

**TWO  
GLORIES  
ON EXHIBITION  
in Earth's Final Crisis**



## **Truth for the Final Generation**

P.O. Box 725

Bridgetown, Barbados, W.I.

Tel/Fax (246) 421-7297

Visit us on the web at:

[www.ffgbarbados.com](http://www.ffgbarbados.com)

[www.truthforthefinalgeneration1984.org](http://www.truthforthefinalgeneration1984.org)

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Cover design, book design and layout by Shammal Jordan.

Email: [graphics@shamzcreative.com](mailto:graphics@shamzcreative.com) Tel: (246)-242-4616



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# Introduction

The principles of the character of God were the foundation of the education constantly kept before the heavenly angels. These principles were goodness, mercy, and love. Self-evidencing light was to be recognized and freely accepted by all who occupied a position of trust and power. They must accept God's principles and convince all who were in the service of God, through the presentation of truth and justice and goodness, [that] this was the only power to be used. Force must never come in....

These principles are to be the great foundation of education in every administration on the earth. The rules given by God are to be observed and respected in every church. God has enjoined this. His government is to be moral. Nothing is to be done by compulsion. Truth is to be the prevailing power. All service is to be done willingly and for love of the service of God. All who are honored with positions of influence are to represent God, for when officiating they act in the place of God....

Satan's representations against the government of God, and his defense of those who sided with him, were a constant accusation against God. These murmurings and complaints were groundless. Yet God allowed Satan to work out his theories. He could have handled Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. But by this He would have given a precedent

for the violence of human beings that is so abundantly shown in our world in the compelling principles.

The Lord's principles are not of this order. All the compelling power is to be found under Satan's government. God would not work in this line. He would not give the slightest encouragement for any human being to set himself up as God over another human being, and cause him mental or physical suffering. This principle is wholly of Satan's creation....

In the councils of heaven it was decided that principles must be acted upon that would not at once destroy Satan's power, for it was His [God's] purpose to place things upon an eternal basis of security.... God's order must be contrasted with the new order after Satan's devising. The corrupting principles of Satan's rule must be revealed. The principles of righteousness expressed in God's law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, eternal, perfect.—Manuscript 57, 1896 (Manuscript Releases 18:360, 361).





## CHAPTER 1

# Basic Principles

In the final battle of the great conflict between God and Satan there will be two *glories* on exhibition.

Revelation 18: 1 tells us that one of those 2 glories will be the *glory of God*.

Rev.18: 7 tells us that the second glory on exhibition will be Babylon's glory, man's glory, the glory of the kingdoms of this world according to Matthew 4: 8.

### **BABYLON'S DECEPTIVE GLORY WILL FALL**

Rev.18: 2 tells us that Babylon's glory will fall, the reason being that it is the glory of self centredness or self- exaltation. And Paul tells us in Romans 8:6 that self-centered *thinking* or *mindset* is death.

But before its final fall, that glory, the glory of Babylon, would have deceived the majority of humans living in the end-time. How will this ultra-modern, highly educated, high- tech final generation be so massively deceived by Babylon's end-time glory?

## **THE ANSWER:**

It will not be presented as a package of evil, otherwise it would be rejected outright by most people, especially religious people. So how will it be so deceptive? The answer must be that it will be presented as a package of *good and evil*, not merely as *evil* concealed in a covering of *good*, but as a system that offers good, according to Babylon's definition and standard, and punishes evil according to that same definition and standard. How can we prove that from the Bible ?

## **THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.**

Right at the beginning of Earth's history, the God of **Love and Freedom** gave Adam and Eve the freedom and opportunity to choose which government they would want to be their government. Notice that God's government was represented by the *tree of Life*, whereas Satan's government was represented by the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. Genesis 2: 9 and 16,17.

Understand right away that Satan's government is a *hybrid*, a mixture of good and evil. This has a deeper meaning than meets the eye. It means not only good and evil mixed enough to deceive but, just as importantly, it means a system of *arbitrary* reward for good and *arbitrary* punishment for evil. Later on in the era of transition from Pagan to Papal Rome, Satan hybridized his day of worship as one specific change in God's law with the rest of the law unchanged (good and evil mixed) and then developed a system to punish those who transgressed his change of God's law (*arbitrary reward-punishment system*).

## **GOD'S GOVERNMENT AND CHARACTER NOT A HYBRID**

In contrast to Satan's character and government which are hybridized, neither God's character nor His government is a mixture. God is singularly pure in character and government. Listen to scripture.

1 John 1:5 to 7; 1John4: 8,16; John 1: 1 to 4; James 1: 16,17; Matthew 4:16.

**God's Agape unselfish, self-sacrificing Love is Light and Life.** Darkness is selfishness, hatred, sin, evil, and death. In God there is no darkness at all, therefore He cannot be the Source of selfishness, hatred, sin, evil or death!! Just as light and darkness *cannot* coexist within God's essence of Agape Love, likewise life and

death **cannot** coexist or proceed from Him, for Life is light and death is darkness, and **God is light and in Him is no darkness at all!**

In light there can be no darkness. Darkness is lack of light. Light and darkness cannot mix, they exist separately, and when light arrives darkness disappears. God can use no other method than that of Agape Love. 1Cor13: 4 to 8; Romans13: 10

The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise,"with healing in His wings."Malachi 4:2. **DA 22**

## **HYBRIDIZATION IN SINFUL HUMAN CHARACTER AND SYSTEMS**

In choosing to accept Satan's government, all men as sinners exhibit his character-hybridization. Listen to scripture. Talking about speech (tongue) which expresses our *thinking (phonero)* James tells us:

*But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*  
<sup>9</sup> *Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.* <sup>10</sup> *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.* <sup>11</sup> *Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet [water] and bitter?*  
<sup>12</sup> *Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so [can] no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.* James 3: 8-12

Then he contrasts worldly wisdom with Divine Wisdom, again showing that God's character is not a mixture of light and darkness. Verses 13 to 18.

## THE SERPENT HAS DECEIVED THE WHOLE WORLD

Satan has deceived the world into believing that God's character is a hybrid mixture of light and darkness, arbitrary reward for good and arbitrary punishment for wrong. So most people and especially religionists, believe that both good and evil, life and death, order and chaos, health and disease, construction and destruction all come from God. Rev.12: 9. Even unfallen Angels were left with questions in their minds, which questions are answered by the redemptive work of Christ through His church. Eph.3: 10.

Especially dangerous, though, is the Satanic deception that the system of arbitrary reward and punishment is God's system. That is the reason so many religionists worship God to get a reward and to escape His punishment and they are afraid of Him. The Apostle John who wrote in 1John 1:5 that "**God is light and in Him is no darkness at all**" went further and explained that God's Agape Love has nothing to do with punishment. We are not to try to love God for reward or be afraid of Him because of believing that He punishes us. Rather we are to love Him because He first loved us. Listen to John in 1John 4: 16 to 19! And remember what God told Abram in Genesis 15: 1.

Satan asserted that his system of government was better than God's, so our God Jehovah, the God of love and liberty, has allowed, and continues to allow, Satan to fully demonstrate his system of government. God, therefore, has **allowed** (*Greek word: tasso*, translated ordain in the KJV Romans 13) **civil government to reward 'good' and punish evil in order to prevent chaos and preserve some measure of order in society**, but if people at the individual level do not submit to God's Agape Love in Christ to practice righteousness, sooner or later civil government will be unable to maintain law and order and therefore there will be the call for church and state to cooperate and eventually to unite to save society. This is basic modus operandi of Satan's strategy.

In the final crisis of the ages, Satan will mastermind a global system offering the so called *good* of saving the world from crime, lawlessness, and corruption and also (notice how deceptive he is) saving the world from God's punishments, but concealing the *evil* of 'changing' God's law and trying to exalt himself above God. At the same time he will fully develop his church-state legislative machinery for

the arbitrary reward of those who will be loyal to the *Image and Mark of the Beast* and the arbitrary punishment of those who will reject his system and will instead keep the commandments of God because they will have the mind-set, faith and victory of Christ fully developed in their characters. The system will be so insidiously deceptive that professedly protestant Sunday-keeping Christians will sentence the minority Sabbath-keeping remnant to death and will believe that they will be doing God a service! But Jesus explains that they will do that because they have no true knowledge of the **Father** or the **Son**. John 16:1 to 3

## **THE CHARACTER OF GOD MESSAGE**

Only those who know and experience the *truth of God's character*, that His character is *not* a mixture or hybrid of light and darkness or a character of arbitrary reward or punishment, but only pure Agape Love as fully revealed through the plan of redemption will be fool-proof against Satan's deceptions and will be able to glorify God as Jesus did! The plan of redemption, the true gospel has fully revealed God's **Agape Love and character** showing that darkness, destruction, death,evil can never come from God, but all of them are the direct results of Satan's hybrid government of the tree of the knowledge good and evil! **Therefore the knowledge and experience of the true gospel and God's character are absolutely essential for the finishing of God's work in the earth.** Those who reject these while claiming that they are finishing the work of God by their various strategies can be at best a holding -station for God's people (like the Sardis churches) until the people hear and decide for or against the **true gospel and the truth of God's character** or at worst be what Jesus said of the Jews in Matt.23:15.

**Our calling is to the establish and disseminate these present truths and to be ripened by such truth as it is in Jesus for the harvest! That is our work! May we be faithful thereto and not be side- tracked by empty noises that reject the Character of God message and the 1888 gospel message.**

Satan's efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator, and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love; his endeavors to set aside the divine law, leading the people to think themselves free from its requirements; and his persecution of those who dare to resist his

deceptions, have been steadfastly pursued in all ages. They may be traced in the history of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, of martyrs and reformers.

In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end as in all preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan's deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect. Mark 13:22, **GC xi**

## **A TRAGIC CHANGE**

He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. John 8:44.

Once Satan was in copartnership with God, Jesus Christ, and the holy angels. He was highly exalted in heaven and was radiant in light and glory that came to him from the Father and the Son, but he became disloyal and lost his high and holy position as covering cherub. He became the antagonist of God, an apostate, and was excluded from heaven.... He invited all the powers of evil to rally about his standard, in order to form a desperate companionship of evil to league against the God of heaven. He worked perseveringly and determinedly to perpetuate his rebellion, and to cause members of the human family to turn from Bible truth, and to stand under his banner.

As soon as the Lord through Jesus Christ created our world and placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, Satan announced his purpose to conform to his own nature the father and mother of all humanity, and to unite them with his own ranks of rebellion. He was determined to efface the image of God from the human posterity, and to trace his own image upon the soul in the place of the divine image. He adopted methods of deception by which to accomplish

his purpose. He is called the father of lies, an accuser of God and of those who maintain their allegiance to God, a murderer from the beginning. He put forth every power at his command to win Adam and Eve to cooperate with him in apostasy, and succeeded in bringing rebellion into our world....

Through generation after generation, from age to age, Satan has gathered human agencies through whom to work out his diabolical purposes, and to bring about the enforcement of his plans and devices in the earth. The great putrid fountain of evil has been continually flowing through human society. Though unable to expel God from His throne, Satan has charged God with satanic attributes and has claimed the attributes of God as his own.... Through his serpentine sharpness, through his crooked practices, he has drawn to himself the homage that human beings should have given to God, and has planted his satanic throne between the human worshiper and the divine Father.—Manuscript 39, 1894 (The Review and Herald, April 14, 1896). { CTr 10.4}

## CHAPTER 2

# The Knowledge of Good and Evil

In our last lesson we established, from the Bible, that unchanging, unconditional, unselfish, self-sacrificing, infinite Agape Love is the very essence of God's Character and Government. This Divine Agape Love is called Light and Life, and in it there is *no* darkness at all.

1John1:5 to 7; 1John4:8; John1: 1 to 4; Matthew4:16; James1: 16,17.

In contrast to God's pure character of eternal Agape Love, Light and Life, Satan exhibits his *sinful* character and government as a mixture or a mingling of good and evil; truth and error, in order to conceal the total depravity of his evil systems and also in order to deceive.

We also saw that this Satanic *mode* of operation was represented by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Throughout the history of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan, this has been Satan's strategy and it will be on full display or exhibition in the final crisis. In order to better understand Satan's devices in the end of time we need to analyze his strategy in the beginning of the great Controversy on earth.

In the book *Education* chapter 3 the Spirit of Prophecy gives an insightful analysis of Satan's strategy and its representation by the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*.

“As they refused to have God in their knowledge,”“their senseless heart was darkened.”

Though created innocent and holy, our first parents were not placed beyond the possibility of wrong-doing. God might have created them without the power to transgress His requirements, but in that case there could have been no development of character; their service would not have been voluntary, but forced. Therefore He gave them the power of choice—the power to yield or to withhold obedience. And before they could receive in fullness the blessings He desired to impart, their love and loyalty must be tested.

In the Garden of Eden was the “tree of knowledge of good and evil.... And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat.” Genesis 2:9-17. It was the will of God that Adam and Eve should not know evil. The knowledge of good had been freely given them; but the knowledge of evil,—of sin and its results, of wearing toil, of anxious care, of disappointment and grief, of pain and death,—this was in love withheld.

While God was seeking man's good, Satan was seeking his ruin. When Eve, disregarding the Lord's admonition concerning the forbidden tree, ventured to approach it, she came in contact with her foe. Her interest and curiosity having been awakened, Satan proceeded to deny God's word, and to insinuate distrust of His wisdom and goodness. To the woman's statement concerning the tree of knowledge, “God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die,” the tempter made answer, “Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:3-5. Ed 23.3

Satan desired to make it appear that **this knowledge of good mingled with evil** would be a blessing, and that in forbidding them to take of the fruit of the tree, God was withholding great good. He urged that it was because of its wonderful properties for imparting wisdom and power that God had forbidden them to taste it, that He was thus seeking to prevent them from reaching a nobler development and finding greater happiness. He declared that he himself had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech; and that if they also would eat of it, they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge.

While Satan claimed to have received great good by eating of the forbidden tree, he did not let it appear that by transgression he had become an outcast from heaven. *Here was falsehood, so concealed under a covering of apparent truth* that Eve, infatuated, flattered, beguiled, did not discern the deception. She coveted what God had forbidden; she distrusted His wisdom. She cast away faith, the key of knowledge.

When Eve saw "that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat." It was grateful to the taste, and, as she ate, she seemed to feel a vivifying power, and imagined herself entering upon a higher state of existence. Having herself transgressed, she became a tempter to her husband,"and he did eat." Genesis 3:6.

"Your eyes shall be opened,"the enemy had said;"ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5.Their eyes were indeed opened; but how sad the opening! The knowledge of evil, the curse of sin, was all that the transgressors gained. There was nothing poisonous in the fruit itself, and the sin was not merely in yielding to appetite. It was distrust of God's goodness, disbelief of His word, and rejection of His authority, that made our first parents transgressors, and that brought into the world a knowledge of evil. It was this that opened the door to every species of falsehood and error.

Man lost all because he chose to listen to the deceiver rather than to Him who is Truth, who alone has understanding. **By the mingling of evil with good, his mind had become confused, his mental and spiritual powers benumbed. No longer could he appreciate the good that God had so freely bestowed.**

Adam and Eve had chosen the knowledge of evil, and if they ever regained the position they had lost they must regain it under the unfavorable conditions they had brought upon themselves. No longer were they to dwell in Eden, for in its perfection it could not teach them the lessons which it was now essential for them to learn. In unutterable sadness they bade farewell to their beautiful surroundings and went forth to dwell upon the earth, where rested the curse of sin.

To Adam God had said: "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:17-19.

Although the earth was blighted with the curse, nature was still to be man's lesson book. It could not now represent goodness only; for evil was everywhere present, marring earth and sea and air with its defiling touch. Where once was written only the character of God, the knowledge of good, was now written also the character of Satan, the knowledge of evil. From nature, which now revealed the knowledge of good and evil, man was continually to receive warning as to the results of sin.

In drooping flower and falling leaf Adam and his companion witnessed the first signs of decay. Vividly was brought to their minds the stern fact that every living thing must die. Even the air, upon which their life depended, bore the seeds of death.

Continually they were reminded also of their lost dominion. Among the lower creatures Adam had stood as king, and so long as he remained loyal to God, all nature acknowledged his rule; but when he transgressed, this dominion was forfeited. The spirit of rebellion, to which he himself had given entrance, extended throughout the animal creation. Thus not only the life of man, but the nature of the beasts, the trees of the forest, the grass of the field, the very air he breathed, all told the sad lesson of the knowledge of evil.

But man was not abandoned to the results of the evil he had chosen. In the sentence pronounced upon Satan was given an intimation of redemption. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman," God said, "and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15. This sentence, spoken in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. Before they heard of the thorn and the thistle, of the toil and sorrow that must be their portion, or of the dust to which they must return, they listened to words that could not fail of giving them hope. All that had been lost by yielding to Satan could be regained through Christ.

