

WHY WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET

SCRIPTURE READING : 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 sun, 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)