we want to explore. I ask that you have fun exploring these areas with me. Don't be afraid to reason with me in the midst of paradox. If you read something that is new or confusing, don't stop but continue to read to get the full context of the Scriptural understanding. For purposes of easy flow I will list some of the areas *The Beginning* introduces you to. The paradoxes and questions found as sub themes in *The Beginning* are as follows:

1. God is three, God is one? The ultimate paradox found in love.
2. How is feminine reflected in the Godhead? If God made male and female in His image, where is the feminine revealed in the Godhead? <sup>27</sup> *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Gen 1:26-27 (NKJV)*
3. Behold the Lamb of God. <sup>29</sup> *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, «Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)* <sup>32</sup> *«If he brings a lamb as his sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish. Lev 4:32 (NKJV)*.
4. Understanding Wisdom; Enoch is visited by Wisdom in his dreams. Who or what is Wisdom? Is it simply understanding or is it (she) Spirit? Why is Wisdom feminine in the Scriptures?
5. Wisdom and Christ.
6. Why is the feminine being exalted above masculine in our culture?
7. Law and grace.
8. If God is love (*1 Jn. 4:8*), why does He allow evil?
9. Is the Bible full of contradiction?
10. Why did God choose the way of faith for us to find Him? Why there

must be two possibilities.

11. Death paradox. *Why did Jesus say, "Some of you standing here will not taste death", and yet, all of them died?* <sup>28</sup> *Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. Matt 16:28 (NKJV).* This relates to the Angel of Death that Enoch encounters.
12. How do we reconcile science and the Bible?

# NOTES

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PARADOX ONE

**GOD IS  
ONE, GOD  
IS THREE!**

## GOD IS ONE, GOD IS THREE!

Many people have struggled through the centuries with this core doctrine of Christianity. In order to understand why there is so much confusion over the nature of the Godhead we need to understand the context of knowledge. Knowledge cannot fathom the impossible, especially when considering paradox. The tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden was beautiful but had no life in it. The Scriptures clearly teach that knowledge is surpassed by the love of God in Christ. <sup>19</sup> *to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph 3:19 (NKJV)*. Knowledge is not the ultimate reality in the universe.

First, I would like to look at the oneness of God and give a reasoned explanation of how the Godhead is one. The core of this is found in the book of 1 John. <sup>8</sup> *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:8 (NKJV)*. The most important reality about God is that He is love. In other words He is the essence, substance, reality, or Spirit of love. Would it not be too far-fetched to say that the essence of the Godhead is one Spirit which is love? We think of love as an emotion or feeling. John tells us that God is love. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one Spirit and that Spirit is love.

Here is where we need to understand the nature of love and how it can manifest in differing ways. When most people think about love they often think of love in one way only. The love we most readily identify with is the nurturing side of love. This is the love that does not fail and always accepts us even when we don't deserve it. This kind of love is explained in 1 Corinthians 13; <sup>4</sup> *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. 1 Cor. 13:3-8 (NKJV)*. It's easy to identify with this type of love. I think of this type of love as embodied in a nurturing or maternal love.

Is this the only type or manifestation of love? When we talk about God being love we are confronted with many Scriptures that do not show God being this kind of love. How can we (or the Scriptures for that matter) say that God is love? Didn't God send the Angel of Death to Egypt to kill the firstborn? Didn't God strike down the Hebrews in the wilderness and turn Lot's wife to a pillar of salt? Isn't it God who will send people to hell? How do we understand this paradox that God is the Great Spirit of love?

God the Father represents a different manifestation of love. Let's call this manifestation protective love. Protective love is rooted in righteousness.

Where the love that is described in 1 Corinthians cannot fail or think evil, the protective side of love can be frightening and violent. Let me explain in a way most of us can understand. If someone grabbed your child, wife or loved one and tried to kidnap or hurt them and you could act to stop them, would you? If you could stop the evil action that was taking place by hitting the attacker wouldn't you do it? Now on the surface, a mother or father might perform a great act of violence by knocking down or clubbing the attacker, yet the violence, although necessary, is not the heart of the mother or father. The motive of the protective parent is not hatred or violence but is protective love.

If we understand the basis of this kind of love, we can understand how the Father's manifestation of love differs from the Holy Spirit in Christ. Both manifestations are love but appear to be very different in the way they react. The nurturing side of love would turn the other cheek; but the righteous, or protective, side of love would stop the evil. In many ways the nurturing side of love is defenseless and needs protecting. It thinks no evil therefore it is innocent and incapable of seeing the danger.

The first paradox that was formed was found in the nature of love. God brought all life into existence and He loved His creation with an everlasting love. When sin came into existence it threatened life itself. God loved His angels but they were turning away from love to evil. The Love that cannot fail (heart or nurturing love) must be taken out of God and it must yield to the righteous side of protective love. The nurturing side of love cannot rule in the crisis of sin. God must be able to judge His own children and remove evil from existence. The love that cannot fail, by nature, cannot fail even Lucifer. *He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 2 Thess 2:7 (NKJV)* The love that cannot fail restrains the righteous judgment of the Father. This love must be "sacrificed" and put out of the way if evil is to be removed forever. At the heart of this paradox between the two natures of love is the reflection of the sacrificial system. In other words, God may have instituted the sacrificial system to reflect His own sacrifice of un failing love to protective love. God, in a sense, had to sacrifice His own heart in order to throw the diseased sons of God into the place of eternal quarantine prepared for them.

The Godhead is manifested in differing ways even though the three manifestations are love. I explore these differing types of love further in the next section.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Can love manifest in differing ways?
- Can love be violent?
- What sacrifice did God make in order to protect eternity from evil?



PARADOX TWO

**HOW THE  
FEMININE IS  
REFLECTED  
IN THE  
GODHEAD**

## HOW THE FEMININE IS REFLECTED IN THE GODHEAD

Another interesting paradox is found in the nature of the feminine. I know there are some that think Adam was in the image of God and Eve was in the image of Adam. Both were created in the image of God. Is it possible that both reflect differing manifestations of the image of love? I realize we are faced with another Scriptural paradox. Simply put, Jesus taught us that there is no giving or taking in marriage in heaven and that we will all be like the angels. *Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.<sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God. Matt 22:29-30 (NKJV).* There is no mention of the feminine in the Godhead and we know from the book of Job that angels are called the sons of God. If this is so, then how was Eve in the image of God?

To understand this mystery we must dig a little deeper. The clue to this mystery is found in Romans 1:20. *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.* In other words, we can understand the Godhead by understanding the things God made. If God made male and female in His image we should accept the feminine as a reflection of an attribute or manifestation of love (God). Is it possible that female reflects the nurturing and unfailing love (Holy Spirit) that was placed into God's Son? This love is best represented by the Spirit. The Hebrew word for "Spirit" (ruach) is feminine in Genesis 1:2. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit is presented in the masculine gender. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the Comforter." John 16:7 (KJV).

