

The Doctrine of the Angelic Conflict

Definition and Description

Heaven is the location of the pre-historic appeal trial of Satan. When the pre-incarnate Christ created the universe, He formed a race of super creatures classified in the Bible as angels. Angels are rational beings with the ability to travel throughout the universe God created for them. He made them perfect, without sin, totally acceptable to His absolute righteousness. Because volition is a necessary component of a rational mentality and of capacity for love, God gave the angels free will so that they might understand His character and worship Him. In the beginning the most exalted of all the angels was the anointed cherub, whom the Bible calls Satan or the devil, the son of the morning (Isa. 14:12). He was entrusted with responsibilities and was granted privileges beyond those of any other angel, but he abused his freedom through arrogance and rebellion against God (Ezek. 28:12-19).

Arrogance is the worst of all sins. It is the distorter and obscurer of reality, an enemy of every rational creature. Arrogance was the self-deception that caused the devil to compete with God rather than love and worship Him. Arrogance is the reason why he will suffer eternal condemnation in the Lake of Fire (Matt. 25:41). The devil was the most talented, attractive and personable creature to come from the hand of God (Ezek. 28:12; 2 Cor. 11:14). His force of persuasion is as compelling today as when he convinced one third of all the angels to join his prehistoric revolution against God (Rev. 12:4a).

Satan's fall and his leadership of myriad angels in revolt started the prehistoric warfare called the angelic conflict which continues today and will be concluded only with the final judgment at the end of human history. Human history was designed to resolve this conflict between God and Satan. A comparison of Scripture with Scripture leads to the conclusion that God held a trial in eternity past. In the prehistoric trial God was the judge and the prosecution; Satan was the defense. God considered all the evidence and pronounced a guilty verdict. He sentenced Satan and all the fallen angels to "**eternal fire**" (Matt. 25:41).

Further biblical evidence for the prehistoric trial of fallen angels is found in Satan's titles. The words "**devil**" and "**Satan**" are not names but titles, both of which mean "accuser" or "adversary" as an attorney accuses someone in court. He is called the devil and Satan because he was the defense attorney who represented himself and the fallen angels at the prehistoric trial and because he continues to act as an attorney now that the trial has entered its appeal phase during human history (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-5; Zech. 3:1-2). "**Eternal fire has been prepared for the devil and his angels**" (Matt. 25:41), but because the sentence was not immediately executed-and, in fact, will not be carried out until the end of human history (Rev. 20:10)-we can accurately infer that Satan appealed the sentence. The elapse of time between the sentence and its execution indicates that human history is part of this momentous trial, the appeal trial of Satan.

Vocabulary

Martureo (verb), "to bear witness, to be a witness, to testify in a courtroom case."

Marturia (noun), "testimony, evidence."

Marturion (noun), "testimony, witness, proof, evidence."

Martus (noun), "witness, observer."

Pseudomartus (noun), "one who gives misrepresenting testimony, a false witness."

Documentation

Job 1-2

Zechariah 3:1-2

Matthew 4:1-10; 24:14; 25:41; 27:45-46

Mark 13:9; 15:33-34

Luke 9:5; 15:10; 21:13; 23:44-45; 24:48

John 3:17-21, 32-33; 12:30-32; 13:44-50; 15:27; 18:37.

Acts 1:8, 22; 2:32; 3:15; 4:33; 5:32; 10:41; 22:15, 20; 23:11; 26:16

1 Corinthians 1:6; 2:1; 4:9; 6:3; 15:15

Ephesians 4:17

1 Thessalonians 2:10

1 Timothy 2:6; 6:12-13

2 Timothy 1:8; 2:2
Hebrews 3:5; 11:2-4, 39; Hebrews 12:1
1 Peter 5:1
1 John 4:14; 5:6-11
3 John 3, 12
Revelation 1:2, 5, 9; 2:13; 3:14; 6:9; 11:3, 7; 12:11, 17; 15:15; 17:6; 19:10; 20:4, 11-15.

Supreme Court of Heaven

The Supreme Court of Heaven presides over the appeal trial of Satan. There is a gallery of angels who are viewing this trial. There are 3 members of the Supreme Court of Heaven. Each of the 3 members of the Trinity is presiding over Satan's appeal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each are co-equal, co-infinite and co-eternal with all sharing the same divine attributes of: (1) Sovereignty (2) Righteousness (3) Justice (4) Love (5) Eternal Life (6) Omniscience (7) Omnipresence (8) Omnipotence (9) Immutability (10) Veracity. They all possess perfect integrity. Therefore, the perfect character and integrity of the Supreme Court of Heaven guarantees a perfect decision in this appeal trial of Satan and the fallen angels.

Creation, Chaos and Restoration

One of the most profound, controversial and most misunderstood books of the Bible is that of Genesis. In fact, the book of Genesis has been attacked by Satan more than any other book in the Bible. Why? Knowing that Genesis sets forth the intervention of God in Satan's kingdom, Satan is especially bitter in his attacks upon its pages. Satan's hatred of the Scriptures is evident in many ways. Every attack upon the Bible may be known to originate from him. He will use any arm or instrument to belittle the veracity and authenticity of the Scriptures. If Satan can get men to disbelieve in the record of the 1st lines in the Bible in the book of Genesis, then he can get them to disbelieve in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

The word genesis of course means "origin," and the book of Genesis gives the only true and reliable account of the origin of all the basic entities of the universe and of life. The book of Genesis gives us information regarding the following: (1) Origin of the universe (2) Origin of order and complexity: Order and complexity never arise spontaneously but rather are generated by a prior cause programmed to produce such order. (3) Origin of the solar system (4) Origin of the atmosphere and hydrosphere (5) Origin of life (6) Origin of man (7) Origin of marriage (8) Origin of evil (9) Origin of language (10) Origin of government (11) Origin of culture (12) Origin of nations (13) Origin of religion (14) Origin of the chosen people (Israel).

Genesis chapter 1 states that the earth and all of creation have already undergone 3 phases: (1) Creation (2) Chaos (3) Restoration. The work of restoration and creation from the chaos took 6 days and was perfect (Gen. 1): 1st day: The Lord restored the day and the night (Gen. 1:3-5), 2nd day: He restored the sky and the air for living things to breathe (Gen. 1:6-8), 3rd day: He restored the waters gather so dry land could appear and plants could grow (Gen. 1:9-11), 4th day: He restored the stellar universe (Gen. 1:14-19), 5th day: He created animal life on the earth (Gen. 1:20-21), 6th day: He created man (Gen. 1:26-28).

Gen 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." English transliteration from the Hebrew text: *b^ere'shith bara `elohim `eth hashshamayim w^e'eth ha'arets*. This one verse in the Bible refutes all of man's false philosophies and theories concerning the origin and meaning of the world we live in: (1) It refutes atheism because the universe was created by God. (2) It refutes pantheism for God is transcendent to that which He created. (3) It refutes polytheism for one God created all things. (4) It refutes materialism for matter had a beginning. (5) It refutes dualism because God was alone when He created. (6) It refutes humanism because God, not man, is the ultimate reality. (7) It refutes evolutionism because God created all things.

All of these philosophies are merely different ways of expressing unbelief. **Heb 11:3, "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."**

"**In the beginning**" is composed of 2 words in the Hebrew text: (1) Preposition b^e, "**in**." (2) Feminine singular noun res'shith, "**eternity past**." Re'shith comes from the noun ro'sh and refers to "eternity past" before anything was created by God when only the 3 members of the Trinity were around. "**God**" is the masculine plural noun Elohim. This plural noun refers to the 3 Members of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) who are co-equal, co-infinite and co-eternal, each having the same divine attributes.

“Created” is the 3 person masculine singular Qal perfect form of the verb bara, “to create something out of nothing.” The verb bara is always used of the creative activity of God and is never used with man as the subject. Bara informs us that at this point, the stellar universe was spoken into existence by God. The universe had no existence prior to this creative activity of God.

Heavens” is the masculine plural noun shamayim (noun), “heavens, 1st heaven (earth’s atmosphere), 2nd heaven (stellar universe), 3rd heaven (abode of God).” The original languages of Scripture teach that there are 3 levels of heaven. This multiplicity of heavens is indicated in Hebrews 4:14 where our Lord at His Ascension is said to have “**passed through the heavens**” (accusative masculine plural noun ouranos). The 1st and 2nd heaven are not specifically mentioned but the 3rd heaven is discussed in 2 Corinthians 12:2. Logically speaking, it is evident that there cannot be a 3rd heaven without also a 1st and 2nd heaven. The 1st heaven is the earth’s atmosphere which surrounds the earth and is composed of the following 7 layers: (1) Troposphere (2) Stratosphere (3) Mesosphere (4) Thermosphere (5) Exosphere (6) Ionosphere (7) Magnetosphere.

A number of meteorological phenomena are mentioned as occurring in the 1st heaven: (1) Rain (Gen. 8:2). (2) Snow (Isa. 55:9-11). (3) Frost (Job 38:29). (4) Dew (Deut. 33:13). (5) Hail (Josh. 10:11). (6) Thunder (1 Sam. 2:10). (7) Wind (Zech. 6:5). (8) Clouds (Psa. 147:8). (9) Lightning (Psa. 77:18).

