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GOD

**GOD, His man
CREATION
and the REST!**

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God, His man - CREATION - and the REST

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Written in Eden
Printed on Earth.

Introduction			
	What is man, that thou art mindful of him?		5
Chapter 1			
	In the Beginning	-and what also happened	9
Chapter 2			
	Before ...	-lucifer and the pre-Adamic time	15
Chapter 3			
	Eden, the Garden of God	-and the pre-Adamic earth	21
Chapter 4			
	The Rebellion	-and what Lucifer did	29
Chapter 5			
	The Destruction	-what happened to Eden	39
Chapter 6			
	Restoring Eden	-one day at a time	51
Chapter 7			
	God's Plan	-expressing Himself	63
Chapter 8			
	God's man, made of mud	-responsible for Eden	73
Chapter 9			
	Then God blessed man	-expressing His fullness	81
Chapter 10			
	The seventh day	-and God rested	89
Chapter 11			
	The Garden (of Eden)	-two trees ... one choice	93
Chapter 12			
	A Perfect World	-God remains the same	101

The origin and existence of mankind has always been a contentious topic, and subject to much discussion and as much disagreement.

What is the origin of mankind?
What is the purpose of mankind anyway?
How did man get here?

Although there are many theories, the belief in the reality of creation is based on the integrity of God's Word that mankind is not an accident, man did not come from nowhere or out of nothing, nor is man a chance being. Even if one accepts any one of the theories such as for instance the "**BIG BANG**", it still does not prove anything, because one question remains ...

Who pushed the button?

All the theories surrounding mankind and life are subject to this one certainty, nothing comes from nothing! What all the theories surrounding mankind's origin or existence have in common, is that some form of existence caused whatever happened afterwards!

Life, in whichever form it may be or has developed, comes from LIFE!

And that **LIFE**, which without argument is the source of all life,
... is in fact **LIFE Himself**
and is also the source of the life that is in man!

*And the **LORD God** formed man of the dust of the ground,
and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;**
and man became a living being. --- Gen 2:7*

Although there are many writings on life and its origin, the only authoritative source of information on life, its origin, its perpetuity and its reason is surely in the writings of the One who is the Source of life,
God Himself!

Studying the Bible not only reveals the origin of life but also the origin of man as well as God's intention, His vision and His purpose for man, dispelling the notion that mankind is the product of some unexplainable happening with no real past and no real future.

The aim and purpose of this study is to uncover those truths,
... truths that have been given to us in the Bible,
... truths that not only show up the reality of creation,
but also give us insight into God's purpose and plan for Mankind.

By way of introduction, let me quote the biblical declaration of
... who man really is,
... where man came from,
and God's purpose for man's existence.

¹ *LORD, our Lord,
How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!*
² *Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
You have ordained strength,
Because of Your enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger,*
³ ***When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,***
⁴ ***What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?***
⁵ ***For You have made him a little lower than (Elohim) God,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.***
⁶ ***You have made him to have dominion over the works of
Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,***
⁷ *All sheep and oxen, Even the beasts of the field,
⁸ The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
That pass through the paths of the seas.*
⁹ *O LORD, our Lord,
How excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

--- Psalm 8:1-9

David, overwhelmed by the greatness of God and the splendor of His creation, may well not have known how God did it all, but David saw and he knew, God had made something wonderful!

David may also not have known the fullness of God's plan for mankind, but David knew that man was God's special creation, and that God had put man in a special place for a special purpose!

So, in pursuing the answer to David's question,

... *What is man?*

Let's take a fresh look at those familiar Bible verses telling us how it all began and how man got here, and let us find out what we can about God's special plan for His man!

Back to where the future began!

- and what also happened

What do we know about the beginnings of man?

And, what do we hope to find out about this in Genesis chapter 1?

Mainly to find proof that, either

... our belief in God and creation according to Bible teaching is correct,

... or evidence that creation as the Bible proclaims it, is a mere myth.

Either way, once one starts studying the Bible, one quickly realizes that there are no simple answers but rather more questions,

.. and the first two verses in the Bible are prime examples.

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

--- Gen 1:1-2

Sceptics will tell you that archaeology and science have proved the earth to be millions of years old and that there is further proof of the existence of dinosaurs on earth, something the Bible says nothing about.

On the other hand, the Bible, God's authoritative source, immediately presents us with a problem, as it seems to indicate that the first recorded act of God in creation, was a void, without form and basically - a mess!

Did God really create this earth without form, void of anything?

Is the account in Genesis chapters 1-3 in the end just a story?

What about the dinosaurs? Were they real?

Although Genesis chapter 1-3 gives us an overview of creation, of the earth and mankind, it is by no means complete. Also, in our understanding of God and of creation, we need to be aware of an important truth, that ...

*Man's thinking and understanding are time and place orientated.
God on the other hand is neither limited by time or space.*

What does this mean?

The secret to understanding creation, is to stop limiting God.

*Stop trying to figure out how God did what He did,
... but rather find out why God did what He did!*

So, where do we find the answers to why God created what He did?

Although much of the answer can be found in Genesis, not all of what happened is mentioned there, and we therefore have to read it in conjunction with many other scriptures in the Bible.

Creation as related in Genesis, should thus not be read as a mere story, neither should it be read as the full account of what happened in creation, ... **but as a summary of some of God's actions in creation.**

A summary that only reveals certain aspects of the events that occurred during the creation of the heavens, of the earth and of mankind, and we need to make a paradigm shift in our thinking.

For instance ... **mankind is not at the centre of creation, God is!**

We should therefore concentrate on finding God's will and purposes in creation and how man fits into God's overall plan and vision. Only as we look at all of creation and not just at man, will we see man's place and purpose in creation and in God's plan.

Don't expect to find a complete chronological list of events in the first few chapters of the Bible, explaining the act of creation, from which to draw some quick conclusions as to the fullness of God's purposes in creation, but rather as scripture exhorts us ...

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth
not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. --- 2 Tim 2:15*

So, in setting out to find answers to these, and other questions we may have about the origins of mankind, God's purpose in all of creation, let's start ...

IN THE BEGINNING ...

¹ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

² *The earth was without form, and void;*

and darkness was on the face of the deep.

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

--- Gen 1:1-2

Genesis starts by telling us that somewhere in eternity past, God initiated a process of events in creation, that would have a direct influence on mankind, who at that time did not exist ... except in the mind and plans of God.

Although nothing is specifically said about the actual state of creation itself, we can safely assume that God did not create a mess which He afterwards would have to put in order or fix.

What is certain is that what God had created was good and exactly according to what He had set out to do.

As God Himself confirmed at the end of Genesis chapter 1 ...

*Then God saw everything that He had made, and **indeed it was very good.***

--- Gen 1:31

He is God, and what He did was good and complete!

However, looking at what is written in the second verse of Genesis 1,

The earth was without form, and void;

and darkness was on the face of the deep.

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

--- Gen 1:2

we find the total opposite of good and complete, depicting the earth as an 'unstructured' empty and dark place. A mess that surely does not line up with the meticulous way in which God created all things, as can be seen in nature all around us.

So, either God messed up, or something had happened!

To find out what actually did happen, let's look at the exact description according to the Bible.

The earth *was* without form and void ...
The word *was* ... (*haaytaah* in Hebrew) means,
... *to become, to come to pass, to happen!*

The earth therefore was not made without form and left void, but as the Hebrew word tells us, something happened after the earth's creation, and the earth for whatever reason or occurrence,
...***had become without form and void.***

It is therefore clear that something happened after God created the heavens and the earth, as described in Genesis 1:1, and God surveying His creation in the state as it is recorded for us in Genesis 1:2

A mess that certainly could not have been God's doing!

*Something or someone had messed with God's creation,
... somewhere between Genesis 1, verses 1 and 2.*

There is therefore an, as yet, undefined space in time between verses 1 & 2 of Genesis chapter 1. And although not directly mentioned or recorded for us in Genesis chapter one, it is clearly a time in which something substantial had to have happened, that had a significant impact, at least on the earth, and more than likely also on the rest of God's creation.

What had occurred between Genesis 1, verses 1 and 2?

What had happened during the time from the creation of the Earth,
... to when the Spirit of God was surveying the state it was in?

What happened before ...?

... Lucifer and the pre-Adamic time

In the previous chapter we touched on the fact that earth was not created in isolation nor was it created as an afterthought, but that after its original creation something occurred in heaven which caused God to take decisive action, that would have an influence on events on earth and lead directly to the *re-creation* of the earth in the form that we know it today.

What was it that happened in heaven during that time?
 What direct results did this have on earth and creation?
 Did it have any direct bearing on the creation of man?

The event which occurred in heaven is related for us in Isaiah ...

¹² *How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!*

How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

¹³ *For you have said in your heart: `I will ascend into heaven,*

*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on
 the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;*

--- Isa. 14:12-13

Lucifer had led a rebellion against God, which we will look at later in detail, but the result was that God cast Lucifer out of heaven, back to where he came from, and which undoubtedly had a direct influence on the rest of creation. This rebellion and God's action as a result thereof, leads us to a number of pertinent questions about God and His response.

Questions such as ...

Why did God allow this rebellion?
 Why did God not destroy Lucifer and his followers?

We shall discuss these questions in depth, however before we do, there are some important characteristics of God that we need to know and consider, as these characteristics have a direct bearing on God's response to what happened and why God allowed it to happen in the first place.

Characteristics such as ...

*God cannot be made to change his mind.
God knows what He is doing and His decision is final.*

Starting therefore with the known facts and references in Scripture that relate to the time before man's creation, the time between verses one and two of the Book of Genesis', let us take a closer look at what Scripture tells us about this time before Adam, and what impact this had on creation and most importantly, how this fits into the overall plan of creation and God's plan for man.

The archangel LUCIFER.

Having learnt from the reference in Isaiah that Lucifer is one of the central characters during the pre-Adamic time, let's find out who he is, before we examine what he did.

Lucifer had been created by God, most likely at the same time as the other archangels, of which Michael and Gabriel are probably the best known, and all of whom were individually given very specific tasks or positions by God.

Michael *Guardian of Israel (God's people) & great warrior.*

No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. --- Dan 10:21

Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, --- Jude 9

And war broke out in heaven:

Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; --- Rev 12:7

Gabriel *God's messenger.*

I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, --- Luke 1:19

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God --- Luke 1:26

Lucifer *Created to worship God and reflect His glory.*

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!--- Isa. 14:12

You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; --- Ezek 28:14

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, --- Ezek 28:15

Other than these references, not much else is revealed about Michael and Gabriel, however much is written about Lucifer, not only with reference to the pre-Adamic time, but also with reference to, and including the end times, as recorded in the Book of Revelation.

So as in all things, let's see what we can find out about Lucifer's beginnings and for what purpose God had created him.

In the Book of Ezekiel, we are given a detailed account of Lucifer and his creation,

... how God created Lucifer,

... why God created him,

... the position God gave him in His kingdom,

as well as what happened and why Lucifer turned against God.

¹² *Thus says the Lord GOD:*

"You were the seal of Perfection full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ *You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.*

¹⁴ *You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*

¹⁵ *You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.*

¹⁶ *By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.*

¹⁷ *Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.*

--- Ezek 28:12-17

This passage describes the special care God took when He created Lucifer, giving him not just a special place, but also a special position of great responsibility in His kingdom, and He established him in a place called Eden,

You were in Eden, the garden of God;

--- Ezek 28:13

Yes, God had made Lucifer special, for a special purpose,
... a purpose though that subsequently led to his fall,

... seal of Perfection full of wisdom and perfect in beauty --- Ezek 28:12
Representing God's character and appearance,
... Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

... every precious stone was your covering --- Ezek 28:13
Covered with the fullness of God's creation,
... Reflecting God's glory in His presence.

... workmanship of your timbrels and pipe --- Ezek 28:13
Prepared and equipped with musical ability and instruments
... Leading the heavenly hosts in the worship of God.