This intimation also nature repeats to us. Though marred by sin, it speaks not only of creation but of redemption. Though the earth bears testimony to the curse in the evident signs of decay, it is still rich and beautiful in the tokens of life-giving power. The trees cast off their leaves, only to be robed with fresher verdure; the flowers die, to spring forth in new beauty; and in every manifestation of creative power is held out the assurance that we may be created anew in "righteousness and holiness of truth." Ephesians 4:24, margin. Thus the very objects and operations of nature that bring so vividly to mind our great loss become to us the messengers of hope.

As far as evil extends, the voice of our Father is heard, bidding His children see in its results the nature of sin, warning them to forsake the evil, and inviting them to receive the good. Ed 27.3

## SUMMARY

The education that consists in the training of the memory, tending to discourage independent thought, has a moral bearing which is too little appreciated. As the student sacrifices the power to reason and judge for himself, he becomes incapable of discriminating between truth and error, and falls an easy prey to deception. He is easily led to follow tradition and custom.

It is a fact widely ignored, though never without danger, **that error rarely appears for what it really is. It is by mingling with or attaching itself to truth that it gains acceptance. The eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil caused the ruin of our first parents, and the acceptance of a mingling of good and evil is the ruin of men and women today.** The mind that depends upon the judgment of others is certain, sooner or later, to be misled.

The power to discriminate between right and wrong we can possess only through individual dependence upon God. Each for himself is to learn from Him through His word. Our reasoning powers were given us for use, and God desires them to be exercised. "Come now, and let us reason together"(Isaiah 1:18), He invites us. In reliance upon Him we may have wisdom to "refuse the evil, and choose the good." Isaiah 7:15; James 1:5. Ed 231.1

## CHAPTER 3

# Two Characters Contrasted

The **glory** of God's character is the **glory** of selfless, self-sacrificing, unconditional, infinite, eternal, all-for-the-other-none-for-self Agape Love! Such Divine Love functions only in **absolute Truth, eternal Wisdom and Righteousness!**

Therefore **the Infinite Power** of the **Godhead** is applied by **Infinite Love** *only in and through infinite Wisdom, Truth, Righteousness* for the production of **good** and only **good**.

<sup>4</sup> *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.* <sup>5</sup> *It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (The exact Greek: does not impute sin)* <sup>6</sup> *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.* <sup>7</sup> *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* <sup>8</sup> *Love never fails.*  
**1Cor. 13:4-8 NIV**

1 John 4: 8: **God is Love.**

This Agape Love is non-violent and harmless and does not employ force and fulfills the law of God! Read Romans 13:10; Zechariah 4: 6; 1 John 4: 16 – 20. Matthew 26:51,52; Luke 22:50,51; John 18: 36 ; 1 John 1: 5-7; James 1: 16,17.

We have proved from scripture that Divine Agape Love is non-violent, harmless, and does not employ force. Furthermore Agape Love neither uses fear nor punishment as methods or principles to perfect God's work or to gain the victory in the great controversy. In fact *Divine Agape Love expels fear and has nothing to do with arbitrary punishment or torment.*

Were God to resort to force in the Great Controversy, it would render 1 Cor.13: 8 null and void; but *Agape Love* does not fail!

## **THE MYSTERY OF THE GODHEAD**

In the Godhead, the mutual self-giving of infinite Power in the Father and infinite Wisdom in the Son, to each other, is the primary eternal circuit of infinite Agape Love in the Holy Spirit. This is the Spirit of Love which the Father has for the Son and the Son for the Father, it is Their mutual eternal Spirit, their mutual eternal Love for each Other, it is Their Council of Peace, this eternal *Agape* is the very eternal, infinite *Essence* of the Divine Nature, which unites infinite Power in the Father with infinite Wisdom in His eternally begotten Son. In other words Father and Son are One in Their Spirit.

The Son is the only One Who knows and reveals the Father's Love, that means that the Son is the only One Who knows and reveals His Father's Spirit! Let us read the following scriptures: Matthew 11: 27; John 1: 18 ; John 5: 19, 20 ; John 14: 6 to 11.

## **GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE**

God's eternal purpose was that all created intelligences would, by free choice, form and exhibit characters of Agape Love thereby reflecting His character, revealing His glory, glorifying Him. That is why He made His intelligences with freedom to think and freedom to choose and freedom to reason, all of which are absolutely necessary for character development. And that is why He cannot accept a forced obedience or an obedience based on fear of Him. To glorify God is to exhibit His character of unselfish Love which fulfills His law.

## THE CIRCUIT OF BENEFICENCE

The Holy Spirit, the eternal Agape Love of God, is the infinite fullness of the Father flowing to the Son, and the infinite fullness of the Son flowing to the Father in an infinitely incessant circuit which is the very eternally perfect life of the Godhead. This Circuit functions and flows *only* in eternal Truth, Wisdom and Righteousness and there can be *no* imperfection or violence or death in Its path. Proverbs 12: 28. God intended for all creatures (to the limit of their capacity) to live in the Circuit of Beneficence freely receiving and freely giving unselfishly, with the emphasis on selfless giving. This was the Divine trading circuit in unselfish Agape Love.

## THE CIRCUIT OF VIOLENCE

Lucifer was the first created intelligence to transgress the law of Agape Love and evolve *a self-centered, selfish, self-glorifying system of trading* with the emphasis on selfishly receiving while employing giving (mixture of good and evil) only as a strategy to *get* even more, and to gratify and glorify self, thereby resulting in competition and ultimately violence. Let us read Ezekiel 28: 14 to 18. Note carefully that such trading is both violent and self-destructive because it transgresses God's Law and operates outside of the sphere of Life.

Satan hates the Divine Principle of self-sacrificing Agape Love and will war against it wherever it is manifested. 1 John 3: 8 ; Rev.12: 7.

## END-TIME TRADING IN SELF-GLORY

Revelation 18 reveals the self-destructive nature of the Satanic, self-centered trading and self-glorifying. This Babylonian glory will look and sound very glamorously good and will be presented as the only solution for the problems facing the world. It will contain Satan's most sophisticated mixture of truth and error, good and evil, (with arbitrary rewards in a treacherously deceptive system that will take *almost* all the world's population captive, all except the Rev.12:17 remnant. It will be the result of eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil fully developed: a mixture of truth and error; law transgression mixed with law obedience; church mixed with civil government; arbitrary rewards for those who support the Image/Mark of the Beast System mixed with arbitrary punishments

and economic boycott for those who remain loyal to the law of Agape Love as expressed in obedience to the true Sabbath and separation from all error and sin by abiding in Christ being ripened to Christian character perfection in Christ.

## **LIGHTENING THE EARTH WITH GOD'S GLORY**

God will have a loyal remnant who will glorify Him and exhibit His glory in the same way as Christ glorified Him and revealed His glory. They will be men and women of faith and prayer. Fixed in the abiding relationship with Christ, believing and experiencing the true gospel, knowing the truth of God's character, purged from all unholy and deceptive *mixtures* and *errors*, they will fully exhibit the glory of God's self-sacrificing Agape Love and trample Satan's lies under their feet by the victory of Christ. Genesis 3:15; Roman's 16:19, 20.

What a privilege and a joy it will be to exhibit God's glory in the face of the persecutory global exhibition of Babylon's glory and to win the last battle in the Great Controversy by the victorious *faith and mind-set of Christ* fully reproduced in His remnant church.

Having proven the above truths from scripture, let us now close with the following quotations:

The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. DA22.

God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power. DA 759.1

Whereunto,"asked Christ,"shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?" Mark 4:30. He could

not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ's kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion is banished. AA 12.

All who follow Christ will wear the crown of sacrifice. They will surely be misunderstood by selfish men, and will be made a mark for the fierce assaults of Satan. It is this principle of self-sacrifice that his kingdom is established to destroy, and he will war against it wherever manifested. DA 223.4

In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death. See Revelation 13:11-17. But to the obedient is given the promise,"He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." Isaiah 33:16. By this promise the children of God will live. When the earth shall be wasted with famine, they shall be fed. "They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied." Psalm 37:19. To that time of distress the prophet Habakkuk looked forward, and his words express the faith of the church:"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." Habakkuk 3:17, 18. DA 121.3

## CHAPTER 4

# The Two Circuits

### RECAPPING HOW SIN STARTED

Let us begin with the words of Jesus to the Pharisees in John 8: 44

*“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.”*

Jesus here explains that Lucifer **abode not in the truth**. The question is, what **truth** did he cease to abide in? The obvious answer is: he stopped abiding in the truth that **God is Love**, (1 John 4: 8) and became Satan, the adversary of God’s Character and Government. Satan hated and rejected outright the **Divine Living Principle of unselfish, self-sacrificing Agape Love**, he therefore hated, and continues to hate, God and declared and declares war against the fundamental principle of God’s Character and government. This could only mean that *he even denies the existence of Agape Love and will war against it wherever it is manifested.*

Let us read Ezekiel 28: 15 to 19.

*“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”*

## **THE TWO CIRCUITS**

Satan induced 1/3 of the Angels to choose to depart from the **Divine circuit of beneficence** and to join him in his self-centered **circuit of maleficence**. Satan’s system of merchandising and trading was one in which he **threw out** or **traded** ideas or thoughts with persuasively deceptive arguments to **induce** mistrust and fear and downright hatred of God. Those who received his lies into their thoughts also ceased to abide in the truth and joined his circuit of violence. The war in heaven was a “polemic” war of trading ideas of falsehood against truth and evolving the **circuit of maleficence**: violence, destruction and death, **none of which can exist in or emanate from the circuit of Beneficence**.

Satan’s lies are the cause of destruction and death, hence the words of Jesus that he is **murderer** from the beginning and also the words the Apostle Paul that Satan is the one who has the power of **death** (Hebrews 2: 14). **All destruction and death have resulted from Satan’s lies and his circuit of maleficence!**(John 10: 10). Hence the Bible describes Satan’s kingdom as the kingdom of darkness. Let us read John 3:19 ; Eph.6: 12 ; Luke 22: 53.

*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*

On the contrary, God's *Circuit of Beneficence* is the source of supreme goodness and only supreme goodness! James 1: 16,17; Proverbs 12: 28; Proverbs 8: 35,36; Proverbs 10: 12 ; Proverbs 11: 5. God's Kingdom is therefore the Kingdom of Light 1 Peter 2: 9.

## **THE CIRCUIT OF BENEFICENCE**

But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. *"I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father."* *"I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me.* John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life. DA 21.2

## **THE CIRCUIT OF MALEFICENCE**

In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world. DA 21.3

## THE CIRCUIT OF MALEFICENCE AFFECTED EARTH

The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise,"with healing in His wings."Malachi 4:2. DA 22.1

## THE SOURCE OF HEALING

The Saviour in His miracles revealed the power that is continually at work in man's behalf, to sustain and to heal him. Through the agencies of nature, God is working, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, to keep us alive, to build up and restore us. When any part of the body sustains injury, a healing process is at once begun; nature's agencies are set at work to restore soundness. But the power working through these agencies is the power of God. All life-giving power is from Him. When one recovers from disease, it is God who restores him.

Sickness, suffering, and death are the work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer.

The words spoken to Israel are true today of those who recover health of body or health of soul. "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26.

The desire of God for every human being is expressed in the words,"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2.

He it is who "forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies." Psalm 103:3, 4.

When Christ healed disease, He warned many of the afflicted ones, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." John 5:14. Thus He taught that they had brought disease upon themselves by transgressing the laws of God, and that health could be preserved only by obedience.

The physician should teach his patients that they are to cooperate with God in the work of restoration. The physician has a continually increasing realization of the fact that disease is the result of sin. He knows that the laws of nature, as truly as the precepts of the Decalogue, are divine, and that only in obedience to them can health be recovered or preserved. He sees many suffering as the result of hurtful practices who might be restored to health if they would do what they might for their own restoration. They need to be taught that every practice which destroys the physical, mental, or spiritual energies is sin, and that health is to be secured through obedience to the laws that God has established for the good of all mankind.

When a physician sees a patient suffering from disease caused by improper eating and drinking or other wrong habits, yet neglects to tell him of this, he is doing his fellow being an injury. MH113

## **THE CHURCH CALLED TO BE WITNESSES TO GOD'S GLORY**

"For those who love God, those who are"the called according to His purpose"(Romans 8:28), Bible biography has a yet higher lesson of the ministry of sorrow. "Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God"(Isaiah 43:12) —witnesses that He is good, and that goodness is supreme. "We are made a theater unto the world, both (R.V., margin) to angels, and to men." 1 Corinthians 4:9, margin." Ed 154.2

“Unselfishness, the principle of God’s kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God’s principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan’s claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name.” *Ed 154.3*

God declares that His *law of Agape Love* is perfect and can be obeyed under any circumstance or condition and that it is the law of life.

Satan, on the other hand, claims that God’s *law of Agape Love*, if it does exist at all, cannot be obeyed, moreover, he asserts that in order to get obedience God must *bribe* His subjects. Furthermore he also claims that the *Law of Agape Love* is not perfect because it cannot be obeyed under all circumstances, especially under severe adversity. Job 1: 6 to 12.

## THE TRUE GOSPEL GIVES THE ANSWER

The Son of God became a man, took on our fallen flesh, lived in our world under severe depravity and, at the end of His Ministry, also endured the unimaginable agony and stress of tasting the horrors of separation from God (wrath Romans 8:32) by our collective human sin and guilt, *and yet through it all, as a man in complete submission to God, He perfected faith and obedience* as one of us, as us, and proved Satan wrong. Hebrews 5: 7 to 9. Jesus glorified His Father by choosing never to deviate from the *Law of Agape Love* under any circumstance or pressure. Let us read John 17: 3 to 4.

In so doing He, as our Substitute and Surety, bought back all mankind from the Adamic condemnation, gave us probationary physical existence and invites us to receive the free gift of salvation in order to become obedient to *the law of Agape Love* by His faith, *the faith of Jesus*, and His Agape Love, the *gold tried in the fire* (Rev. 3:18) so that we can glorify God as He did.

“It was to give in His own life an illustration of unselfishness that Jesus came in the form of humanity. And all who accept this principle are to be workers together with Him in demonstrating it in practical life. To choose the right because it is right; to stand for truth at the cost of suffering and sacrifice—“this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord.” Isaiah 54:17. Ed 154.4

## The Circuit of Beneficence

Thus far we have studied a little bit of the **Circuit of Beneficence**, I say a little bit because it is *infinite* in magnitude and its depths cannot be fathomed! Romans 11: 33 to 36 NIV:

*<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and [i] knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! <sup>34</sup>“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”<sup>35</sup>“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” [k] <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

This is the **Circuit of Perfect Existence** for the Universe. Infinite Power united with, and functioning through Infinite Wisdom by *Infinite unselfish, self-sacrificing, unconditional, all-for-the-other-none-for -self, eternal Agape Love, which is the very Essence, the very Spirit of the Godhead!* (Don't forget that Wisdom includes truth, knowledge and **Righteousness**). All good gifts flow out from the Father of Lights through the Son by Their Eternal Spirit to all creation and return by the Spirit, through the Son to the Father; this is the **CIRCUIT OF BENEFICENCE**.

Outside of this circuit there can be nothing perfect, in fact, no existence at all.

## **THE CIRCUIT OF MALEFICENCE**

The circuit of maleficence is based on *selfishness, self-centeredness, self-exaltation*, which separates any power from its appropriate Wisdom resulting in utter chaos. This brings us to the **absolute definition of sin**.

## **DEFINITION OF SIN**

*Sin is a principle which is at war with the Divine Principle of Self-sacrificing Agape Love.*

Sin is therefore the transgression of God's Wisdom/Righteousness.

## **SATAN LEFT HIS FIRST ESTATE. JUDE 6.**

Lucifer/Satan evolved the circuit of maleficence, he *left* the **Circuit of Beneficence**, and suggested that his was a better system of government than God's. In order to deceive others he stated that the reason he left God's Circuit of Beneficence was that God was unfair and cruel and really wanted all the glory for Himself. Satan refused to tell others his real reason for leaving (which was to have his own way and form his own system to exalt himself to equality with The Godhead). Satan therefore darkened God's character to cause others to mistrust and hate God.

## **THE "GOOD AND EVIL" HYBRID**

Furthermore, in order to make his system attractive he mingled truth with error and "good" with evil, and claimed that "good" should be arbitrarily rewarded and evil arbitrarily punished. The idea that Satan's system of government was represented by the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** is rejected by a concept which postulates that God could not have put something in the Garden of Eden to represent Satan's government. But remember, as we saw in our last study, that, in infinite Wisdom, God had determined to let Satan fully reveal his principles (which Satan asserted were better than God's). And being the God of freedom and Love He allowed Satan both the scope and opportunity to present

his case or rather to canvass his government policies. Moreover God sent angels to instruct and forewarn Adam and Eve of the situation, informing them that He could neither, in all fairness, deny Satan the opportunity to canvass, nor deny them freedom of choice, but He warned them of the subtlety of the Enemy. So God appointed a canvassing spot, with the title of Satan's governmental-style given to the spot, and called it the tree of *knowledge of good and evil*. Satan could only hold his "political meeting" at that one spot, no where else. The instruction was simple: **do not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. So God did His best within the constraints of Love and Freedom to help Adam and Eve make the right choice. The **command** not to eat of tree of the knowledge of good and evil also reminded them that God had the **love-based authority** to command them to avoid evil but He could not force them to do so, for only by Love is Love awakened!