The 1st heaven is the location of the rainbow, God’s sign of his covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:13-17). Our Lord at His Ascension passed through the earth’s atmosphere, i.e., the 1st heaven (Acts 1:9-11). An invisible war is taking place in the Church Age between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness throughout the 7 layers of the earth’s atmosphere as part of the angelic conflict (Dan. 10:20; Eph. 2:2; 6:11-17) and will visibly manifest itself during the Tribulation period (Rev. 6-19).

The Church is under attack from the kingdom of darkness, which conducts its operations against the Church “**in the heavens**” (*en plus the locative of sphere *tois epouranious**)” or within the sphere of the earth’s atmosphere (Eph. 6:12). Satan is called in the Greek, “*ton archonta tes exousias tou aeros*, “**the ruler of the power of the air**” (Eph. 2:2). He has *tes exousias*, “**the authority or the power**” over the earth’s atmosphere. He is *archon tou kosmou toutou*, “**the ruler of this world**” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

Catastrophic atmospheric conditions as a part of God’s judgment upon a Christ rejecting world will occur during the last 3 and half years of the Tribulation (Rev. 6-19). The Rapture will take place in the earth’s atmosphere delivering the Church from “**the wrath to come**” upon the earth during the Tribulation period (1 Thess. 1:10; 13-17; 5:9; 2 Thess. 2:1).

The 2nd heaven is the stellar universe or space, which consists of a vast array of stars, moons, suns, galaxies and solar systems. The entire stellar universe was restored on the 4th day of creation and restoration of the earth and heavens. According to Genesis 1:14-19, the “**lights**” in the stellar universe surrounding the earth were to serve a 5-fold purpose: (1) separate the day from the night on the earth. (2) Signs (3) Seasons (4) Days (5) Years.

The Scriptures teach that the 3rd heaven is the abode of the Trinity (Gen. 14:19, 22; 23:3, 7; 1 Kings 8:30, 49; 2 Chron. 6:21, 30; Neh. 1:4-5; 2:4, 20; Psa. 11:4; 20:6; 33:14; 103:19; Isa. 63:5; 66:1; Matt. 5:34; Luke 16:9; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 7:56; 2 Cor. 12:2; Heb. 2:10; Rev. 19:14). Although it is true that the Scriptures teach that “**the heaven of heavens cannot contain God**” (1 Kings 8:27), and that God is omnipresent in the universe, nevertheless, they clearly affirm that heaven is in a particular way the habitation of God (Isa. 57:15; 63:15). The Lord Jesus Christ during His 1st Advent repeatedly stated that He came from heaven (John 3:13, 27, 31; 6:38, 41-42, 50-51, 58). The humanity of Christ’s substitutionary spiritual death on the Cross reconciled all things in both heaven and earth thus including angels as well as humanity (Eph. 1:10; Col. 1:20). He is in heaven now seated at the right hand of God (Psa. 110:1; Acts 2:33; Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, 13; 1 Pet. 3:22). He will come again invisibly from heaven at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-17). He will visibly come again from heaven at the 2nd Advent to bring to a conclusion the Armageddon War and initiate His Millennial reign on planet earth (Zech. 12; 14:1-7; Matt. 24:29-31; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7). The 3rd heaven is located billions and billions of light years away from the earth above the 1st and 2nd heavens. “**Earth**” in Genesis 1:1 is the feminine singular noun ‘*erets* and of course refers to planet earth.

A comparison of Genesis 1 with other Scripture clearly teaches that all of creation is the work of the 2nd Person of the Trinity, God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Col 1:15-17, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”** John 1:1-4, “**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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.**” John 1:10, “**He (the Word, God the Son) was in the world (the**

Word became a human being), and the world was made through Him (the Lord Jesus Christ who is God the Son), and the world did not know Him." Psalm 33:6, "By the word of the Lord the heavens and the earth were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host (angels, the galaxies, human beings, animals, fish, etc.)." Heb 1:1-3, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

This of course is rejected by the world, which should not be a surprise since the Bible also teaches that the entire world is deceived by an angel called Satan who is the enemy of God. **I Jn 5:19, "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in {the power of} the evil one." Rev 12:9, "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."**

Evolution is taught in our schools as an alternative to the creation account that is taught in the Bible, but it takes more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe the Biblical account of creation. There are 3 essential areas into which evolution cannot move and which evolution cannot solve: (1) It cannot bridge the gap from nothing to something. (2) It cannot bridge the gap from something to life. (3) It cannot bridge the gap between life and humanity-that is self-conscious human life with a volition.

We know that through the law of cause and effect, that the law requires an adequate cause for every effect. Now I think it is safe to say that creation is a pretty big effect and therefore demands a Creator with eternal power and divine nature. **Ps 19:1-2, "{For the choir director. A Psalm of David.} The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands." Ps 8:3, "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained." Rom 1:18-23, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools."**

Evolution cannot reconcile itself with this law; therefore, many proponents of evolution now call themselves proponents of deistic evolution. An American astronomer Edwin Powell Hubble stated that the vast stellar universe was a result of a big bang or explosion, which is alleged to occur 10,000,000,000 years ago. This theory states that all of the matter in the universe was closely packed together in an incredibly dense state (although he doesn't indicate how it came to be this way) and that everything then simply exploded in a big bang. His theory that the universe had a beginning, which he calls the big bang, has produced big problems for scientists since it implies a creation event thus fulfilling the principle of cause and effect. Science cannot determine Who or what started the universe. Science can only observe the creation. Only theology and specifically biblical Christianity can answer the question as to the origin of the cosmos. Creation could not have taken place by itself or without an intelligent being initiating it. You know astronomers are seeing objects as they existed during a time when the universe was much younger than it is today. Under these circumstances Albert Einstein taught in his theory of general relativity that the gravitational field of everything in the universe so warps space and time as to require a very careful reevaluation of quantities whose seemingly elementary natures are normally taken for granted. The observed expansion of the universe immediately raises the spectre that the universe is evolving, that it had a beginning and will have an end.

Encyclopedia Britannica makes the following comment, "The steady state alternative, postulated by a British school of cosmologists in 1948, is no longer considered viable by most astronomers. Yet, the notion that the Cosmos had a beginning, while in common in many theologies, raises deep and puzzling questions for science, for it implies a creation event-a creation not only of all the mass-energy that now exists in the universe but also perhaps of space-time itself" (15th edition, volume 16, The Cosmos, page 762).

Robert Jastrow, an astrophysicist and director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, as saying, "Now we see how the astronomical evidence supports the biblical view of the origin of the world.... The essential elements in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis are the same. Consider the enormosity of the problem: Science has proved that the universe exploded into being at a certain moment. It asks what cause produced this effect? Who or what put the matter and energy into the Universe? And science cannot answer these questions.... For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled

the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been there for centuries."

William Cullen Bryant eloquently spoke: My heart is awed within me, when I think, Of the great miracle which still goes on, In silence, round me-the perpetual work, Of thy creation, finished, yet renewed, For ever.

Next, we will note **Genesis 1:2**, "**The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.**" "Was" is the 3rd feminine singular Qal perfect form of the verb *hayah*. *Hayah* is the basic word for "being" and it can be translated "to be, to become, to exist, to happen, to have." Qal stem can either have a "active" or "stative" meaning. Here we have the latter denoting the state of the earth after the judgment by God upon the earth as a result of Satan's rebellion. This word is in the perfect tense which is significant. By the perfect tense here I mean a past, present or future state related to a preceding situation or past situation relevant to a continuing later state. The perfect tense of *hayah* in Genesis 1:2 refers to the present state of the earth, which is the result of a preceding situation, namely, the judgment of the fallen angels. This same Qal perfect construction is employed in Genesis 3:22: **Gen 3:22**, "**Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become (Qal perfect of hayah) like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.**" The Qal perfect of *hayah* in Genesis 1:2 should be translated "became."

"Formless and void" is composed of 2 Hebrew words: (1) Masculine singular noun *tohu*, "desolation." (2) Conjunction *wa*, "and." (3) Masculine singular noun *bohu*, "emptiness." The noun *tohu* signifies "desolation," or "that which is desolate." The noun *bohu* means "emptiness," or "that which is empty." The noun *tohu* is employed in **Isaiah 45:18**, "**For thus says the Lord, who (the Lord Jesus Christ) who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place (tohu), but formed it to be inhabited), I am the Lord, and there is no one else.**"

The "darkness" that the universe was engulfed in refers to the absence of God as a result of His judgment upon the earth. Darkness in Scripture often relates to the absence of divine viewpoint and thus the absence of the presence of God. **Eph 5:8**, "**for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.**" **Col 1:13**, "**For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.**" **I Jn 1:5**, "**This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.**" **Jude 1:6**, "**And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.**"

God did not create this universe as a chaos but rather as a cosmos, which denotes order. So a catastrophe took place between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. The Bible teaches that the initial creation was judged by God as the result of Satan's rebellion in eternity past. Chaos is the work of Satan. The earth was initially created for the angels exclusively but they rebelled and God judged them and the earth, which was their habitation.

When the pre-incarnate Christ created the universe, He formed a race of super creatures classified in the Bible as angels. Angels are rational beings with the ability to travel throughout the universe God created for them. He made them perfect, without sin, totally acceptable to His absolute righteousness. Because volition is a necessary component of a rational mentality and of capacity for love, God gave the angels free will so that they might understand His character and worship Him. In the beginning the most exalted of all the angels was the anointed cherub, whom the Bible calls Satan or the devil, the son of the morning (Isa. 14:12). He was entrusted with responsibilities and was granted privileges beyond those of any other angel, but he abused his freedom through arrogance and rebellion against God (Ezek. 28:12-19).