This creates another paradox. If we are to believe every word that comes out of the mouth of God as true, we must accept that feminine reflects something about God. In the novel, Wisdom explains to Enoch the feminine reflects the nurturing side of love. Masculine reflects the protective side of love. God is love but is manifested in these two ways. The reason it is hard to see the love described in 1 Corinthians 13 in the Father is because His love is motivated by protection that is rooted in righteousness. Although protective love is still love, it is not the same as the nurturing love described in 1 Corinthians. The innocence of that love believes all things and does not think evil and never fails. In fact, protective love is capable of destroying evil and evil doers. It the same way one might have to knock out, or perhaps even kill, an abductor of a loved one. The motive of this violence is not hate but love. This type of violence is justified under the law because it is motivated by what is right.

The maternal or feminine aspect of Love (God) is found in the life

giving and sustaining ability of the feminine. The church takes on the role of the feminine in the relation to Christ. The Greek word for church (ecclesia) is feminine in gender. The church is called the bride of the lamb. (Rev.19:7, 9, 21:9). In the natural the feminine receives the seed and out of her “belly” comes new life. The church receives the Spirit (seed) and produces life. Jesus said it this way, <sup>38</sup> *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.* <sup>39</sup> *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:38-39 (NKJV).* Even though I am a man I am described in terms of the feminine in relation to Christ. As the church, I am to become full (impregnated) of the Spirit and I am to reproduce that life in me. It is strange for me to think in these terms, yet I must accept the role of bride of Christ. I am in the position of learning to yield to Christ as my authority. As He yielded to His Father’s will, He now asks His bride (the Church) to yield to His will.

The feminine also reflects the life-giving side of the Spirit in Christ. All life came through Christ. <sup>1</sup> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* <sup>2</sup> *He was in the beginning with God.* <sup>3</sup> *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* <sup>4</sup> *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4 (NKJV).* <sup>10</sup> *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. John 1:10 (NKJV).* <sup>15</sup> *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* <sup>16</sup> *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.* <sup>17</sup> *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Col 1:15-17 (NKJV).*

Jesus submitted to His Father’s will. Even though He was one with the Father in Spirit, He took on the role of submission. The church, in the same way, must learn to submit to the will of Christ. The feminine position is that of submission to the masculine. In other words, the love that will never forsake that was in Christ, yielded to the protective love of the Father. Why is it important for protective love to rule over unyielding love? Unyielding love by nature is weaker than protective love. It does not have the ability to forsake. This is at the heart of paradox in the nature of love. The protective love must rule in the crises of sin because it has the strength to confront sin and overcome it. This love found in the Father has the strength to take the diseased sons away.

When it comes to dealing with sin, the Father must turn a deaf ear to the pleading of love for the children. The maternal side of love cries out for forgiveness. <sup>34</sup> *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. Luke 23:34 (KJV).* Many people have asked, as did Jesus, “Why did

God forsake Christ when He was on the cross? And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Mark 15:34 (KJV). Some have suggested that God is too holy to look on sin and therefore turned away from Christ. Since Satan stands in the presence of God day and night accusing the brethren (Rev 12:10), this viewpoint is erroneous. God, of necessity, had to reject the cry to forgive evil in order for justice and judgment to take place. The eternal spirit of evil must be put away forever. The law of God demanded that evil be judged. It is not by accident that only Jesus says "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Heb 13:5 (NKJV).

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- How does the feminine reflect part of the Godhead?
- How does marriage reflect Christ and the church?
- How do Adam and Eve reflect aspects of the Godhead?

# NOTES

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PARADOX THREE

**BEHOLD  
THE LAMB  
OF GOD**

## BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

An interesting factoid in the story line of the book is presented to Enoch by Wisdom. <sup>29</sup> *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, «Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)* Wisdom asks Enoch the question, “Why did the sacrificial lamb have to be a female lamb?” Again, we see the reference to the feminine in the sacrificial lamb. Could there be a deeper meaning in the sacrifice of the feminine.

Jesus is directly referenced to as the lamb that was sacrificed for sin. The feminine is the life giver and in this way reflects Christ. The feminine came out (was begotten) of the masculine in the Garden of Eden. Christ was begotten of God and not created. He was brought forth out of the Father. He is the same essence, substance, or Spirit as the Father. <sup>30</sup> *I and My Father are one.” John 16:27-28 (NKJV).* *For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. <sup>28</sup> I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.» John 10:30 (NKJV)*

The inability of some people to see Christ as the same Spirit as God can lead to many rejections of the deity of Christ. Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Jesus was an angel that was sent to earth but He is not God. It is understandable when confronted by paradox. God’s Scriptural paradox causes many people to short circuit their mind. The easy thing to do is to rely on our knowledge rather than just believe both are true. Logic tells us that if one thing is true, such as “The Lord thy God is one,” then the proposition that three are one becomes illogical. The truth is this, knowledge falls short of the reality of God. <sup>8</sup> *«For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> «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 (NKJV)* *“I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; <sup>25</sup> Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, And drives diviners mad; Who turns wise men backward, And makes their knowledge foolishness; Isaiah 44:24-25 (NKJV).*

The Lamb (Christ) was slain from the foundation of the world. <sup>8</sup> *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Rev 13:8 (NKJV).* When the knowledge of good and evil came into existence through the law, the perfect Love (Holy Spirit) in a real sense had to be sacrificed, lest it should forgive Satan. Pure love can never turn away from the children. This is a characteristic of the feminine not the masculine. It is a self-sacrificing love. This is why in divorces the courts most often give custody to the mother. There is recognition of the self-sacrificing nature of the woman over the man.

The Passover lamb, in contrast to the sin offering, had to be a male lamb.<sup>5</sup> *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.* <sup>6</sup> *Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.* <sup>7</sup> *And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.* <sup>8</sup> *Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it* Ex 12:5-8 (NKJV). The Passover lamb represents the reality of eternal death passing over all who take Christ (the Lamb) into their life. These are picture types that teach us about God's plan for redemption of all who receive Christ. It also shows us the protective side of love in that we are protected from death through Christ.

Although I have been through Bible College and Seminary, I have never heard a teaching that made sense about how the female is in the image of God. Today some theologians try to call God "He, She, It." This is an attempt to believe a paradox but can lead to some very strange conclusions. In the flesh we tend to think of male and female in physical differences; but in the Spirit there is no male or female. (Matt. 22:30). God is Spirit, and according to 1Jn. 4:8 that Spirit is love. So we must ask the question, "How does Adam and Eve reflect the Spirit of love?" We can understand the Godhead through His creation according to Rom. 1:20, *His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.* I believe masculine and feminine represent types of love as displayed in the Godhead. Jesus is masculine in the flesh and yet, it is easy to see how He reflects nurturing love and protective love. In fact He is the full representation of love in the flesh.<sup>9</sup> *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.* Col 2:9 (NKJV).