The idea that the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** *only* represents some aspect of God's government such as His **Throne** or His **Principle of Freedom of choice, and not Satan's system of government**, is not supported by the weight of evidence. According to I John 1: 5 "*good and evil*" cannot be applied to anything pertaining to God. God, along with all that pertains to Him, is **only good** and cannot be evil. This is even more significant when we appreciate the fact the Hebrew word for *knowledge* is not intellectual but experiential *knowledge*; and God has no evil in His character or any of His principles or government or throne.

Additionally every principle that pertains to God is **eternal**. His throne is **eternal**. **So if the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** represents anything that pertains to God it should be in the Earth made new. But whereas the *tree of life* will be there, the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil* will not be there. Rev. 22

The following quotations are instructive:

Between the school established in Eden at the beginning and the school of the hereafter there lies the whole compass of this world's history—the history of human transgression and suffering, of divine sacrifice, and of victory over death and sin. Not all the conditions of that first school of Eden will be found in the school of the future life. No tree of knowledge of good and evil will afford opportunity for temptation. No tempter is there, no possibility of wrong. Every character has withstood the testing of evil, and none are longer susceptible to its power. *Ed 301.6*

From God, the fountain of wisdom, proceeds all the knowledge that is of value to man, all that the intellect can grasp or retain. The fruit of the tree representing good and evil is not to be eagerly plucked, because it is recommended by one who was once a bright angel in glory. He has said that if men eat thereof, they shall know good and evil. But let it alone. The true knowledge comes not from infidels or wicked men. The word of God is light and truth. The true light shines from Jesus Christ, who "lighteth every man that cometh into the world." From the Holy Spirit proceeds divine knowledge. He knows what humanity needs to promote peace, happiness, and restfulness here in this world, and secure eternal rest in the kingdom of God. *FE 437.1*

*God is love. **The evil that is in the world comes not from His hands, but from our great adversary, whose work it has ever been to deprave man, and enfeeble and pervert his faculties.*** But God has not left us in the ruin wrought by the fall. Every faculty has been placed in reach by our Heavenly Father, that men may, through well-directed efforts, regain their first perfection, and stand complete in Christ. In this work God expects us to do our part. ***We are His—His purchased possession. The human family cost God and His Son Jesus Christ an infinite price. FE 429.1***

In dealing with the science of mind cure(hypnosis), you have been eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God has forbidden you to touch. It is now high time for you to begin to look to Jesus, and by beholding His character become changed into the divine likeness. *2SM 350.2*

Cut away from yourselves everything that savors of hypnotism, the science by which satanic agencies work.—Letter 20, 1902. *2SM 350.3*

Adam and Eve were permitted to partake of every tree in the garden save one. There was a single prohibition. The forbidden tree was as attractive and lovely as any of the trees in the garden. It

was called the tree of knowledge because in partaking of that tree of which God had said,"Thou shalt not eat of it,"they would have a knowledge of sin, an experience in disobedience. *Con 12.3*

## THE CIRCUIT OF MALEFICENCE AND VIOLENCE

We understand from Ezekiel 28 that Satan's *merchandising/trafficking* induces competition and violence based on selfishness and greed. Satan is the *god of this world*, (read 2 Cor.4:4 ; Eph.2:2; John12:31)and it is here that he has tried to establish his system of government. Since utter chaos would result from the selfishness, greed and violence of Satan's system, God allows (Romans 13:1 to 9) civil government (the kingdoms of this world) to punish"evil"and reward"good"to ensure some measure of order and protection in society, but this is God's *permissive* will and is in no way to be seen as His *perfect* will or *character*.

**Whereunto,"asked Christ,"shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?" Mark 4:30. He could not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ's kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion, is banished. This kingdom is to uplift and ennoble humanity. God's church is the court of holy life, filled with varied gifts and endowed with the Holy Spirit. The members are to find their happiness in the happiness of those whom they help and bless. AA12.**

## CHRISTIANITY AND CIVILITY

Christians are to be exemplary citizens obeying the civil law. But God has delineated a limit to civil authority. The civil government *should not legislate* in matters of the law of God or in matters of *faith and worship*. If civil government does that, then Christians are commanded by God to obey His word according to the dictates of their conscience.

## USA REPUBLICANISM AND PROTESTANTISM

Of all the forms of civil government, Republicanism is the best and freest, but its success relies heavily on good individual self-government, (AT Jones). But as the true gospel and the righteousness of God are rejected, humans will continue to become more and more lawless thereby rendering civil government more and more impotent to maintain law and order. Selfishness and greed will continue to breed into every species of corruption, theft, trade-wars, violence and crime, until such a critical point is reached that a **urgent solution** will be demanded.

It is then that Satan will implement his master plan to fully and finally establish his system of government represented by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan will establish a union of apostate Christianity with civil- government and enforce his Sunday worship by the pretended enforcement of God's law to make society better and to save the world. It will be a very complex high-tech global religious, economic, trade and financial system in which those who receive the **mark of the Beast** will accumulate considerable wealth, whereas those who oppose the system will not be allowed to buy or sell and will finally be sentenced to death.

### **Satan, A Defeated Foe**

When Jesus said "**it is finished**" on the Cross (John 19:30), Satan was defeated and knew that his kingdom was lost. The Greek word is **TETELESTAI** and it means literally: **it is finished and will continue to be finished!** So God's true remnant believers, who keep the commandments of God because they have the faith of Jesus, **are guaranteed the victory which will finish off Satan by the TETELESTAI of Christ's victory on the Cross!**

### **The Victorious True Gospel. Romans 1:16,17 and Colossians 2: 13,14 NIV**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you **[d]** alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness (**cheirographon**) which*

*stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed principalities and powers He made a spectacle of them openly having triumphed over them by His death on the Cross.*

Jesus completely obliterated and wiped out our “certificate of debt” (*cheirographon*). When someone had a debt in ancient times and it was paid off, they would write “**Tetelestai**” on the certificate of debt. **Tetelestai** meant **PAID IN FULL** and is the same word Jesus uttered (**It is finished**) just before He died ([Jn 19:30](#)). This Good News reveals God’s infinite *Agape Love which empowers and motivates the final remnant to endure the agony of the “time of Jacob’s Trouble” and complete Christ’s TETELESTAI of Satan’s kingdom!*

May we experience this victory daily in order to be ripened and sealed for that final battle to complete the **TETELESTAI** in Jesus Name. AMEN!!

## CHAPTER 6

# Only the Son of God can Reveal the Father's Glory

### INTRODUCTION

The glory of God will be revealed by Christ through the end-time remnant of the **woman's seed** during the proclamation of the final warning. Read Rev.18: 1 to 4 and 12: 17.

In opposition to the glory of God will be Babylon's glory. Read Rev.18: 7.

God's glory is His character of unselfish, self-sacrificing **Agape Love**. 1 John 4:8 and 1 Cor.13:1-4. This **Agape Love** produces heart-obedience to God's law.

Babylon's glory will be the ultimate manifestation of Satan's character of selfishness and self-exaltation. Isaiah 14: 12 to 14.

At that time Satan will have established a church-state union, which will have been spearheaded by a Protestantism that would have apostatized from the **true** principles of the **Protestant Reformation**. It will be a highly sophisticated and highly technological confederacy of apostate religion, civil government and all the various human secular organizations driven by, what will be considered, the most advanced religious, political, educational, economic, scientific, sociological and problem-solving expertise in Christendom. The prophet Isaiah, in a prolepsis

written in Isaiah chapter 8: 9-12, forewarned of the coming end-time confederacy. Satan's global confederacy is called the *Image and Mark of the Beast* in Rev. 13: 11 to 18 and Rev.14: 9 to 12 and its warfare against the remnant will be the *last* battle in the great Cosmic Controversy before the Second Coming of Christ.

## **COSMIC CONFLICT**

The Cosmic Conflict or Great Controversy started long ago in heaven when Satan openly opposed God's Government. The principle Satan opposed was, and is, the principle of **self-sacrificing Agape Love, and the Person** he specifically opposed and hated was the **Son of God, who was the One who revealed God's Agape Love**. These two facts are vitally important and are clearly shown in Revelation 12:7 to 9.

Satan established his government on our planet when our human first-parents accepted his deceptive overtures and disobeyed God. By inducing them to doubt God's goodness and trustworthiness he got them to "sell out" the world and all mankind to his government of self-centeredness and sin. But, praise Jehovah, all that has been sold out has been **legally bought back** through the plan of salvation by the Son of God!

In the fullness of time, the Son of God took on our fallen human flesh and became man and dwelt in our world in order to fully reveal God's character by confronting and overcoming every Satanic temptation and every Satanic nefarious strategy, including suffering and experiencing the unimaginable agony of the full extent of sin's separation from God, in other words He tasted eternal death for all mankind. In so doing He *glorified* His **Father** and utterly defeated Satan and his government of sin with a victory called **TETELESTAI** at Calvary's cross. **TETELESTAI** means it is finished and it will continue to be finished. In the final battle, before the end of our present world system, Satan will again be defeated by Christ through the remnant of the woman's seed. It will be **TETELESTAI** again! In each victory the *glory or character* of God is fully revealed by Christ!

## **ONLY THE SON OF GOD.**

Words (bible or otherwise) could not, in fact cannot, reveal God's character. Only One Person in all the Universe could fully reveal God's character and fully

expose Satan's falsehoods and character. That Person is the Son of God.(John 1:9,17,18;and John14:8 -10 ;1John 1:5). That is one of the reasons Satan hates the Son of God. The other reason is that he coveted the *position* of God's Son and felt that **he (Satan)** should **not** be in a lesser position than that of **Christ**.

Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says,"Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Ezekiel 28:17."Thou hast said in thine heart,...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.... I will be like the Most High."Isaiah 14:13, 14. Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone. PP 35.2

To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose of this prince of angels.PP36.1

The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise,"with healing in His wings."Malachi 4:2. DA 22.1

Christ alone was able to represent the Deity. He who had been in the presence of the Father from the beginning, He who was the express image of the invisible God, was sufficient to accomplish this work. No verbal description could reveal God to the world. Through a life of purity, a life of perfect trust and submission to the will of God, a life of humiliation such as even the highest seraph in heaven would have shrunk from, God himself must be revealed to humanity. In order to do this, our Saviour clothed his divinity with humanity. He employed the human faculties, for only adopting these could he be comprehended by humanity. Only humanity could reach humanity. He lived out the character of God through the human body which God had prepared for him. He blessed the world by living out in human flesh the life of God, thus showing that he had the power to unite humanity to divinity. RH June 25, 1895.

That only the Son of God could reveal His Father's character and glorify Him begs the question *why only the Son?* What is so unique about the Son of God that He could be the only Person in the universe and in the Godhead to reveal God's character of infinite, unconditional, selfless **Agape Love** ?

The Bible speaks about the **knowledge of the Son of God**. We are invited to attain to this knowledge. As a matter of fact in order for the remnant to glorify God in the final crisis they must attain to two advanced spiritual realities: one is unity of the faith, the other is **the knowledge of the Son of God**. Let us read Ephesians 4:11 to 13. There is so much to know concerning the Son of God! And, of course we are not just to know of Him, we are to know Him experientially!(John 17: 3). But back to the question: **why is it that only the Son of God could reveal the Father's character?** This question **must** be answered by the Bible and by the Son of God Himself so that we may understand and experience as much of the knowledge of the Son of God as is possible this side of eternity in order that we may glorify God as He did on earth. The Son of God is the central focus of Satan's attacks in the Cosmic Conflict, the reasons for this are of critical importance. Who really is the Son of God? What is His relation to God The Father? Why is it that only the Son of God could have redeemed humanity? We must go beyond the usual basic elementary doctrine of the Godhead and dig deep into the word of God for the answers. And this we shall do by God's grace.

## **CLOSING GEM(RH MARCH 10, 1891)**

Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, gave himself for a fallen world, and in him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. No greater gift can be bestowed upon man than that which is comprehended in Christ. And yet men wait, refusing to give to God the allegiance of the heart. But let the impenitent look to the plan of redemption, and ask themselves, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" It is perilous to neglect to render to God the full consecration of all our powers, for he has given them to man in trust. Will you not ask yourself, "How is it with my soul?" The great gift of salvation has been placed within our reach at an infinite cost to the Father and the Son. To neglect salvation is to neglect the knowledge of the Father, and of the Son, whom God hath sent in order that man might become a partaker of the divine nature, and thus, with Christ, an heir of all things. A neglect to lay hold of the priceless treasure of salvation, means the eternal ruin of your soul. The peril of indifference to God and neglect of his gift, is measured by the greatness of salvation. God has done to the uttermost of his almighty power. The resources of infinite love have been exhausted in devising and executing the plan of redemption for man. God has revealed his character in the goodness, the mercy, compassion, and love manifested to save a race of guilty rebels. What could be done that has not been done in the provisions of the plan of salvation? If the sinner remains indifferent to the manifestation of the goodness of God, if he neglects so great a salvation, rejects the overtures of divine mercy, refuses the gift of life purchased by the precious blood of Christ, what can be done to touch his hard heart? If the wonderful achievement wrought out by our Creator and Redeemer, into which he threw all his power and love, does not move the proud human heart, when man sees that his soul was thought of such value that the Son of the infinite God, the Majesty of heaven, was willing to lay down his life in order that he might be saved, then

there is nothing that will move that man. Christ left the royal courts, and accepted a life of shame, reproach, and suffering, and did not shrink even from the death of the cross, in order that he might unite humanity with divinity. Are you so infatuated with the love of self, with the suggestions of Satan, that these considerations do not move you to a life of humility, and of submission to God? Will not the love and compassion of him who gave in one gift all that heaven afforded, awaken a response in your heart? "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?" **RH March 10, 1891.**

## CHAPTER 7

# How Christ Glorified His Father on Earth

God's method of winning the great cosmic conflict against Satan is the method of revealing His *glory*, His *character of self-sacrificing Agape Love*, so that Satan's character of self-centered glory can be seen and exposed by being contrasted with His. God allows His intelligent creatures time to study and analyze the two governments, the two "*glories*", and to make up their minds which one they prefer. God's government of Agape Love is *eternal life*. Satan's self-centered government of self-exaltation is *eternal death*. Romans 8: 6.

The Son of God is the only Person in the Godhead and in the Universe who can reveal God's character or *glory*! Satan opposed the Son's revelation of God's *glory* in heaven. Satan even more vehemently opposed Christ's revelation of God's *glory* during His earthly ministry. But tried as he might he could not get the incarnate Son of God to be deceived or to buckle under any or all the pressure he, Satan, exerted. Christ as our representative Man remained, by free choice, absolutely surrendered to His Father and to the principle of *self-sacrificing Agape Love* and thereby not only defeated but *vanquished* Satan. Colossians 2:14,15.

## SATAN DEFEATED

“Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, “It is finished.” John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour’s victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost.

“To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, “It is finished,” had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ’s victory.

“Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion.

“It was a being of wonderful power and glory that had set himself against God. Of Lucifer the Lord says, “Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” Ezekiel 28:12. Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God’s presence. He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God’s purposes to the universe. After he had sinned, his power to deceive was the more deceptive, and the unveiling of his character was the more difficult, because of the exalted position he had held with the Father.

“God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan’s government. The Lord’s principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the

presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.

"It was God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God's principles. Time was given for the working of Satan's principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe.

"Satan led men into sin, and the plan of redemption was put in operation. For four thousand years, Christ was working for man's uplifting, and Satan for his ruin and degradation. And the heavenly universe beheld it all.

"When Jesus came into the world, Satan's power was turned against Him. From the time when He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem, the usurper worked to bring about His destruction. In every possible way he sought to prevent Jesus from developing a perfect childhood, a faultless manhood, a holy ministry, and an unblemished sacrifice. But he was defeated. He could not lead Jesus into sin. He could not discourage Him, or drive Him from a work He had come on earth to do. From the desert to Calvary, the storm of Satan's wrath beat upon Him, but the more mercilessly it fell, the more firmly did the Son of God cling to the hand of His Father, and press on in the bloodstained path. All the efforts of Satan to oppress and overcome Him only brought out in a purer light His spotless character.

"All heaven and the unfallen worlds had been witnesses to the controversy. With what intense interest did they follow the closing scenes of the conflict. They beheld the Saviour enter the garden of Gethsemane, His soul bowed down with the horror of a great darkness. They heard His bitter cry,"Father, if it be possible, let

this cup pass from Me.” Matthew 26:39. As the Father’s presence was withdrawn, they saw Him sorrowful with a bitterness of sorrow exceeding that of the last great struggle with death. The bloody sweat was forced from His pores, and fell in drops upon the ground. Thrice the prayer for deliverance was wrung from His lips. Heaven could no longer endure the sight, and a messenger of comfort was sent to the Son of God.