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So creation underwent a catastrophic change as a result of Satan's rebellion against God (Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:11-19). **Ezek 28:11-19, "Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you {there.} You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrified and you will cease to be forever." Isa 14:12-17, "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn. You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations. But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, {saying} "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, Who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to {go} home?"**

This rebellion and the resultant destruction of the earth and universe took place between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. This is called by many theologians, the Gap Theory, but it really should be called the Gap Fact. Genesis 1:2 states that earth was "**formless**" and "**void**" and there was no light in the universe. God has passed down a judgment and imprisoned the angels in darkness. Angels like human beings need light to function but all light in the universe was turned off as part of God's judgment of the angels (Psa. 148:3; 2 Cor. 11:14). As a result of the Supreme Court of Heaven granting the appeal of Satan and the fallen angels, God is going to restore the universe from chaos to cosmos, order.

Creation is different from Restoration. Creation is making something out of nothing. Restoration is fixing something up after it has been destroyed. God the Holy Spirit is responsible for the restoration of the earth and the universe from the chaos, which resulted from Satan's rebellion (Gen. 1).

Genesis 1:2, "The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters." Everyone in the Trinity was involved in the Restoration of the earth. God the Father planned the restoration. God the Holy Spirit actually restored or fixed the earth that had been preserved under the ice (Gen. 1:2b-20). God the Son created and sustained the new things that were going to be put on the earth such as mankind (Gen. 1:21, 27; Heb. 1:2).

"Was moving over" is the feminine singular piel participle form of the verb *rachaph*. In the piel (intensive) stem, *rachaph* means "to brood over, to hover over" as an eagle broods over her chicks. Here we have the Holy Spirit hovering over the desolate and empty earth like an eagle hovering over her chicks. The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit is about to restore the desolated planet earth. Restoration is the work of the 3rd Person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit.

So in Genesis 1:3-2:4 we have the Holy Spirit restoring planet earth and God the Son created new things on the earth and in particular, mankind in order to resolve the ancient pre-historic angelic conflict between God and Satan.

Genesis 1:3-2:4, "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters. God made the expanse, and separated the waters, which were below the expanse from the waters, which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, {and} fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day. Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; {He made} the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, {I have given} every green plant for food"; and it was so. God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work, which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work, which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work, which God had created and made. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven." So the stage was set on planet earth for the appeal of Satan and the fallen angels to take place.

Phases of the Trial

A trial has 3 phases: (1) Formal presentation of the case: Prosecution presents its case, followed by the defense. (2) Rebuttal Phase: The rebuttal arguments of the prosecution followed by the rebuttal arguments of the defense. (3) Closing argument and summary: By the prosecution and the defense. The Formal trial in Satan's appeal trial corresponds to Old Testament history. Human history provides the same circumstances and options, which belonged to angelic history before man's creation. Satan has been created in perfect innocence; and so was Adam. The angels have free will and man has free will. Adam freely and deliberately chose to follow the pattern of arrogance, which characterized Satan's original revolution. The fall of Adam duplicates the fall of Satan. The rebellion of Satan in the Garden of God resulted in the fall of angelic creatures (Col. 1:20; Hb. 2:2-4; Rev. 12:4a), and the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden resulted in the fall of mankind (Rom. 5:12a).

In angelic history God had provided a decision-making process by which angels could express nonmeritorious positive volition. Likewise God did the same for all mankind through nonmeritorious faith in Jesus Christ for

salvation (John 3:16). Through the exercise of free will, angelic creatures are divided into 2 categories: (1) Elect (Heb. 2:2). (2) Fallen (Rev. 12:7). Two-thirds of the angels accepted their Creator as Savior on the basis of the same nonmeritorious system of perception called faith. One-third of the angels rejected their Creator as Savior (Rv. 12:4a).

The angels had to accept their Savior on the basis of faith. They had to look forward to the Cross of Christ in order to be saved. Through free will mankind is divided into believers and unbelievers as well (John 3:36).

The Dispensations and the Phases of the Appeal Trial

The Formal Trial began with the opening argument for the Prosecution (God). This took place during the theocentric dispensation of the Gentiles called the Age of Positive Volition, which began with the creation of Adam to the Fall (Gen. 1:26-3:6). The Formal part of the Trial continued with the opening argument for the defense (Satan) which took place during the theocentric dispensations: (1) The Age of Negative Volition: From the Fall of Adam to Abraham (Gen. 3:7-11:32). (2) The Age of the Patriarchs: From Abraham to the Exodus under Moses (Gen. 12-Ex. 11). (3) The Age of Israel: From the Exodus to the Virgin Birth of Christ (1441 B.C.-4 B.C), Exodus to Malachi.

The Rebuttal phase of the Prosecution (God) includes the Christocentric dispensations: (1) The First Advent, Hypostatic Union: Virgin Birth of Christ to His death, resurrection, ascension and session (B.C. 4-30 A.D.), New Testament Gospels (2) The Church Age, Pentecost to the Rapture (30 A.D.-Rapture): Pre-canon period-Book of Acts until John wrote Revelation (A.D. 30-96); Post-Canon Period-Completion of the canon of Scripture, New Testament epistles, (96 A.D.-Rapture).

Satan's Rebuttal takes place during the 1st of the 2 Eschatological dispensations called the Tribulation period which goes from the Rapture to the 2nd Advent of Christ, 7 years from the Rapture to the 2nd Advent of Christ, Prophesied in the Old Testament, Matt. 24-25 and Rev. 6-19.

The Closing argument by God as the Prosecution takes place during the 2nd Eschatological dispensation called the Millennium which is the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth following Satan's imprisonment. God's closing argument goes from the 2nd Advent of Christ to the end of human history, prophesied throughout Old Testament and Revelation 20. Satan's closing argument is his release from prison after the Millennium and the Gog revolution (Rev. 20:7-9), resulting in the execution of his sentence and being cast into the eternal Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10).

Satan became the ruler of the world with the fall of Adam. Satan presented his case in his many attempts to establish control over his kingdom so that he might create perfect environment on earth. Just as in the prehistorical angelic conflict, his purpose in the historical extension of the angelic conflict is to prove himself equal with God, to be **"like the Most High"** (Isa. 14:14). Satan wishes to demonstrate that arrogance is not arrogance but a viable alternative to God's plan. However, Satan lacks the ability to produce the utopia he wishes to establish. The formal phase of the appeal trial includes: (1) Angelic observation. (2) Angelic participation. (3) Angelic interference in the affairs of mankind (Gen. 6:1-4; Job 1:1-3). These angelic activities continue throughout all phases of the trial.

The Church Age is the Rebuttal Phase of Satan's appeal trial, which includes 2 dispensations: (1) Hypostatic Union (2) Church Age. Satan's rebuttal argument is contained in the violence of the Tribulation. Satan will be desperate at that point because he has no rational arguments to meet the witness of evidence testing given in every generation of the Church Age.

God's closing argument for the prosecution will begin with Jesus Christ's 2nd Advent. God's closing summary will be the millennial reign of Christ. The closing argument for the defense will take place when Satan is released from prison after the Millennial reign of Christ (Rev. 20:7-9). He will discover many unbelievers on earth when he is released and will start another rebellion, thus proving that Satan has learned nothing from his imprisonment. Satan has no argument but violence and God will put down this rebellion (Rev. 20:10). Then, the sentence of the original pre-historic trial will be carried out (Matt. 25:41). Satan and the fallen angels will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10-15), and the Lord Jesus Christ will convene the Great White Throne Judgment of unbelievers (Rev. 20:11-14). This is where all unbelievers will be resurrected, tried, and judged (Rev. 20:12a).

Each mature believer is a possible witness for the prosecution. He is another proof of God's grace and of the efficacy of divine invisible assets against all obstacles and distractions along the route of spiritual advance. Once God has presented a mature believer as evidence, Satan has the right of cross-examination. He uses suffering in the attempt to break down the believer, to force him to abandon God's resources. After reaching maturity, the believer receives some of the most intense pressure he will face in his lifetime. Because no believer could pass this test without the strength of maturity, evidence testing is the monopoly of mature believers. There are 2 categories of evidence testing: (1) Relation to the plan of God. (2) Relation to the circumstances of life.

The believer has no choice in the matter. God sovereignly decides which type of evidence testing an individual will receive. The humanity of Christ underwent evidence testing at the beginning of His 3 year earthly ministry. He was tested in relation to the plan of God. The 3 parts of His evidence testing challenged His relationship to: (1) God the Holy Spirit (Matt. 4:1-4). (2) The Word of God (Matt. 4:5-7). (3) The Plan of God (Matt. 4:8-10).

Job is the example of a mature believer who received evidence testing in relation to the circumstances of life. His testing was also in 3 parts: (1) Loss of prosperity (Job 1). (2) Loss of health (Job 2:1-10). (3) Loss of friends (Job 2:11).

Evidence testing is generally administered by Satan but not always. God has established rules, which restrict Satan from taking unfair advantage of any mature believer. The Church Age is the dispensation of the ordinary believer who can have an extraordinary impact on human history, which is the courtroom trial of Satan and the fallen angels. Therefore, the Church Age believer is an enemy to the kingdom of darkness because the mature believer's life can be a witness for the Prosecution that God is indeed just and a God of love.