The two picture types of both female and male sacrificial lambs represent Christ. The feminine represents the lamb slain before the foundation of the world and the masculine represents the physical sacrifice of Jesus (Love) in the flesh. The unending love must be sacrificed in order to put an end to sin. This is at the heart of the sacrificial system. It is not that God likes to kill things to appease His anger, but rather it represents the "death" of the nurturing love that cannot fail. By nature this love would allow Lucifer and the sin infected angels to abide forever in heaven. If this were allowed, evil would abide forever and eventually destroy everything. Protective Love (God the Father) in a sense sacrificed His own heart to see that this eventual reality could not happen. Evil must be destroyed for the sake of life itself. The only problem is this, how do you destroy your own children? You love them with an everlasting love. The everlasting love must be put out of the way. It must be placed into a vessel called feminine. The man is the head of the home but the woman is the heart of the home. That which brings the two together is love.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- How is the sacrificial lamb for sin different from the Passover lamb?
- How do both lambs represent Christ?
- How does the feminine represent sacrificial love?
- How does the masculine represent protective love?

# NOTES

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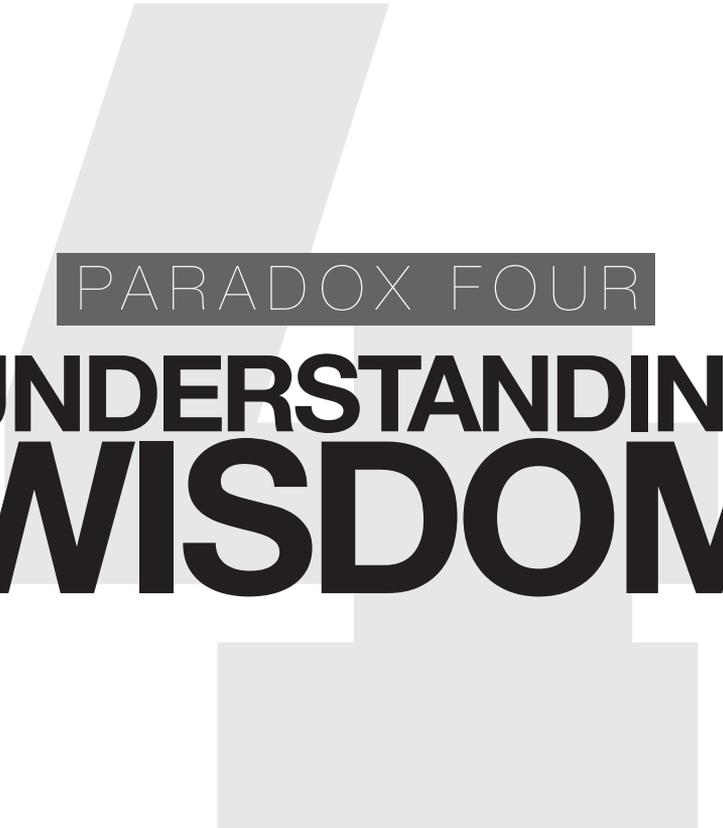
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PARADOX FOUR

**UNDERSTANDING  
WISDOM**

## UNDERSTANDING WISDOM

<sup>1</sup> *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.* <sup>2</sup> *The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.* *Isaiah 11:1-2 (NKJV)*

I was visited by a Jehovah's Witness some years back and was told that he believed Jesus was Michael the Arch-Angel before He was sent to earth. I asked him why he believed this. He said that there was only one God, therefore, Jesus could not be God. I am sure many of us have questioned the nature of God in one way or another because of the paradox. Who was Christ before He came to earth?

In the story line, Enoch is visited by the Spirit of Wisdom in his dreams. This is to establish several things. One, is to introduce the feminine aspect of the sacrificial lamb, another is to introduce Wisdom as feminine in the Old Testament. Finally, I want to establish the link between Jesus and Wisdom. God's ways make sense and everything that God made reflects something about the Godhead.

The feminine was in the masculine until it was brought forth or begotten. Jesus is unique in this aspect. Angels were not begotten but rather were created. Adam was first and then Eve was begotten out of Adam. Eve was in Adam in the same way that Christ was always in the Father. Eve was not created by Adam but was brought forth from Adam. Jesus stated that He came forth from the Father and Wisdom states She came forth from the Father. I will give a brief Scriptural overview later in this section. Adam and Eve also reflect the Godhead in this manner. In the book, Wisdom tells Enoch that God may be better understood as two held in the bond of one. This reference reflects the nature of creation. Positive and negative are the same energy but are held and drawn together by an unknown force called magnetism. Planets and moons are one matter and are drawn together by the unknown force called gravity. Adam and Eve are one flesh and are drawn together by love. The Father and Son are drawn together by the Holy Spirit of love. The invisible attributes of God and His eternal Godhead can be seen in creation if we know how to observe creation.

One of the chief sub themes in *The Beginning* is the reflection of the Godhead in creation. Adam and Eve reflect the Godhead through marriage. They are one in the bond of love. This theme is used in calling the church the bride of Christ. <sup>7</sup> *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.» Rev 19:7 (NKJV).* We should not think of these picture types in fleshly terms but rather spiritual.

As the bride of Christ we are to yield (submit) to His will. We are also to receive His life and reproduce that life. In a sense we become the bearers of this life and bring forth new birth in others. We, as Christians, are a picture type of the feminine. Remember that in the spirit there is no giving or taking in marriage but we shall all be as the angels. We, as His bride, must learn submission to His will and then we shall be exalted. Jesus learned submission to the Father's will and was exalted. The will of Christ is found in the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. He taught us to learn the ways of love. So, in the spirit, the feminine is positional and not gender based. We, as the bride of Christ, are positioned in the place of submission. Christ also was in submission to the Father. In this way He is also a picture type of feminine, or perhaps a better way of saying it is that the feminine is a picture type of Him.

I want to conclude this section by giving a rationale for Wisdom as feminine in the Scripture. Besides the obvious references to the spirit of Wisdom being feminine, we see a deeper meaning in God's Wisdom. If we believe the Scripture that says Jesus was the "wisdom from God for us", we could conclude that wisdom is more than mere concept of rational intelligence. <sup>30</sup> *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God. 1 Cor 1:30 (NKJV).* In chapter eight of Proverbs, Wisdom speaks to us declaring she was brought forth from God. <sup>22</sup> «The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. <sup>23</sup> I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. <sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. <sup>25</sup> Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; Prov 8:22-25 (NKJV).

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- How does Eve reflect Wisdom?
- Can you see a connection between Christ, Wisdom and the lamb?
- In what ways can we see the Godhead reflected in creation?



PARADOX FIVE

# WISDOM & CHRIST

## WISDOM AND CHRIST

In the flesh, it's hard to understand the paradox that there is no male or female in the spirit. Male and female are reflections or images of characteristics of love. Through the ages people have gone to great lengths to explain these paradoxes. Rather than simply accepting what the Scriptures say about Christ, people want to make Him conform to lesser ideals. Some want to take away His deity before he came to earth, making Him an angel or the first created thing. Some want to make Him just a prophet. Others want to make Him three manifestations of God in time. I recently was talking with a Jesus Name Only church member. His denomination (according to him) believed Jesus was God the Father in heaven then became God the Son on earth and finally is now God the Holy Spirit. When I asked him who was Jesus praying to while on earth, he became frustrated and said, "To Himself." It is understandable that people become frustrated when dealing with such great mysteries. We long for sensible answers that make some logical sense out of it all.