... You were the anointed cherub who covers --- Ezek 28:14
Specially created and prepared with the authority,
... and responsibility to protect and uphold.

... I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God --- Ezek 28:14
Established and specifically appointed by God,
... in an important place and position in His kingdom.

*... You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
till iniquity was found in you.* --- Ezek 28:15

Until Lucifer started to see himself as God.

*... Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor* --- Ezek 28:17

Lucifer was the seal of perfection, put by God in Eden, also called “*the garden of God*”, from where Lucifer was to protect and uphold God's kingdom and His holy mountain. Lucifer was to lead the worship of God and reflect God's glory through the precious stones, diamonds and gold that he was covered with, as he came into the presence of God.

Yet, as we know, Lucifer turned against God, and iniquity was found in him.

However, before we look more closely at what Lucifer did, his actions and influence on creation itself, we need to look at Eden, at what happened on it or to it, and its place and position in God's time frame within creation.

What and where exactly is this Eden?

What is the significance of what happened in or on Eden?

How does Lucifer's existence impact on the creation of mankind?

Eden, the garden of God ...

God is eternal, and thus creation is also eternal.

Although we do not know that much about the ages before man as yet, we can deduct from Scripture that some time before He created man, God created celestial beings such as the archangels (including Lucifer), and celestial bodies, planets, stars and Eden, as we read in the book of Ezekiel.

Creation before MAN...

God, as we have come to find out in the previous chapters, created much during a time prior to what has generally been considered as the biblical rendering of creation. And based on further studies of the Bible, we have discovered that much if not most of what was created during this time would seem to have had a direct bearing on what happened on the earth, and also on what happened to the earth as we have come to know it.

Other than Lucifer and what he did, which we will still have a closer look at, Eden and its existence is no less significant, considering its pre-existence, role and place in the creation of the earth.

EDEN, the garden of God.

Eden, *meaning delightful, delicate, luxurious*, is used in the Bible to describe a naturally beautiful place or garden, as is obvious from the reference made to Eden in Ezekiel ...

*You were in Eden, the garden of God;
every precious stone was your covering:
the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx,
and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold*

--- Ezek 28:13

Eden, *the garden of God*, where God visited with Lucifer, and considering how special God had made Lucifer, whom He had put in Eden, Eden itself must have had the same beauty and splendor.

Eden, except for being called the ‘garden of God’, must thus have been a very special place.

So, what else is known about Eden?

Of what significance is Eden in this pre-Adamic period?
Does Eden have anything to do with the earth or its origin?
And if so, could the earth be as old as science is telling us?

This is no doubt of great significance as it is one of the very few links that seem to exist between what happened before and after the creation of man. So, let’s go back to the scriptural references there are of Eden and see what we can find out about the location of Eden, as well as try to identify its origin and connection to earth and man’s existence.

¹² *Thus says the Lord GOD:*

"You were the seal of Perfection full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ ***You were in Eden, the garden of God;** every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.*

¹⁴ ***You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you;***

--- Ezek 28:12-14

¹² ***How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!***

How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

¹³ ***For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven,***
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on
the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;

--- Isa. 14:12-13

Based on God’s discourse with Lucifer, both in Ezekiel as well as in Isaiah, we can safely conclude that Eden was a real place, that it was not in heaven (where God’s throne is) and therefore must have been a planet.

A beautiful planet God had created either some time before or together with the creation of Lucifer, which He formed into a most beautiful garden, filled with trees, plants, flowers, animals and all manner of precious stones, jewels and gold.

God called this place *Eden, the garden of God*, from where Lucifer was to lead the praise and musical worship of God.

Although this time period, which occurred before the second verse of the book of Genesis, is not directly referred to anywhere in Scripture, we do have more than enough archeological proof that this certainly was more than 6000 years ago, or as many thousands as science needs it to be.

To our finite minds this may be difficult to compute, (too many naughts), but let that not stop you, as apart from archeological and scientific discoveries, we also have references in the scriptures telling us that neither God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit have a beginning or an end ...

¹ *For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,*
² *to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"*
³ *without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.*

--- Heb 7:3

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

--- Heb 13:8

We also know that God is not under any kind of time constraint, and thus the specific time period in relation to the eternal past, is of little consequence. What is of consequence though, is that Scripture does indicate that all of this occurred well before Adam was created, which is confirmed by archeological and scientific findings.

What however does Eden have to do with the earth we live on?

The garden of EDEN.

From the references in Ezekiel and Isaiah we have learnt that Eden is a real place, a planet, and that it was called the garden of God, where God put Lucifer. As we continue reading in the book of Genesis, we again find a reference to Eden, a place where God put man.

*The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden,
and there He put the man whom He had formed.*

--- Gen 2:8

Could this Eden on earth have anything to do with the Eden of Lucifer?

The Eden referred to in Ezekiel 28 and the Eden referred to in Genesis 2 is indeed the same place, yet in confirming this, it is necessary to correct our understanding of Scripture which is so glibly misquoted.

*Genesis chapter 2 does not refer to the garden of Eden, but very specifically to **a garden eastward in Eden!***

This means that the garden referred to in Genesis, the garden God had prepared for Adam and Eve to live in, was not called Eden, but is in reality a garden that God planted eastward in a place called Eden.

Now, looking at this in relation to the Eden referred to in Ezekiel,

You were in Eden, the garden of God; --- Ezek 28:13

it is clear that both Genesis and Ezekiel are referring to one and the same place ...

Eden, or as it is known today, the Earth!

**¹Eden is the original name its name*

**¹Earth (erets - meaning ground) is what it is!*

Accepting for the moment that Eden and the Earth are the same place, *¹
... the question arises,

What happened to Eden?

... for as we have read in Genesis,

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

--- Gen 1:2

What happened to *the garden of God*, that beautiful place God created for Himself, where He would visit and be surrounded by praise and worship that was led by Lucifer?

How could the earth have possibly been Eden, the garden of God, when the first we read about the earth, is that it is without form and empty?

**¹ see Ch.5 The Destruction*

What happened?
Did God change His mind and decide to get rid of Eden?

No, God does not change, as we can read in Malachi 3:6.
Eden still exists but something happened to its original splendor!

The events in or on Eden, are the subject of the next chapter, but for now suffice it to say, God's plan never changed, and in taking a closer look at creation, it will become clear that creation as described in Genesis chapter 1, is not God creating a new earth out of nothing, but God taking what was already created, Eden (that was now a mess), and meticulously re-creating and restoring it for a very special purpose and plan.

One last question surrounding the pre-existence of the earth as Eden, remains...

What about Lucifer, where was he?
Is there any indication as to his whereabouts during this period?
... on earth or in heaven?

The answer to that is given to us by Isaiah in his description of the events that surrounded Lucifer's rebellion, what happened to him because of his actions, and of his whereabouts during this time.

*¹² How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*

*¹³ For you have said in your heart: `I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on
the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;*

--- Isa. 14:12-13

Lucifer could obviously not have been in heaven, for had he been there, he would not have had to plan a rebellion into heaven,
... but he would have planned a 'coup d'état' in heaven with the intention of removing God from His position in heaven.

No, Lucifer clearly planned his rebellion from outside, as Lucifer himself is quoted as having said,

'I will ascend into heaven'.

So where was Lucifer during this time?

Lucifer was in Eden, where God had put him, and it is also from where Lucifer planned his rebellion.

Eden which we have found to be the earth, and we will still look at some additional confirmation of this, as recorded for us in Genesis 2:8-12.

But, let us first establish what happened in Eden,
... why it was without form and void,
when the Spirit of God was hovering over it,
... as described in Genesis 1:2 ...

The Rebellion ... and what Lucifer did!

... and what Lucifer did

In studying the beginnings of man and in particular the events that led up to the temptation and fall of man, we necessarily also have to study Satan's involvement in these events. In so doing one inevitably lands up with Lucifer and the fact that he obviously played a major role in the events that led up to the acts of creation as described in Genesis chapter One.

Lucifer's existence, his rebellion against God and the resultant events in heaven and in Eden cannot be taken in isolation. Events such as his sudden appearance in the Garden of Eden after man's creation is not coincidental.

We therefore need to find out,

... what happened to Lucifer after God cast him out of heaven?

... where he was and what he did?

and how did his actions affect Eden and the earth?

Is there really a connection between Lucifer, Eden and the Earth?

Was the creation of man not a separate issue?

There is one passage of scripture that makes an undeniable connection, but as is so often the case, we tend to read Bible verses selectively and thus miss the real truth.

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth **and subdue it**;
have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air,
and over every living thing that moves on the earth." --- Gen 1:28*

Consider this ...

Why would God, in His first discussion with man,

... tell man that there is something on earth that needed to be subdued,

... 'tread down' or dealt with?

Because obviously there was!

From our study it seems obvious that Lucifer had something to do with it!

So let us see how this all fits together!

The fall of Lucifer.

The Bible tells us that Lucifer turned against God,
... and that iniquity was found in him!
But how was this possible?

How was it possible that this could happen?
Where did this iniquity come from or what caused it?
What was this iniquity that was found in him?

To answer these questions, let's again have a look at what the Bible reveals about Lucifer and his rebellion against God.
In the book of Ezekiel we find the following references to Lucifer's creation, the iniquity found in him and to his rebellion.

¹² *Thus says the Lord GOD:*

"You were the seal of Perfection full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ *You were in Eden, the garden of God;*

every precious stone was your covering:

*the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold*

*The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on
the day you were created.*

¹⁴ *You were **the anointed cherub** who covers; I established you;*

you were on the holy mountain of God;

you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. --- Ezek 28:12-14

Ezekiel not only tells us with what beauty God had created Lucifer,
... but also what potential God put in him.
... what ability and wisdom Lucifer was endowed with,
as well as the special purpose for which he was created,
... *to cover, protect, lead the worship of God and reflect God's glory.*

Yet, reading on in Ezekiel it would seem that all these wonderful attributes,
this potential and special assignment from God, in the end became the reason
for his downfall, for iniquity was found in him!

*You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
till iniquity was found in you.*

--- Ezek 28:15

What was this iniquity, and how did it get into Lucifer's life?

Iniquity basically means – *unrighteousness or injustice!*
... leading to self-righteousness and unjust actions!

Bearing in mind what iniquity means, what exactly do Ezekiel and Isaiah say about the change in Lucifer's character and thus in his life ...

¹⁵ ***You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
till iniquity was found in you.***

¹⁶ ***By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence
within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you,
O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.***

¹⁷ ***Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.***

--- Ezek 28:15-17

¹² ***How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!***

¹³ ***For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
on the farthest sides of the north;***

¹⁴ ***I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'***

¹⁵ ***Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.***

--- Isa. 14:12-15

Lucifer was created full of wisdom and perfect in beauty,
and established by God in Eden, but ...

What changed in Lucifer's life?

The Bible tells us something very interesting ...

***By the abundance of your trading you became
filled with violence within, And you sinned;***

--- Ezek 28:16

What was Lucifer doing? ... *an abundance of trading!*
Trading (*rekullah*) – *Peddling or trafficking*
Persistent promotion, tricking others into dealing in illegal stuff.

In Lucifer's case,
... convincing others to follow his plan of rebellion against God.

Lucifer's heart had changed!
... and became lifted up ... because of SELF,
... seeing himself as more than he was!
Self became his motivation, his life!
... and manifested as it always does, as **pride and greed!**

Lucifer's character had begun to change to the point where,
... he became obsessed by the beauty and glory of God,
... he began to visualize himself as God,
... he began to think of himself as having the same wisdom,
... the same glory and the same splendor as God.

Eventually he acted on that illusion, and said
... I will ascend into heaven,
... I will exalt my throne,
... I will sit on the mount of the congregation,
... I will ascend above the clouds,
... I will be like the Most High!