Combatants

Light and darkness are often employed as metaphors in Scripture to describe 2 opposing armies in the angelic conflict. Light represents the kingdom of God, led by the Lord Jesus Christ. Darkness represents the kingdom led by Satan. **John 1:4-5, "By means of Him (Christ, the Word), life exists and this Life (Christ) is the light of humanity and this Light (Christ) keeps on shining in the (kingdom of) darkness and the darkness never overcomes it (the Light, Christ)." John 3:18-21, "The one who believes upon Him (Christ) is never judged but the one who doesn't believe has been judged already because he has not believed upon the Person of the uniquely born Son of God. Now, this is the judgment that the Light (Christ) has come into the cosmos and humanity has loved rather the darkness than the Light (Christ) for their works are evil. In fact, everyone practicing the worthless things (as a lifestyle) hates the Light and never comes face to face with the Light (Christ) in order that his works may be exposed but the one who keeps on practicing the doctrine (as a lifestyle) keeps on coming face to face with the Light (fellowship with Christ) in order that his works may be revealed as having been accomplished by God." John 12:35-36, "Therefore, Jesus said to them, 'yet a little while the Light (Christ) is among all of you. Walk while you have the Light so that darkness (of Satan's cosmic system) may not overtake all of you. In fact, the one who keeps on walking in the darkness (as a lifestyle) never knows where he goes. While you have the Light, believe in the Light in order that you may become sons of the Light.'"**

The cosmos composed of the stellar universe (2nd heaven), the earth and its atmosphere (1st heaven) serve as the theater of military operations for the angelic conflict pitting the kingdom of God against the kingdom of Satan which are described in Scripture as light and darkness respectively. The voluntary substitutionary spiritual death of the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union at the cross 2000 years *ago* was a great strategic victory over Satan in the angelic conflict (John 12:31; 16:8-11; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14). His strategic victory has paved the way for other tactical victories by Church Age believers. The Church Age believer is involved in spiritual warfare with the kingdom of darkness (Eph. 6:12-16; Phil. 1:27-30). The Church Age believer is described as a "**soldier**" in Scripture (1 Cor. 9:7; Phil. 2:25; 2 Tim. 3-4).

The Church Age is the intensive stage of the Angelic Conflict. God has provided the believer the means to fight in this intensive stage of the Angelic Conflict. The believer would be easily destroyed by Satan and the kingdom of darkness if he were left to his own devices using his own human power. God has provided the believer the power to overcome his spiritual adversary, Satan and the kingdom of darkness through the essentials, which are the Spirit of God and the Word of God (1 John 4:4).

The kingdom of darkness will employ fear and intimidation tactics to get the believer to go AWOL (Absent without Official Leave) from the Plan of God (Phil. 1:28; Heb. 2:15; 1 Pet. 5:1-9). Fear is a contradiction to the believer's spiritual life, which is a lifestyle of wisdom and confidence (2 Tim. 1:7). Occupation with Christ (1st strategic objective) is the greatest weapon that a Church Age believer can employ when entering into offensive action (Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 12:2-3). The intimidation tactics sponsored by the kingdom of darkness through unregenerate humanity and reversionistic believers are rendered inoperative when the believer goes on the offensive.

In the same way that light overcomes darkness in the natural realm, the divine omnipotence of the believer's 2 power options overcomes Satan and his invisible army. The execution of the prototype spiritual life by the impeccable humanity of Christ in hypostatic union set all precedence for the believer in the Church Age as to how he is to glorify God the Father.

All precedence for glorifying God the Father during the Church Age is derived from the dispensation of the hypostatic union. The execution of the operational type spiritual life by the Church Age believer will achieve tactical victory over Satan and the kingdom of darkness in the angelic conflict. The soldier of Christ Jesus who achieves the objective of executing the Plan of God appears as a luminary or a light in the cosmic system of Satan exposing his deceitful schemes and defeating him in his own territory (Phil. 2:15).

Cross

The crucifixion of the impeccable humanity of Christ is an historical fact. Tacitus writes, "Christus, from whom the name (Christians) had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular" (Annals XV, 44). Josephus writes, "Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day" (Antiquities Book 18, chapter 3).

The apostle Paul declares to King Agrippa that the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ "**had not been done in a corner**" (Acts 26:26). On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter declares to the Jews the well-known fact that in Jerusalem the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and then rose from the dead (Acts 2:22-25). Christ crucified is said to be a "**stumbling block**" to Jews and "**foolishness**" to the Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:22-25). It took place in Jerusalem in the Jewish month of Nisan (April) 30 A.D. He suffered through 7 trials with the last 1 being before the Supreme Court of Heaven as He received the imputation of the sins of the entire world by the justice of God the Father which also resulted in the defeat of Satan since it vindicated the integrity of God and demonstrated the justness of God's sentence of Satan and the fallen angels to the Lake of Fire.

The 1st 6 trials preceding His crucifixion were before: (1) Ananias (2) Caiaphas (twice) (3) Herod (4) Pilate (twice). The Lord Jesus Christ died 2 deaths on the cross: (1) Spiritual (2) Physical. Our Lord first died spiritually during the last 3 hours on the cross and then He died physically after He had accomplished His Finished Work (John 19:30). He died physically of His own volition and not through asphyxiation or exhaustion. Our Lord's substitutionary spiritual death on the cross accomplished 3 things: (1) Defeated Satan in the angelic conflict by disproving Satan's claims that God lacks integrity and does not love His creatures. (2) Provided salvation for all mankind as well as angels. (3) Fulfilled the righteous requirements of the Mosaic Law.

The Cross of Christ is the central point in all of angelic and human history since it resolves the angelic conflict, which is the reason why mankind was created. The greatest suffering the humanity of Christ endured on the cross was not the physical and mental torture of the cross but rather when He received the imputation of the sins of the entire world by the justice of God the Father and was separated from the Father during the last 3 hours on the cross. Christ was the only free Man ever to enter Satan's world (John 8:34-36). Christ was free from: (1) The devil's rulership. (2) The sovereignty of the old sin nature. (3) The imputation of Adam's sin. (4) The condemnation of spiritual death.

There was no principle of sin in Him. Jesus Christ had to be acceptable to the righteousness of God in order for the justice of God to judge our sins in Him as our Substitute. He could not be our Substitute unless He was perfect and He is. He was perfect at birth and He was perfect when He went to the Cross. This means the Lord Jesus Christ could not commit any personal sins during His life on earth; otherwise, He would be disqualified to be our Substitute. Christ in His humanity could be tempted and could have sinned. Christ in His deity could not be tempted and could not sin. The Lord Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union was temptable but impeccable. The Hypostatic Union is the union of 2 natures, deity and true humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ was able not to sin in His humanity (*posse non peccare*). The Lord Jesus Christ was not able to sin in His deity (*non posse peccare*). The Father's plan for the Incarnation was the Cross. The Lord Jesus Christ in His humanity could have used negative volition to that plan and would have sinned. Adam when he was without sin and perfect committed an act of negative volition when he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, like perfect Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ could have sinned by committing an act of negative volition to the plan of God. The Lord Jesus Christ in His humanity was tempted not to go the cross repeatedly by Satan (Matt. 4:1-11; 16:22-23; Luke 22:39-46; Heb. 4:15).

The Lord Jesus Christ is the hero of the Angelic Conflict. The Angelic Conflict is the unseen warfare between God and Satan. It all began when Satan and one third of the angels rebelled against God (Isa. 14:12-17; Rev. 12:4). In fact, all the angels fell as implied by Colossians 1:20 where Paul says that the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union reconciled **“all things on earth, and things in heaven.”** Satan was the Federal head of the angels just as Adam is the Federal head of humanity. If the greatest angel, perfect in wisdom and beauty fell (Ezek. 28:12-19), it is simple logic that the other angels who were inferior to him in wisdom and beauty would also fall. The integrity of God demands that there be an unlimited atonement for the angels just as the integrity of God demands that there be an unlimited atonement for mankind. The Supreme Court of Heaven sentenced Satan and his angels to the Lake of Fire forever and ever (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10). Satan appealed the sentence, attacked the integrity of God by accusing God of being unjust. God responded by creating mankind to resolve the Angelic Conflict. This was to demonstrate God’s perfect integrity and grace in human history despite Satan’s opposition. Our Lord’s voluntary substitutionary spiritual death on the Cross was the strategic victory over Satan (Matt. 27:45-46).

Humility of Christ vs. Arrogance of Satan

The greatest of act of humility and obedience in the universe was performed by the Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union while functioning under kenosis. Philippians 2:5-11, **“Everyone keep on thinking this (according to humility) within yourselves, which was also in (the mind of) Christ Jesus, Who (Christ Jesus) although existing from eternity past in the essence of God, He (Christ Jesus) never regarded existing equally in essence with God an exploitable asset. On the contrary, He denied Himself of the independent function of His deity by having assumed the essence of a slave when He was born in the likeness of men. In fact, although He was discovered in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by having entered into obedience to the point of spiritual death even death on a Cross. For this very reason in fact God the Father has promoted Him to the highest-ranking position and has awarded to Him the rank, which is superior to every rank. In order that in the sphere of this rank possessed by Jesus every person must bow, celestials and terrestrials and subterrestrials. Also, every person must publicly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord for the glory of God the Father.”**

The Lord Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union as the unique Theanthropic Person of the universe refused to take advantage or exploit the fact that He was eternal God possessing the attributes of the divine essence *en toto*. This attitude of humility in the mind of Christ was a rebuke to Satan since he ambitiously sought to be like the Most High God. Our Lord refused to selfishly and ambitiously seek to exploit His deity. Satan coveted what Christ in Hypostatic Union possessed, the divine essence. The impeccable humanity of Christ in Hypostatic Union of His own volition refuse to regard His divine essence as an asset to be exploited to promote Himself as the ruler over all of creation as Satan has selfishly and ambitiously sought to do from his own angelic attributes as the greatest creature to come from the hand of the Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. This refusal by the humanity of Christ in Hypostatic Union to exploit His divine essence to promote Himself as ruler over all of creation was a rebuke to Satan’s pride and arrogance.