“Heaven beheld the Victim betrayed into the hands of the murderous mob, and with mockery and violence hurried from one tribunal to another. It heard the sneers of His persecutors because of His lowly birth. It heard the denial with cursing and swearing by one of His best-loved disciples. It saw the frenzied work of Satan, and his power over the hearts of men. Oh, fearful scene! the Saviour seized at midnight in Gethsemane, dragged to and fro from palace to judgment hall, arraigned twice before the priests, twice before the Sanhedrin, twice before Pilate, and once before Herod, mocked, scourged, condemned, and led out to be crucified, bearing the heavy burden of the cross, amid the wailing of the daughters of Jerusalem and the jeering of the rabble.

“Heaven viewed with grief and amazement Christ hanging upon the cross, blood flowing from His wounded temples, and sweat tinged with blood standing upon His brow. From His hands and feet the blood fell, drop by drop, upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross. The wounds made by the nails gaped as the weight of His body dragged upon His hands. His labored breath grew quick and deep, as His soul panted under the burden of the sins of the world. All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering,—“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34. Yet there stood men, formed in the image of God, joining to crush out the life of His only-begotten Son. What a sight for the heavenly universe!

“The principalities and powers of darkness were assembled around the cross, casting the hellish shadow of unbelief into the hearts

of men. When the Lord created these beings to stand before His throne, they were beautiful and glorious. Their loveliness and holiness were in accordance with their exalted station. They were enriched with the wisdom of God, and girded with the panoply of heaven. They were Jehovah's ministers. But who could recognize in the fallen angels the glorious seraphim that once ministered in the heavenly courts?

"Satanic agencies confederated with evil men in leading the people to believe Christ the chief of sinners, and to make Him the object of detestation. Those who mocked Christ as He hung upon the cross were imbued with the spirit of the first great rebel. He filled them with vile and loathsome speeches. He inspired their taunts. But by all this he gained nothing.

"Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. "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.

"Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.

“Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. **Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.**” DA 761.3

According to Jesus, in John 17:4, He had glorified His Father and finished the work the **Father** had sent Him to do by manifesting, as a man in our fallen flesh, *perfect obedience* to every article of righteousness contained in God's law of unselfish Agape Love. He glorified God even under the unfathomable pressure of tasting and suffering the unbearable Spiritual, mental and physical agony of that first eternal death which He conquered and abolished because He could *not* be annihilated by it since He was innocent of sin and victorious over all Satan's attacks.

Who can approach unto a conception of what Christ has endured when standing in the place of surety for His church in the solemn hour of atonement, when Christ yielded up His life as a sacrificial offering. Never, never, can it be that God again shall so manifest His holiness, His spotless purity.... His utter hatred of sin, His solemn purpose to punish it—and [all] that in the only One who could bear the strokes in behalf of the sinner, **and because of His innocence not be consumed.** How did the glory of God magnify itself in glorious perfection on that day when Christ's life was yielded up as a sacrifice for the world! When He cried out, “It is finished,” there was a mighty earthquake, the rocks rent, the graves flew open, and Christ bowed His head and died.—Manuscript 6, 1897, 2, 3. (“Parable of Invitation to the Marriage Feast,” January 1, 1897.)

However severe Satan had attacked Him, He exhibited *only* the attributes of God's Agape Love and never allowed any manifestation of the selfishness of our sinful flesh which He had taken on as our Substitute and Surety. **He therefore emptied our fallen humanity of self-centered thinking and allowed only the Love and righteousness of His Father to be manifested in thought, word and deed.** This

victory He reproduces in His body, the church, and it will be fully revealed in the remnant of the woman's seed when **He** again *glorifies God* through that remnant during the final crisis and especially in the "time of Jacob's trouble".

In our next lesson we shall by God's grace begin our search of the scriptures to find out *why the Son of God is the only person in the Godhead and in the Universe Who can reveal His Father's glory.*

"We cannot estimate the precious ransom paid to redeem fallen man. The heart's best and holiest affections should be given in return for such wondrous love." AG 177.

**Only then will we allow Christ to glorify God through us. Amen!**

## CHAPTER 8

# A Comprehensive Introduction to the Persons of the Godhead

### **FIRST PRINCIPLES FOR SUCH A STUDY**

Isaiah 55: 8,9 and 1 Corinthians 2: 9 -13 must be the key principles guiding such a study in order to arrive at conclusions based on weight of evidence by rightly dividing the scriptures. Since God's ways and God's thoughts are infinitely higher than our human thoughts and ways, we should not jump to conclude that language describing what happens in God means the same as when applied to us humans. Rather we should let God's Spirit teach us by comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

### **FIRST A SIMPLE APPROACH**

Since this study is deep, it is best to introduce it through a simple approach at first and then later on go deeper. Such a method will facilitate a clearer understanding of this profound subject. Let us proceed.

### **SIMPLE BUT PROFOUND NEW TESTAMENT STATEMENTS**

In Matthew 6: 13 Jesus informs us that the kingdom, the *power* and the *glory* belong to His heavenly Father. In Romans 1:20 the Apostle Paul also affirms that

*eternal Power belongs to the Father and also states that the Godhead or Divine Nature is His.* Here we are introduced to Infinite *Eternal Power*.

Since there can be no existence without eternal Power the inevitable conclusion must be that God the Father is the Source of **all** being and this is confirmed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Cor.1: 8:”**But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things.....**”.

## **GOD, THE FATHER**

“The Ancient of Days is God the Father. Says the psalmist:”Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.”Psalm 90:2. It is He, the source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to preside in the judgment. **GC 479**

“**He** is the Source of all being and the **origin** of all law.”LF197.2 (Note carefully that though His law is as beginningless, and eternal as He is, yet He is the **origin** of His law.)

## **GOD’S KNOWLEDGE OR THOUGHT OF HIMSELF**

God *must* have a *Knowledge* of Himself and this *Knowledge* of Himself must be as beginningless, as eternal, as infinite, as perfect as He is, in fact, all that God *is* must be *in* His *Knowledge* of Himself and this *Knowledge* of Himself is in Him! So this *Knowledge* must also be God as well! Of course the *Knowledge* of God is infinite *Wisdom*! And yet God is the Source or Origin of this *Knowledge*, which though *not separate* from Him is *distinct* from Him and is with Him.

All this is comprehended in John’s amazingly deep declaration: *In the beginning was the Logos (Greek=Word in English) and the Logos was with God and the Logos was God.* John 1: 1.

## **THIS LOGOS IS THE SON OF GOD!!**

“*He(Christ) was the Word of God—God’s thought made audible.*”DA 19

That this *Knowledge* or *Thought* or *Word* or *Wisdom* of God is His **Son** can be even more clearly proven from scripture, and this proof we shall carefully examine, for as we shall see, John got his basic concept of Logos (*Greek*) from mysterious Hebrew words written by Solomon in Proverbs. But before that deeper analysis, let us continue with this comprehensive introduction to the Persons of the Godhead. So far we have established the basic evidence for two Persons: God the Father and His eternal **WORD** His **Son**.

## THE EXACT IMAGE OF THE FATHER

Since the Son is the Father's Knowledge of Himself, He, **the Son**, must be the exact image of God the Father. That is exactly what the Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 1: 3:..... *being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person*..... There we have it! The Son is the brightness of the Father's *glory*, the exact likeness of the Father's person. That is why the Son is the only One Who can reveal the Father's glory!

Since the infinite Power of the Father can only function through His *Knowledge*, His *Wisdom*, the Father does everything *through* or *by* His **Son**. Let us read Paul again in 1 Cor.8:6:

*“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”*

And Colossians 2:1-3 **ESV**.

*“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s **mystery which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and knowledge.**”*

The Son must be constantly surrendered to the Father, and must constantly give Himself to His Father and the Father must channel His infinite power always through His Son. This mutual self-giving of Each to the Other is the primary eternal circuit of Beneficence between the Two. Let us analyze the **Composition** of this circuit.

## ETERNAL AGAPE LOVE

God the Father and His Son must Love each Other with a Love that is infinite, perfect, eternal, in other words, the Two Love each other with *all* of Their Beings and Personalities, therefore this Love contains all of the Father and the Son and therefore must also be God as well and must also be a distinct Person, whose Personality comprises the infinite flow of Father and Son to Each Other! This infinite Love of God is the *Holy Spirit, the Third Person*. This Love of the Father and of the Son whereby infinite Power and infinite Wisdom accomplishes all things, (creation and redemption) is the eternal counsel of peace between Father and Son, it is in fact the *Primary Circuit of Beneficence* extended to all creation, and, when disrupted by Adam's Fall, re-extended through the incarnate Son of God to accomplish the redemption of humanity! Romans 5: 5; 1 John 4: 8.

“In the temple in heaven, the dwelling place of God, His throne is established in righteousness and judgment. In the most holy place is His law, the great rule of right by which all mankind are tested. The ark that enshrines the tables of the law is covered with the mercy seat, before which Christ pleads His blood in the sinner's behalf. Thus is represented the union of justice and mercy in the plan of human redemption. This union *infinite wisdom* alone could devise and *infinite power* accomplish; it is a union that fills all heaven with wonder and adoration. The cherubim of the earthly sanctuary, looking reverently down upon the mercy seat, represent the interest with which the heavenly host contemplate the work of redemption. This is the mystery of mercy into which angels desire to look—that God can be just while He justifies the repenting sinner and renews His intercourse with the fallen race; that Christ could stoop to raise unnumbered multitudes from the abyss of ruin and clothe them with the spotless garments of His own righteousness to unite with angels who have never fallen and to dwell forever in the presence of God.” **GC 415.2**

“And the counsel of peace shall be between Them both.” The **love** of the Father, no less than of the Son, is the fountain of salvation

for the lost race. Said Jesus to His disciples before He went away: "I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you." John 16:26, 27. God was "in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. And in the ministration in the sanctuary above, "the counsel of peace shall be between Them both." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. **GC 416.4**

That there are three Persons in the Godhead is **not** the result of an *arbitrary* arrangement. Nothing **in** or **about** God is arbitrary, every reality in and of Him is based on the infinite *absoluteness* of His *eternal Nature*. Since Infinite Power, Infinite Wisdom and Infinite Love are absolute eternal realities in the Godhead, then, of absolute eternal *necessity*, there must be three Persons. Each Person is *distinct*. The Father cannot be the Son, the Son cannot be the Father, neither of Them can be the Holy Spirit nor can the Holy Spirit be the Father or the Son. Each is a *distinct* Person, together the Three comprise the *One* Godhead. The idea that the Son is not *absolutely* the Son but was called the Son because He would be the One chosen to redeem humanity *is incorrect*. The idea that any One could be Anyone is also *incorrect*. By the infinite, absolute, eternal **Nature of the God**, the Personal mode of existence is multiplied by **3**, while the **Divine Nature** remains **One**! There is God the Father, His Word and His Love. And God's Word is the eternal Son and His Love is the eternal Spirit. Three Persons, each infinite, beginningless, *not separate* but *absolutely distinct*.

In our next chapter, we shall go more deeply into the *knowledge of the Son of God* and provide even more amazing evidence that He is absolutely the eternally begotten Son of God, the Father and the *only* One Who can *reveal* the Father's glory.

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

## CHAPTER 9

# Wisdom in Proverbs 8: 22 to 31

### INTRODUCTION

Solomon had asked for wisdom and understanding and God had granted his request. With that gift and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he was given an amazingly deep message in Proverbs 8, a message not to be fully understood until the time of the first Advent and especially in our day, as we are told in 1Peter1: 10 to 12.

Solomon wrote in Hebrew. Many a Hebrew word can be translated into more than one English word therefore it is important not only to check other usages of any given word but also the context and the deeper understanding of its meaning especially when a word is used in reference to God. Human language is not perfect, in fact it is "fallen" like us, and translating from ancient languages into modern languages is not easy. Translators are never 100% objective, how they translate is impacted upon by their theological perspective, and that is understandable; we will soon examine an example of this. We should also be aware that in some languages everything is grammatically assigned a gender (male or female), this is a dimension of linguistic arbitrariness, and should not be a cause of controversy. In Proverbs 8 **wisdom** is *linguistically* female, and although this has no absolute significance some people still stumble over it unnecessarily.

## WISDOM IN PROVERBS 8: 22 TO 36

This amazing passage has intrigued Bible students throughout the long ages since it was written and when they saw in verse 30 someone with Yahweh as a co-worker in creation, the early Christians immediately connected it with John 1:1 and identified **Wisdom** in Proverbs 8 as the *Logos* or *Word, the Son of God*, and especially so, since many other passages in the New Testament described the Son of God as the One through or by Whom the Father created all things (1 Cor.8: 6; Col.1:16; Hebrews 1: 1-3).

Moreover in Proverbs 30: 4 a mysterious question is asked:

*“Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son’s name, if thou canst tell?”*

Listen to **Jesus** in John 3:13, in his conversation with Nicodemus, isn’t **He** answering that question asked in Proverbs 30:4 ?

*“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”*

**Compare** this text with Matthew 11: 27 and Luke 10:22. **Let us read these texts now.**

Since the Son of God is the Father’s *Knowledge of Himself, His Wisdom*, it is clear that **only** the Son truly knows Who the Father really is and only the Father knows Who the Son really is!! Amazing truth!

Let us read Luke 10:22 again, this time from the **NLT**:

*“My Father has entrusted everything to Me, no one truly knows the Son except the Father and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him”.*

Let us now read Colossians 2: 2,3:

Listen to how the *key part of the verse* is translated in the **NIV**:

.....*the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in Whom are hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge*".

And the CEV:

*".....not only is He the key to God's mystery, but all wisdom and knowledge are hidden away in Him"*

## **MORE EVIDENCE THAT WISDOM IN PROVERBS 8: 22 IS THE SON OF GOD**

The above scriptural evidence is satisfactory, but we want *a weight of evidence* from scripture that is incontrovertible to the rational thinker. So let us add two more passages from Jesus Himself! By *carefully* comparing Matthew 23: 29 to 36 with Luke 11: 46 to 51 we will make the amazing discovery straight from the mouth of Jesus! Both passages are essentially identical. Let us focus on the two *key* verses: Matthew 23: 34 and Luke 11:49:

*"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"*Matthew 23:34

*"Therefore also said the **Wisdom** of God, **I** will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute"*Luke 11: 49

There you have it! Jesus identifies the *Wisdom of God* as *Himself*!! Hence the Apostle Paul declares:

*"In Whom (Christ) are his all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge"*Col.2: 3

And since in the Divine Nature Infinite Power can and will function only through Infinite Wisdom, the Father gives/channels all of His Power to/through Christ. Hence Paul further declares:

*"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."*1Cor.1: 24.

Let us now examine Proverbs 8: 22.

## PROVERBS 8: 22.

*“The LORD possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old”*

The Hebrew word translated *possessed* in the **KJV** of the Bible is *qanah* (kanah). This Hebrew word has a wide semantic range in Hebrew usage. Here are some examples of how *Qanah* is translated: *to form or create* (Gen14:19,22); *to beget* (Deut.32:6); *to acquire* (Gen4:1); *to purchase* (Gen25:10); *to own* (Isaiah 1:3). The Greek translators of the Old Testament oscillated between *created* and *possessed*. The **Septuagint** translated it *created*, while **Aquila** translated it *possessed*. The **KJV** uses the **Aquila** translation, but quite a few modern translations use the **Septuagint** translation.

Arius and his followers seized upon the **Septuagint** translation “*created*” and developed the *erroneous* doctrine that the Son of God was *created* by the Father and was not really God like the Father is. This triggered serious controversy in the early centuries of Christianity. The Arian heresy is an example of poor or rather downright *bad* exegesis. If there was a time when **Wisdom** did not exist, then there was a time when Jehovah God lacked **wisdom**. If God didn’t have **wisdom** He wouldn’t be wise enough to create **Wisdom**. Therefore a translation of *create* for *qanah* makes *no* sense at all, especially since we are clearly told that the Father *...is immortal, invisible, the only wise God* 1 Tim.1: 17!

It must be obviously clear that infinite Power, infinite Wisdom and infinite Love are *beginningless* eternal realities in the Godhead. Moreover since **Eternal Wisdom** is a Person, *it stands to reason that the other Two, eternal Power and eternal Love, must be Persons as well!*

God the Father must be the **Source** of His **Wisdom**, therefore His **Wisdom** is eternally *begotten* of Him. The word *begotten*, when used of the Son of God, is not to be understood in a human biological sense but in the Divine eternal sense. The Eternal Love which flows between the Two is the Third Person of the Godhead. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father while the Spirit eternally flows out from the Father through the Son. Note well that we should not say that the Son *was* eternally begotten but we should say He *is* eternally begotten because *eternity is beginningless and endless!*

Those who interpret **Son** in a human way make *one* of two mistakes: Arians argue that since a son must be younger than his father, the Son of God is not beginningless like the Father, while some Trinitarians argue that since the Son is beginningless He cannot really be a son He is only called so because He would have become incarnate. Both are wrong because both *understand Son in a merely human way rather than in the absolute eternal God- way.*

Since wisdom is the right use of knowledge for the production of *good and only good*, then wisdom includes righteousness. Therefore **Infinite Wisdom** includes **Infinite Righteousness**, hence in Jeremiah Christ is called Jehovah or Yahweh Tsidkenu=The LORD our Righteousness.