And acting on his uplifted heart and corrupt mind, Lucifer went up to heaven
and tried to establish himself in the position of God,
... but was cast out by God, cast back to where he came from.

*Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the
mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
from the midst of the fiery stones.* --- Ezek 28:16

*How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*
...
*Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.* --- Isa. 14:12, 15

Jesus during His life and ministry on earth, confirmed Lucifer's expulsion out of heaven,

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

--- Luke 10:18

Lucifer wanted to have God's position, His wisdom, glory and His throne, ... but God being God, this plan was doomed to failure.

In fact, if Lucifer had only listened to himself saying ...
'*I will be like the **Most High!***'
He would have realized that it was impossible to do,
... as he himself said, **God is the Most High!**

The result was that God cast Lucifer out of heaven back down to the earth, and although Lucifer was now confined to the earth, this did not stop his corruption!

In fact, man's very first scriptural encounter with Lucifer in the Garden of Eden reveals Lucifer's continued rebellion and continued attempts to influence everything and everyone else with the corruption that is in him ...

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

--- Gen 3:4-5

We will look at this in detail in the next chapter.

However, let's look at one glaring example of Lucifer's continued efforts and attempts, taking every possible opportunity to try and corrupt ...

More about that later ...

How was it possible for Lucifer to do what he did?

In looking at creation, at Lucifer and how perfectly God had created him, how was it possible for Lucifer to do this?

Scripture tells us that Lucifer was the seal of perfection,
... *how could this perfection fail?*
Lucifer was full of wisdom and beauty,
... *how could this have been so easily lost?*
He was the anointed cherub (angelic being) who covers,
... *how could he turn from such a special position?*

How was it possible for iniquity to be found in Lucifer?

Did Lucifer have the right or ability to make such a decision?

Well, Lucifer certainly had the ability to make a decision,
... because as we have seen, he did!
However, having the ability to make a decision,
... does not necessarily mean you have the right to make it!

God is a God of order, and everything He does, He does according to a specific plan.
God not only created man with specific abilities and responsibilities, but as we already saw previously, God also created the angelic beings,
... and thus also the archangels with specific abilities and responsibilities!

In man's case God specifically told man he had to make decisions,
... and to take the responsibility for his decision.

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
--- Gen 2:17

However this is not the case with angels and archangels ...

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; --- Jude 6

God clearly limited the rights of angels and archangels,
... which meant that although they could make decisions,
... their right to do so was limited!

The Bible tells us that angels had a specific domain in which they were to operate, thus limiting their rights and their decision making.

It is therefore obvious that in the case of Lucifer, not only did he leave his proper domain or sphere of influence, but at the same time he made the decision to oppose God, a decision that was disastrous to himself and to those angels who chose to follow him.

*And the angels who did not keep their proper domain,
but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains
under darkness for the judgment of the great day; --- Jude 6*

The archangel Michael on the other hand demonstrated by his actions, what the proper domain of angels and archangels is ...

*Yet Michael the archangel
in contending with the devil,
when he disputed about the body of Moses,
dared not bring against him a reviling accusation,
but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" --- Jude 9*

All of God's creation is capable of so much, but there are limitations,
... some that we put there,
... and some that God has put there.
In the case of angels, God limited, not only their ability,
... but He also limited their rights.

Lucifer did what he had no right to do,
... he made a choice God had not allowed him to make,
And the result of going against God is iniquity!

*You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
till iniquity was found in you. --- Ezek 28:15*

Notice that God said ... *'perfect in your ways!'*
This means, whilst Lucifer did what he was supposed to do,
... he was perfect *in his ways!*

This also means it was possible for him to change his ways,
... which he did, when he did what he was not allowed to do!
This brings us to an important point that we need to also look at,
... there is a difference between **a wrong decision** (*that Adam made*)
... and **an unlawful decision** (*that Lucifer made*).

In basics a **wrong decision** can only be made when there was a legal choice
in the first place, **as in the case of man**,
... and is a decision that afterwards can be reversed.

An **unlawful decision** is one where there is no legal choice, such as the one
Lucifer and one third of the angels made,
... and is a decision from which there is no turning back.
... and thus leading to serious consequences,

*And the angels who did not keep their proper domain,
but left their own abode,
He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness
for the judgment of the great day;*

--- Jude 1:6

*For if God did not spare the angels who sinned,
but cast them down to hell and **delivered them into chains of darkness**,
to be reserved for judgment;*

--- 2 Pet 2:4

This iniquity came with a high price!

What Lucifer had done was indeed possible, but most definitely not rightful,
which left him and those who followed him in a position of absolute
condemnation from which there is no redemption.

From this position of utter doom, Satan set about his path of destruction
which led to the destruction of Eden as recorded in the book of Genesis.

However,
before we proceed with creation as described in Genesis 1,
first let's have a look at what happened in Eden,
... between the time of Lucifer's rebellion,
... the earth as we know it, and the creation of man.

The Destruction ... and what happened to Eden!

... and what happened to Eden

We have so far learnt how God had created Eden, which was also called the garden of God, which was where God established Lucifer in a very special position as guardian of the mountain of God.

However, as we have also learnt, Lucifer turned against God and against what God had created and ordained him to be.

As a result of this rebellion, God cast Lucifer and those angels who rebelled with him, out of heaven ...

*How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are **cut down to the ground**,
you who weakened the nations!*

--- Isa 14:12

*Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground,
I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.*

--- Ezek 28:17

... down to the ground, back to Eden.

And so Lucifer had lost his place and position in God's kingdom, and was thus confined to Eden.

What was he going to do now?

Before we look at what happened in Eden, we need to know,

***Who is Lucifer, and is he still around today?**
Is there proof that Eden is actually the earth?
What happened to the Garden of God?
What caused it to be in the state we find it in according to Genesis?*

Is Lucifer the devil or Satan?

Well, what does the Bible say about Lucifer and what evidence is there of his existence and whereabouts?

And, remembering that the Bible also says ...

"By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

--- 2 Cor 13:1 (Deut 19:15)

In fact there are not only three witnesses but four ...

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground, --- Isa 14:12

I cast you to the ground, --- Ezek 28:17

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

--- Luke 10:18

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old,

called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;

he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

--- Rev. 12:9

Isaiah and Ezekiel introduced him to us as **Lucifer**, also recording for us what had happened to him because of his rebellion.

Jesus in referring to the same incident, called him **Satan**.

John on the island of Patmos summed Lucifer's life and demise up, by making the direct connection between Lucifer, the one who rebelled and was cast out of heaven, and the same serpent in the Garden of Eden being the devil or satan that we know of today.

From these references we see that Lucifer's character had drastically changed, which is equally clear from the changes in his name(s)...

Lucifer is the name God gave him!

The **devil** is what he became - evil!

Satan describes his character – satanic,

... *cruel, callous, wicked, evil and ungodly,*

Serpent is how he showed himself the first time to man!

Is the Earth we know today actually the original Eden?

Of that there is little doubt, as there is more than enough evidence in the Bible to substantiate it.

*You were in Eden, **the garden of God**;* --- Ezek 28:13

*The LORD God planted **a garden eastward in Eden**,
and **there He put the man** whom He had formed.* --- Gen 2:8

The Bible clearly records for us in Genesis, that *eastward in Eden*, the original garden planet, God planted a new garden in which he placed man. Not just having the same name, but also the same makeup and place as can be seen from the original Hebrew words ...

Shamayim, meaning heaven

Erets meaning ground or earth (even as in English also)

which words are used to describe the heaven and the earth in,
Gen 1:1, Gen 1:2, Isa. 14:12 and Ezekiel 28:17.

*In the beginning God created the **heavens** (shamayim) and the **earth**. (erets)
The earth (erets) was without form, and void;* --- Gen 1:1-2

*How you are fallen from **heaven**, (shamayim) O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are **cut down to the ground** (erets)* --- Isa 14:12

I cast you to the ground, (erets) --- Ezek 28:16-17

What we should remember as we look at Eden and the earth, is that Eden is the name of a planet that in its entirety was a garden, called *the garden of God*, which is the very same place or planet (the earth) where on the eastward side God later planted a garden, *eastward in Eden*, and which is where He placed man.

In other words ...

Eden is the name that God gave to this planet.

Earth or ground (erets) is what this planet is made of.

What happened to (or on) Eden?

Having failed in his rebellion against God and now confined to Eden (earth), did not mean that Lucifer gave up his intention to become like the most High; he simply continued his rebellion from where he now was ... on EARTH. However Lucifer was not alone on earth, as through his abundant trading, he succeeded in deceiving a third of the angels into joining him in his rebellion, all of whom were also cast down and confined to the earth with him.

*And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon.
His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.*

--- Rev. 12:3-4

*So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old,
called **the Devil and Satan**, who deceives the whole world;
he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

--- Rev. 12:9

But, just knowing this does not tell us much until we take a closer look at how this casting down of Lucifer and his accomplices to the earth occurred, as the word usages 'threw' and 'cast' clearly imply 'with force', and thus surely had a serious or devastating effect on the earth (Eden).

¹⁶ *"By the abundance of your trading you became filled with
violence within, and you sinned; therefore **I cast you as a profane
thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you,**
O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.*

¹⁷ *"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted
your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; **I cast you to the ground,**
I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.*

--- Ezek 28:16-17

*And He said to them, "I saw **Satan fall like lightning from heaven***

--- Luke 10:18

Up to this point in time, Eden had been a beautiful garden planet., However, judging from the way God threw Lucifer out of heaven, casting him and his accomplices down to earth, that garden was no longer the same afterwards.

What happened to the Dinosaurs?

One of the as yet unresolved ‘mysteries’ of life on earth from before the known history of the earth and that of man, is the sudden disappearance of the dinosaurs at that time.

That dinosaurs existed is fact!

But, what could have caused their sudden extinction?

What is sure is that there had to have been some powerful or even violent occurrence on earth to have caused this sudden elimination of these large prehistoric creatures.

What could have happened?

Scientific proof exists that the earth was struck by a huge comet or asteroid millions of years ago, slamming into the Yucatan peninsula at 20 times the speed of a bullet, causing earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis and wildfires.

This destruction was so great it left most of the world a wasteland, shrouded in dust, perpetually cold and virtually devoid of all life and vegetation. An occurrence that according to international scientists **wiped out the dinosaurs** within a matter of days.

Interesting also is that the Science Correspondent, Richard Alleyne titled his report ...

The Telegraph 4 March 2010

Dinosaurs wiped out by asteroid impact that turned earth into a 'hellish' place.

This scientific conclusion is further substantiated by horn fossils from a dinosaur found just 13cm below a rock layer, a theory therefore that is actually not at all far fetched as it confirms the state of the earth in Genesis 1:2, as well as what happened when God cast Lucifer out of heaven, onto the earth, when it certainly became a ‘hellish’ place!

And even Jesus gave this meteorite or asteroid a name ... **Satan** (*Lucifer*),

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven

--- Luke 10:18

What Lucifer (Satan) did to Eden!

Considering that Lucifer's character became corrupt, evil and ungodly, so much so that God even changed his name to 'satan' 'the devil', it is obvious that the effect Lucifer's corruption had on one third of the angels, was also the same effect his presence had on Eden (the earth).

¹⁶ *By the abundance of your trading you became **filled with violence** ...*

¹⁷ *you **corrupted your wisdom** for the sake of your splendor.*

--- Ezek 28:16-17

Lucifer, from this point on called Satan, did not turn from his evil and rebellious ways, but once confined to the earth, together with one third of the angels, he simply turned his wrath on this place of confinement.

The consequence of this was that all of Eden, from now on called the Earth, became subject to this negative, violent and corrupt spirit that was now in residence on and basically in control of the earth.

The aftermath of this is described for us in Genesis, the book of beginnings when God revisits the earth ...

The earth was without form, and void;

and darkness was on the face of the deep.