The Lord Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union functioning according to the Kenosis rebuked the creature arrogance of Satan by refusing to promote Himself as God through the exploitation of His divine attributes. God the Father’s plan was for God the Son to promote His dependence as a human being upon the Father’s provision of the Spirit of God and the Word of God. Satan has a selfish and ambitious lust for power whereas in contrast the humanity of Christ refuse to think in those terms choosing instead to adopt an attitude of humility and obedience towards the Father’s plan rather than to promote Himself by exploiting His divine omnipotence.

The humility of the deity of Christ was first expressed in eternity past when God the Son agreed to humiliate Himself by entering the human race and go to the cross to provide salvation for His creatures. The humility of the deity of Christ was manifested in time from the Virgin Birth to the Cross. The humility of God the Son Who was willing to humiliate Himself by taking on a lower creation than angels to provide salvation for His creatures, both angels and mankind was incontrovertible and condemning evidence against Satan in his appeal trial. The humanity of Christ’s refusal to exploit His divine attributes to promote Himself from His birth to His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross was incontrovertible and condemning evidence that the Supreme Court of Heaven was indeed just in sentencing Satan and the fallen angels to the Lake of Fire for eternity and that God in fact does love His creatures beyond a shadow of a doubt. The humanity of Christ’s humility and obedience to the Father’s plan manifested by His refusal to exploit His divine attributes to promote Himself from His birth to His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross was a stern rebuke to the self-justifying arrogant disobedience of Satan and the fallen angels. The humanity of Christ’s humility and obedience to the Father’s plan manifested by His refusal to exploit

His divine attributes to promote Himself from His birth to His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross was condemning and incontrovertible testimony in the appeal trial of Satan. Humility and obedience will be blessed by the integrity of God, whereas arrogance and disobedience will be judged.

Not only was the humility and obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union operating according to the kenosis condemning and incontrovertible testimony in the appeal trial of Satan but it also serves as an example as to how Church Age believers are to function during their stay on earth in order that they too may become witnesses for the Prosecution in the rebuttal phase of Satan's appeal trail. God promotes the humble but He makes war against the arrogant (Prov. 3:34; 29:23; Matt. 18:1-4; 23:10-12; Luke 9:23; 14:11; James 4:6, 10; 1 Pet. 5:5). Humility is unselfish and self-sacrificial but arrogance is selfish and inordinately ambitious. Humility thinks of others whereas arrogance thinks only of self. The Lord Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union functioning according to Kenosis provided the perfect example of humility for members of the royal family of God in the Church Age. The Lord Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union functioning according to Kenosis manifested an unselfish and self-sacrificial attitude that members of the royal family of God are to express towards one another. The spiritually mature Church Age believer who consistently utilizes the Spirit of God and the Word of God is an imitator of Christ's humility and obedience and will also become a witness for the Prosecution in the appeal trial of Satan.

Philippians 2:6 states emphatically that Jesus Christ pre-existed human history as infinite and eternal God. He was God before becoming a human being. Jesus Christ was God before the incarnation and during the incarnation He never regarded possessing the attributes an exploitable asset. Our Lord's humility of soul expressed itself to the extent that He was willing to voluntarily subject Himself to substitutionary spiritual death as an impeccable human being, receiving the imputation of the sins of the entire universe and being judged for them by the justice of God the Father on a Roman cross which was reserved for the worst criminals in the Roman Empire. Our Lord expressed His humility by voluntarily obeying the Father's plan for the incarnation, which was substitutionary spiritual death on a Roman cross. Humility precedes obedience expressing itself in action. Our Lord's obedience to the Father will was to such an extent that He was willing not only to become a human being but also to suffer substitutionary spiritual death as an impeccable Person receiving the imputation of the sins of the entire universe and be judged for them by the justice of God the Father on a Roman cross which was reserved for criminals and traitors of the Empire. Our Lord's voluntary act was a public triumph over Satan and the fallen angels (Col. 2:14). Our Lord's voluntary act on the cross was incontrovertible and condemning testimony in the appeal trial of Satan and the fallen angels that God indeed was just in sentencing them to the Lake of Fire forever. Our Lord's voluntary act on the cross demonstrated the integrity of God composed of His righteousness, justice and virtue-love in that He was willing to send His Son into the world as a human being and suffer the humiliation of the cross and substitutionary spiritual death for the sins of His creatures, both angels and mankind. The greatest illustration of humility that the apostle Paul as a teacher of the Word of God could give to the Philippians was the Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union functioning under a self-imposed kenosis voluntarily enduring substitutionary spiritual death for the sins of His creatures on a Roman cross. The greatest act of humility and obedience in the universe was displayed at the cross for the entire universe to observe.

The cross was the 7th and final trial that our Lord had to endure. The first 6 trials were before human judges with little or no integrity. The last trial was before God the Father Who has perfect integrity. The decisive moment in the angelic conflict took place at the cross when our Lord received the imputation of the sins of the entire universe as an impeccable human being and was judged by the justice of God the Father. Our Lord's voluntary act on the cross on behalf of all His fallen rational creatures (angels and humanity) proved conclusively and beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Supreme Court of Heaven was just in its decision to sentence Satan and the fallen angels to the Lake of Fire and that God does indeed love His creatures thus destroying Satan's arguments which were to the contrary. Our Lord's voluntary act on the cross on behalf of all His fallen rational creatures (angels and man) was the decisive, incontrovertible and condemning piece of testimony that was presented by the Prosecution (God) in the rebuttal phase of Satan's appeal trial. Humility defeated arrogance.

Kenosis of Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union demonstrated the integrity of God before the angels both fallen and elect through the function of kenosis during the incarnation. The Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union resolved the angelic conflict defeating Satan through His self-imposed kenosis during the incarnation. The Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union became the faithful witness for the Prosecution in the rebuttal phase of Satan's appeal trial by means of His voluntary kenosis during the incarnation. The Lord Jesus Christ's testimony during the incarnation which is the rebuttal phase of Satan's appeal trial destroyed Satan's argument that God lacks integrity for sentencing

him and the fallen angels to the Lake of Fire for their rebellion. There would be no resolution to the angelic conflict if God the Son had not agreed to the Father's plan for Him to become a human being. There would be no resolution to the angelic conflict if the humanity of Christ had not made numerous decisions during the incarnation to restrict the independent exercise of His divine attributes to deal with His limitations as a human being and to solve His problems with unregenerate humanity and adversity.

By the same token, there would be no salvation if God the Son had not agreed to the Father's plan for Him to become a human being. There would be no salvation if the humanity of Christ had not made numerous decisions during the incarnation by obediently restricting the independent exercise of His divine attributes. The integrity of God would not have been demonstrated to His creatures if the Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union did not function under kenosis during the incarnation. The Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union functioning under kenosis emphatically demonstrates the justice of God for sentencing Satan and the fallen angels to the Lake of Fire forever. The hypostatic union is a result of a decision made in eternity past by God the Son to become a human being. The kenosis is a result of numerous decisions made in time by the Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union to obediently and voluntarily restrict the independent exercise of His divine attributes.

The Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union functioning under kenosis utilizing the 2 Great Divine Provisions of the Spirit of God and the Word of God to execute the Father's will, purpose and plan for the incarnation demonstrates God the Father's perfect grace provision of the operational type spiritual life for the Church Age. Our Lord's voluntary kenosis was achieved through the utilization of the 2 Great Divine Provisions, namely the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

All precedence for the spiritual life in the Church Age derives itself from the dispensation of the hypostatic union when the Lord Jesus Christ as Theanthropos, the God-Man obediently and voluntarily restricted the independent exercise of His divine attributes. There would be no Church Age and thus no spiritual life if God the Son in eternity past had not made the decision to become a human being. There would be no Church Age and thus no spiritual life if the humanity of Christ had not made numerous decisions in time to operate according to kenosis. There would be no Church Age and thus no spiritual life if the Lord Jesus Christ in hypostatic union had not voluntarily functioned in time according to kenosis.

Triumphal Procession (Resurrection, Ascension and Session of Christ)

As a result of our Lord's voluntary substitutionary spiritual death on the cross, God the Father promoted Him to the highest-ranking position of authority in the universe. Philippians 2:5-11, **"Everyone keep on thinking this (according to humility) within yourselves, which was also in (the mind of) Christ Jesus, Who (Christ Jesus) although existing from eternity past in the essence of God, He (Christ Jesus) never regarded existing equally in essence with God an exploitable asset. On the contrary, He denied Himself of the independent function of His deity by having assumed the essence of a slave when He was born in the likeness of men. In fact, although He was discovered in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by having entered into obedience to the point of spiritual death even death on a Cross. For this very reason in fact God the Father has promoted Him to the highest-ranking position and has awarded to Him the rank, which is superior to every rank. In order that in the sphere of this rank possessed by Jesus every person must bow, celestials and terrestrials and subterrestrials. Also, every person must publicly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord for the glory of God the Father."**

The humanity of Christ in hypostatic union was promoted by the Father through the resurrection, ascension and session, which was accomplished by means of divine power in accordance with the integrity of God. The integrity of God demanded that the impeccable humanity of Christ in hypostatic union be promoted to the highest-ranking position in the cosmos as a result of His voluntary substitutionary spiritual death on the cross. The resurrection, ascension and session of Christ compose His triumphal procession into heaven. There are 2 triumphal processions of Christ in history: (1) Beginning on planet earth and terminating in the 3rd heaven concluding the dispensation of the hypostatic union. (2) Beginning in the 3rd heaven and terminating on planet earth at the conclusion of the Tribulation dispensation.