The traditional church accepted Christ as fully God and fully man. God is one manifested in three ways. The only way to be true to all Scripture is by acknowledging the paradox and accepting it. There is a leap of faith to accept what the mind cannot comprehend. God has chosen the way of faith to reveal Himself to His creation. It is the childlike faith that declares "Daddy I trust you!" even when you have little understanding.

In the book, Enoch is visited in his dreams by a spirit that calls Himself Wisdom. With no evidence or proof, Wisdom asks Enoch to search for the answers to hidden mysteries of God. This will be the only proof he is offered. He is asked to find out why the sacrificial lamb for sin had to be a female lamb. (Lev.4:32). He also asks him why God specifically cursed Eve with pain in child-bearing. (Gen. 3:16).

Enoch finds out that wisdom is feminine in the Scriptures and is confused about the questions that Wisdom raises. It's with this in mind I wish to explore the connection between Christ and Wisdom. I believe the best way to do this is by comparing Christ and Wisdom. Who was Christ before He emptied himself of the Godhead and became a lowly servant?

## Comparisons between Christ and Wisdom.

Wisdom

Christ

Through Wisdom all things created Ps. 104:24, Jer 10:12, Pr. 3:19	Through Christ all things created Jn. 1:1,9, Heb.1:2, Col:1:16
Find Wisdom find life Pr. 8:35 Ec. 7:12, Pr. 4:20-22	Find Christ find life 1 Jn. 1:12, Jn. 14:6, John 10:10
Seek Me and you will find Me Pr. 8:17	Seek and you will find Matt. 7:7
Wisdom was in the Father Pr. 8:22	Christ was in the Father Jn. 10:38
Wisdom brought forth (Begotten out) Pr. 8:24-25	Christ Brought forth (Begotten out) Jn. 13:3, Jn.1:14, Lk. 1:35
Wisdom established from everlasting Pr. 8:23	Christ established from everlasting Jn. 8:58
Wisdom invites to eat her bread and drink her wine. Pr. 9:5	Jesus is the bread of life. Wine is life Jn. 6:33-48, Matt.26:28
Receive Wisdom, obtain God's favor Pr. 8:34	Receive Christ, receive God's love Jn. 14:23

<sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, <sup>8</sup> which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory 1 Cor. 2:7-8 (NKJV).

I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, <sup>26</sup> **the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.** Col 1:25-26 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> and to make all see what *is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ*; <sup>10</sup> to the intent that **now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known** by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, <sup>11</sup> according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, Eph 3:9-11 (NKJV)

*But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,* <sup>24</sup> *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*** 1 Cor 1:23-24 (NKJV)

<sup>30</sup> But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us **wisdom from God--** and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 1 Cor 1:30 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> *The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, <Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!> **But wisdom is justified by her children.*** Matt 11:19 (NKJV)

I believe there is sufficient connection between Christ and Wisdom to say from a Scriptural stand point that the Son of God is the manifold Wisdom of God. Jesus was never female but rather was positional in the role of submission. In the same way, as I am in the positional role of submission to Christ as the bride or church. I don't at all think of myself as feminine and yet I am called the bride of Christ. This paradox can be understood in the context of authority. The Father's authority is supreme and Jesus was under His authority. <sup>28</sup> *You have heard Me say to you, <I am going away and coming back to you.> 'If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.* John 14:28 (NKJV). Since God rules through authority the position of submission is a yielded or feminine position.

Why should we concern ourselves with this mystery of wisdom? It is because the ways of God make sense. Even though the paradox of male and female have been hidden, both realities reflect God. <sup>20</sup> *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,* Romans 1:19-20 (NKJV). If we understand the Godhead by the things that are made we can look at masculine and feminine and see God. <sup>2</sup> *He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.* Gen 5:2 (NKJV).

There is a purpose in everything God does. His ways make sense when you understand that His creation reflects something about Him.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- How many ways do Christ and Wisdom reflect each other?
- What is the hidden mystery of Wisdom?
- Was God's spirit of Wisdom in Christ?



PARADOX SIX

**EXALTATION  
OF THE  
FEMININE  
IN OUR  
SOCIETY**

## EXALTATION OF THE FEMININE IN OUR SOCIETY

Another theme in the book is the perversion of masculine/protective authority in the last days. Satan will try to turn the picture of the Godhead in creation upside down. The idea that the feminine is “better” than the masculine is an idea that has taken root in western culture. The “kinder-gentler” framework is exalted as preferable to the harshness of strength and accountability. Western thinking is going toward full acceptance of everyone in spite of morals, religion, ethnicity or political slant. There is a truth in this and yet there is a danger. Evil will grow if left unchecked by power and strength. Since the stopping of evil takes a resolve to fight, many people would rather allow it to progress. Evil masquerades as good and takes advantage of innocence. At the core of the change is the rejection of God’s law. The desire to love and accept all people in spite of their “sexual preference,” is just one way that the “gentler-kinder” approach is exalted. Culture wants to throw off the Biblical teachings on sodomy as harsh and unfair. The sexual revolution seeks to call God’s law oppressive and irrelevant. At the heart of selfish pleasure is evil.

*<sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. James 3:16 (NKJV)*

*<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. Romans 1:26-27 (NKJV)*

It is the masculine side that is supposed to protect. If all the protection from evil is taken away, then evil will flourish. As it infected Lucifer, it will infect all who are open to it. In order for evil to flourish it must be thought of as desirable or good. Satan believed that the knowledge of good and evil was a desirable thing. It is probable that he thought God was holding out on him the secret mysteries of knowledge. Like a dangerous disease he played with sin until he caught it.

Imagine a time before evil existed. There was no need for law or protection because there was no knowledge of evil. All things were permissible and there was nothing of fun and life withheld from creation. Like Pandora’s box, once evil came into existence through Lucifer, life would never again be clothed in innocence. Because creation was innocent, God had to create a way of understanding what sin was. He spoke into existence His eternal law. The

law became the diagnostic tool that separated good from evil. The permissive side of love had to give way to the protective side of love. The innocent or permissive side of love is perfectly explained in 1 Cor. 13. *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails 1 Cor 13:4-8 (NKJV)*

Some of the most notable aspects of this kind of love is that it's incapable of thinking evil and it believes all things. Like telling a child that Santa Clause is coming on Christmas, the innocence of love will simply believe. This kind of love in our definition is a feminine love in its purest state.

In the last days it is the permissive side that must overcome the protective side of life. The naive side of love cannot perceive the danger of evil because of innocence. In the modern era the love that is permissive will allow evil to flourish because it doesn't see the danger. In this mindset, everyone should love and accept everyone no matter what their choices are. According to this liberal mindset, to not display such tolerant love is to be bigoted and antisocial. What is actually happening is society has begun to accept what was once defined as evil, as being good or perhaps preferential. <sup>20</sup> *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20 (NKJV)*

Freedom becomes the cry against tyranny of moral law. The problem with total freedom when evil is afoot, is the nature of evil to take advantage of the innocence and recreate life in its own image. Evil by nature is selfish, entitled, and lustful. James said it like this; <sup>14</sup> *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. James 3:14-17 (NKJV)*

In the last days men will try to be free from God's law, which will cause evil to be fully manifested. God will allow this to happen because sin must be shown for what it is. The world cannot end until evil has been made full. In order for this to happen fully, the image of God must be clouded so there is no right and wrong as defined by God in His law. Mankind will attempt to become as god and reinterpret all things through selfish ambition and carnal desire and call it freedom.