Proverbs 8: 22 to 31 describes the *active role* of **Eternal Wisdom, the Son of God**, in creation. In verse 30, the Hebrew root translated: "as one brought up with Him" is **amon**, it is a very mysterious and difficult Hebrew root over which Hebrew language scholars remain divided. One plausible translation is "as One brought up like (a child) with Him". One other plausible and perhaps better translation is "master workman or architect"

*"I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him"* Proverbs 8:30 KJV

*"I was beside Him as a Master of crafts, I was having fun, smiling before Him all the time frolicking with the inhabited earth"* Prov. 8: 30 CEB

The scholarly consensus suggests the following as the best intent of the Hebrew:

**I was with Him as His master Architect or Designer and there was mutual Love and ecstasy between Us as We saw the amazing excellence and perfection of the creation He wrought by Me.**

No created being can have any knowledge of God the Father except through His eternal Son Who is The Knowledge, The Wisdom, The Word of The Eternal Father. The Son is the Express Likeness of His Father, the Only One Who can reveal His Glory, The only One by Whom The Father could have created all things and could have redeemed all things. From eternity past to eternity future He is the *monogenes* Son of God.

## MONOGENES

The Greek word translated *only begotten* in St. John's gospel is the word *monogenes*. The word literally means *one of a kind* (one gene) like when God commanded creatures in Genesis 1 to reproduce *after their kind*. A lion couldn't bring forth a giraffe it could only beget a lion. Some translations translate John 1:18:

*"No one has seen God at anytime, the **only begotten God** Who is in the bosom of the **Father** He has declared **Him**"*

Monogenes has two primary definitions,"pertaining to being the only one of its kind within a specific relationship"and"pertaining to being the only one of its kind or class, unique in kind». [1] Thus monogenēs (μονογενής) may be used both as an adjective monogenēs pais, meaning unique and special. [2] Its Greek meaning is often applied to mean"one of a kind, one and only». Monogenēs may be used as an adjective. For example, monogenēs pais means only child, only legitimate child or special child. Monogenēs may also be used on its own as a noun. For example, o monogenēs means"the only one», or"the only legitimate child». [3] Wikipedia Definition.

When God made man in His own image as a reproductive being, mankind, at the creature level, would reflect that infinite aspect of God in reproducing after our kind. We do it as only creatures can do, with the offspring having a personal *beginning*. In **God** it is infinitely, beginninglessly, eternally done. That is why *only the Son of God* (and not the Father or the Holy Spirit) could be born into the human family. **He Who is *eternally* begotten *could* be the Only One to be begotten as a human *in time*. Only the eternal Son of God could become the Son of man in the Plan of Redemption. Neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit could be born into humanity, *only* the Son!**

Having given the clear proof from scripture, let us now read *Patriarchs And Prophets* page 34:

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1, 2. **Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.**” His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6. His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2. **And the Son of God declares concerning Himself: “The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting.... When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” Proverbs 8:22-30.** PP34.2

The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings. “By Him were all things created,...whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him.” Colossians 1:16. Angels are God's ministers, radiant with the light ever flowing from His presence and speeding on rapid wing to execute His will. But the Son, the anointed of God, the “express image of His person,” “the brightness of His glory,” “upholding all things by the word of His power,” holds supremacy over them all. Hebrews 1:3. “A glorious high throne from the beginning,” was the place of His sanctuary (Jeremiah 17:12); “a scepter of righteousness,” the scepter of His kingdom. Hebrews 1:8. “Honor and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.” Psalm 96:6. Mercy and truth go before His face. Psalm 89:14. PP 34.2

This is more than enough for one study. We will have to continue next time, but we should be beginning to appreciate that when the Father gave His only begotten Son, (His Wisdom, His Knowledge of *Himself*) He gave His *All*.

If our doctrine of the Godhead is simply a doctrine of three Persons without understanding the eternal Father- Son relationship and unity in their Spirit of Eternal Love, then not only will our appreciation of the atonement be limited but neither will we be able to convince Arians that we don't have three Gods. Nor will we be able to explain *why only the Son can reveal the Father's glory!* And remember what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman and always ask ourselves: *do we know what we worship?* *John 4:21 to 24*

This question is important because one of the main issues at stake in Earth's final crisis will be the *issue of worship ; and while Babylon will not know what she worships, God's true remnant church must and will know what she worships.* So while other churches are busy with their vision of only *increasing numbers*, God must have a remnant whose vision it is to establish and concretize the truth as it is in Jesus,(Who is the Living Eternal Truth), and be ripened for the final crisis to give the final warning under latter- rain Holy Spirit Power *because that is the only way God's work in the earth will finish!* Those churches which reject the advancing *light* of the Third Angel while devising strategies and visions for expansion and finishing the work, according to their ideas, will at best be a holding station for some of God's people until those same people are called out by the loud cry into God's final truth, and perfection of character to be fitted for translation! So we must understand our calling and be fortifying our minds with the light God has been sending and allowing that light to perfect our characters in Christ for the final crisis. That is to be our vision and it calls for *individual* commitment to Christ and His truth and progressive victory over our defects and weaknesses as we grow spiritually to the *ear* and the full *corn in the ear!* And as we grow in love for Jesus we will witness to others! But our calling is to ripen for the harvest. Are we individually committed to that vision ?? May God's *Love* motivate and energize and lift us out of lukewarmness into *true hot* Christianity so God can finish the work and cut it short in righteousness!

## CLOSING GEM

The Teacher from heaven, no less a personage than the Son of God, came to earth to reveal the character of the Father to men, that they might worship him in spirit and in truth. Christ revealed to men the fact that the strictest adherence to ceremony and form would not save them; for the kingdom of God was spiritual in its nature. Christ came to the world to sow it with truth. He held the keys to all the treasures of wisdom, and was able to open doors to science, and to reveal undiscovered stores of knowledge, were it essential to salvation. He presented to men that which was exactly contrary to the representations of the enemy in regard to the character of God, and sought to impress upon men the **paternal love** of the Father, who "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." [John 3:16.] **Christian Education Chapter 8, page 73,74**

Amen!

## CHAPTER 10

# A Deeper Look at Proverbs 8: 22 – 36 Part 2

### INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul admonishes us to advance beyond the elementary doctrines of the Christian faith and make progress towards perfection of doctrine and experience in Christ. Hebrews 6: 1 to 3. This requires the **wisdom** that is from above, for we dare not trust to our own intellect, we must claim the promise given in James 1: 5. We must have this Wisdom in order to know the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom he has sent, for such knowledge is *eternal life*. John 17: 3. Nor must we be ashamed of the *gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation*. Romans 1: 16,17.

**“We are not kept by our intelligence, by our words, or by our riches. In these we find no safety. We are kept only by the power of God through faith unto salvation. We are living in a period of time during which we must be allied with *an infinite* God or else we cannot overcome the strong powers of darkness seeking to destroy us...  
.”CTr 199.2**

## FATHERHOOD AND SONSHIP IN THE ETERNAL STATE

*“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”* Isaiah 57: 15

The Hebrew word translated *eternity* in this text is **ad** from the original Hebrew root **adah** and it means ***perpetual continuation, timeless continuity***. (Note that it is not the usual word **olam** which is also translated *everlasting* or *eternal* but which really means *age lasting* ; the duration being determined by the *subject*.)

*“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.....”* Deut.33:27

The Hebrew word translated *eternal* here is **qedem(kedem)**. This is another word which means *past without beginning*.

God inhabits **absolute** eternity. Eternity is **timeless**, beginningless and endless, yes **timeless!** There is, absolutely speaking, no past-tense or future-tense in eternity.

Created beings live **in time**, all created beings have or had a beginning. On this Earth we live in “fallen” time. Since we live in **time** we measure or define things according to **time**. For example, we understand a father-son relationship in terms of **time**, with a father’s beginning occurring before that of his son. Our problem is that we try to analyze eternity and eternal realities in terms of time and this cannot work because eternity is **timeless**. And so the question is usually asked; *how can there be a Father-Son relationship* in the Godhead if both are beginningless? And we ask this question because, whether we know it or not, we are trying to study and analyze **eternity** by using **time**. And it cannot work.

So let us come straight to the point. The Bible reveals God **the Father** and informs us that **He** has a **Son**. Moreover, careful exegesis shows both to be **beginninglessly eternal**. The inescapable conclusion must be that there is a **real Father – Son relationship in the Deity** that has nothing to do with **time** and yet the **Father** is the **Begetter** and the **Son** is the **Begotten**, both are God and both are **beginningless in terms of time!** And the Son has no separate existence apart from His Father. Before God created anything there “was” timeless, beginningless

eternity; so everything happening inside God”was”beginningless and timeless! This is not easy for us to wrap our thoughts around because we are finite, *time-bound* creatures.

This brings us to a very important conclusion, and it is this: the process of the Father *begetting* the Son (or to use better understood words) the process of the Son *being born* of the Father, had to be beginningless as well! This means that there is no past-tense (or future-tense), in describing the birth of the Son of God, it is an eternal birthing or begetting and yet it is an *infinitely* real birth in the **Divine Nature!** How can we prove this from the Bible ? Read John 8: 57, 58, Isaiah 43: 11 to 13 and Rev.1: 11.

### **MYSTERIOUS WORDS IN PROVERBS 8: 22 TO 30**

We examined the Hebrew word *qanah* translated *possessed* in verse 22 **KJV** and we saw why it cannot be correctly translated *created*.

In verse 23 the **KJV** reads”*I was set up from everlasting.....*”the word translated *everlasting* here is *olam*(age- lasting) and the Hebrew word translated *I was set up* is *nissachti* which comes from a mysterious root word which means *to establish, to install,(to position, to anoint)*.

In verse 24 we read in the **KJV**”*When there were no depths, I was brought forth ...*”and in verse 25 we read”*Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth*”.

The Hebrew word translated *I was brought forth* is *chovlaleti* and it comes from another mysterious root: *chul* which can mean *travail* or *writhe* (like in birth pains).

How are we to make sense of these strange Hebrew words or their translation into our modern languages? Well, first of all these words *cannot* mean that the Son of God was created at any point in time, we have already established that fact.

## DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

The angels would have never witnessed a step-by-step creation. Lucifer felt himself so wise that he thought he could do whatever the Son of God could do! The Father created all things instantaneously by His **Word, His Wisdom, His Son**, and it looked so easy. Lucifer disputed the Son's position and wanted infinite Power to be channeled directly to himself and not through Christ. Lucifer's distorted thinking underestimated **Infinite Wisdom because of Wisdom's humility**. Even after Lucifer's rebellion had developed in Heaven, the Son of God, **Infinite Wisdom**, was still, to exercise His Father's Infinite Power **in the creation of our solar system and our planet Earth and the human species but in doing that final work of creation He would seek not His own glory, only His Father's glory!**

"Infinite love—how great it is! God made the world to enlarge heaven. He desires a larger family of created intelligences."(Manuscript 78, 1901). 1BC 1081.2

## MAN, A NEW AND DISTINCT ORDER

"All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made "in the image of God," and it was the Creator's design that they should populate the earth"(The Review and Herald, February 11, 1902). 1BC 1081.3

## STEP - BY- STEP CREATION OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

Father and Son, Infinite Power through Infinite Wisdom, created our Solar System in a stepwise manner so that the angels and unfallen worlds could see the critical and absolutely important role of Eternal Wisdom in the *intelligent design* of creation. The Father and Son deliberately performed the creation of our Solar System and our planet in six days and then *rested* and celebrated the completion of the perfect work (and the lesson it was intended to teach) *on the Seventh Day*. Seven is the Divine number for *completeness*. *The lesson is that God's Infinite Power must function through His Infinite Wisdom/Righteousness in order to create ; and His Wisdom/ Righteousness must cover and fill every*

*detail of creation, otherwise the created entity would fall apart. So the Father made all things through His Son and all things HOLD TOGETHER in His Son! Only the Son could fulfill that critical function. Not any creature. Not Lucifer.*

God's Righteousness completely *covering* and *filling all created intelligences, and in fact all things, is the seal of God and is what the Seventh Day Sabbath represents.* That is the reason Satan hates both the Son of God and the Seventh Day Sabbath, but that is the reason we should love *both the Son of God and the Seventh Day Sabbath! And that is why the Son of God is LORD of the Sabbath!*

Now we can better understand the mysterious Hebrew words in Proverbs 8: 23,24,25. Just as how we would apply or bring forth our (God given) wisdom to solve a problem or to construct something, the **Father *applied, positioned, or brought out His Infinite Wisdom*** for each stage of the creation. So those words in Proverbs 8: 23 to 25 are not referring to the origin of The Son of God but to **The Father *applying, setting forth, positioning His Eternal Wisdom, His Son to be the infinite master architect and designer of creation with special reference to our planet Earth and Solar System.*** The reason being that the angels would see firsthand that Infinite Wisdom is required to make a world and more particularly the human race and all life on our planet! Job 38: 1 to 7 parallels Proverbs 8: 22 to 31 and Job 38: 7 tells us how excited and joyous the angels were when they witnessed the creation of our planet.

## **JOY AND YET PAIN ? ETERNAL PROLEPSIS?**

Proverbs 8: 30, 31 tell us of the delight and joy the Son of God experienced in the step-by-step construction of our Solar System and especially in the creation of the human species.

“God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God's purpose to re-populate heaven with the human family, if they would show themselves obedient to His every word. Adam was to be tested, to see whether he would be obedient, as the loyal angels, or disobedient. If he stood the test, his instruction to

his children would have been only of loyalty. His mind and thoughts would have been as the mind and thoughts of God. He would have been taught by God as His husbandry and building. His character would have been moulded in accordance with the character of God" Letter 91, 1900. SDA.BC Vol 1, 1082.

So why is the Hebrew word in Prov.8: 24, 25 *chul*, which means *labour pains*, used to describe **Wisdom's work of designing** our Solar System and our human species when verse 30 tells us He rejoiced in His design and creation of our world and the human race ?

## ANSWER

God foresaw the fall of Adam. So infinite Wisdom had to design mankind's anatomy, physiology and biochemistry to survive under the adverse and hostile conditions of sinful flesh in a sin damaged world and Solar System under Satan's government of sin. Furthermore **Father and Son** covenanted that the Son would be born into the fallen human race and suffer the indescribable agony of **separation** from His **Father** in order to redeem a lost race. In other words the creation and redemption of our world and humanity required a greater *setting forth or birthing* of Wisdom than any other dimension of creation in the universe!

## GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE.

God foresaw that His *eternal purpose* for the human race would have had to be accomplished through the victoriously redemptive work of *Eternal Wisdom, His Eternal Son!* Those humans who accept the wonderful gift of salvation, which includes God's Righteousness and Life in Christ, will more than make up for the number of lost angels and in fact will be *joint heirs with Christ occupying positions higher than the unfallen angels.*

After the 1000 year reign in Heaven, the earth made new will be the new **Headquarters of God's government in the 'future' eternity!** So redeemed mankind will restore the numerical void that was made by the evil angels ; but more yet, they will sit with Christ in His throne. Rev.3: 21. And through the *Church*, by virtue of the victorious plan of redemption, the angels will understand what they could not have understood *without the creation and redemption* of humanity and planet earth!

"The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion. DA 763.3

"Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch, (Malachi 4:1),— Satan the root, and his followers the branches. The word will be fulfilled to the prince of evil,"Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;... I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.... Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." Then "the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be;" "they shall be as though they had not been." Ezekiel 28:6-19; Psalm 37:10; Obadiah 1:16. DA 763.4

"This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is "alienated from the life of God." Christ says, "All they that hate Me love death." Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them. DA 764.1

"At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would

not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe. DA 764.2

“But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. DA 764.3

“Well, then, might the angels rejoice as they looked upon the Saviour's cross; for though they did not then understand all, they knew that the destruction of sin and Satan was forever made certain, that the redemption of man was assured, and that the universe was made eternally secure. Christ Himself fully comprehended the results of the sacrifice made upon Calvary. To all these He looked forward when upon the cross He cried out, “It is finished.” DA 764.4

The mysterious Hebrew word *chul* encompasses what the Apostle Paul emphatically declares in Hebrews 12: 2

*“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God”.*

**HAVE WE RECEIVED THAT JOY? AND DO WE JOYFULLY LOVINGLY OBEY, ENDURING OUR CROSS AND DESPISING THE SHAME, KNOWING THAT WE WILL SIT WITH HIM IN HIS THRONE ?**

## Infinite Redemption by Infinite Wisdom, the Son of God

In the last four presentations in this series of messages, the *weight* of clear evidence has been given to show the *literal, eternal, spiritual, Father-Son relationship in the Godhead*. There is a popular Trinitarian teaching which asserts that the Second Person of the Godhead was/is called the Son only because He was to be born into the human family as the Son of man to fulfill God's covenant plan, and that He was or is *not absolutely, literally, eternally*, the Son of God. But we have shown this concept to be *incorrect*.

The moment we hear about a Father-Son relationship we think about reproduction according to the flesh and since God is not flesh we dismiss any literal Sonship from our thinking.