The 1st triumphal procession of the victorious, resurrected, impeccable humanity of Christ in hypostatic union extended from planet earth passing through the 1st, 2nd and into the 3rd heaven is 1 of 5 major events that have taken place in the angelic conflict. The humanity of Christ's strategic victory over Satan through His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross (Psa. 22:1-3; Matt. 27:44-46; Mark 15:34; Rom. 5:6-10; 2 Cor. 5:14-15a; Heb. 2:9). The resurrection of the humanity of Christ 3 days after the crucifixion (Matt. 27:62-66-28:1-20; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18; Acts 1:22; 2:31; Rom. 1:4; Col. 2:12). The ascension of the humanity of Christ into heaven

in order to receive the award from God the Father as Victor in the angelic conflict (John 20:17 cf. Luke 24:38-40; Luke 24:49-53; Acts 1:9-11; Phil. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:22; Heb. 4:14). The triumphal procession of the humanity of Christ in heaven as Victor in the angelic conflict (Eph. 4:8; Col. 2:15).

The present session of the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union at the right hand of God the Father possessing the highest ranking position of power and authority as supreme ruler of the entire cosmos (Psa. 110:1; Matt. 22:44; Mark 12:36; 14:62; 16:19; Luke 20:42; 22:69; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:22). Our Lord's triumphal procession is a result of His strategic victory over Satan and the kingdom of darkness. Satan and his forces were defeated at the cross and Church Age believers can take advantage of our Lord's strategic victory by achieving tactical victories in their spiritual lives through the utilization of the 2 Great Divine Provisions, the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

Resurrection is a result of the exertion of 3 categories of divine omnipotence by each member of the Trinity, which produces an immortal physical body with a molecular structure, which enables it to function in the eternal state with God. The resurrection of the humanity of Christ occurred 3 days after the spiritual and physical death of the humanity of Christ on the cross. It is preceded the first or immediate ascension of our Lord and His triumphal procession. The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit raised our Lord from the dead (Rom. 1:4; 8:11). The same Divine Power that raised Him from the dead will raise us from the dead at the Rapture of the Church. Our Lord's death was unique: (1) His physical body went to the grave (Luke 23:50-53). (2) His human spirit went to heaven (Luke 23:46; John 19:30). (3) His human soul went into Paradise a compartment of Hades (Luke 23:43; Acts 2:27; 2:31; Eph. 4:9). The Lord was brought back from the dead by 3 Categories of Divine Power: (1) Omnipotence of God The Father sent back our Lord's human spirit to the body in the grave (Acts 2:24; Rom. 6:4; Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Pet. 1:21). (2) Omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit sent back our Lord's human soul to the body in the grave (Rom. 1:4; 8:11; 1 Pet. 3:18). (3) Omnipotence of God the Son raised His physical body from the grave (John 2:19; 6:39-40, 54 10:17-18).

The resurrection of the humanity of Christ was the 1st major event that took place after His strategic victory on the cross. It marked His promotion to the highest-ranking position of power and authority in the cosmos for His voluntary substitutionary spiritual death on the cross. The first or immediate ascension of the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union was the beginning of our Lord's triumphal procession, which passed through the 1st and 2nd heavens and ultimately arrived in the 3rd heaven at the throne of God the Father.

The Ascension of Christ was the vertical transfer of our Lord's true humanity from planet earth to the third heaven in a resurrection body. There were 2 ascensions that took place: (1) Immediate: On the day He rose from the dead (John 20:17; Luke 24:38-40). (2) Final: 40 days after the resurrection (Acts 1:8-11). The Scriptures indicate that there was an immediate ascension of our Lord. The doctrine of an immediate ascension appears when 2 passages of Scripture are compared (John 20:17; Luke 24:38-40). It is recorded in John 20:17 that when Christ came out of the tomb He was met by Mary, who in ecstatic devotion would have embraced His feet and held her Lord. Christ told her not to touch Him since He had not yet ascended to present Himself to the Father. Yet in Luke's account of the resurrection it is asserted that the same day in which He arose and at evening He not only appeared in the midst of the frightened disciples, but also requested that they touch Him where the nails were driven into His hands and feet. Therefore, a comparison of Scripture reveals that He ascended to the Father during the day that He arose from the dead. The ascension for Christ was a glorious triumphal procession into heaven (Col. 2:15). The ascension of the humanity of Christ was another demonstration of divine omnipotence, which characterized the dispensation of the hypostatic union. The ascension of Christ is the visible manifestation that God the Father promoted the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union to the highest position of power, rank and authority in all of creation. The ascension of the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union declares His enthronement as supreme cosmic ruler with authority over all creation. Our Lord's ascension was a visible manifestation before the angels and mankind that the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union was granted supreme authority by God the Father over the following: (1) Creation (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:15-17; 2:10; 1 Pet. 3:22). (2) Church as the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14; 19:16). (3) Israel as the Son of David (Matt. 1:1; 20:30; Mark 10:47-48; Luke 1:32; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 3:7; 5:5; 22:16).

The final ascension of Christ occurred 40 days after His resurrection. He remained on earth for 40 days in order to confirm the fact that He had indeed risen from the dead as He prophesied many times in His earthly ministry during His 1st Advent. The final ascension of Christ was a visible event and in a public place. It took place on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem where He will again return at His 2nd Advent, which occurs at the end of the Tribulation period. Luke is the only 1 of the NT writers who gives a detail description of the event. Our Lord's ascension brought to a conclusion His earthly ministry and not the resurrection. The dispensation of the hypostatic union concludes with the resurrection, ascension and session of Christ.

The Session of our Lord Jesus Christ at the right hand of God the Father marked the completion of our Lord's triumphal procession. The Session of Christ pertains to the glorification of our Lord's humanity at the right hand of God the Father when our Lord received His third royal title from God the Father as "**King of kings and Lord of lords... the bright morning star.**" Our Lord's Session points to the fact that the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union has been granted authority by God the Father over the following: (1) Creation (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:15-17; 2:10; 1 Pet. 3:22). (2) Church as the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14; 19:16). (3) Israel as the Son of David (Matt. 1:1; 20:30; Mark 10:47-48; Luke 1:32; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 3:7; 5:5; 22:16).

The Session of Christ also denotes that the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union has been granted authority to conduct the following 5 judgments: (1) Bema Seat: This takes place at the Rapture and is actually an evaluation rather than a judgment of the Church Age believer's "**works**" in order to determine if they were done by means of divine omnipotence from the use of the 2 power options (Spirit of God and the Word of God) resulting in divine good and rewards or whether they were accomplished in the power of the old sin nature resulting in loss of rewards and shame and embarrassment (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 John 2:24). The believer sins will not be brought since they were already judged at the Cross. (2) Israel: This will take on earth at the 2nd Advent of Christ taking place at the end of the Tribulation and its for the purpose of removing unregenerate Israel from the earth leaving only regenerate Israel to enter the Millennial Kingdom of Christ (Ezek. 20:37-38; Zech. 13:8-9; Mal. 3:2-3, 5; Matt. 25:1-30). (3) Gentiles: This judgment will also take place at the end of the Tribulation at the 2nd Advent of Christ following the judgment of Israel and preceding the Millennial reign of Christ and is for the purpose of removing unregenerate, anti-Semitic Gentiles from the earth who lived during the Tribulation from those who were regenerate and pro-Israel (Matt. 25:31-46). (4) Fallen Angels: This is the judgment of all fallen angels at the end of human history by the Lord Jesus Christ and the Church for their rebellion against God in eternity past and will result in them being cast into the Lake of Fire (1 Cor. 6:3; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10). (5) Great White Throne: This is the judgment of all unregenerate humanity at the end of human history for their rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior resulting in them also being cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). Their sins will not be brought up since they were judged at the Cross. These individuals trusted in the themselves and their own good works done in the flesh rather than on the perfect Person and Work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Lord received His third royal title as "**King of kings and Lord of lords, the bright morning star**" which is a direct result of His execution of the Father's Incarnation Plan. When our Lord sat down at the right hand of God the Father He received His 3rd royal warrant as "**King of kings and Lord of lords...the bright morning star**" (1 Tim.6: 15; Rev. 17:14; 19:16; 22:16). Our Lord now has 3 royal titles in heaven: (1) Son of God: 2nd Person of the Trinity (John 1:34, 49; 3:18; 20:31; Matt. 4:3; 27:54; Luke 1:32, 35; 2 Cor. 1:19; 1 John 1:3; 5:10; 5:20; 2 John 1:3; Rev. 2:18). (2) Son of David: Ruler of Israel (Matt. 1:1; 20:30; Mark 10:47-48; Luke 1:32; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 3:7; 5:5; 22:16). (3) King of kings and Lord of lords: ruler of the Church (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14; 19:16).