<sup>1</sup> *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be*

*lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 2 Tim 3:1-5 (NKJV)*

Paul also addresses this in Romans; <sup>20</sup> *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. Romans 1:19-26a (NKJV)*

The world is attempting to cast off God in order to pursue carnal lust and selfish desire. The law of God is hated by those who proclaim freedom. Anyone who stands in the way of this “freedom” will be hated and reviled, even as God is reviled.

The masculine authority is giving way to the permissive reality. When there is no righteousness in the land then the permissive side of love takes over. By our definition the feminine side believes all things, hopes all things and never fails. There is a side to this sweet and gentle love that does not see the danger in permissive love. Like a mother that continues to love her child no matter what (even when evil), she won't turn her love away and hopes continually for them. The masculine side can see the evil in the child and is determined to stop the evil actions. When there is no longer anything to stop sin, it will run rampant.

The sadness in this whole reality is that there is a truth in the nurturing love and acceptance of all people regardless of the choices they make. If there was no evil, this would be absolutely correct. Unfortunately evil does exist and the only way to overcome it is through strength. Evil must be resisted. In our modern society evil is no longer recognized. What was once evil is now freedom. The feminine or nurturing type of love is far more unconditional than the masculine love. Throughout history the masculine typically are the ones to walk away from children. There is less of a connection to men and the

unfailing side of love. This may be a reflection of the paradox in love. God the Father must turn away from His own children (fallen angels, sons of God) and eventually separate them from the family. The disease called sin must be put away into a quarantine zone forever. That zone is known as hell. What is often misunderstood about the Father is that He must do this for the sake of eternity future. Although He loves His sons, He must remove the disease from life.

In a sense the masculine reflects this ability to turn away from the children in the natural. There is a concerted effort in this day to make boys more like girls in their emotions. Boys are taught to listen to their emotions. It has become more about how they feel about something rather than what is right. When men become emotionally driven instead of righteously driven there will be an eroding of strength in society. Earlier generations taught boys to be strong and not to show emotions. Emotions were equated with women and were not to rule men's hearts.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Is there a difference in masculine and feminine love?
- Why would evil prosper if restraint of law is removed?
- Has God's laws changed on things such as homosexuality?
- How is righteousness needed to combat evil?



PARADOX SEVEN

# LAW & GRACE

## LAW AND GRACE

One of the hardest things to wrap our heads around is the conflict between law and grace. The apostle Paul introduced to the world the concept of salvation by faith and not the law. There has been little balance in most churches when considering these two concepts. This conflict was also true in the early church. The Corinthian church was so free in the grace of God that they began to sin with some very real consequences. The truth is that we cannot exclude either the law or faith. It is faith that frees us from the law of sin and death. <sup>2</sup> *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2 (KJV)*. The eternal or second death is what we have been set free from. The law that says sin results in death in the flesh is still in existence. The wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23). The law of God is satisfied in the death of the flesh.

When we look at God as the law giver it clears up many confusing Scriptures. It is understood that God is the ultimate power in the universe. In heaven all the angels obey the will of God. The fact that Satan had to go to God to get permission to sift Peter is further evidence of God's complete authority. (Luke 22:31). *Jesus said that not one jot or tittle can pass from the law until everything is fulfilled. (Matt. 5:18)*. God sits on His throne and listens daily to the adversary. If the adversary brings an accusation against us, God may allow him to chasten us. This has no effect on our eternal life. This will affect the quality of our life on planet Earth.

Some congregations are so afraid of breaking God's law that they are consumed with fear. They are not aware the spirit of fear is their motivator. <sup>7</sup> *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7 (KJV)*. How can we please God if we come to Him in a spirit of fear? Other congregations emphasize grace so much that they feel there is no need to watch sinful attitudes or actions. This is equally wrong because they dishonor and disrespect the lawgiver. <sup>7</sup> *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. Gal 6:7-8 (KJV)*.

It is through the law that all sin was made known in the universe. Until the law came, sin was not understood or known. <sup>7</sup> *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. <sup>8</sup> But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. Romans 7:7-8 (KJV)*. I realize Paul seems to contradict himself in the book of Romans by saying we are no longer under the law. If we examine a little further we discover that we are free from a more specific law of death and sin. <sup>2</sup> *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*

*hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2 (KJV).* This is due to the atoning work of Christ, specifically the penalty of the second death. The first law concerning death as given to Adam is still in effect. In other words we all must still die in the flesh to fulfill the law. So we fulfill the law by dying and we fulfill the law of grace by living. Both laws are in effect and neither has been disregarded.

We can conclude that the flesh remains under the law of death, and our spirit is under the law of grace. The Corinthians began to die and became sick due to sin. Paul admonished the congregation to walk in a worthy manner when involved with holy things such as the Lord's Supper. <sup>27</sup> *Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.* <sup>28</sup> *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.* <sup>29</sup> *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.* <sup>30</sup> *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 1 Cor 11:26-30 (KJV).*

Christians need to understand that the law of grace is the eternal law and affects the spirit of man in eternity. As demonstrated in Paul's writings concerning the law in the temporal, sin in the flesh has definite consequences.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- a. Why is there so much confusion over law and grace?
- b. Does the law have any effect on the flesh?
- c. How are we free from the law of sin and death?



PARADOX EIGHT

**WHY DOES  
GOD  
ALLOW  
EVIL?**

## WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

One of the most penetrating questions about life is this: “If God is good, why does He allow evil to exist?” As we know from Jesus, Satan is the father of all evil, <sup>4</sup> *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44 (NKJV).* What God was dealing with, at its heart, was a family conflict. <sup>6</sup> *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” Job 1:6-7 (NKJV).* Job calls the angelic host the “sons of God.” We find an interesting perspective in Job. The Lord views His creation as family and the angels were a part of that family.

Satan, or Lucifer, was a covering cherub, <sup>14</sup> *«You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. <sup>15</sup> You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. Ezek 28:13-15 (NKJV).* It’s apparent that Lucifer wanted to be like God. <sup>12</sup> *«How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart: «I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.» <sup>15</sup> Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. Isaiah 14:12-15 (NKJV).*

Satan believed and preached his doctrine of equality with God through knowledge of evil. If you knew God’s secret knowledge of evil you would be like God. <sup>4</sup> *Then the serpent said to the woman, «You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.» Gen 3:4-5 (NKJV).* Satan did not understand that knowledge of evil was unknown in creation for a purpose. God was protecting His family from the ravages of evil. Once evil became known and exalted through Lucifer, God gave creation the choice of turning away from love. There became two possibilities as a result of the search for knowledge. One was the way of love, and the other was the way of selfishness. As much as God loved His family, He must give them the freedom to choose their destiny. If there is no choice, there is only control. Love does not control.