--- Gen 1:2

Scripture, very bluntly but graphically confirms the terror and violence that the earth had obviously suffered at the hands of Satan and his rebellious host, by describing the state in which that beautiful planet was found on God's return to the Earth, as formless, empty and a dark place.

There is ample scientific proof that the Earth indeed has a long history prior to man, spanning thousands, even millions of years. Archaeological findings and scientific investigations not only confirm this, but also collaborate through physical findings, particularly, that much happened here on earth, during the time before Adam, as the writings of Isaiah and Ezekiel imply.

Is Lucifer really responsible for all of this evil activity on earth?

What is certain is that it was not God's doing, as it is not in God's character to corrupt or tempt anyone or anything with evil ...

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God";
for God cannot be tempted by evil,
nor does He Himself tempt anyone.* -- James 1:13

However, from what we have learnt so far, there is a known rebel, with a violent and corrupt character, who by this time had already been confined to the earth (Eden), and who is well known for his evil deeds and character manipulation.

¹⁶ *By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence ...*
¹⁷ *you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.*
--- Ezek 28:16-17

The question is whether there is any proof that Satan (Lucifer) continued with his evil deeds and character manipulation after having been cast out of heaven and confined to the earth?

Yes indeed there is, and even up to today, wherever there is violence, corruption, destruction or manipulation,
... ***Satan (Lucifer) and the fallen angels are involved!***

*And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said,
'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"* -- Gen 3:1

***So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job
with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.***
--- Job 2:7

*Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, ...
So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains,
how he might betray Him to them.* --- Luke 22:3-4

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and
with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were
oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.* ---- Acts 10:38

Satan's ability to influence those around him is clear, but does this mean that Satan was also capable of influencing and corrupting living creatures, including man?

Is there proof in the Bible that something like that ever occurred?

The answer is, *Yes there is!*

Less than a thousand years after the creation of Adam on earth, during the early years of Noah, there is a very clear reference to this kind of manipulation and corruption that occurred, which is more than mere speculation, because it actually happened ...

¹ *Now it came to pass,
when men began to multiply on the face of the earth,
and daughters were born to them,
² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men,
that they were beautiful,
and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.
⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days and also afterwards,
when the sons of God came into the daughters of men
and they bore children to them. --- Gen 6:1-4*

Who were those sons of God?

... Fallen angels no less!
What was it they did?
... they left their proper domain,
... corrupting what God had created!

*And the angels who did not keep their proper domain,
but left their own abode,
He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness
for the judgment of the great day; --- Jude 1:6*

This interference and resultant corruption of mankind, is ample proof of Satan's and the fallen angels' activities on earth. It is also a graphic reflection of what had previously occurred before the time of Adam, and the kind of corruption and destruction that led to where something happened that eventually left the earth in the formless and void state that it was found in Genesis 1:2.

Preparing the way ...

The earth we find described at the beginning of the Book of Genesis, was not anything like Eden, the beautiful Garden of God, that it had started out as, and it certainly no longer resembled that beautiful planet that God had created in the first place.

Satan had corrupted everything that was on the earth, to the point where God must have decided to clean the earth, in the same way as during the time of Noah, by flooding and washing the earth (Eden) clean.

A flood that left the earth formless, void, in darkness and still covered with water, as the Bible describes it.

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

--- Gen 1:2

... especially for His man!

The origin of life (and mankind)!

Many rather meaningless and unfounded theories have been formulated as to the origin of life, such as for instance the ‘Big Bang’ theory which we will analyze. Suffice it to say that if one thinks a little further than one’s nose is long, it is obvious that a ‘Big Bang’ could not have caused itself, but that a living something had to have caused it ...

Who pushed the button?

So also are the theories on the origin of man, such as those of Darwin and other “ape-man” theories that have proven themselves as being unfounded.

We will look at the origin of life and man in a little more detail later on in our study, but even so, despite all of these theories around man and the earth, the reality of many physical findings, do bear proof of an abundant plant and animal life long before the creation of Adam. Findings that however do not disprove either the Bible or the story of creation, but in reality actually serve to prove and confirm the pre existence of Eden (the earth) and Satan’s activities that led up to the Biblical rendering of creation.

It is also clear as we continue reading on in Genesis chapter one, that the time had obviously come when God decided to put into motion what He had planned long before ... *to deal with creation in a very special way!*

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*
⁴ *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,*
that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
⁵ *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,*
according to the good pleasure of His will,
⁶ *to the praise of the glory of His grace,*
by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. --- Eph 1:3-6

A plan according to which,
... **creation would take the responsibility for creation,**
in a special relationship with Him.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, --- Rom 8:29

Finally, when considering the vast expanse of time and space, and in particular the times before the ‘modern history’ of man, which easily exceeds our limited finite minds, be sure to remember this scripture ...

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. --- 2 Peter 3:8

Don't limit God,
... not in your thinking,
... and not in your life!

And bear this in mind ...
the story of creation is much more than just a simple story,
but a prologue to God's plans and purposes with mankind,
... revealing His character to us,
... and **showing us His love for us.**

Restoring Eden ... *one day at a time!*

... one day at a time

¹ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

² *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

--- Gen 1:1-2

Genesis the book of **beginnings** (meaning- origin, source, coming into being) is as its name states, the key to the ‘beginning or origin’ of mankind and God’s plan in creation in its totality.

The opening statement in Genesis ‘*In the beginning God created*’, therefore does not refer to what God had completed, but only to what God had started. However, when reading verse 2, it does seem a little confusing ...

Did God almighty, creator of the heavens and the earth, make a mistake, the result of which was an earth that was formless, empty and in darkness?

No! God does not make mistakes ... but He allows mistakes!

Most mistakes can be rectified,
But some mistakes have disastrous results,
... to those who dare make them!

We have already established that God judged Satan (Lucifer) by casting him out of heaven and the resultant corruption on the earth left it formless and void.

However was that the only contributing factor to the earth’s state at this time? No! for God had not only confined Satan to the earth, but He had also removed His presence, and thus His light and His life from the earth, leaving it in darkness.

So we find God surveying the earth and the result of Satan’s corruption, and in a clear response to the state in which He found His creation, God initiated a very specific plan and process that would culminate in the creation of man.
Man, with a special purpose and place in creation!

DAY 1 ... THE START - *Light, giving and sustaining life!*

*The earth was without form, and void;
and **darkness** (destruction) was on the face of the deep (abyss, hell).
And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters (waste).
--- Gen 1:2*

To clearly understand creation as described in Genesis 1:3-26, in other words, what God did and why God did what He did, we need to understand the difference between '*the deep*' and '*the waters*' that Genesis v. 2 refers to.

*'the face of the deep that was in darkness'
... is not the same place as,
'the face of the waters where God's spirit was hovering'*

The deep (*tehowm, meaning abyss, deep place*)
... was obviously where Satan and his angels were.
The darkness (*choshek, meaning destruction, wickedness*)
... the destructive presence of Satan and his angels.

The waters (*mayim, meaning mass of water, waste matter*)
... the result of Satan and his angels' activities on earth.

The darkness is therefore not referring to an absence of sunlight, but to the state of destruction and chaos that covered the depths of the earth, the domain of Satan and his angels.

The Spirit of God however was hovering over the (waste) waters that covered this dark, deep abyss, in other words, the face of the earth that God was about to clean and set in order again.

- ³ *Then God said, "**Let there be light**"; and there was light.*
- ⁴ *And God saw the light, that it was good;
and God divided the light from the darkness.*
- ⁵ *God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.
So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

--- Gen. 1:3-5

So therefore, when God said, '*let there be light*', He was not creating the sun, but He was re-establishing His presence on the earth.

God's presence and glory that was originally on Eden, that had been the light and life of Eden, which God had removed when Lucifer rebelled against Him, and thus left the earth shrouded in darkness. Genesis 1:3 tells us that God reversed this decision of His, returned to the earth and again manifested His presence, through His light and life on the earth.

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
--- John 1:3-5

Creation or re-creation?

God however is not the source of natural light to the earth, as He had also put the sun in place, not only to provide physical light on earth, but also to sustain and promote natural life on earth.

Scientific research estimates the earth and the sun to be millions of years old, confirming God's actions as described in Genesis chapter 1, of setting in order what was already there that had been corrupted by Satan, and was not the creation of a new earth. God's plan, which we are yet to understand more fully, was not just about the restoration of what had been before, but was according to a very special plan and purpose, for which reason we find God stopping to comment on His own handiwork most every day of creation.

And God saw the light, that it was good; --- Gen. 1:4

Was it necessary for God to check if what He had created was actually good? Of course not, however God was surveying His handiwork and its progress in relation to what He had planned and purposed it to be!

In fully understanding creation, it is important to remember that
God is eternal,
... and therefore does not concern Himself with an **end product,**
God is life,
... and concerns Himself with the **life and development** of creation!

So the evening and the morning were the first day. --- Gen. 1:3-5

DAY 2 ... ESTABLISHING ORDER - *around the Earth*

⁶ *Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."*

⁷ *Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament and it was so*

⁸ *And God called the firmament Heaven.*

So the evening and the morning were the second day. --- Gen 1:6-8

In day one God started to establish order on earth, by preparing conditions around the earth, so that it could again sustain life and so that God could re-establish natural vegetation, animal and eventually human life on earth.

The earth was totally covered by a watery expanse, to which God brought order by separating the waters around the earth from that on the earth, by forming an arch like covering enveloping the earth like a transparent cocoon, inside of which the physical atmosphere could be controlled.

This firmament which God called Heaven, was probably an envelope made of water, a layer similar to the ozone layer but probably more substantial. A layer inside of which the atmosphere could be controlled or regulated so that it would provide the necessary environmental condition of humidity or water vapour to sustain life and particularly plant life on earth.

⁵ *before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;*

⁶ *but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. --- Gen 2:5-6*

This wonderful structure or system that God created, ... was to dramatically change during the days of Noah, However, as with everything that God creates, its use, application and lifespan, depends on the creation, not on God! And in the case of this firmament, because of the creation's actions, ... the Creator removed it, ushering in a new era on earth.

Day two, and a step closer to the un-veiling of God's ultimate plan, His man!

DAY 3 ... ESTABLISHING NATURAL LAWS - *on the Earth*

⁹ Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day. --- Gen 1:9-13

On day three, God's plan starts unfolding and taking shape as we find God establishing the principle on which life on earth would be based.

Now you may well ask, what special principle or significance can there be in the earth bringing forth grass and trees, and what great plan can this be that God was busy implementing?

Well, when God said ...

... "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb **that yields seed**, and the fruit tree **that yields fruit according to its kind**, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. --- Gen 1:11

God was not just making plants, but **seed yielding** plants,
... that had in themselves **the potential to reproduce life**,
... that had in themselves **the potential to grow and increase**.
A law that is not only the basis of plant life and propagation,
... but the principle of propagation of all life on earth,
... **including also that of man**.

The principle of seedtime and harvest (sowing & reaping) ...

*While the earth remains, **Seedtime and harvest**,
Cold and heat, Winter and summer,
And day and night Shall not cease.* --- Gen 8:22

The law of sowing and reaping however,
... is not just a principle that governs life and increase,
but it is also the basic principle of God's dealings with man,
... and it also governs the entire development of (God's) creation.

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;
for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* --- Gal 6:7

What does this mean?

What is the Bible telling us in this rather well known statement?

If you don't sow ... you will never reap anything.
If you don't give ... you won't get.
If you put nothing in ... you will get nothing out.
Nothing will grow, nothing will multiply, nothing will reproduce.
Without this law ... nothing is.

The Law of Love.

It's not just a law of increase, but the principle of life itself!
It's not a way of getting something, but having something to give.
Love, the very essence of God Himself. (*Agape!*)
To live is to be fruitful, to give!
If you do not give, there is no life!