Our Lord's strategic victory over Satan in the angelic conflict earned Him this 3rd royal title. There will be a 2nd triumphal procession at the 2nd Advent of Christ. This time it will begin in the 3rd heaven and terminate on planet earth (Rv. 19:11-21).

Church Age

The Church Age is the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict. It is the extension of the Hypostatic Union. Therefore, the Lord has given the believer spiritual armor (Eph. 6:11, 14-17), and spiritual weapons to fight this spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5). The same power that the humanity of Christ used to achieve the Strategic Victory in the Angelic Conflict has now been made available to the believer in the Church Age. Spiritual combat demands that the believer have proper knowledge in the use of their spiritual weapons and equipment (Eph. 6:11-18). The believer's failure to understand the proper use of their weapons and equipment will result in the believer becoming a spiritual casualty or entering into cowardice resulting in the believer going AWOL from the Plan of God. "**The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God**" in spiritual combat (Eph. 6:17; Hb. 4:12). The Spirit of God in concert with the Word of God that is circulating in the believer's stream of consciousness combine to form the only weapon that can defeat Satan and the kingdom of darkness in the angelic conflict.

The greatest weapon during the time in which the apostle Paul was the Roman *machaira*. It was a double-edged sword and was one of the main reasons why the Romans were able to conquer the world even though many times they fought against superior numbers. This sword gave them more mobility than the larger more cumbersome single edged blade common in the ancient world. The weapon most equivalent to the *machaira* in our day and age is the gun. By way of analogy God the Holy Spirit is the gun, the Word of God is the ammunition and the Church Age believer must pull the trigger to destroy the enemy that attacks his soul. Invisible God plus invisible power plus

invisible assets equals an invisible hero. The battleground for this spiritual warfare is in the believer's soul (Rom. 7:23; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 5:17). God has provided the believer the power to overcome his spiritual adversary, Satan and the kingdom of darkness (1 John 4:4). There is no excuse for any believer to become a permanent casualty in this war. The believer who goes AWOL and succumbs to fear, worry and does not take advantage of knowing that God will support him through Logistical Grace in times of adversity will become a spiritual casualty in this spiritual warfare.

Never before in history has so much power been made available to believers. This is because we live in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict and the Church Age believer is the enemy of the kingdom of darkness (John 15:18-19). The believer in spiritual adulthood is the ultimate target of Satanic and demonic attack. This is because we live in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict and the Church Age believer is the enemy of the kingdom of darkness (John 15:18-19). The believer in spiritual adulthood is the ultimate target of Satanic and demonic attack. **1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober (Filling of the Spirit) because your adversary (*antidikos*), the devil prowls about as a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."** **1 Timothy 5:14-15, "Therefore, I want younger woman to get married, bear children, keep house, to give the enemy (*to antikeimeno*) no opportunity for reproach for some have already turned to follow Satan."** **1 Corinthians 16:9, "For a wide door for effective service has been opened to me and there are many adversaries (*antikeimai*)." Luke 21:12-15, "But before all these things (signs preceding the 2nd Advent of Christ), they will lay their hands on you (regenerate Jews during the Tribulation) and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents (*antikeimai*) will be able to resist or refute."** **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, "Let no one in any way deceive you, for the apostasy will have come first (before the Rapture), and then shall the man of lawlessness (anti-christ) be revealed, the son of destruction, the adversary (*antikeimai*) and who exalts himself above every so-called god or object of veneration, so that he sits down in the temple of God (Jewish temple in the Tribulation) proclaiming himself that he is God."** **Ephesians 6:11-12, "Put on the full armor of God that all of you will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil because our battle is not against blood and flesh (humanity) but against the principalities, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the heavens."** **2 Timothy 3:8, "And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed (*anthistemi*) Moses, so these (spoken of in verse 6-7) also oppose (*anthistemi*) the truth, men having the mind corrupted, reprobate regarding the (Christian) doctrine."** **2 Timothy 4:14-15, "Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed (*anthistemi*) our doctrines."**

Sanctification

Positional sanctification of the Church Age believer in relation to the angelic conflict is critical to understand since it elevates him to a rank that is positionally higher than the angels. Positional sanctification is defined as the Church Age believers eternal union with Christ through the Baptism of the Spirit, which occurs at the moment of salvation. We are identified with Christ in His death and Resurrection (Rom. 6:5). The purpose of positional sanctification is for the Church Age believer to execute the Plan of God for the Church Age (Rom. 6:11-13, 19). Documentation: 1 Cor. 1:2, 30; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 Thess. 5:23; Eph. 5:26-27; Heb. 2:11; 10:10; Acts 20:32; 26:18; Rom. 6:3, 8; 2 Thess. 2:13. Results of positional sanctification: (1) Believer is placed under grace (Rom. 6:14). (2) Believer is released from the bondage to the old sin nature (Rom. 6:6-7). (3) Receives a new nature at the moment of salvation (2 Cor. 5:17-19). (4) Slaves to God (Rom. 6:22) (5) We are the adopted children of God (Rom. 8:15-16). (6) Heirs of God and Joint-Heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17). (7) Eternal Security (Rom. 8:35-39). (8) Members of the Royal Family of God (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). (9) New Spiritual Species (2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:22-24). (10) Resurrection Body (Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor. 15:54-55). (11) Eternal Life (Rom. 6:22-23; John 11:25-26).

The Church Age believer's identification with Christ in His death (Rom. 6:3-11; Col. 2:12). When Christ died on the Cross for our sins, we died. We have died with Christ in order that we can be raised with Him in resurrection. The believer has been identified with Christ in His death on the Cross; therefore, we are identified with Him in resurrection. We can never die spiritually again because we have been identified with Christ in His spiritual death on the Cross, which paid for our sins once and for all (Rom. 6:10-11). Retroactive positional truth looks back to the Cross (Rom. 6:3-6). It looks back 2000 years ago when our Lord suffered spiritual death on the Cross as the payment for our sins. Retroactive positional truth looks back 2000 years ago when our Lord satisfied the justice of God with His spiritual death. It looks back 2000 years ago when our Lord purchased the entire human race out from

the slave market of sin. It looks back 2000 years ago when our Lord made peace between God and man with His spiritual death on the Cross. The believer has been crucified with Christ on the Cross (Rom. 6:6). We have been buried with Him in Baptism (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12). We have positionally rejected all human good and evil for it has been crucified. The Church Age believer's identification with Christ in His resurrection, ascension and session (Col. 3:1-4).

The believer is identified with Christ as He is currently seated in heaven. The believer is now positionally higher than angels (Heb. 1 and 2). Our identification with Christ makes us greater than the angels now in heaven. Satan and the kingdom of darkness hates the Church because of this.

Spiritual Combat

The Church Age believer is involved in spiritual warfare with the kingdom of darkness (Eph. 6:12-16). The Church Age believer is described as a **"soldier"** in Scripture (1 Cor. 9:7; Phil. 2:25; 2 Tim. 3-4). The Church Age believer's weapons are invisible. The Church Age believer is to put on the **"full armor of God"** to resist Satan and the kingdom of darkness (Eph. 6:11). The Word of God when applied serves as the believer's spiritual armor and weaponry. The Church Age believer is to use the **"sword wield by the Spirit, which is the Word of God"** to fight the kingdom of darkness (Eph. 6:17). The believer is to use the **"shield of faith"** which is the Faith Rest Drill (Eph. 6:16).

The dispensation of the Church Age is the Rebuttal Phase of Satan's Appeal to Trial. There is an Angelic Conflict taking place and the Church Age believer is an active participant in this warfare (Eph. 6:11-12). The Church Age is the intensive stage of the Angelic Conflict. The believer can glorify God in this Angelic Conflict by becoming an Invisible Hero with an Invisible Impact on human and angelic history. God has provided the believer the means to fight in this intensive stage of the Angelic Conflict. The believer would be easily destroyed by Satan and the kingdom of darkness if he were left to his own devices using his own human power.

The Lord has given the believer spiritual armor (Eph. 6:11, 14-17), and spiritual weapons to fight this spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5). The same power that the humanity of Christ used to achieve the Strategic Victory in the Angelic Conflict has now been made available to the believer in the Church Age through the 2 power options.

The Church Age believer is the beneficiary of the Baptism of the Spirit, which places them in a eternal union with the Person of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:6). Every believer regardless of social, economic, sexual and racial background has been given Equal Privilege and Equal Opportunity to execute the Plan of God, which is God's Plan for the Church Age believer (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). God the Father in eternity past provided every believer with Invisible Assets with which to glorify Him and receive blessings in both time and eternity (Eph. 1:3, 7, 11, 14). The believer has been given unique Royal Commissions: (1) Royal Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5, 9) (2) Royal Ambassadorship (2 Cor. 5:20).

He has been given the Mystery Doctrine for the Church Age which is God's set of instructions that are exclusively for the Church Age believer and were not known to Old Testament believers (Rom. 16:25-26; 1 Cor. 2:7; 4:1; 15:51-52; Eph. 1:9; 3:1-6, 8-9; 5:28-32; 6:19; Col. 1:25-27). The believer is permanently indwelt by all three members of the Trinity (John 14:22-23; Eph. 4:6; John 14:20; 17:22-23, 26; Rom. 8:10-11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20). God has provided 100% availability of divine omnipotence for every Church Age believer (1 Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 6:7; 12:9; Eph. 1:19; 3:7, 20; Phil. 3:10, 21; Col. 1:11).