From the perspective of the angels, the concept of another possibility

of life must have been intriguing. By that I mean the knowledge of evil caught the attention of one third of the angelic hosts. (Rev. 12). As we learned earlier, faith in the Father's word was all the angels had to go on. Many chose to disregard their Father and go for knowledge. What is to keep such a phenomenon from happening again? God in His wisdom created a people who would know good and evil and die according to the law, but could be redeemed and overcome evil by faith. We will be the witnesses for all eternity as to why no other system than love will work. The great experiment of selfishness must be fully revealed for what it is. Sin must be fully exposed so there will never be a question in the future about a different way of life than love. Love is the ultimate truth. It is one with, and is God.

In a sense, God had to let His creation choose between good and evil. He would not force them to choose, they must be free to do so. The experiment of sin was afoot with Satan leading the charge. God warned His children that sin would lead to death. For the angels that were created eternal, that was a foreign concept. "What is death, Father?" I am sure the angels were perplexed at such a thought and needed to understand what God was talking about. Death for an angel is the separation from He who is life. In other words, God would have to separate all of the angels that had received evil (sin) into their spirit. Like a virulent disease, sin must be quarantined from love and life forever. As heartbreaking as it was, God had to prepare a place to send all evil where it can never again infect creation. <sup>41</sup> *Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: Matt 25:41 (NKJV)*. The terrible place we call hell was created to protect life from the horrors of evil. It was God that created hell and it is a place of evil. <sup>7</sup> *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. Isaiah 45:6-7 (KJV)*. When God says He created evil, it is the truth, we understand that hell is an evil place. God did not create the evil in Lucifer; but He created an evil place to contain him.

God loved His creation and would not simply destroy Satan. Love can only flourish through willing hearts. In other words, you can't be forced to love. God knew that all creation could only live in harmony with love if it was voluntary. Anything else is not love. Even though He loved His creation He could not let evil abide forever. It must be put away at some point or it will consume life. God would not destroy evil outright lest the motive of life should change. By this, I mean if God "killed" His covering cherub, then all the sons of God could only respond to Him through fear. In other words, the motive would change from love to fear. You cannot love through fear. God only wants those who worship Him to do so in truth and spirit. <sup>23</sup> *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.* <sup>24</sup> *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:23-24 (NKJV)*. We must freely

love God. Would you want fellowship with people who hate you? Love (God) desires to receive and give love.

To sum up this section, God had to allow evil to run its course in such a way that would prove to creation for all time why love is the only way of life. It is God that is the source of all love. <sup>6</sup> *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV).*

### Questions to ponder:

- Why didn't God destroy Lucifer when he became evil?
- Why did God give choice to His angels?
- Why is it important to allow the "experiment" of sin to be completed?

# NOTES

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PARADOX NINE

**IS THE  
BIBLE FULL  
OF  
CONTRADICTIONS?**

## IS THE BIBLE FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS?

One of the key themes in the book is the viewpoint of contradictions in the Bible. Many Christians struggle with the doctrines of the Bible. As a result, many doctrines, denominations, and theological viewpoints have been formed to explain such discrepancies. We are constantly trying to solve these things through logic and reasoning. In other words we are trying to comprehend paradox through logic. It doesn't work! An even larger question to me is this, Why did God leave so much paradox in the Scripture? For study purposes I want to point out a few.

God is three	God is one
Judge not lest you be judged	He who is spiritual judges all things
Salvation by grace not works	Work out you salvation with fear and trembling
Eternal security of believers	Names Blotted out of the Book of Life
Predestination	Free will
Christ is God	Christ is man
God is love	God destroys sin

This short list by no means exhausts the paradoxes in Scripture, but they are a few of the usual ones people struggle with. What may seem contradictory, are actually by God's design. God simply asks His creation, "Do you trust Me even though you don't understand?"<sup>8</sup> «*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,*» says the LORD.<sup>9</sup> «*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 (NKJV).* Was it not a similar question He asked of the angels when they pondered the knowledge of good and evil? As it was in the beginning, so it is now; do you trust your heavenly Father? True faith can only be tested when there are two possibilities.

Jesus responded to temptation by acknowledging one must live by every word that proceeds from God. *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*<sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "*It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*" *Matt 4:3-4 (NKJV).* We often say that with God all things are possible, but then deny a Scripture that does not conform to our denominational doctrines. A person with a religious spirit will attempt to destroy every doctrine that does not conform to his accepted

norm. Some examples of this are gifts of the Spirit, salvation, the nature of Christ, etc. The inability of the church to embrace every word of God is at the root of divisions and arguments in the church.

We call this interpretation, but actually it is simply paradox. We ought to acknowledge the mystery with childlike faith and simply believe it. We must believe that God's will is prophetically predestined before the world was made. Even though God has predetermined all things, we have free will and must choose Him. The way it works is a mystery and yet both realities are completely true. Free will and predestination seem to be irreconcilable but the impossible is easy for God. God is three manifestations of one spirit. He is one Father and one Son bonded together in the Holy Spirit. Adam and Eve were bonded together by love and reflect the Godhead in this way. We all wish God had made His ways perfectly understandable, but then, why would we need faith? God's way forces us to jump over our finite reasoning to accept by faith His truth. I imagine the angels had to simply take God's word for it that the knowledge of evil was not a thing to desire. With no evidence to the contrary, they had to go on faith that their Father was telling the truth. Thankfully two thirds of God's angels trusted their Father and remained in a state of purity.

The question of contradiction is most acute in the mind of unbelievers. Without the Holy Spirit to give us understanding, very little of God's ways would make any sense. God has purposely allowed the paradox to remain in Scripture. There are keys to the paradoxes in Scripture but they cannot be accessed through the knowledge of the mind. They are understood by the revelation of God which is accessed through faith.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Is contradiction and paradox the same thing?
- Can doctrines sometimes exclude a Scriptural paradox? What are some examples?
- Why is it important to believe every word of God?
- Do you think denominations exist because of inability to accept paradox? In what way?



PARADOX TEN

**WHY  
DID GOD  
CHOOSE  
THE WAY  
OF FAITH?**

## WHY DID GOD CHOOSE THE WAY OF FAITH?

*<sup>4</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 1 John 5:4 (NKJV)*

As I mentioned earlier, in order for faith to exist there must be choice. Two roads were laid out before all of God's angels. One road was based in imagination and knowledge while the other was based in love. What is the highest reality, love or knowledge? We are taught that knowledge is power. In fact science believes if we only gain the knowledge of all things, we will be like gods. This mindset is as old as sin itself. God's way is the way of love and He declares love is the highest reality. God is no respecter of persons whether a covering cherub or a man. Man and angels had to choose by faith whether to trust God or trust Satan.