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living soul.* --- Gen 2:7

God breathed into man, His life, His image!

PURITY AND ORDER – *according to its kind*

At the same time God established an equally important principle,
... a principle that has not been so easily recognised or understood,

*Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed,
and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind,
whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. --- Gen 1:11*

Of what significance could this be?

God is life, and not mere existence,
He is therefore also the God of ability,
... of potential and of growth, in every sphere of existence!
One need only look at all of nature that surrounds us,
or at the universe which we know is constantly increasing,
... to see this **ability in action**,
... this **potential released** and this **growth manifesting!**

But God is also a **God of order**,
and although we have seen God's order tampered with ...

Lucifer who tampered with God's order in the spirit realm, and
the fallen angels who tampered with God's order in the natural realm!

God has established a very clear principle ... *According to its kind!*
So His ability and potential would create and produce beauty & harmony,
... as can be seen in all that He has created, even in Lucifer (as He was),

Therefore also this very specific reference to the order in creation itself ...

*that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself ...
--- Gen 1:11*

God created everything pure in itself and in Him,
... and God does not want anything on the outside to interfere,
... or to change, and therefore corrupt what He has made.
Therefore when God created that which produces, like seed,
... He ordained that it should be in itself and produce according to itself!

Cloning and manipulation!

God does not want any kind of manipulation, for if anything is needed, ... the potential is there in Him, to create what is needed or wanted!
This potential, this power, that Lucifer interfered with and himself wanted, ... as we also see man so often interfering with, and taking for himself.
God ordained, that if anything is needed, **it is produced from the source**, ... **God Himself**, and not from creation, for that is manipulation!

Lucifer got thrown off the throne because he was a manipulator and fake!

This power seeking and manipulation by creation itself, did not stop there, ... but was a direct cause of the flood during Noah's days, with the continued manipulation of God's principle and purity by creation,

There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. --- Gen. 6:4

Even so, knowing what was to happen, God at the end of day three, looks at His work and again comments on it ...

¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day. --- Gen 1:9-13

Did God knowing what was coming, really still think that it was good?

Remember that God did not create robots or clones, but the perfect environment and condition for His plans to unfold and grow!

As we saw with Lucifer, who was perfect in his ways, ... yet it was possible for him to corrupt his character, ... by going against God's word and His principles!

The ability and the potential that God created was indeed good, however ... living in that perfection is up to creation, not the Creator!

DAY 4 ... THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

*¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to **divide the day from the night**; and let them be **for signs and seasons**, and for **days and years**;*

¹⁵ "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

*¹⁸ and to **rule over the day and over the night**, and to **divide the light from the darkness**.*

And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

--- Gen 1:14-19

Day four sees God continuing to order,
... and regulate the natural or physical environment on earth,
... as well as everything around the earth that will in any way influence
or otherwise control or help shape the natural environment on earth.

Reflecting back on what God had done so far in creation, we see
... God was continuing to develop what He had started on day two and three,
shaping the environment in which the principle that would govern life,
... such as the principle of sowing and reaping, could operate.

Light and dark,
Day and night,
Seasons and years.

One step at a time God continues to develop and establish His plan,
... His plan for creation here on earth,
preparing an environment in which man could live and develop.

Again on day three God comments on His work!
And again God declares it good!

Perfect in detail, yet profound in its simplicity.

DAY 5 ... THE NATURAL HABITATION - filled with life

²⁰ *Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens."*

²¹ *So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, **according to their kind**, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

²² *And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."*

²³ *So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.*

--- Gen 1:20-23

By the end of day four, God had restored (Eden) the earth again,
... and had prepared it to receive and to sustain natural life!

God had meticulously prepared the conditions, in which natural life can exist,
... setting in motion the natural principle of seed time and harvest,
... that will sustain life and its promulgation.

This done, God started to fill the waters and the air above the earth,
... with an abundance of living creatures, both fish and birds!
And again, note how that God maintained order in creation,
ordaining that the fish and the birds increase, **according to their own kind!**

And God saw that it was good!

Interestingly enough, there seems to be a similarity in the creation between animals and man ...

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

--- Gen 1:22

However, although there is some similarity between verse 22 and verse 28, what God spoke over the living creatures and what He said to man is vastly different. God blessed the animals, as He did all of creation, but to man, to whom He spoke personally, God had a much greater plan and purpose, which we will be look at in the next chapters.

But what it does show us is that,
... God is the life giver and He wants that life to increase!
So far we have seen and learnt in our study on creation,
... that in the process of creation (still in progress)

God had created the heavenly beings,
... some of which, together with Satan, had turned against God,
... that life in Eden had been corrupted,
... that God had rather harshly dealt with the natural environment,
... that God had started to restore the earth,
and was doing this all in line with a very special plan and purpose.
A purpose that we are still to find out!

However, before we do,
... let us look at God's final act before revealing His plan!

*²⁴Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, **each according to its kind**"; and it was so.
²⁵And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. **And God saw that it was good.***

--- Gen 1:24-25

God continued what He had started in day five,
... and at this point one could say,

Everything was there!
Everything was prepared!

THE PLACE	... order on earth established.
THE PRINCIPLE & LAW	... to enable development.
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	... to promulgate life and growth.
NATURAL HABITATION	... filled with life (sea, land & air).

What is the reason for this all?

What is the significance of this all?

What special plan is it that God has so meticulously prepared?

... expressing Himself

Up to now we have seen how God had been preparing creation ... why?

God has a wonderful plan for mankind ...

Man ... whom God intended to have a relationship with, for eternity ...

Man ... whom God intended to have fellowship with, for eternity ...

Man the object of God's love ... for all eternity!

In Ephesians we read this summary of God's plan

*just as He (God) chose us in Him (Jesus)
before the foundation of the world, (before creation)
that we should be holy and without blame before Him (just like Him)
in love, (so that He can shower His goodness on us for eternity)*

--- Eph 1:4

If we are going to live in the fullness of God's plan, then ...

we need to know what God has planned for our lives ,

we need to know what God has put into our lives,

we need to know how to tap into God's power!

So how can we make the connection to God's plan and God's power?

... by finding out and using what God has put in us!

... and what it is that makes man's creation special.

During the first five days of creation as recorded in the Bible,

... we have seen a very special plan and purpose beginning to unfold,

... that culminated in day six with the creation of mankind.

A plan that Jesus Himself referred to, saying

*I have come that they may have life,
and that they may have it more abundantly.*

--- John 10:10

We therefore need to consider every action and word of God's,

... to give us insight into God's plan for mankind from His perspective,

and so providing us with some answers to questions such as ...

Why did God create man?

Why did God put man on this earth?

DAY 6 ... THE PLAN

²⁶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

²⁷ *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

²⁸ *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

³¹ *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

--- Gen. 1:26-31

Again God surveyed all that He had made, yet this day surely was different, not just because God had made man, but on looking at all that He had made, God said ... it was indeed very good!

Why was this day different to the other days in creation?

By the end of day 6, God had not only completed His part or work in creation, having concluded the creation and re-creation of and on the Earth exactly according to plan, but He had also crowned the works of His hands with the creation of ... **MAN!**

For You have made him a little lower than Elohim (God, not angels)
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

--- Psalm 8:5

God did not create a being just to live on earth, but God had made a very special being, in a special way, with a very special purpose, ... and indeed it was very good!

*So God created man in His own image;
in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

--- Gen. 1:27

Man, created above all else, in His Image, according to His Likeness!

For too long we have simply read these words without considering what this image of God is that is in us. How will we ever be what God created us to be, if we do not live out what God put in us!

But what is this image of God that man was created in?

In Our IMAGE: (tselem) ... to **shade**; a phantom, illusion, **resemblance**.

Created in God's image therefore means that man was made by God ...

To resemble or reflect Who and what God is,

To reflect His characteristics and to have His perfection (in them)

Endowed with God's character ... **having God's inner image!**

Able to be perfect in knowledge, righteousness and holiness!

However, let us consider what we have already seen in the account of particularly day three, that the potential and ability are core principles of creation, and God's primary objective in creation and thus in life is not the creation of an end product, but the releasing of the potential and ability to achieve that end product; principles that God also applied when He made man.

So, God created man, endowed with His character,

... giving man the same characteristics as He has,

with the intention that man walk righteously and holy,

... in His perfection, expressing God in and through his life,

thus expressing God's character, His very being, in creation!

Jesus in teaching about this very subject, about the image or character God placed in man and which God planned for man to express and live, said ...

"You are the salt of the earth;

but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?

It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out

and trampled underfoot by men.

--- Matt 5:13

Why did Jesus compare God's character in us with salt?

Jesus compared us or our characters, with salt because of the very specific characteristics that salt has, characteristics that precisely describe what man, created in God's image, should be like and therefore express.

Because salt is such a common substance, we have not really taken note of the importance of this comparison that Jesus made of the characteristics that should be in our lives, which is found in salt.

Salt has at least five very important characteristics that not only reflect God's plan and purpose in the creation of man, but also display God's heart and essence of His character ... *love!*

Flavour.

... Salt is found in most everything we eat, adding flavour to our food!

Preservation.

... Salt was widely used for its **preservation** qualities, and even today salt is often still used for preservation in preference to refrigeration.

Healing.

... Salt, particularly before plasters and antiseptic was very commonly used for its **healing** and cleansing qualities, specifically for open wounds.

Strength and Endurance.

... a less commonly known use of salt (common during the times of Jesus) was for **strength and endurance** of the physical body.

Roman soldiers as part of their payment, received what was known as ... Salarium or **salt-money**. A bag of salt, without which they would not have had the strength to march the way they had to on a daily basis.

... So also the most important part of a Camel's diet, is not the water they consume, but the block of salt they constantly lick, that helps them retain the water in their bodies, without which they would dehydrate and die.

... Fry a piece of meat just in a little oil, it will soon be totally dry, but sprinkle a little salt on the meat, and there will be water in the pan!

Preparation.

... Salt (sodium) is one of the most important ingredients in fertilizer, which helps to prepare the soil for planting ...

Jesus was using salt, its characteristics, its use and application, as a picture of the characteristics that God put inside us, characteristics that should be alive in us, that should be shaping our lives and actions in life.

Salt ... flavours, preserves, heals, strengthens and prepares!

What is it that salt (God's image in us) should be expressing in our lives?

Flavor ... Do you taste like God – to others?
If you don't, who will show others what God is like?
1 John 4:20

Preserve ... What are you doing to keep this earth in order?
John 14:12, Mark 16:17

Heal ... What are you doing to make sure things are right?
Mark 16:18

Strengthen.. Are you a strength to those around you?
1 John 3:16-18

Prepare ... Are you preparing those around you to receive Jesus?
Are you showing the world, Jesus?
Mark 16:15, Matt. 28:18-20

Are you being salty?

... do you taste like God to those around you?

Are you a vessel of honor in the hands of the Lord?

When God made man in His image, in other words, when God made man with the potential of His characteristics in man, God's plan was that man ...

Express His character, what He Himself is ...Love

... in and to creation!

Being a strength where man is, to all of his environment,

... flavoring, preserving, and strengthening where God put him!

A vessel of honor in God's hands,

... and a strength to those around him!

In a covenant relationship ... with God, and with his fellow men.

After Our LIKENESS: (demuwth) resemblance, **model**, shape, **like**:

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness; let them have dominion ... --- Gen. 1:26*

What is this likeness of God according to which man was created in?

In God's likeness means to be patterned after the original.

Not the original but **being like** the original (God)

In the likeness, **position and dominion** of the original (God)

... coming short only of the original (God Himself)

⁵ *For You have made him a little lower than **Elohim*** (God not angels)
And **You have crowned him with glory and honor.***

⁶ *You have made him to have **dominion over the works of Your hands;**
You have put all things under his feet,*

--- Psalm 8:5-6

** The word **Elohim** translated as angels in most Bibles,
should be translated as 'God' according to the original Hebrew,
... and most Bibles have this reference as a footnote!*

God therefore created man just below Himself, giving man dominion over the works of His hands (all He had made) and He put all things under man's feet, ... a position of dominion over all creation, ... subject only to God Himself, ... to do in this earth, in creation, all of God's will and purpose!
to rule on earth for Him!