God is a Spirit (John 4: 24) and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. God is beginninglessly eternal and has an eternal Knowledge of Himself. He is the Source of His Knowledge, His Wisdom, His Logos which is His Son. This Knowledge of Himself must be as perfect and as beginninglessly eternal as He is and must be God as well. John 1: 1 to 3; 1 Cor.8: 6; Proverbs 8: 22,23; Colossians 2: 2, 3.

That God's Knowledge /Wisdom is a Person is a mystery beyond our comprehension but it is *true* nonetheless as Proverbs 8:22 to 36 clearly shows. The Apostle Paul told the Colossians in Chapter 2: 1, 2 NIV

*"I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, "*

So the Son is eternally begotten of the Father. He has no separate existence apart from His Father. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son. The Son is the exact image of His Father and the Only One Who knows the Father and the Only One Who can reveal the Father's Character of infinite Love. Matthew 11: 27; Luke 10: 22 ; Hebrews 1: 1 to 3; John 14: 6 to 11. The incarnation of the Son of God, His earthly human life in our fallen flesh, His infinite sacrifice, His victory over sin and eternal death and the free gift of salvation to humanity have vanquished Satan and vindicated God. This victory will be again fully manifested in the last generation remnant.

## **DESIRE OF AGES: CHAPTER ONE. IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US!**

His name shall be called Immanuel,... God with us." "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God" is seen "in the face of Jesus Christ." From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He was "the image of God," "the image of His greatness and majesty," "the outshining of His glory." It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal the light of God's love,—to be "God with us." Therefore it was prophesied of Him, "His name shall be called Immanuel." DA 19.1

By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the **Word** of God,—God's **thought** made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, "I have declared unto them Thy name,"—"merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,"—"that the love wherewith Thou

hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the **lesson** book of the universe. God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which "angels desire to look," and it will be their study throughout endless ages. Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It **will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which "seeketh not her own" has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto.** DA 19.2

In the beginning, God was revealed in all the works of creation. It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field. "His strength setteth fast the mountains." "The sea is His, and He made it." Psalm 65:6; 95:5. It was He that filled the earth with beauty, and the air with song. And upon all things in earth, and air, and sky, He wrote the message of the Father's love. DA 20.1

Now sin has marred God's perfect work, yet that handwriting remains. Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence. There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself. No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life. There is no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass, but has its ministry. Every tree and shrub and leaf pours forth that element of life without which neither man nor animal could live; and man and animal, in turn, minister to the life of tree and shrub and leaf. The flowers breathe fragrance and unfold their beauty in blessing to the world. The sun sheds its light to gladden a thousand worlds. The ocean, itself the source of all our springs and fountains, receives the streams from every land, but takes to give. The mists ascending from its bosom fall in showers to water the earth, that it may bring forth and bud. DA 20.2

The angels of glory find their joy in giving,—giving love and tireless watchcare to souls that are fallen and unholy. Heavenly beings woo the hearts of men; they bring to this dark world light from the courts above; by gentle and patient ministry they move upon the human spirit, to bring the lost into a fellowship with Christ which is even closer than they themselves can know. DA 21.1

But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. **In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life. DA 21.2**

In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world. DA 21.3

**The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be**

brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2. DA 22.1

The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of "the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal." Romans 16:25, R. V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. DA 22.2

Lucifer had said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;... I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:13, 14. But Christ, "being in the form of God, counted it not a thing to be grasped to be on an equality with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:6, 7, R. V., margin. DA 22.3

This was a voluntary sacrifice. Jesus might have remained at the Father's side. He might have retained the glory of heaven, and the homage of the angels. But He chose to give back the scepter into the Father's hands, and to step down from the throne of the universe, that He might bring light to the benighted, and life to the perishing. DA 22.4

Nearly two thousand years ago, a voice of mysterious import was heard in heaven, from the throne of God, "Lo, I come." "Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast Thou prepared Me.... Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God." Hebrews 10:5-7. In these words is announced the fulfillment of the purpose that had been hidden from eternal ages. Christ was about to visit our world, and to become incarnate. He says, "A body hast Thou prepared Me." Had He appeared with the glory that was His with the Father before the world was, we could not have endured the light of His presence. That we might behold it and not be destroyed, the manifestation of His glory was shrouded. His divinity was veiled with humanity,—the invisible glory in the visible human form. DA 23.1

This great purpose had been shadowed forth in types and symbols. The burning bush, in which Christ appeared to Moses, revealed God. The symbol chosen for the representation of the Deity was a lowly shrub, that seemingly had no attractions. This enshrined the Infinite. The all-merciful God shrouded His glory in a most humble type, that Moses could look upon it and live. So in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, God communicated with Israel, revealing to men His will, and imparting to them His grace. God's glory was subdued, and His majesty veiled, that the weak vision of finite men might behold it. So Christ was to come in "the body of our humiliation" (Philippians 3:21, R. V.), "in the likeness of men." In the eyes of the world He possessed no beauty that they should desire Him; yet He was the incarnate God, the light of heaven and earth. His glory was veiled, His greatness and majesty were hidden, that he might draw near to sorrowful tempted men. God commanded Moses for Israel, ' Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them' Exodus 25:8), and He abode in the sanctuary, in the midst of His people. Through all their weary wandering in the desert, the symbol of His presence was with them. So Christ set up His tabernacle in the midst of our human encampment. He pitched His tent by the side of the tents

of men, that He might dwell among us, and make us familiar with His divine character and life. "The Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth." John 1:14, R. V., margin. DA 23.3

Since Jesus came to dwell with us, we know that God is acquainted with our trials, and sympathizes with our griefs. Every son and daughter of Adam may understand that our Creator is the friend of sinners. For in every doctrine of grace, every promise of joy, every deed of love, every divine attraction presented in the Saviour's life on earth, we see "God with us." DA 24.1

Satan represents God's law of love as a law of selfishness. He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts. **The fall of our first parents, with all the woe that has resulted, he charges upon the Creator, leading men to look upon God as the author of sin, and suffering, and death. Jesus was to unveil this deception. As one of us He was to give an example of obedience. For this He took upon Himself our nature, and passed through our experiences. "In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren." Hebrews 2:17. If we had to bear anything which Jesus did not endure, then upon this point Satan would represent the power of God as insufficient for us. Therefore Jesus was "in all points tempted like as we are." Hebrews 4:15. He endured every trial to which we are subject. And He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us. As man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given Him from God. He says, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. As He went about doing good, and healing all who were afflicted by Satan, He made plain to men the character of God's law and the nature of His service. His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God. DA 24.2**

By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. **As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey. It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses saying, "I AM THAT I AM.... Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Exodus 3:14. This was the pledge of Israel's deliverance. So when He came "in the likeness of men," He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, is God "manifest in the flesh." 1 Timothy 3:16. And to us He says: "I AM the Good Shepherd." "I AM the living Bread." "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life." "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." John 10:11; 6:51; 14:6; Matthew 28:18. I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. "God with us" is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven. DA 24.3**

In stooping to take upon Himself humanity, Christ revealed a character the opposite of the character of Satan. But He stepped still lower in the path of humiliation. "Being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:8. As the high priest laid aside his gorgeous pontifical robes, and officiated in the white linen dress of the common priest, so Christ took the form of a servant, and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim. "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him." Isaiah 53:5. DA 25.1

*Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. "With His stripes we are healed." DA 25.2*

**By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man;**

but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder." God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the "Son of man" who shares the throne of the universe. It is the "Son of man" whose name shall be called, "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners," is not ashamed to call us brethren. Hebrews 7:26; 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love. DA 25.3

Of His people God says, "They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!" Zechariah 9:16, 17. The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God's mercy. "In the ages to come," He will "show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." "To the intent that... unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known... **the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" Ephesians 2:7; 3:10, 11, R. V. DA 26.1

Through Christ's redeeming work the government of God stands justified. The Omnipotent One is made known as the

God of love. Satan's charges are refuted, and his character unveiled. Rebellion can never again arise. Sin can never again enter the universe. Through eternal ages all are secure from apostasy. By love's self-sacrifice, the inhabitants of earth and heaven are bound to their Creator in bonds of indissoluble union. DA 26.2

The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died,— here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men,"and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift,— DA 26.3

## CHAPTER 12

# More Light on the Godhead. Introducing the Holy Spirit.

### Introduction

We start our message today by reading the words of Jesus in John 4: 21 to 24 with special emphasis on verses 23 and 24:

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”NIV*

In the Final CRISIS the Rev.12 *remnant* of the woman’s seed will worship God in the Spirit and in *truth*, whereas those with the *image and Mark Of the Beast* will manifest a false worship in a counterfeit spirit and in false doctrine: and the deception will be so cleverly put together by Satan that, if it were possible, the very elect would be deceived! Let us read the warnings given to us in 1 John 4: 1 to 6 and Matthew 24:24. Only those whose minds are fortified with the *truth* and who have the genuine Spirit of God will be able to stand!

## DO WE KNOW WHO OR WHAT WE WORSHIP ?

Remember that God is infinite, all created intelligences are merely finite, so we cannot by searching find out God (Job 11: 7; Eccl.3: 11). He reveals Himself to us up to the limit of our understanding but there is always an *infinity* beyond us. Let us read Romans 11: 33 in the KJV and then in the following other versions.

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways! **Berean Study Bible.***

**Good News Translation:***How great are God's riches! How deep are his wisdom and knowledge! Who can explain his decisions? Who can understand his ways?*

**Holman Christian Standard Bible:***Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways!*

**NET Bible:***Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how fathomless his ways!*

### The Limitations of the Human Intellect

"Men of the greatest intellect cannot understand the mysteries of Jehovah as revealed in nature. Divine inspiration asks many questions which the most profound scholar cannot answer. These questions were not asked, supposing that we could answer them, but to call our attention to the deep mysteries of God, and to make men know that their wisdom is limited; that in the common things of daily life there are mysteries past the comprehension of finite minds; that the judgment and purposes of God are past finding out, His wisdom unsearchable. If He reveals Himself to man, it is by shrouding Himself in the thick cloud of mystery". 3BC 1141.1

*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. Prov.25: 2.*

But who are the kings who must search out these matters ? Scripture answers in **Rev.5:10** and **1 Peter 2: 9**. **Yes indeed!** God's people! And especially **His remnant**, will search out these mysteries of truth and in so doing the unfallen heavenly created intelligences will learn from the true church the manifold Wisdom of God! Hallelujah! Read Ephesians 3: 8, 9,10, 11.

"God's purpose is to conceal more of Himself than He makes known to man. Could men fully understand the ways and works of God, they would not then believe Him to be the infinite One. He is not to be comprehended by man in His wisdom, and reasons, and purposes. "His ways are past finding out"[Romans 11:33]. **His love can never be explained upon natural principles.** If this could be done, we would not feel that we could trust Him with the interests of our souls. Skeptics refuse to believe, because with their finite minds they cannot comprehend the infinite power by which God reveals Himself to men. Even the mechanism of the human body cannot be fully understood; it presents mysteries that baffle the most intelligent."3BC 1141.2

Remember **Isaiah 55: 8, 9**. God's thoughts and ways are so much (**infinitely**) higher than ours! In fact God's ways are *past finding out!*

"Yet because human science cannot in its research explain the ways and works of the Creator, men will doubt the existence of God, and ascribe infinite power to nature. God's existence, His character, His law, are facts that all the reasoning of men of the highest attainments cannot controvert. They deny the claims of God, and neglect the interest of their souls, because they cannot understand His ways and works. Yet God is ever seeking to instruct finite men that they may exercise faith in Him and trust themselves wholly in His hands. Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spire of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of God. These little things so common around us, teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing too small for His attention"(The General Conference Bulletin, February 18, 1897). 3BC 1141.3

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”Rom 1: 20 to 22.

## **GOD INVITES US TO KNOW HIM**

Yet God invites us to reason, and to understand and to know Him! Isaiah 1: 18 ; Jeremiah 9: 23,24. John 17: 3. This means that our reasoning and our conclusions must be *in harmony with what God reveals to us in His word, by rightly dividing that word through comparing spiritual things with spiritual.* (2 Timothy 2: 15 ; 1 Cor.2: 13).

For example: We have established by clear evidence (in lectures 8 through 12) that the Bible reveals that God the Father has an *only begotten* or *monogenes* Son. The Bible also reveals that this Son is His eternal Wisdom, His Word (Logos) and both are *beginninglessly* eternal and both are God. Some religionists try to analyze this by human intellect and since they cannot reason it out by human premise and logic, they either reject it or wrest it to say that God can't really have a Son He is only called so, or, as the Unitarians say, His Son is a created being because He couldn't be begotten. Some even ask the question: ‘ Are you saying the Father has no wisdom, since the Son is His Wisdom?’ Answer: The Father has infinite eternal Wisdom Who is His Son!

Our finite intellect cannot fully fathom this truth, yet we must accept it as God's exposition of His Godhead and **He** has given us enough light on the matter for our faith to be intelligently established in His truth.

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

God the Father and His Son must Love each Other with a Love that is infinite,perfect, eternal, in other words, the Two Love each other with *all* of Their Beings and Personalities, therefore this Love contains all of the Father and the Son and therefore must also be God, and must also be a distinct Person, whose

*Personality* comprises the *infinite flow* of Father and Son to Each Other and is therefore a mystery beyond our comprehension! This infinite Love of God is the *Holy Spirit*, and must be reckoned as *the Third Person* in the Godhead! The Holy Spirit is usually represented in scripture as *oil*, or *water*, (or *wind* or *tongues of fire* or a flying *dove*)! Why? The Personality of the Holy Spirit is infinitely *dynamic and mysterious and beyond our comprehension*. The Holy Spirit flows between and *dwells within* and can be *everywhere present at the same time*. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father, the Spirit is eternally effused from the Father through the Son and out to all the universe.

Infinite Power must function through Infinite Wisdom. And Infinite Wisdom must be surrendered to Infinite Power. Each must *selflessly* give all to the Other. Without this *unselfish mutual giving of Each to the Other* the Godhead *could not exist*. *This mutual giving by the Father and the Son of all to Each Other is the living Principle of Eternal Love, the Holy Spirit*.

This eternal Agape Love, the Holy Spirit, is the absolute Unity and Peace between the Father and Son. Therefore the Love of God, His Spirit is the only true Source of unity and peace in the Universe including (and especially) the Church.

And, as was already stated, this *mutual self-sacrificing giving of all to Each Other is the Principle of Eternal Agape Love*. Therefore we arrive at the inescapable conclusion that this Eternal Agape Love is the very Life of The Godhead! And this we are told in John6: 63: "It is the Spirit that quickeneth".

"God is love. Like rays of light from the sun, love and light and joy flow out from Him to all His creatures. It is His nature to give. **His very life is the outflow of unselfish love**". MB 77.2

This mutual unselfish infinite giving of Each to the Other is the primary circuit of the flow of the *Eternal Spirit*, of Eternal Agape Love! It is the absolute diametrical opposite of selfishness. God is Love. God loves unconditionally. He can only Love! The only thing God 'hates' is sin but even here we must explain that it is sin that rejects His Love, His Spirit; and produces it's own hatred. God loves the sinner and if the sinner accepts God's Love the sin will be expelled and the sinner will be able to love God back in return for His unconditional Love!

And God extends this Circuit of Beneficence, *the flow of His Spirit, this flow of His Eternal Agape Love*, through His Son to every one who chooses to be in His Son by faith. In fact, wonder of wonders, Our Heavenly Father *Loves us as much as He Loves His only begotten Son!* Oh praise Jehovah! So to worship Him in Spirit is to worship Him in Agape Love. We love Him because He first loved us! And there is no *separation* between the Holy Spirit and the Son, between the Spirit and the living Word or the written word. John 6: 63.

This *flow* of the Holy Spirit is described as the *flow of living water in John 4:14 and John 7: 36 to 39. And golden oil in Zechariah*. Jesus Himself was filled with the Holy Spirit, the *Eternal Love of God, without measure*. John 3: 34,35, 36. He is the only One Who can reveal and give the Spirit of God, the Love of God, to all who choose to receive or accept the gift. Everything He did, He did *not* by might or power but by *the Spirit, the Love of God!* And through that eternal Spirit, that Eternal Love, He sacrificed Himself for our salvation. Hebrews 9: 14.

*Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit.* 1John 4: 13.

*...he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in Him* 1 John 4: 16 (last part)

*Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love.* 1John 4: 7, 8.

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT:GOLDEN OIL IN ZECHARIAH**

“The two classes of watchers represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the word of God. The psalmist says,“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Spirit is represented in the prophecy of Zechariah. “The angel that talked with me came again,”he says,”and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, and said unto me, What seest thou?