In the book, Enoch is constantly confronted with two possibilities. On the one hand, there seems to be logical natural explanations for the strange phenomenon that constantly happens to him. On the other, he knows something supernatural is also a possibility. The core of the book's theology comes from the choice in the Garden of Eden. God placed two trees in the garden. The tree of life was free and it yielded its fruit for food and life. The tree of knowledge of good and evil was beautiful to behold but contained only death. There were no other prohibitions given by God. In other words, there was no other possibility for sin. It was only the knowledge of evil that could bring death. Satan believed that if Adam and Eve would eat of it they would be as gods knowing good and evil. *<sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.» Gen 3:5 (NKJV).*

Some people wonder why God didn't keep them safe from Satan. Paul called Satan the god of this age. *<sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, 2 Cor 4:3-4 (NKJV)* Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world, *And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. John 14:29-30 (NKJV).* You might ask, "How did Satan become the ruler or god of this world?" The answer is simple. God gave him the authority and title. Satan does not have the power to take anything. Each time you see him in heavenly scenes he is asking permission to do what he wants. He asked permission to harm Job in Job chapter one. He asked to sift Peter as wheat in Luke 22:31. In Revelation chapter twelve, Satan stands before God day and night accusing the brethren. He tries to obtain permission on the basis of God's law. In the case of Job, he conjectured that people only love God because of His blessings. The accusation was more against God than Job.

The subtle point suggested that God's people loved Him only for blessings and therefore God's followers were not different than Satan's followers.

It is odd to think that the anointed cherub is in the presence of God in His heavenly temple. This doesn't fit the picture of warring angels of God and Satan. In fact, Satan can't do anything outside of God's will. God rules heaven by His law. Satan must come to Him on the basis of law to make an accusation. <sup>36</sup> *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 1 Cor 15:56 (NKJV)*. The law is what gives Satan his authority. Jesus said it this way, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. John 8:34 (NKJV)*. Another way of saying it is this; if we sin, we come under authority of Satan.

God has allowed Lucifer to preach and teach his doctrines of freedom and godhood through knowledge to creation. The great experiment called sin will one day be utterly shown for what it is. At the appointed time God will put a stop to all evil. In the mean time, we must overcome the tempter by our faith. <sup>6</sup> *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Heb 11:6 (NKJV)*. We are faced with the choice of trusting God by faith or living according to the way of sin. <sup>11</sup> *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."*<sup>1</sup> *Gal 3:11 (NKJV)*.

Faith is beyond mere belief; it requires a whole commitment of life and attitude, especially when the object of faith is improvable. It requires a certain abandonment of self, in order to fall into the unknown. It is a leap over a cliff, not knowing if a net is below. God declares to His creation "trust Me on my word alone." Why would He do this? Because it is the only way of truly demonstrating your trust.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Why is faith important to God?
- How does conflicting possibilities affect faith?
- How did Satan become the god of this world?



PARADOX ELEVEN

# DEATH PARADOX

## DEATH PARADOX

Enoch is perplexed by a character that he meets on three different occasions. The character is dark and mysterious and seems to know Enoch. His statement, "You're the one that got away," has deep Biblical meaning. The law of God stated in the Garden of Eden that if one ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they would die. Through the Scriptures this law is reaffirmed. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23 (NKJV)*. <sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, *Heb 9:27 (NKJV)*. Since all men have sinned and fall short or the glory of God, how did Enoch and Elijah get taken by God without dying? <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. *Gen 5:24 (NKJV)*. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him". *Heb 11:5 (NKJV)*. <sup>11</sup> Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. *2 Kings 2:11 (NKJV)*

The paradox is in the contradiction of the clear law of God and the removal of Enoch from earth without death. Enoch was also a sinner and according to the law of God must die. On the surface it would appear that God does not follow His own law. If God has spoken the law of sin and death into existence it cannot be for some and not for others. (I speak in terms of death in the flesh not the second death.) Jesus said the law shall not pass away until all things are fulfilled. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. *Matt 5:18 (NKJV)*.

There are two men taken by God in the Old Testament who did not see death. Enoch and Elijah were righteous men but do they really get to avoid death? According to the law of God they must die yet they did not. *The Beginning* holds the paradox of these two realities in equal esteem. It is because of the law that they must come back to the earth and die. This is why the two witnesses are killed in the book of Revelation in chapter 11. <sup>7</sup> When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. <sup>10</sup> And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their

*feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.* <sup>12</sup> *And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, «Come up here.» And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. Rev 11:7-12 (NKJV)*

It is important that the law be fulfilled to the jot, letter and tittle. The only miscarriage of law in the spirit has to do with the death of Christ. According to the law of God, only sinners must die. Christ was not a sinner and yet He was put to death. Furthermore, it was the will of God that He should be put to death. The death of Christ is the first time in history that the law was circumvented. Satan overstepped his authority for the first time. According to the law, Christ should have lived in the flesh for eternity since He had not sinned. It is only sin that brings death. Jesus was wronged under the law of God. In our law if someone is wronged, they are to be made whole or compensated for the wrong done to them. Jesus must also be recompensed for the wrong done to Him. His blood redeemed us from death and we are given to Him as His bride. In other words, we are that recompense. Not only did Christ receive all who believe in Him, but He was given the keys of death and became Lord of all. *“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.* <sup>18</sup> *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Rev 1:17-18 (NKJV).*

Jesus proclaimed some people would not taste death. This would seem to be an impossible reality since everyone who was ever born has died (with the current exception of Enoch and Elijah). This paradox is resolved when we realize that death is not just the passing of the body but is actually a spirit. When a Christian dies, he will not see the angel of Death, but will be translated into the presence of Christ. The angel known as Death (Rev. 6:8) is a fallen angel and, like Satan, is an enemy of God. The angel of Death like all other angels must submit to the will of God. In the story of *The Beginning*, the angel of Death tells Enoch that he was the one that got away. God did not allow the angel of Death to take Enoch's life in Genesis. The angel of Death was given his authority by God. In the great tribulation he rides a pale horse and is given authority to kill one third of life on earth. He will also be the last angel to be cast into the lake of fire. *He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.* <sup>26</sup> *The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 1 Cor 15:25-26 (NKJV).* *Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.* <sup>14</sup> *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Rev 20:13-14 (NKJV)*

It is strange to think that fallen angels are in the presence of God. We have probably heard sermons teaching that God was too holy to look upon sin. This view does not conform to Job chapter one or Revelation chapter twelve. God is not shaken one bit in the presence of evil. Even though some very rebellious angels were chained and imprisoned, most still have access to the throne

of God. *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; Jude 1:6 (NKJV)* <sup>7</sup> *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup> but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup> So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. <sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, «Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. Rev 12:7-10 (NKJV).*

The reason I say that most angels still have access is because the war that breaks out in heaven happens after the two witnesses are killed by the beast in Revelation chapter eleven. I imagine when the rebellious angels were imprisoned it caused the other angels to walk very carefully where God's law was concerned. Suffice it to say that every angel cannot resist the will of God. Where they once enjoyed the freedom of life they must now submit to His will. No angel can do anything without a legal cause before God. If we understand this we will understand passages in the Bible that seem counter to God as love. For instance, the Scriptures record that God sent an evil spirit to Saul. <sup>14</sup> *But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. <sup>15</sup> And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. 1 Sam 16:14-15 (KJV).*

Before you dismiss this Scripture you should understand that all evil spirits were and still are "sons of God." The angels that followed Lucifer were darkened in their understanding and became filled with selfish desire. They also became filled with hate and every evil because they know what eventually awaits them. God hates what has become of His precious sons, but He will do what is necessary to protect life from the destruction of sin. He created the law after sin came into existence in order to show what sin is. <sup>19</sup> *Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, Gal 3:19 (KJV) For by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20 (NKJV) For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Romans 5:13 (NKJV).*

All fallen angels must obey God's law or possibly be put into chains and reserved until judgment. It is strange to think of Hades and Death as angels, yet that is exactly how they are described. This is no mere literary device; it is a testament that all evil has spiritual forces behind it. *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph 6:12 (NKJV).* The angel of Death is under authority. It is possible to die and not see Death (the angel of Death). Many paradoxes in

Scripture are simply discounted as contradictory. In fact we should embrace paradox and marvel at God's power.