To represent God's authority and dominion ... in creation.

Representing God Himself ... His position!

... to be to this world all that God is and all that God has!

You are the light of the world.

A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

--- Matt 5:14

God's special creation ... representing His fullness in creation!

Let them have Dominion (rule)

reign, rule, subjugate, **prevail:**

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** ... --- Gen. 1:26*

What is this dominion that God has given man?

When it comes to dominion opinions greatly vary, but mostly it is seen as having authority over, ruling over and having power over. But is this dominion that God gave man on earth, really a place of power as man likes to believe, or is there more to it than that?

Dominion is not a position of power; God never gave man that kind of power, but God gave man a position of authority, and the responsibility that accompanies that position.

To help us understand the reality of the image and likeness man was created in and the place or position of authority or dominion that God gave man, let me illustrate this through the following example of becoming a policeman.

To become a policeman or woman, you would have to go to a police college where you would be instructed in how to think and act like a policeman. In other words, the character or image of a policeman!

Once you have achieved this, you would be given a police uniform indicating to others your position as a policeman. In other words the likeness of a policeman, clear for all to see!

You would then also be given a police badge, confirming your authority, and you could now for instance step out on a highway, put up your hand, and so stop even a fast moving heavy duty truck.

- The driver will recognize your position and authority, and stop!

However, should the truck not stop, what power do you have to stop that 40t truck travelling at 100 kilometers per hour?

- Quite candidly, none!

So, what can you do? You simply phone police headquarters, explain what happened to the chief of police, give him the details, and he will send out the necessary power or strength needed to stop that truck!

So also is our position of dominion and authority, we have the responsibility to uphold the law, and God has the power to enforce it!

Why not power over?

God made man in His image and likeness, giving man a freewill,

*¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,
"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,
for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

--- Gen 2:16-17

... a freewill that God expects man to exercise.

*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you,
that **I have set before you life and death**, blessing and cursing;
therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;
--- Deut 30:19*

God has no intention of going against man's will, neither does God exert any pressure or power over man, but God makes His Almighty power available to man, so man can achieve the fullness of life wherever man is!

*For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight;
For **the LORD will go before you**,
And **the God of Israel will be your rear guard**.
--- Isa 52:12*

David, in Psalm 23 (*my shepherd*) and in Psalm 91 (*my fortress*) so beautifully describes that relationship that God desires man to have with Him, a relationship in which man will walk in the fullness of the image, likeness and dominion in which God made man!

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."
--- Ps 91:1-2*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.*

--- Ps 23:5-6

Let man have dominion (responsibility)!

Living or expressing God's character is that totally unique plan that God manifest in man when He made man in His image, unlike all other created beings including the angels, for God gave man a position over all creation,

*You have made him to have **dominion** over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,*

--- Psalm 8:6

... like God, yet fragile in himself!

So also God gave man dominion over creation, a dominion through which His character can and will be expressed, because it is a dominion that is reliant on His covenant with man and man's covenant with Him.

The **dominion** God gave man speaks about,
... reigning, leadership, personality, responsibility and influence.
In other words ,

***Taking care and responsibility for the domain in which you are!
Influencing the domain in which you are, with who you are (in Him)!***

There are three elements in creation or in man's life ...
... that makes man, completes man & enables man ...
... to accomplish what God planned
and allows man to have dominion and be blessed according to God's plan!

The inner Image or character of God in man ...
... (the spiritual, the expression of ... who God is)
The position of man or reality of man ...
... (the physical, manifestation of man as a God-like being ... what God is)
The power of God in man ...
... (to live that abundant life the ... manifestation of God Himself)

... made of mud

We have seen how God had made man a special creation. He not only made him in His image and likeness, but predestined man even before the foundation of this world, to fully conform to the image of His Son ...

*Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
--- Eph 1:4*

*For whom He foreknew,
He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,
that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
--- Rom 8:29*

However, from our study so far, it would seem that although God gave man an awesome responsibility on earth and over His creation on earth, God made man rather frail and seemingly with no real power on the earth. Surely for man to achieve what God set before him, man would need more than just a position of authority, or is there something that we have missed in the creation of man?

*²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, **over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

--- Gen. 1:26,28

God not only gave man the responsibility for what is on the earth, but it seems that there was also some trouble on earth that needed to be dealt with. The question therefore is ... **what and how?**

... and subdue it (conquer)

Tread down, bring into **subjection**, violate:

In God's very first encounter or discussion with man, God not only tells man what He expects of him, but He also tells man that there is something or somebody on the earth that needs to be brought into subjection ...

What or who?

Judging from what God had said to man, possibly on that same day,

*but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,
for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

--- Gen 2:17

... it is obvious that what or whoever it was, it was evil and getting involved with it, other than conquering it, meant serious trouble for man.

... what is also obvious, from our study so far, is that the one God was talking about that had to be brought into subjection, was Satan himself, the one who rebelled against God and was cast down and confined to the earth!

God therefore made it perfectly clear what His plan and purpose was ...

That He created man to take care of creation on earth!

That man was to prevail over the evil that was already on earth!

That God had endowed man with His image and likeness!

... and given man dominion on earth,

... so that man would be able to accomplish God's purpose & plan.

Seems rather simple, even easy, yet it soon would become clear that man was not given any power of his own, but that God seemed to have made man in the most unlikely way possible.

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living being.*

--- Gen 2:7

How was this man, made of mud, without any real power, going to be able to tread down and bring into subjection the evil one who dared to rebel against God, and also seemingly had more authority than man, and who ruled on earth even before man was made?

Created unique ... Earth & Spirit!

... of the dust of the ground.

Well maybe this is a good place to say ... God is God!

And therefore all that He does is flawless and perfect. Of course, what we as His creation do with what He has made, is another matter ...

God did not make man inferior, weak or incompetent, but in every act of creation He had perfectly laid the foundation for the fullness of His plans and purposes to be realized!

Why then did God make man in the way He did?

*And the Lord **God formed man of the dust of the ground,**
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living being.*

--- Gen 2:7

Nowhere else in the story of creation was God so explicit in how He created,
... neither what he used when He made everything else,

... nor what life was given to everything else!

Why did He do that in the case of man?

Because God very specifically made man different,

... and therefore, how He made man is of importance.

So, strange as it may seem, it was not strange at all, for ...

Unlike the angels or other created heavenly beings,
...God formed or shaped man **out of the earth itself!**

Unlike all other created beings in existence ...
... **God breathed** His life, **His spirit into man,**
and man became a living soul!

With God's character, His likeness,
... and thus His ability and His potential!
To live and to do God's will here on earth!

But that still does not explain why God made man *of the earth?*

... of the earth! ... authority on earth!

God made man of the earth, not because there was nothing else there to use, but for a very specific reason ...

God made man of the earth,

... thereby confirming man's authority on the earth!

... and so there was no legal argument against man's authority on earth!

Let me clarify this through the following example (our policeman again).

Continuing with our policeman illustration, who is now a fully fledged policeman, at the local Police station.

Now, let's say that a 'rather dirty' street cleaner walks into the Police station and orders a policeman to go out and arrest someone,

... what would that policeman's response be?

Who are you?

You have no authority or right to come and give me orders!

You are not a policeman, so if you have a problem, fill in a form!

Right!

But, should the police sergeant or another policeman walk into the Police station and instruct a policeman to go arrest someone,

... what would his response in this case be?

Of course the policeman would jump up and follow the instruction by going to arrest the person in question.

Why?

Why would the policeman follow the other policeman's instruction?

Because he is of the police ... he is a policeman!

Simple, practical and natural, we do that everyday.

And it is for exactly that reason that God made man of the earth, so there would be no argument ... about **who has authority on earth!**

If you are of the earth, you have authority on the earth!

If you are not of the earth, you don't have any legal authority on the earth!

Is Satan of the earth? No!

Does he have any legal authority on earth? No!

Check his birth certificate ... he does not have one!

God is not confused ... His every plan is well thought out and perfect!

... of the spirit!

... authority in the spirit!

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living being.*

--- Gen 2:7

God breathed His spirit into man,
... firstly because that was His primary reason for creating man,
... to create man in His image and likeness.
But, fundamental also to God's plan in the creation of man,
... was the future plan and purpose God had for man,
... man's position of dominion and authority in creation!

Therefore, God not only made man of the earth,
... but He also made man of the spirit!

Why?

So that man would have legal authority in both the physical,
... as well as in the spiritual realm!
This effectively sealed man's position and authority over all of creation,
... also giving man authority over Satan and over his demons!

To have authority in the physical realm,
... you have to be of the earth!
To have authority in the spirit realm
... you have to be of the spirit!

So God made man as the only being in creation to have both a physical body
and a spirit, and therefore also the only being with a legal right to authority in
both the physical and the spirit realm.

*But God has chosen the foolish things of the world
to put to shame the wise,
and God has chosen the weak things of the world
to put to shame the things which are mighty;*

--- 1 Cor 1:27

Therefore Satan cannot contest man's authority in the physical realm, even though man does not have any power of his own to enforce it!

But man's authority in the spirit realm, in covenant with God, in which God is the strength of man's authority, man can be all God created man to be!

One could however argue that this should not be such a problem for Satan considering that he is not a physical being!

But let's not forget that after his rebellion against God, God confined Satan to this earth.

In other words, God confined Satan as a spirit being to this physical earth, and he is no longer able to leave the confines of this physical earth, so to have any influence, Satan is dependent on working through a physical being as we saw him doing in the garden of Eden when he came in the form of a snake.

But God, went even a step further, a step that has been totally neglected for centuries; God made man in that unique position where man had that authority that Satan wanted and needed, and He gave man direct access to His power, to be able to overcome and bring Satan into subjection.

God's plan was and still remains perfect ...
The rest is up to man!

Man was created without all of Lucifer's attributes of beauty,
... or his wonderful covering that reflected God's glory!

Man was created plain and frail on the outside
... made of the earth, with no covering of his own!

Man was created with the inner image of God,
... His character and likeness
Crowned with His glory, (*Psalm 8*)
... to express God's all that He is (*Gen 1.28 – John 15.8*)

* * * * *

What Lucifer could only reflect on the outside,
... God's image, character and glory.
Man had on the inside,
... God's image (character), His likeness
... and thus man could live and express God's glory,
The reality of Who God is ... Love!

*Inert, latent, dormant, potential, ability ...
Christ in us – the hope of glory!*

Then God blessed man ... *expressing His image!*

Then God blessed man, and said...!

... expressing His fullness

We have been looking at how special God created man.

Created in His Image and likeness,

... **God expressing Himself in man,**

... **His character, His attributes - in us!**

Man, on the earth in the God class!

... equipped, enabled and empowered by God!

But what was God's purpose in it all?

Why did God do all of this?

GOD EXPRESSING HIMSELF IN CREATION

Let's go back to the beginning ...

What was God doing?

Expressing Himself in Creation

God wants to put all His goodness ... in creation!

God wants to manifest all that He is ... in creation!

God was and still is ... expressing Himself in creation!

Allowing creation to respond to Him,

... with what He put in creation.

Now, in the case of man, God allowed man to respond as man chooses,
... **to freely express what God put in us ... or not to!**

MANIFESTING HIS POWER

What is it that God put in man that God wants to express through man?

His Person ... His character, His attributes!

His Position ... His authority, His dominion!

and His Power ... His ability, His presence!

What was God's purpose and plan?

How did God intend to manifest or express,
His Person, His Position and His Power ... through man?
Quite simply ...
God will manifest His Person and His Position in creation,
... **by manifesting His Power!**

Yet, the Bible says ...