And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof; and two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? ... Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.... And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? ... Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth." Zechariah 4:1-14. COL 406.3

"From the two olive trees the **golden oil** was emptied through the golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So from the holy ones that stand in God's presence **His Spirit** is imparted to the human instrumentalities who are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate to God's people that heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6. COL 408.1

## **ETERNAL AGAPE LOVE: THE GOLDEN OIL IN ZECHARIAH**

"It was the golden oil emptied by the heavenly messengers into the golden tubes, to be conducted from the golden bowl into the lamps of the sanctuary, that produced a continuous bright and shining light. It is the **love** of God continually transferred to man that enables him to impart light. Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith the **golden oil** of **love** flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God." COL 418.5

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let

your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." The tiniest lamp, kept replenished with the golden oil, and sending forth its bright beams to dispel the darkness, is of far more value than the large lamp which flashes with brilliancy for a time, then sputters and goes out, leaving souls in darkness to stumble along as best they can. It is the **golden oil**, emptied by the heavenly messengers into the golden tubes, to be conducted into the golden bowl, that creates a continuous bright and shining light. It is the love of God continually transferred to man that keeps him a bright and shining light for God. Then he can communicate the light of truth to all who are in the darkness of error and sin.

"The golden oil is not manufactured by any human skill. It is the unseen power of the heavenly messengers who wait before the throne of God to communicate to all who are in darkness, that they may diffuse heaven's light. Into the hearts of those united to God by faith, his **golden oil of love** flows freely, to flow forth again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God."RH Sept.21, 1897.

## CLOSING GEM

"Faith, living faith, we must have, a faith that works by love and purifies the soul. We must learn to take everything to the Lord with simplicity and earnest faith. The greatest burden we have to bear in this life is self. Unless we learn in the school of Christ to be meek and lowly, we shall miss precious opportunities and privileges for becoming acquainted with Jesus. **Self is the most difficult thing we have to manage. In laying off burdens, let us not forget to lay self at the feet of Christ.**"2MCP 540.5

"Hand yourself over to Jesus, to be molded and fashioned by Him, that you may be made vessels unto honor. Your temptations, your ideas, your feelings, must all be laid at the foot of the cross. Then the soul is ready to listen to words of divine instruction. Jesus will give you to drink of the water which flows from the river of God. Under

the softening and subduing influence of His Spirit your coldness and listlessness will disappear. ***Christ will be in you a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.***—Lt 57, 1887. 2MCP 541.1

# The Holy Spirit. Part 2

### A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has **Personality** and is a **Person**, the Third Person of the Godhead, but the Spirit's *Personality or Personhood* is beyond our comprehension, it is not a stationary, static, singular personality. The Holy Spirit *flows* like oil or water and this *flow* is infinitely *dynamic*. The Holy Spirit *unites* God the Father and His only begotten Son thereby ensuring that the *Infinite Power of the Father functions only in and through His Infinite Wisdom, His only begotten 'monogenes' Son, for the accomplishment of every good and perfect work in the universe, both in creation and redemption!* By God's living **Eternal Love in the Holy Spirit, Eternal Wisdom in the Son** is eternally surrendered to **Eternal Power in Father**, and the Father gives all of His **infinite Power** to function **only** through the **Son by the Holy Spirit**. This mutual selfless giving of all of the Father and all of the Son to Each Other is the *infinite flow of Their Love* which cannot be explained by natural principles nor be comprehended in its *infinite mechanism* by finite minds. This *infinite flow of Eternal Love, the Eternal Spirit, is the very Life of the Godhead because it guarantees the Unity of Father and Son whereby Infinite Power functions only through Infinite Wisdom, and Infinite Wisdom is submitted to infinite Power for doing only good and never evil.* Any disconnect

between eternal Wisdom and eternal Power would mean the cessation of the Godhead and the end of all existence.

## **GOD'S SPIRIT AND HIS LAW**

The moral Law of Love is a *transcript* of God's character of Love, so God's character, **His Holy Spirit and His Law** can never be at variance. All of this means that God is the absolute Source of **perfect Life and Order and Peace and beauty** and every perfect *structural and functional* excellence in the Universe and *can never be the source or cause of death, imperfection, disorder, destruction, chaos, disunity or any other evil*. All of these negative things *must have resulted from sin and the separation from God which it causes*. Let us now read 1 John 1:5; James 1: 13 to 20; 1John 4: 8 to 19 ; John 8: 36 to 44; John 6: 63. 1 John 5: 1 to 4.

The Holy Spirit is the *eternal flow of the fullness and Personal presence of both the Father and Son in Their absolute infinite mutual Self- giving in Eternal Love and inseparable Unity, which Unity is the Eternal Principle and basis of the Divine Nature* John 14:15 to 26; Gal. 4:6 ; 2 Cor.13: 10 to 14.

The Holy Spirit glorifies the Son of God, and the Son of God glorifies His Father and the Father glorifies the Son Who reveals and gives the Holy Spirit. John 14: 16 to 19; John 16: 7 to 15.

**THE LOWEST PLACE IS FILLED MOST COMPLETELY** Luke 14: 11; Luke 18: 14 ; 2 Thess. 2: 4.

We know from our everyday experiences that **water** always fills the **lowest** position and always tries to flow ; from this visible thing of creation we can see something of at least one invisible eternal reality of the Godhead (using the principle of Romans 1:20). Follow carefully: **The (*phroneo*) attitude** of the Son is, by eternal free choice, one of infinite **humility** before the Father (or to put it in a colloquial expression: '*never seeking to fly in the Father's face*'), **this is the attitude and position that guarantees complete filling with the Water or Oil of Eternal Love in the Holy Spirit!!** Hence there must be the *infinite fullness of the Holy Spirit flowing from the Father to the Son*. The eternal Son brought that mindset into our corporate fallen sinful flesh and through that mindset He empties us of self and fills us with the fullness of the *living Water of the Holy Spirit*, but

remember it is all *in Him and it will all be in us only as we are completely in Him experientially.*

**THE SPIRIT OF GOD, LIBERTY AND UNITY.** 2 Cor. 3: 17, 18 ; John 17: 21 to 23.

This mutual unselfish giving of all of Each to the Other (Father to Son and Son to Father) is by the eternally fixed free choice of Both and is the very Spirit of eternal self-sacrificing Agape Love which is the eternal foundation and infinite Essence of God's Nature, Character and Government and Law! Therefore it should be clear that eternal liberty is an integral component of eternal Love. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty!

### **THE DIVINE NATURE**

The Holy Spirit carries in His flow the *fullness* of the Father, Eternal Power, and the Son. The Son is God's Eternal Wisdom, Truth and Righteousness. The Holy Spirit therefore carries in His *flow* the fullness of the Divine Nature. God always intended that His Spirit should indwell the spirits of all intelligences. The 'spirit of the mind' of every created intelligence is the *spring or fountainhead of the thoughts* and is the dwelling place of God's Spirit in those who are His. In unfallen beings and saved humans the Holy Spirit places the Divine Nature in the spirit of the mind to motivate and energize the *thinking* to be in harmony with the law of God and the character of God This Divine Nature is in the *word and promises of God.* (2 Peter 1:2 to 4). Furthermore, because of the incarnation, death and resurrection of the Son of God, the redeemed, in addition, will have the Divine Nature as the Nature and Life of their new glorified *bodies!* Philippians 3: 21.

"Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave,—not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours. Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal." DA 388.1

## **SATAN'S HATRED**

Satan hates the Spirit of God, he hates the living principle of self-sacrificing Agape Love and has vowed to war against it wherever it is manifested. Satan hates all that the Holy Spirit carries its infinite flow: liberty, unity, Power functioning only through Wisdom and Righteousness and Truth, and the glorifying of the Son of God; Satan hates all these because he hates the Son of God and the principle of self-sacrificing Agape Love! Satan seeks the glory of selfishness and self-exaltation. But Christ sought not His own glory but the glory of the Father that sent Him by revealing the Father's Spirit of Infinite unconditional Love!

And now in the plan of Redemption the Holy Spirit brings to us all that has been worked out by Christ in His incarnation, earthly life, and infinite sacrifice!

## **PRAISE**

Moreover since the Holy Spirit glorifies Father and Son, when we praise God, in worship that is grounded in truth and righteousness, we receive a greater inflow of the Holy Spirit because praising God decentralizes us from self and centers our focus on God the Father through His Son! And God inhabits the praises of His people!

## **TO KNOW GOD IS TO LOVE HIM**

The more we learn of God intellectually and experientially the more of His Spirit indwells and flows through us. **To know God is to love Him and we love Him because He first loved and loves us.** God's Spirit of infinite Agape Love has been most clearly revealed by the Son in His incarnation, earthly life in our fallen flesh, and especially in the final scenes of His infinite sacrifice in the Gethsemane- Calvary ordeal. That is why Jesus said that He would draw all men unto Him by His sacrificial atoning sacrifice.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS THROUGH ANGELS AND HUMAN INSTRUMENTALITIES

## THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk *about* Christ and *about* the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit God works in His people "to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13. But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive. DA672.1

## THE OFFICE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that

the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. **Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. DA 671.2**

## **NOW TO THE ANGELS**

Many functions which we attribute directly to the Holy Spirit are actually done by the Spirit through the Angels. Study these examples:

“Others He(Jesus)met who were fighting a hand-to-hand battle with the adversary of souls. These He encouraged to persevere, assuring them that they would win; **for angels of God were on their side, and would give them the victory.” DA 91**

“**Strength and grace have been provided through Christ to be brought by ministering angels to every believing soul.** None are so sinful that they cannot find strength, purity, and righteousness in Jesus, who died for them. He is waiting to strip them of their garments stained and polluted with sin, and to put upon them the white robes of righteousness; He bids them live and not die.” SC 52.3

“We need never feel that we are alone. **Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us.** In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy.”MH 249.1

From the beginning, God has been working by His Holy Spirit through human instrumentalities for the accomplishment of His purpose in behalf of the fallen race. AA53

“Angels are working through human agents who will be worked to bring sinners to God.”7 SDA BC 923

“The work of these heavenly beings is to prepare the inhabitants of this world to become children of God, pure, holy, undefiled. But men, though professing to be followers of Christ, do not place themselves in a position where they can understand this ministry, and thus the work of the heavenly messengers is made hard. The angels, who do always behold the face of the Father in heaven, would prefer to remain close by the side of God, in the pure and holy atmosphere of heaven; but a work must be done in bringing this heavenly atmosphere to the souls who are tempted and tried, that Satan may not disqualify them for the place the Lord would have them fill in the heavenly courts. 7BC 923.2

“Principalities and powers in heavenly places combine with these angels in their ministration for those who shall be heirs of salvation. But how sad it is that this work is hindered by the coarseness, the roughness, the worldly-mindedness of men and women who are so desirous of securing their own ends, of gratifying their own wishes, that they lose sight of the Word of God, which should be their instructor and their guide. 7BC 923.3

“The Lord gives to every angel his work for this fallen world. Divine help is provided for men and women. They have the opportunity of cooperating with the heavenly intelligences, of being laborers together with God. There is placed before them the possibility of gaining a fitness for the presence of God, of being enabled to see His face. Heavenly angels are working to bring the human family into a close brotherhood, a oneness described by Christ as like that existing between the Father and the Son. How can men so highly favored by God fail to appreciate their opportunities and privileges? How can they refuse to accept the divine help proffered? How much it is possible for human beings to gain if they will keep eternity in view!” 7BC 923.4

## THE HOLY SPIRIT, ANGELS AND PRAYER

“Seek most earnestly for a deeper experience and piety, and learn to walk circumspectly. [Malachi 3:16, 17 quoted.] God does not leave His erring children who are weak in faith, and who make many mistakes. The Lord hearkens and hears their prayer and their testimony. Those who look unto Jesus day by day and hour by hour, who watch unto prayer, are drawing nigh to Jesus. **Angels with wings outspread wait to bear their contrite prayers to God, and to register them in the books of heaven**”(Letter 90, 1895). 4BC 1184.2

“We have before us in the Word of God instances of heavenly agencies working on the minds of kings and rulers, while at the same time satanic agencies were also at work on their minds. No human eloquence, in strongly set forth human opinions, can change the working of satanic agencies. Satan seeks continually to block the way, so that the truth shall be bound about by human devising; and those who have light and knowledge are in the greatest danger unless they constantly consecrate themselves to God, humiliating self, and realizing the peril of the times. 4BC 1173.4

**“Heavenly beings are appointed to answer the prayers of those who are working unselfishly for the interests of the cause of God. The very highest angels in the heavenly courts are appointed to work out the prayers which ascend to God for the advancement of the cause of God. Each angel has his particular post of duty, which he is not permitted to leave for any other place. If he should leave, the powers of darkness would gain an advantage...”** 4BC 1173.5

**“Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ to answer every prayer offered in earnest, living faith. I think of how many who profess the truth are keeping it apart from their lives. They do not bring its sanctifying, refining, spiritualizing power into their hearts....”** 2SM 377.1

“The experience of Philip, directed by an angel from heaven to go to the place where he met one seeking for truth; of Cornelius, visited by an angel with a message from God; of Peter, in prison and condemned to death, led by an angel forth to safety—all show the closeness of the connection between heaven and earth. AA 152.3

“To the worker for God the record of these angel visits should bring strength and courage. Today, as verily as in the days of the apostles, heavenly messengers are passing through the length and breadth of the land, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the impenitent, to win the hearts of men to Christ. We cannot see them personally; nevertheless they are with us, guiding, directing, protecting. AA 152.4

“Heaven is brought near to earth by that mystic ladder, the base of which is firmly planted on the earth, while the topmost round reaches the throne of the Infinite. Angels are constantly ascending and descending this ladder of shining brightness, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and bringing blessing and hope, courage and help, to the children of men. These angels of light create a heavenly atmosphere about the soul, lifting us toward the unseen and the eternal. We cannot behold their forms with our natural sight; only by spiritual vision can we discern heavenly things. The spiritual ear alone can hear the harmony of heavenly voices. AA 153.1

## **CLOSING GEM**

“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.” Psalm 34:7. God commissions His angels to save His chosen ones from calamity, to guard them from “the pestilence that walketh in darkness” and “the destruction that wasteth at noonday.” Psalm 91:6. Again and again have angels talked with men as a man speaketh with a friend, and led them to places of security. Again and again have the encouraging words of angels renewed the drooping spirits of the faithful and, carrying

their minds above the things of earth, caused them to behold by faith the white robes, the crowns, the palm branches of victory, which overcomers will receive when they surround the great white throne. AA 153.2

“It is the work of the angels to come close to the tried, the suffering, the tempted. They labor untiringly in behalf of those for whom Christ died. When sinners are led to give themselves to the Saviour, angels bear the tidings heavenward, and there is great rejoicing among the heavenly host. “Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which needeth no repentance” AA153.3

“Church members, young and old, should be educated to go forth to proclaim this last message to the world. If they go in humility, angels of God will go with them, teaching them how to lift up the voice in prayer, how to raise the voice in song, and how to proclaim the gospel message for this time.” ML 238.3

“It is the work of the angels to come close to the tried, the suffering, the tempted. They labor untiringly in behalf of those for whom Christ died. When sinners are led to give themselves to the Saviour, angels bear the tidings heavenward, and there is great rejoicing among the heavenly host. “Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” Luke 15:7. A report is borne to heaven of every successful effort on our part to dispel the darkness and to spread abroad the knowledge of Christ. As the deed is recounted before the Father, joy thrills through all the heavenly host. AA 153.3

“The principalities and powers of heaven are watching the warfare which, under apparently discouraging circumstances, God’s servants are carrying on. New conquests are being achieved, new honors won, as the Christians, rallying round the banner of their Redeemer, go forth to fight the good fight of faith. All the heavenly angels are at the service of the humble, believing people of God;

and as the Lord's army of workers here below sing their songs of praise, the choir above join with them in ascribing praise to God and to His Son. AA 154.1

"We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angels. It would be well to remember that every true child of God has the co-operation of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim, and angels that excel in strength, stand at God's right hand," all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Hebrews 1:14. AA 154.2

## Wisdom's Humility

*If [there be] therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, <sup>2</sup> Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup> [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. <sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. <sup>13</sup> For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure. <sup>14</sup> Do all things without murmurings*

and disputings: <sup>15</sup> That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; <sup>16</sup> Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. *Philippians 2: 1 to 16.*

## WISDOM'S HUMILITY

Infinite Eternal Wisdom, the Eternal Word, the Eternal Son of God exhibited *infinite humility* in His interactions in Heaven with the angels, all the angels were in harmony with the law of *self-sacrificing LOVE* and there was perfect peace (James 3: 17,18). The angels would have been informed that **He** was the **One** by Whom the **Father** created all things, including them. They would also have been informed that the Father's *Infinite Power*, by **absolute eternal necessity**, must function *only* through **His Eternal Wisdom**, *His monogenes Son*, Who is eternally and absolutely *anointed* by Father to be the **One** by Whom all things are created and held together, and the only **One Who can reveal the Father's Spirit of eternal unselfish Agape Love and Who can fully enter into all His purposes of infinite Love.**

## ANGELS

The angels could only approach or see the Father through the Son. In the **Father's** presence they veiled themselves (Isaiah 6: 1 to 3) and though they saw the *distinction* between God the Father and His Son they could not fully grasp the infinite mystery of Fatherhood and Sonship within the *Deity*. **The Son of God coming out of the Glory and going back into the Glory was a mystery to their minds.** It would take time for them to more clearly understand, and the amount of time would be determined by the *effort* each angel would have freely chosen to put into learning and sharing the knowledge of God.