### Questions to ponder:

- How is it possible to die and not see death?
- What does the Scripture say about the angels that left their first abode?
- Do fallen angels have to get permission from God for activities in the earth?



PARADOX TWELVE

# SCIENCE & THE BIBLE

## SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

One of the prominent themes in *The Beginning* is the attempt of science to explain the unexplainable. At the core of this debate are two things; the first is that knowledge falls short and the second is the need for two possibilities. Much of what we call science today is actually pseudo-science. By that, I mean science has taken some great leaps of faith to fill in the blanks of certain questions. One such area that Enoch struggles with is the origin of life. On the one hand science makes a presumption about the origin of life as evolving from a primordial soup of rich minerals. On the other hand, the Bible says life came from God. Neither assumption can be proved by science. Though science has experimented with base proteins that can chemically replicate, there is no definitive answer to life. How minerals might have suddenly developed a cellular wall, a nucleus, ability to gain nourishment, excrete wastes, move, and reproduce is an utter mystery. To say it just happened is a leap of faith that no empirical evidence can support.

Enoch, like most people, is taught that science is the answer to life's mysteries. It seems very plausible if you don't look too close. The six million species on earth, we are told, evolved from single cell organisms. When science is asked to provide the evidence of the millions of changes in each one of the six million species, science stumbles. The few attempts at the missing links are refutable by many scientists in the same field. Logic dictates that the missing links should far outnumber the final animal form. In spite of the lack of evidence, science proclaims that through knowledge we will one day know all things. It sounds somewhat like the age old struggle to be like God through knowledge.

The point is not that science is not needed or helpful, but that it takes as much faith to believe in some of its conclusions as it does to believe in God. True science is based in facts not presupposition. Science is often based in theory and mathematical probability. Until a scientific presupposition is proven as fact, it remains a theory. In public schools, the theory of evolution is taught as fact. Scientist labels some invisible forces, such as gravity and magnetism; but they do not actually know what they are. We can describe the effects of these forces but do not know why they exist. *He made the worlds;*<sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of *His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power Heb 1:2-3 (NKJV).*

The Bible does not look for magnetism or gravity to explain our universe. It simply records that it is God that upholds all things by His power. The Bible does not need experimentation to confirm that God's power exists. It only needs faith to accept it. Does the Bible address every field of science? It seems that God has no need or compulsion to explain all of the mysteries of

the universe. We are given enough to make a choice by faith. The Bible does not seek to answer the questions of science. It is a book that records the things God has done in history. It is also a book that lays out His plan of restoring life to its original state of love and the absence of evil. As it was with the angels so it is with us, do you trust your daddy?

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- Does it take as much faith to believe in evolutionary science as God? How so?
- Does science truly answer mysteries of the universe?
- Why does science rely on theory for explanations about life's origins?

# NOTES

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## EPILOGUE

I hope you enjoyed the novel and this study guide. It can be fun discovering all the ways of God's wisdom. I believe God's ways make sense and everything He does is for a purpose. Too often we run from the difficult things in the Bible when we should marvel at them. Instead of rejecting parts of Scripture that don't fit a particular viewpoint, I believe a richer, fuller view comes into play when we accept every word that comes out of the mouth of God. When we say; "with God all things are possible," do we really mean it? I have heard many a brother say God would never send an evil spirit to anyone, in spite of the clear teaching in Scripture. It was God who sent an evil spirit to Saul. <sup>9</sup> *And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul. 1 Sam 19:8-9 (KJV).*

We can only accept such paradox when we understand that God is on His throne and is listening to the arguments of Satan. Saul had turned away from the Lord and as a result Satan asked to send one of his angels to torment Saul. In the New Testament, Satan requested to sift Peter as wheat. <sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, "*Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.*" <sup>33</sup> *But he said to Him, «Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.» <sup>34</sup> Then He said, «I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.» Luke 22:31-34 (NKJV).* Satan went to God and asked him to have Peter. It is likely Satan made his request based in God's law.

<sup>56</sup> *The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law. 1 Cor 15:56 (ASV).* Satan gains his power by the law. Satan will continue to stand in the presence of God accusing the brethren until he is finally cast to earth after the beast is revealed and kills the two prophets in the book Revelation.

<sup>7</sup> *When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. <sup>10</sup> And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Rev 11:7-10 (NKJV)*

<sup>7</sup> *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup> but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup> So the great dragon was*

*cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. <sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, «Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. Rev 12:7-10 (NKJV)*

What will the two great prophets testify about when they come to earth? When will the great tribulation begin? Are the prophets alive today? You decide!

## INTERESTING FACTS FOUND IN THE BEGINNING:

1. Archbishop Placide Louis Chappelle died of yellow fever on August 8<sup>th</sup> 1905.
2. July 7, 1959, Venus passed in front of the Leo constellation's main star of Regulus, giving scientists a way of determining the size of Venus.
3. The bird attic scene in the book really did happen as described, with different eerie writings on the damaged plaster walls. I was not aware of Enoch's presence.
4. It is well documented that Nazi scientist and doctors experimented on prisoners at concentration camps. Genetic experiments and artificial insemination were performed by Dr. Josef Mengele and Dr. Carl Clauberg at the Auschwitz concentration camp. They were tried and convicted of war crimes.
5. Astrocytes inhibit neural stem cells in the brain.
6. The origin of life is a complete mystery to science. Many attempts have been made to chemically create RNA that self-replicates with some degree of success; however the sequences break down very quickly and are not sustainable. Another fallacy is in the fact that proteins are a by-product of living matter. RNA sequences are made of proteins. What came first, the chicken or the egg? In other words, you can't take a by-product of living matter to prove life came from nonliving matter.



Do you ever wonder why God does things the way He does? The Scripture records that God's ways and thoughts are higher than man's. Some of the mysteries of God's creation are explored in this Companion Study Guide. It is my hope that you will enjoy delving a little deeper and perhaps your mind will be open to some new Scriptural possibilities.

Most Christians believe in the inerrancy of the Scriptures but cannot explain what appears to be contradiction. The theologies we often ascribe to, can push difficult passages to the side. Instead of overlooking these passages, I want to highlight them and bring them into our understanding. What appears to be contradiction is actually paradox.

Scriptural passages that create conflict such as law and grace, predestination and free will, and the question of salvation and works, are but a few areas I hope to bring light to.



Bruce Campbell has been a pastor, evangelist, and successful business man. He currently runs The Secret Place, an international ministry to ministers. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Divinity degree. Bruce, along with his wife and daughter, reside in Picayune, MS.

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