*God has chosen the **foolish** things of the world to put to shame
the wise and God has chosen **the weak things of the world**
to put to shame the things which are mighty;*

--- 1 Cor 1:27

What are these foolish and weak things?
How is God going to manifest all that He is ... to man?
... and through man?
By manifesting His Power through His Character,
... thus confirming His Position as God Almighty!

LOVE IS THE KEY

What is this characteristic that releases God's power?

*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.
God is love,
and he **who abides in love abides in God,**
and **God in him.***

--- 1 John 4:16

LOVE ...

... the very thing that God Himself is!

But how was God going to express this through man?

EXPRESSING HIS CHARACTER

Again, Genesis holds the secret to God's plan for creation,
... and His vision for mankind.

Then God blessed them,

--- Gen 1:28

And the fullness of that blessing that God bestowed on man, is
... the empowerment or capacity to live a full rich life,
... the ability to get all your needs met, and more!

Therefore ...

The purpose of man's life is not man himself,
... as man's every need has been provided for!

The true purpose of life is,
... to be a vessel through which God can express Himself!

Considering this, what was the reason behind the first thing God said to man?

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;
have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air,
and over every living thing that moves on the earth." --- Gen 1:28*

The standard answer is that God meant for man to increase the population on the earth, (*have babies, have babies, have ...*)
... and to take authority and control on the earth!

However, if one gives a little more thought to what God said,
... one realizes that this would be a poor reason for having created mankind, particularly considering that God had created man in His own image,
... and that surely for a greater plan than that of populating the earth!

No... it is not about man ... the physical being.

But ...

It is about the image and likeness of God ... **inside of man!**

And ...

It is about the expression of that inner image ... **by man!**

Be Fruitful ...

What can 'to be fruitful' mean, if it is not about filling the earth with people?

Considering that it is the **very first instruction God gave to man**,
... it must surely be extremely important,
and be a key for understanding God's purpose for man's life.

Jesus often used examples out of nature to explain God's character
And for a very obvious reason,
... as all of creation is an expression of God Himself!

So let's be practical,
... and see what being fruitful is all about.

What does it mean to be fruitful?
... quite simply **to bear fruit!**
What is it that bears fruit?
... **a fruit tree!**

Like the example Jesus used,
... also referring to our lives,

*Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.
Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
Therefore by their fruits you will know them. --- Matt 7:17-20*

Since the Bible tells us that we are known by our fruits,
... we need to know what being fruitful means in our lives!

Fruit is basically an **expression on the outside**
... of **what is on the inside**.
And seeing that we know what is or is supposed to be on the inside,
... **God's image, God's character!**
What then is it that God expects us **to have on the outside?**
What is it that we are supposed to be expressing?
... **God's image, God's character!**

A Fruit Tree ... a tree of love!

What is the secret to and reason for God comparing us to a fruit tree?
Having learnt that we will be known by our fruit, we need to know ... WHY?

Imagine a fruit tree, bearing wonderful fruit!

What does that fruit tree do? ... it bears fruit!
For whom does a tree bear fruit? ... for itself?
No!

Have you seen a fruit tree eating its own fruit?

No! ... a fruit tree does not eat its own fruit,
A fruit tree **bears fruit for others to eat!**
... and a tree that bears much and good fruit,
... is a tree that is being FRUITFUL!

What does this have to do with us and with God?

Everything, for that tree is showing us what we should be doing,
... expressing what is inside of us!
God's character, God's attributes ... **LOVE!**

But just as important as the fruit is that it bears, so also is its attitude.
If you insult the tree, can you still take a fruit? ... yes!
If you kick the tree, can you still take a fruit? ... yes!
If you break off a branch, can you still take a fruit? ... yes!
No matter what you do ... **the tree keeps giving!**
The tree draws from the inside ...
... giving because of what is inside of it, not what is on the outside.

And that is a picture of Jesus on the cross, for us!

The way that God gave *(John 3:16)*

... without any conditions, obligations, or expectations!

The way that Jesus gave *(John 10:10)*

... giving Himself ... all that He is ... to man!

Is the same way, we must draw from what is in us

... God's character, God's attributes!

God's love!

Expressing God's love, character and Image...!

Is it possible for us to live that kind of life?

God made sure that we have all that He has,
... to be able to give into every need,
... in every area of life ... physically and spiritually!

*as His divine power has given to us all things
that pertain to life and godliness ...*

--- 2 Pet 1:3

God has put in each and every one of us
... what it takes to bear good fruit and much fruit!
... **what it takes to LOVE!**
What it takes to express His image and likeness!

What about the rest of Genesis 1:28

*and God said to them, **Be fruitful, multiply; fill the earth** ...* --- Gen 1:28

... multiply!

What is it that God wants us to multiply?

God wants us to multiply what He created us in ... His image and likeness!
God wants us to **GIVE Him** more children,
... and to **fill His presence with more of His special creation ... Man!**

*Blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying
I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven
and as the sand which is on the seashore;
and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.*

--- Gen 22:17

... fill the earth!

What does God want the earth filled with?

David made this statement ...

*For You have made him a little lower than God (Elohim),
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

--- Psalm 8:5

And God Himself said to Moses ...

but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

--- Num 14:21

What does God want to fill the earth with?

... His Glory!

God wants to **manifest His very presence ... His Glory!**

... Through man whom He made in His image and in His likeness,

... Through man whom He crowned with His glory!

*Arise, shine; For your light has come!
And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.
For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And deep darkness the people;
But the LORD will arise over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you.*

--- Isa 60:1-2

The seventh day ... and God rested!

... and God rested

A characteristic of God's that we so often seem to miss or misunderstand, is His silence, or the times when He seems to be doing nothing. The reality however is that God never does "nothing", but God does allow those things that He planned, purposed and started, to take their course and in that way to accomplish what He intended for them to accomplish.

Day seven in creation is indeed such a time, and although the Bible does not seem to say too much about this day or time period, it is a day that holds a vitally important key in the plan and in the progress of the creation of the earth and all that is thereon.

It is therefore of fundamental importance in the story of creation.

DAY 7 ... and GOD RESTED

*¹ Thus the heavens and the earth,
and all the host of them, were finished.*

*² And on the seventh day God ended His work
which He had done, and **He rested on the seventh day
from all His work** which He had done.*

*³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it,
because in it He rested from all His work
which God had created and made.*

--- Gen 2:1-3

God had finished what He set out to do, and then rested.
Seems quite normal - or is there a real significance of this rest?

Looking back we have seen how that God had created the heaven and Eden, His garden on the earth. Then God placed Lucifer, whom He had created to worship Him and to reflect His glory in Eden, in His garden. Lucifer however, instead of fulfilling his task of worshipping God and reflecting His glory, attempted to exalt himself above God, an act that was doomed to failure. God judged him and he was cast down, back to Eden (the earth), onto which Lucifer then turned the wrath of his failure, with the resultant corruption in and of that garden, as we have seen in Genesis 1 verse 2.

It is at this point that Scripture begins, describing the action God took in setting things right, both in Eden (the earth) and in the rest of creation. This plan which included the cleaning up of a corrupted earth, the re-creation and restoring of order in creation, culminated in the creation of Man. Man whom God expressly created to rule over all of creation, including Satan, who by then was confined to the earth, but without rights or real estate.

Man's creation was not an experiment but the culmination of a “God” plan. A plan which put man, made in God’s image, in God’s likeness, in dominion on the earth, to look after, rule over and subdue creation. The Good and the Bad!

So it is then, that after God had completed His part of the plan, that we arrive at the seventh day, the day in which God ended His part, His involvement and indeed also His direct control over creation.

³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

--- Gen 1:31 - 2:3

... and God rested!

Yet when one looks at what happened after that,
... it does not look like it was a good idea at all.
So why did God rest and leave man on his own?

And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done.

God had completed what He had set out to do, confirming that it was good and according to plan. The final act of putting life on the earth with man at the center, was indeed very good! God had done what He had set out to do.

But what about man, the earth and in particular the evil that was still on it? God’s last act in creation and His first words God spoke to man gives us the answer and in fact God’s plan with regard to this.

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

--- Gen. 1:28

God blessed man, enabling man to live and accomplish what God had planned for man to accomplish, so God's work was finished,
... the rest was up to man!

What was man supposed to do?

"Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion!"

Basically, man was to live out the image (God's character) God had put in man, in the position (His likeness) God had placed man, and take dominion over creation. In other words, man was supposed to take the responsibility for creation by developing what was good and subduing what was evil.

The plan was that it was up to man, and God rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep

--- Psalm 121:4

No, God was not sleeping, but was resting from His direct involvement in creation and more particularly from enforcing dominion over creation, which specifically also included Satan. God gave man that responsibility and when Cain failed to act against evil God reprimanded him, saying

If you do well, will you not be accepted?

And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.

And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it --- Gen. 4:7

It was up to man to take his place in creation, to take dominion on earth and rule over satan and evil as God had planned for man to do.

God had done His part ... the rest was up to Man.

two trees ... one choice

After completing creation, and having placed man in the Garden of Eden,
... God singles out two trees from amongst all that He put in the garden.

*And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree
grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.
The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and
the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. --- Gen. 2:9*

Why those two trees?

As we have seen in creation, God had made everything for man's benefit,
... to sustain man, so man can be fruitful,
... to support man, so man can develop and increase!
So man can develop creation and put in from what God put in him!
However we have also learnt that there was a negative element on earth,
... that was against all that God is and stands for,
... that wanted to hinder man from living God's will on earth!

Those two trees are therefore not about man's physical being,
but about man's spirit & man's soul, the image and likeness of God in man!

¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,
"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,
for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." --- Gen. 2:16-17*

God was referring to man responding to His image and likeness in man!
... to man being all that God had created man to be,
... to man's future,
God was specifically talking about man's life with Him,

*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing;
therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;
--- Deut 30:19*

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Although God does not tell us much about these two trees.
... what the tree of life is about is obvious ... **it is about LIFE**
... man's connection to the source of life, God Himself!

Man's separation from the tree of life, (Genesis ch. 3) is not strange,
... as man was no longer connected to God, the source of life!

However about the other tree and man's involvement with that tree,
... God is more specific, saying to man,

*¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,
"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
¹⁷ but of **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,**
for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." --- Gen. 2:16-17*

Why was this tree there?

What is this knowledge of good and evil that would cause death?
Was this a temptation or trap set for man ... a stumbling block?
No, not at all!
God did not, neither does He tempt or try to trick anyone ...

*¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God";
for God cannot be tempted by evil, **nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**
¹⁴ But **each one is tempted** when he is drawn away
by his own desires and enticed. --- James 1:13-14*

A RELATIONSHIP

The principle behind or reality of the tree and the knowledge of good and evil, is not primarily about having knowledge, or about good and evil,
... **but it is about relationship!**
Primarily it's about an intimacy, a knowing, a connection!

Now you may well ask, **what does that mean?**
Eve, in answering the serpent with reference to this tree, said this ...

² *And the woman said to the serpent,
"We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;
³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden,
God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*
--- Gen. 3:2-3

God said, *do not partake of what this tree represents,
... do NOT even touch it, **do not get to know it**
... because its negativity will envelope you!*

God, speaking to man, standing in front of that TREE!
... was saying to man,
Do NOT get to know evil, do not even touch it!
Get to know Me, that is where life is!

Jesus, in the parable of the 10 virgins, highlighted the same principle,
... saying to those who were not ready when He arrived,

¹¹ *"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'
¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**'"*
--- Matt 25:11-12

It is not knowing about someone or something,
... nor knowing about good and evil,
But it is about being directly or personally involved with,
... opening yourself up to and being influenced by,
... **God, or that something ... evil!**

In the book of Revelation, Jesus made this well known statement ...