In Colossians 1: 16 the word of God indicates that there are many types of angels. Within each type, each angel would be free to develop and function in special positions according to the principles of free choice and creativity/innovation. Ezekiel and Revelation inform us that *Throne- Angels* are the highest angelic type, also called cherubim, and the highest position is *Covering-Cherub*.

Though all angels developed and advanced in knowledge according to their capacity, the *Throne-angels* developed faster than others in this knowledge of the mystery of God, God's Son and God's character; as well as in all branches of knowledge. One angel, in particular, advanced to the highest knowledge and position and was anointed the *first* covering *Cherub*. That Angel was Lucifer who was called son of the morning in Isaiah 14: 12. Lucifer enjoyed the highest position possible for a created being, a position of selfless service to the other angels while in submission to God the Father and His Son.

## THE SON AND THE CREATED ANGELS IN THE CIRCUIT OF BENEFICENCE

All the power, wisdom, and love possessed by the angels were gifts received from the **Father** through the **Son** by the **Holy Spirit** in the **Circuit** of Beneficence. The Son of God received all things from His Father but He took to give; through the Son, the Father's life flows out to all and through the Son it returns. And thus through the Son the circuit of Beneficence is complete revealing the character of the Father; the law of life for the Universe.

Yet the Son of God manifested selfless humility, meekness and gentleness in all that He did in Heaven. Though the Son of God shared His Father's Throne and though the *glory* of the *Eternal Self- Existent ONE encircled Both*, He, the Son, was always submissive to His Father's will and never sought to usurp His Father's *authority*, but would exercise that *equal* authority in submission to His Father. He was not in any competition for the highest place but demonstrated an attitude of lowliness rather than haughtiness. Though He was in the form and nature of God He never *strived for self-exaltation*, but remained *submissive* to His Father's will, doing nothing of Himself and seeking not His own glory but the glory of the Father. This mindset He brought into fallen humanity in His life on earth. John 8:28,29 ; 6: 38,57; 8: 50; 7:18. Matt.11: 27.

## THE PERIL OF SELF-CENTERED FOCUS

So long as the angels remained surrendered to the **eternal, living principle of unselfish Love in the Holy Spirit** they could and would appreciate, as much as they could, something of both the *humility and Deity* of the Son of God but if any angel chose to focus on self and not to remain surrendered to the Spirit of

God, *Eternal Love*, that angel's self-centered evaluation of his own beauty and brightness would pervert his wisdom, and his perception of the **Deity of The Son of God** would become blurred and he would *think* that he could and should be *equal to or higher than* the Son of God!

### **LUCIFER'S FALL (LUKE 10: 18)**

This is what happened to Lucifer. He wanted a position equal to or higher than the Son of God, in other words he wanted equality with the Father and desired that all the Father's infinite Power should **by-pass** the Son of God and come directly straight to him. When he was informed that that was *impossible* he told the other angels that the Son of God was no different to them and should *not* have preference over them, implying that the Son's position was arbitrarily appointed by The Father with prejudice against him. He then launched a subtly deceptive fault-finding campaign against the government of God with his hatred directed against the Son and his lies directed against the Father's Character.

Ezekiel 28:17(NIV):

*"Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor..."You said in your heart,"I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights ....."*

And Isaiah 14:14" I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (NIV)

"The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service. PP 34.3

"So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of

God. It was the joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator. They delighted in reflecting His glory and showing forth His praise. And while love to God was supreme, love for one another was confiding and unselfish. There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies. But a change came over this happy state. There was one who perverted the freedom that God had granted to His creatures. Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and was highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. Lucifer, "son of the morning," was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled. He stood in the presence of the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glory enshrouding the eternal God rested upon him. "Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering.... Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:12-15. PP 35.1

"Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, 'Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.' Ezekiel 28:17. 'Thou hast said in thine heart,...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.... I will be like the Most High.' Isaiah 14:13, 14. Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone. PP 35.2

“Now the perfect harmony of heaven was broken. Lucifer's disposition to serve himself instead of his Creator aroused a feeling of apprehension when observed by those who considered that the glory of God should be supreme. In heavenly council the angels pleaded with Lucifer. The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself. But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. Lucifer allowed his jealousy of Christ to prevail, and became the more determined.” PP 35.3

## **DISPUTING THE SUPREMACY OF THE SON OF GOD**

“To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose of this prince of angels. To this object he was about to bend the energies of that master mind, which, next to Christ's, was first among the hosts of God. But He Who would have the will of all His creatures free, left none unguarded to the bewildering sophistry by which rebellion would seek to justify itself. Before the great contest should open all were to have a clear presentation of His will whose Wisdom and goodness were the spring of all their joy.PP 36.1

## **THE FATHER CALLED A MEETING TO CLARIFY**

“The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—“ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands”(Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the

light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love. PP 36.2

## CHRIST'S ETERNAL POSITION

"There had been no change in the position or authority of Christ. Lucifer's envy and misrepresentation and his claims to equality with Christ had made necessary a statement of the true position of the Son of God; **but this had been the same from the beginning**. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer's deceptions. PP 38.1

## PERSISTENT ENVY OF CHRIST

"The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was a strange, fierce conflict. Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. The influence of the holy angels seemed for a time to carry him with them. As songs of praise ascended in melodious strains, swelled by thousands of glad voices, the spirit of evil seemed vanquished; unutterable love thrilled his entire being; his soul went out, in harmony with the sinless worshippers, in love to the Father and the Son. But again he was filled with pride in his own glory. His desire for supremacy returned, and envy of Christ was once more indulged. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer

were not appreciated as God's special gift, and therefore, called forth no gratitude to his Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host, angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was exalted above him, as one in power and authority with the Father. He shared the Father's counsels, while Lucifer did not thus enter into the purposes of God. "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honored above Lucifer?" PP 36.3

## **GOD DID ALL THAT COULD BE DONE**

The Father and the Son did all that infinite Wisdom and Love could have done to prevent Lucifer from going beyond the point of *no return*. But all that God did was, not only rejected, but wrested out of its context and intent to make God look bad and Lucifer look good, until his mind was fixed in rebellion against God the Father and His Son. Satan centered his government of sin on planet Earth. God, in infinite Wisdom would allow him *time* and *scope* to fully develop his form of government which he declared to be superior to God's. And in that *time* and *scope*, the ***eternal WORD*** would become flesh and so fully reveal God's Spirit and character of ***infinite, unconditional, self-sacrificing Agape*** Love that Satan's character and government would be fully exposed and defeated by that ***LOVE*** and not by *force*.

## **NEED FOR FULLER HUMAN COMPREHENSION**

"When men and women can more fully comprehend the magnitude of the great sacrifice which was made by the Majesty of heaven in dying in man's stead, then will the plan of salvation be magnified, and reflections of Calvary will awaken tender, sacred, and lively emotions in the Christian's heart. Praises to God and the Lamb will be in their hearts and upon their lips. Pride and self-esteem cannot flourish in the hearts that keep fresh in memory the scenes of Calvary. This world will appear of but little value to those who appreciate the great price of man's redemption, the precious

blood of God's dear Son. All the riches of the world are not of sufficient value to redeem one perishing soul. Who can measure the love Christ felt for a lost world as He hung upon the cross, suffering for the sins of guilty men? This love was immeasurable, infinite. 2T 212.1

"Christ has shown that His love was stronger than death. He was accomplishing man's salvation; and although He had the most fearful conflict with the powers of darkness, yet, amid it all, His love grew stronger and stronger. He endured the hiding of His Father's countenance, until He was led to exclaim in the bitterness of His soul: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" His arm brought salvation. The price was paid to purchase the redemption of man, when, in the last soul struggle, the blessed words were uttered which seemed to resound through creation: "It is finished." 2T 212.2

### **EXCITED OVER WORLDLY ENTERPRISES BUT BORED BY GOD ??**

"Many who profess to be Christians become excited over worldly enterprises, and their interest is awakened for new and exciting amusements, while they are coldhearted, and appear as if frozen, in the cause of God. Here is a theme, poor formalist, which is of sufficient importance to excite you. Eternal interests are here involved. Upon this theme it is sin to be calm and unimpassioned. The scenes of Calvary call for the deepest emotion. Upon this subject you will be excusable if you manifest enthusiasm. That Christ, so excellent, so innocent, should suffer such a painful death, bearing the weight of the sins of the world, our thoughts and imaginations can never fully comprehend. The length, the breadth, the height, the depth, of such amazing love we cannot fathom. The contemplation of the matchless depths of a Saviour's love should fill the mind, touch and melt the soul, refine and elevate the affections, and completely transform the whole character. The language of the apostle is: "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." We also may look toward Calvary

and exclaim:"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." 2T 212.3

Considering at what an immense cost our salvation has been purchased, what will be the fate of those who neglect so great salvation? What will be the punishment of those who profess to be followers of Christ, yet fail to bow in humble obedience to the claims of their Redeemer, and who do not take the cross as humble disciples of Christ and follow Him from the manger to Calvary? "He that gathereth not with Me,"says Christ,"scattereth abroad." 2T 213.

## **ONLY THE SON**

Eternal Wisdom, The Son of God, by Whom the Father created all things was the *only* One by Whom the Father could have redeemed all things and this was no *arbitrary* arrangement, but rather the essential outworking of the *eternally absolute Nature and Personages of the Godhead!* Eternal Power must of necessity do all things through or by Eternal Wisdom, motivated by Eternal Love. In other words the Eternal Father does all things through or by His Eternal Son in the unity of Their Eternal Spirit.

## **THE ORDINANCE OF HUMILITY**

Incarnate Wisdom gave to His disciples an example of selfless humility when He washed their feet.

**"When Jesus girded Himself with a towel to wash the dust from their feet, He desired by that *very act to wash the alienation, jealousy, and pride from their hearts. This was of far more consequence than the washing of their dusty feet. With the spirit they then had, not one of them was prepared for communion with Christ. Until brought into a state of humility and love, they were not prepared to partake of the paschal supper, or to share in the memorial service which Christ was about to institute. Their hearts must be cleansed. Pride and self-seeking create dissension and hatred, but all this Jesus***

washed away in washing their feet. A change of feeling was brought about. Looking upon them, Jesus could say, "Ye are clean." Now there was union of heart, love for one another. They had become humble and teachable. Except Judas, each was ready to concede to another the highest place. Now with subdued and grateful hearts they could receive Christ's words." DA 646.3

NEVER SHOULD WE FORGET THE HUMILITY OF THE SON OF GOD!!

### **CLOSING GEMS.**

Through all the lowly experiences of life He consented to pass, walking among the children of men, not as a king, to demand homage, but as one whose mission it was to serve others. There was in His manner no taint of bigotry, no cold austerity. The world's Redeemer had a greater than angelic nature, yet united with His divine majesty were meekness and humility that attracted all to Himself. RC 263.4

"Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did, self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. When His mission on earth was about to close, He could say, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do"(John 17:4).... RC 263.5

"It is the love of self that destroys our peace. While self is all alive, we stand ready continually to guard it from mortification and insult; but when we are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall not take neglects or slights to heart. We shall be deaf to reproach and blind to scorn and insult. "Love suffereth long and is kind"(1 Corinthians 13:4, R.V.).... RC 263.6

"Happiness drawn from earthly sources is as changeable as varying circumstances can make it; but the peace of Christ is a constant and abiding peace. It does not depend upon any circumstances in life, on the amount of worldly goods or the number of earthly

friends. Christ is the fountain of living water, and happiness drawn from Him can never fail." RC 263.7

**"When the soul is brought into close relationship with the great Author of light and truth, impressions are made upon it revealing it's TRUE position before God. Then self will die, pride will be laid low, and Christ will draw His own image in deeper lines upon the soul."MS1a, 1890(SDA.BC., Vol.6, 1099)**

## Revealing God's Glory in the Final Crisis

Remember our basic scripture texts for this series. Let us read them again: Rev.18: 1 to 4 which speaks of the glory God; and Rev. 18: 7 which speaks of Babylon's glory.

These two GLORIES will be on full display in EARTH'S final CRISIS, and every living human will be wrapped up in **one** or **the other** of those **GLORIES** in their respectively full exhibitions, there will be no neutral position.

### **THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION**

The glory of God was fully revealed by His incarnate Son in our fallen human flesh in His earthly life and especially in His suffering the agonies of the penalty of our first condemnation, and its resultant eternal death, for us, as our **Substitute** and **Surety**. Christ fully revealed God's eternal Spirit of unconditional Agape Love by God not imputing our sins to us but by imputing them to His Son Who exhausted the penalty and legally bought back, and corporately legally justified humanity (2 Cor.5: 18,19 ; Romans 5: 18). In so doing Christ abolished that first eternal death changing it into the physical death of soul- sleep from which He triumphantly was resurrected on the third day giving to humanity in Himself His own eternal Life. 2 Tim. 1: 7 to 10 ; 1 John 5: 11,12.

When as sinners we believe this good news of God's amazing Agape Love and in confession and repentance we surrender self to God receiving Christ as our personal Saviour, we are individually justified *by faith*. Christ's Righteousness is imputed to us as a free gift producing the radical change called the new birth. GOD'S Love in the Holy Spirit now occupies the spirit of our minds displacing the principle of selfishness. The believer's name is written in the book of life and spiritual growth begins, the moral law of God is written in our hearts. This spiritual growth is growth in the *knowledge of truth and also growth in character transformation* (including victory over defects of character) into and onto the measure of the stature of men and women in Christ which is full maturity in Agape Love. True heart- felt Love for God will produce perfect obedience, and remember it is all in Christ. Romans 1: 16,17.

Jesus describes this growth in Mark 4: 26 to 30 and divides it into *early growth* under the early-rain of the Holy Spirit and *ripening* growth under the latter-rain of the Holy Spirit. Ripening growth begins at the stage called the ear and will be the final process of final generation Apocalyptic sealing culminating in the full corn in the ear and the reception of the Rev.7 Seal of the Living God in their foreheads. This final ripening growth and sealing work will occur between the passing of the Sunday law (by Church- State Union) and the Closure of human Probation. Ephesians 4: 13.

## **THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE FINAL EXHIBITION OF BOTH GLORIES**

As was stated in the previous paragraph, the time period for the final exhibition of both GLORIES will be the time period that stretches between the *passing of the Sunday- Law and the Closure of Probation*.

As the true Third Angel remnant ripens toward the growth stage called the 'ear', the Four Angels of Revelation 7: 1 to 4 will begin their final loosening and will loosen enough for Church and Civil authorities to open discussion with the people about Church- State union and compulsory Sunday sacredness and worship.

**FINAL FULFILMENT OF JESUS ' WORDS IN LUKE 21: 25,26 AND MATTHEW 24: 21,22**

“We are to realize that the judgments of God are about to fall upon the earth, and we should most earnestly present before the people the warning that the Lord has commissioned us to give: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”  
RH Nov.22, 1892.

The alarming increase in crime, violence, terrorism; along with the increasing rate of natural and Man-made disasters will demand a global solution; and the experts will be persuaded, by deceptive reasoning and Satan-induced miracles, that the union of church and State for the enforcement of Sunday worship must be the answer. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing and there will be claims that God has spoken directly to certain individuals endorsing the Sunday-legislation as the only way to (1) remedy the moral ‘rot’ and (2) to stop the judgements of God from falling on the earth and (3) to bring back the blessings of God to the Earth.

## **SATAN’S ATTACK ON THE TRUE SABBATH AND TRUE LIBERTY**

The Creation Seventh-day Sabbath declares that God The Father created all things by His eternal Son and created our Solar System and planet in 6 days and rested on the Seventh day Genesis 2: 1 to 3; Col.1: 16, 17. It also declares that Power must be united to and function through Wisdom by Love in order to produce perfect work and genuine rest. Isaiah32: 17

In attacking the Sabbath, Satan is attacking the Creator and the Genesis account of the Creation of our planet. In the civil enforcement of Sunday worship he is attacking God-given freedom of conscience and choice in matters of faith and worship.

Redemption is re-creation in Christ 2Cor.5:17. When Christ had finished His work of redemption He rested on the Seventh day Sabbath. So the Sabbath is the Seal of both Creation and Redemption and in Christ, is applied by the Holy Spirit through the Sealing Angel to the end-time remnant people of God.

At that time it will also indicate Christian character perfection, the reflection of the glory of God through the end-time remnant in Christ. Whenever Satan sees the full revelation of God's character of self-sacrificing Love he declares war upon those who reflect that glory. Rev.12:17.

**“Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth. It *is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living word: “It is written.” This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely. Those who have broken their covenant with God will in that day be without God and without hope. 9T 16.1***

“The worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment, since this is the sign of God's creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage. The wicked will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial and to exalt the institution of Rome. In the issue of the conflict all Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel all, “both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,” to receive the mark of the beast, yet the people of God will not receive it. Revelation 13:16. The prophet of Patmos beholds “them that had gotten the victory over the beast,

and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God," and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2. 9T 16.2

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming,—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—God's chosen people will stand unmoved." 9T 16. 3

# God of grace and God of glory

God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown the ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of ths hour,  
for the facing of ths hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us,  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to love and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christlike graces,  
pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
that we fail not them nor thee,  
that we fail not them nor thee!

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.