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.* --- Rev 3:20

Jesus was referring to **the principle of the knowledge of good & evil**,
... telling us of the vital importance of personally knowing Him!

Only as we open ourselves up to Him and His presence in our lives,
... will He be able to come into our lives and **get to know us**,
... will we be able to dwell in Him and **get to know Him**,
thus having the knowledge of Him and not of good and evil!

THE TREE OF LIFE

What is this tree of life really all about?
Why did God stop man from eating from the tree of life,
... after man had eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

*Then the LORD God said,
"Behold, the man has become like one of Us,
to know good and evil. (to have experienced it)
And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of **the tree of life**,
and eat, and live forever"* --- Gen 3:22

Where does this tree come from?
What does this the tree of life represent?

We know, or can figure out, that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
... had its origin in Satan or Lucifer, who in turning against God (good)
... unleashed something that man was supposed to deal with (evil)
And as God had said to Adam in the garden,
... deal with it, don't get involved with it!

The tree of life on the other hand has its origin in God,
... so when God made man ...

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life**;
and man became a living being.* --- Gen. 2:7

God breathed His life into man, His life which represents all that is good!
A life that man was to live by and from ...

"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; --- Gen. 1:28

The potential to live that life in its fullness,
... that was **God's offer & man's choice!**

*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you,
that **I have set before you life and death**, blessing and cursing;
therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;*
--- Deut 30:19

In fact the two trees have never disappeared ...
After man had made the wrong choice, by getting involved with evil,
Jesus, in coming to restore life to man, said this ...

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
I have come that they may have life,
and that they may have it more abundantly.* --- John 10:10

The tree of life continues to represent God's life ...

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through Him,
and without Him nothing was made that was made.
In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.* --- John 1:1-4

... and the light of man!

Seeing that the tree of life represents life,
... why did God not want man to eat of it?

*Then the LORD God said,
"Behold, the man has become like one of Us,
to know good and evil. (to have experienced it)
And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life,
and eat, and live forever"* --- Gen 3:22

Through sin, man had **turned from God** and therefore **from God's life**,
... and as the Bible tells us, that life is also the light of man!
So man had stepped out of light, into darkness,
... and as we know light and darkness cannot 'live' together!

Therefore God had to do what He did when Lucifer turned against Him,
... **God had to separate the darkness from the light!**
God had to separate man from the source of light, His life!

However, in the case of man,
... God wanted to protect man from being doomed,
... or forever confined to the darkness in which man now was!

Why did God have to protect man in this way?

Man, having stepped out of God's life, *'eternal' life*,
... was now living in darkness,
So God had to stop man, in his state of darkness,
... from partaking of eternal life,
... and thus being doomed to that state of darkness, forever!
The reality is that darkness cannot change light,
... only light can dispel darkness!

Let me give you an example.

*If you are sitting in a dark room,
... you can switch on the light, and darkness disappears!
However, if you are sitting in a room full of light,
... there is no way of switching on darkness,
The light in which you are has to be turned off ... **a decision!***

Thus, if God had allowed man to eat of the tree of life (eternal),
... man would have been stuck in darkness forever, **with no way out!**

Yet, God had already prepared a way out ... Jesus,
... but that required that man make **a counter decision**,
... to turn from darkness and accept Jesus, as Lord of his life!
In other words, to choose to switch on the light of life!

*Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying,
"I am the light of the world.
**He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness,
but have the light of life."***

--- John 8:12

Life is real!
Life is doing and expressing what is in you!
Life is a choice ... of being in the light!

Life is partaking of the tree of life,
and the only condition is that we step into the light,
Jesus!

A Perfect World? ... *God is always the same!*

... God is always the same

*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven
and that are on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.
All things were created through Him and for Him. --- Col 1:16*

God created all things that are in heaven and on the earth,
... and therefore taking that scripture at face value,
God created this World as well!

However, if we look at what is happening in this world,
... the wars, the killings, the hate, lack, hunger and greed,
it would seem that what God had made on the earth,
... did not turn out to be what we would have expected,
... nor does it reflect what we would expect God to have done,
and is a far cry from looking or being perfect!

So the question is clear, since God was involved
... **why is this world not perfect?**
To be able to answer that question,
... we obviously need to establish **what constitutes a Perfect World.**

Does a perfect world mean ...
A place to live for?
A place without wars, but peace?
A place without problems or worries?
A place where all your needs are met?

Before answering that, consider this ...
Is it possible that we have a wrong perception of what perfection is?
Could it be that what we see is actually perfect?
That possibly we have not seen or understood why the world,
... could be **perfect the way it is?**

Or what it is that will actually make the world perfect?

CREATED IN PERFECTION – a potential

A principle or reality of creation that we need to understand is,
God did NOT intend to create a perfect World,
but He created the potential for a perfect World!

A principle that is true for all of God's dealing with His creation!

This does not mean that God created imperfection – Not at all!
He simply left it unfinished with the potential to become what He had started,
And that is where man comes in!

Man on the other hand,

... expects everything to be finished (perfect), the way he wants it!
... and he expects God to have done it all, and prepared it all for him!
That however was never God's intention.

God never planned to have a sterile, robot operated world.

We say, God is almighty, and He is,
... but what does that practically mean?
In God is all the power and potential to do and complete anything,
... but He wants man to draw from Him what is needed,
... and for man to fully complete what He, **the Creator has started!**
Therefore,
... God provides the potential to accomplish what He planned,
... and releases the ability to achieve and reach that goal!
the perfect world!

God Himself said in the Garden of Eden ...

Let us make man with the character and potential that We have,
Let man use this potential to express what We have put in him,
so man can and will achieve the fullness of what we have released!

Paul in writing to the Corinthians said...!

*⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the increase** ...*

*⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will
receive his own reward according to his own labor. --- 1 Cor 3:6-8*

Make use of what God provided, so that in Him you will reach... **Perfection!**

THE FULLNESS OF HIS PLAN - value

What was the fullness of God's plan?

*²⁸ And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God,**
to those who are called according to His purpose.
²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined
to be conformed to the image of His Son,
that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. --- Rom 8:28-29*

What does this have to do with the world?

... and who are those who God foreknew and predestined?

*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ,
⁴ just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,**
that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
⁵ **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ**
to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace,
by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved.** --- Eph 1:3-6*

God's plan, before the foundation of this world,

... was for all of mankind to be conformed to the image of Jesus,

... for man to live and act according to that image of Jesus,

... **according to that image God put in man when He made man.**

God put a value on man, and in man!
... Not a value based on the sum total of what we are made of,
but, the value of WHO we are,
... and what we can do because of WHO we are!

What does being conformed to His image mean in this world?

Jesus in giving us an example from His life, made this statement,

... about this world and the potential God released through Him in creation,

***In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world.** --- John 16:33*

Jesus confirmed that this world is not perfect,
... that it has inbred problems and imperfections,
... and it needs the kind of attention that is part of man's responsibility,

However, He has overcome those problems and obstacle!

And it is high time that man starts doing his part!

As Jesus also said to us,

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me,
the works that I do he will do also;
and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

--- John 14:12

Telling us quite categorically that,

... we have the ability in us – in Him!

... we have the potential in us – through Him!

In Him is the solution and the potential through which we overcome!

Therefore, as we take hold of that potential, with Him,

... we can step into the fullness of God's plan for our lives!

Into perfection!

God is not perfect, He is more than perfect, He is! (God)

Perfection is not a state or a characteristic,

Perfection is the result of using a potential, His potential,

therefore what God does because of WHO He is, produces perfection!

Perfection begins and ends with LIFE ...

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being --- Gen 2:7

What is that life that God breathed into man?

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. --- John 14:6

And what did Jesus do when He came to earth?

*I have come that they may have life,
and that they may have it more abundantly.* --- John 10:10

LIVING THAT POTENTIAL

That ability that God put in man, when He created man,
... has to be used, has to be lived!
And that potential that God put in man,
... has to be put to work, by man!
Those are the tools God has provided in man, for man,
... to achieve the goal that God predestined, and
... to achieve that perfection that God pre-planned for mankind!

*till we all come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to a perfect man,
to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; --- Eph 4:13*

The Bible gives us this clear instruction,

*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ,
let us go on to perfection, --- Heb 6:1*

In other words,
... stop discussing the basics,
... stop wondering why,
Move on and take hold of the real issues,
... use that creative ability that God put in you,
and start working toward the real goal,
Perfection in God!

How do we live that life, that potential?
How do we achieve that perfection?
By living what God put in us!
His character, ability and potential ... all that He is!

*But above all these things put on love,
which is the bond of perfection. --- Col 3:14*

*... God is love,
and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
--- 1 John 4:16*

What will lead us into this perfection?

Conforming to the image we were made in, His image,

... **LOVE!**

By living the image, the character, His very being,

... and the potential that God put in us,

... **LOVE!**

We do not have to overcome this world in our own strength,
... Jesus has done that already!

But we have to overcome our own blindness,
... our own judgemental thoughts and actions,
and take hold of what God has provided,
... **the potential that Agape (love) is - in us!**

*To them God willed to make known what are the riches
of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles:
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

--- Col 1:27

Paul in writing to the Ephesians, put it this way ...

¹⁴ *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

¹⁵ *from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

¹⁶ *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*

¹⁷ *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you,
being rooted and grounded in love,*

¹⁸ *may be able to comprehend with all the saints
what is the width and length and depth and height —*

¹⁹ *to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;*

that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. --- Eph 3:14-19

Receive the fullness of Christ and what He has done for you,

... become rooted and grounded in love,

(His potential that is in you),

... to know the love of Christ,

filled with the fullness of God (Himself)!

... into a PERFECT WORLD

What is that Perfect World?

³⁷ *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.*

³⁹ *And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

--- Matt 22:37-39

The Perfect World is ... Love in action! (valuing others) Somebody or something worth living for ... worth giving into!

Stop looking for what God can do for you!
Start looking for what you can do for others,
... using the potential He put in you,
Seeing the value God places on you,
... and seeing that value in others!

Reaching out and giving to OTHERS (mankind) ... for God, with God, in God!

*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.
And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

--- 1 John 3:16

Thank you **Susan**

For your love
For being the best 'help meet' God created
For living Genesis 2:18 & Genesis 2:24 with me

Thank you **Covenant Partners**

For your encouragement
For your valuable input
For your support

Thank You **Lord God**

For not just writing John 3:16
For not just doing John 3:16
For really meaning it, and still meaning it!

Thank you Father for Your LOVE!
Thank you Jesus that You expressed it for me!
Thank you Holy Spirit that you live it through me!

Thank You God ... that you are LOVE!



The teaching ministry of Jan D. vanderMerwe is founded on the uncompromised Word of God. In fulfilling his ardent desire to lead believers into a closer personal relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, he also travels regularly to countries all over Eden to teach, train up and encourage local pastors and leaders in underprivileged areas ... and to equip them with Bible Courses and teaching material to teach others.

What is this man that God created?

Why did God put man in a place that does not seem to fit man?

*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?*

[Psalm 8:3-4]

God, His man - CREATION - and the REST...

**In the Beginning - and what also happened.
Who is Lucifer & where is Eden?
The Rebellion - and what Lucifer did.
The Destruction - what happened to Eden.
Restoring Eden - one day at a time.
God's Plan - expressing Himself.
God's man, made of mud - responsible for Eden.
Then God blessed man - expressing His fullness.
The seventh day - and why God rested.
The Garden - two trees - one choice.
A Perfect World?**

Much of what happened between Genesis 1, verses 1 & 2 is not only revealed in Scripture (though often obscure) and is more and more being confirmed through science. However what is of more importance and value to us, is God's plan in having created man, and His intentions for the future of man!

Whilst this book does not presume to give all the answers, it will challenge your concept of creation by giving you insight into God's plan with creation, and in particular His plan and eternal intention with man.