Invisible Power plus Invisible Assets plus Invisible God equals an Invisible Hero. The Integrity of God has provided every Church Age believer at the moment of salvation Logistical Grace that is God's complete provision for the Church Age believer to fight this invisible spiritual warfare in the devil's world. Logistical grace provides every believer the means in which to achieve tactical victory over Satan and the kingdom of darkness. The Spirit of God and the Word of God are the epitome of logistical grace.

The battleground for this spiritual warfare is in the believer's soul (Rom. 7:23; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 5:17). God has provided the believer the power to overcome his spiritual adversary, Satan and the kingdom of darkness (1 John 4:4). There is no excuse for any believer to become a permanent casualty in this war. The believer who goes AWOL and succumbs to fear, worry and does not take advantage of knowing that God will support him through Logistical Grace in times of adversity will become a spiritual casualty in this spiritual warfare. Never before in history has so much power been made available to believers. This is because we live in the intensified stage of the Angelic

Conflict and the Church Age believer is the enemy of the kingdom of darkness (John 15:18-19). The believer in spiritual adulthood is the ultimate target of Satanic and demonic attack.

Logistical Grace sustains the **“soldier of Christ Jesus”** in the devil’s world and provides him with everything that he needs to fight in this spiritual warfare. Just like the soldier in the natural realm is dependent upon his nation to provide for him everything that he needs to fight in battle so must the believer rely upon God’s Logistical Grace blessings in times of adversity or spiritual attack known as the **“evil day”** (Eph. 6:13; cf. John 17:15). Just as the soldier in natural realm is dependent upon his nation to provide for him food, water, clothing, shelter, transportation, and training to fight in battle so is the believer dependent upon God’s Logistical Grace blessings to provide for him food, water, clothing, shelter, transportation, and a Pastor-Teacher who teaches Bible Doctrine which trains him to fight invisible spiritual warfare. Logistical Grace is God’s complete provision for the Church Age believer’s every physical and spiritual need regardless of spiritual status, which enables them to execute the Plan of God and become an Invisible Hero in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict.

Logistical Grace provides the Church Age believer everything that they need (not want) to achieve a tactical victory in the Angelic Conflict by taking advantage of the Lord Jesus Christ’s Strategic Victory over Satan at the Cross. Every believer is a strategic winner through faith in Christ, but few become tactical winners by exploiting logistical grace and growing to spiritual maturity. Tactical victory is only secured on the battlefield of the believer’s soul through many good decisions from a position of strength, which is continued application of the Word of God, which is the epitome of logistical grace. Tactical victory is achieved when God is able to demonstrate His Integrity by pouring out maximum blessings to a member of the human race, namely, believers who apply Bible Doctrine.

The Word of God teaches that under the principle of logistical grace, God has provided the believer 2 categories of divine protection in the devil’s world in order that they may have the freedom to achieve the objective of executing the plan of God for their lives: (1) Angelic protection (Heb. 1:14) (2) Government protection (Rom. 13:1-7).

Hebrews 1:14 teaches the principle that the Lord Jesus Christ as the sovereign ruler of the cosmos at repeated intervals dispatches elect-angels as need arises to offer protection of the believer from the attacks of Satan and the kingdom of darkness and to provide aid and encouragement in times of adversity. This passage teaches that the elect-angels have been divinely commissioned by the King of kings and Lord of lords to serve church, which is the body of Christ by protecting them at certain times from the attacks of the kingdom of darkness and providing the aid whether spiritual or material. There are times that the Lord as in the case of Job does not dispatch the elect-angels to help believers. The Lord oftentimes desires believers who are advancing and or are mature believers to utilize the 2 Great Divine Provisions of the spiritual life, the Word of God and the Spirit of God, in order to defeat the enemy. Sometimes the Lord will pull back the protection but only so that the believer can experience the power and sufficiency of the spiritual life.

2 Corinthians 12:9: “And He has said to me for my benefit and it still has application at the present time, my grace is as an eternal truth sufficient for you, for my power as an eternal truth finds its consummation in human impotence. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. The believer has superior armor and weaponry, namely the Spirit of God and the Word of God. I Jn 4:4, “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” Only the believer who understands and applies this Biblical truth will have the capacity to face the enemy one on one. Immature believers or baby believers do not have the capacity to undergo such testing. 1 Cor 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

Now before I begin I want to address the fact that our society today has an inordinate preoccupation with angels. The entire world which as we have noted many times in 1 John 5:19 and Revelation 12:4 is deceived by the propaganda from Satan’s cosmic system. This preoccupation by the world at this time is to prepare them for imminent expulsion of Satan and the fallen angels from heaven by Michael and the elect-angels. While the rapture of the church is taken place, simultaneously there will be a tremendous angelic battle that will be won by the elect-angels led by Michael the archangel. The Tribulation period will commence when the church is taken off planet earth and simultaneously Satan will be exiled to planet earth. So the preoccupation of angels is simply preparatory for the visible appearance of angels on planet earth. Remember, the Lord said in His Olivet Discourse the tribulation period will be comparable to the days of Noah when fallen angels attempted to infiltrate the human race by having sex with women in order to stop the Son of God from entering the human race.

We as church age believers should not have a preoccupation with angels but we must be aware of their presence in the sense that we have protection from the elect-angels and the fallen angels constitute our enemy here on planet earth. The angels are fascinated with us.

1 Pet 1:10-12, “As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that {would come} to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.”

Why is this? The church is the body of Christ and future bride of Christ. They are also receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of God, which the angels desire to look into. The tragedy that has taken place throughout the church age is that majority of believers are indifferent to learning and applying the mysteries of the kingdom of God. They are indifferent to learning and applying the mind of Christ, which is the eternal, infallible and inerrant Word of God.

Furthermore, the church age believer because they are in union with Christ will judge the fallen angels at the Great White Throne. **1 Cor 6:3, “Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?”** This will be pay back time. Church age believers will be given the opportunity at this time to judge their invisible persecutors and enemies.

Now, with this groundwork laid, let us look at Hebrews 1:1. Hebrews 1:1-13 notes the superiority of the Lord Jesus Christ in comparison to the angels. **Heb 1:1-14, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”? And again, “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”? And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.” And of the angels He says, “WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.” But of the Son {He says} “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS. And, “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END. But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”**

Corrected translation of **Hebrews 1:14: “Are they not all as a spiritual truth servant-spirits who are divinely commissioned and repeatedly dispatched for service on behalf of those who are destined to inherit salvation.”** “**Servant-spirits**” is composed of the following: (1) Nominative neuter plural form of the adjective *leitourgikos*, which is *leitourgika*, “servant.” (2) Nominative neuter plural form of noun *pneuma*, which is *pneumata*, “spirits.”

The adjective *leitourgikos* is a hapax legomenon meaning it appears only once in the NT and has the following cognates: (1) *Leitourgeo* (verb), “to do public work at one’s own expense.” (2) *Leitourgia* (noun), “service or work done on behalf of the public.” These words are a compound of *leitos*, “of or for the people,” and the root *erg*, “to do work,” thus they connote public service.

The adjective *leitourgikos* in Hebrews 1:14 refers directly to the service performed by the elect angels on behalf of all church age believers. All of which are in union with Christ. The angels served the humanity of Christ (Matt. 4:11; Mark 1:13). The adjective *leitourgikos* is anarthrous and in the familiar 1st attribute position and thus describes the function of the elect-angels. Hebrews 1:14 teaches that they render service to believers here in the dispensation of the church age.

Pneuma originally meant “wind,” or “breath,” and because the breath of an individual was a sign of life it came to include the meaning of “spirit.” It is used of a wide variety persons and things in the NT, which are simply too

numerous to list. The noun *pneuma* is used of the elect-angels in Hebrews 1:14. **Hebrews 1:7, “And of the angels He says, ‘Who (the Lord Jesus Christ) makes His angels spirits (pneuma), and His ministers a flame of fire (angels execute the judgments of the Supreme Court of Heaven).’”** The noun *pneuma* is used of 2 categories of angels in the NT: (1) Fallen Angels (Mt. 10:1; Mk. 1:27; Acts 5:16; 1 Tm. 4:1; 1 Pt. 3:19; Rv. 16:13). (2) Elect Angels (Heb. 1:7, 14; Rev. 1:4).

The present tense of *eimi* is a gnomic present for a general timeless fact. The gnomic present of the verb *eimi* in Hebrews 1:14 means **“are they not all as a spiritual truth servant-spirits.”** The active voice, the elect angels produce the action of the verb. The indicative mood is declarative for a dogmatic statement of fact concerning the elect angels.

“Who are divinely commissioned and repeatedly dispatched for service” is composed of the following: (1) Preposition *eis*, “for.” (2) Accusative feminine singular noun form of the noun *diakonia*, which is *diakonian*, “service.” (3) Nominative neuter plural present middle participle form of the verb *apostello*, which is *apostellomena*, **“who are divinely commissioned and repeatedly dispatched.”**

Apostello is a compound word means “to dispatch on a specific mission, to send out on a specific mission.” The word was used in the 5th century B.C. for an *apostolos* who received a commission from the council in Athens and was dispatched by them on a specific commission, which was to establish colonies whose government would be based upon on the Athenian model. *Apostello* emphasizes the fact of an authorization and/or a commission by someone in a position of authority. The verb *apostello* and its cognate (*apostolos*) in the NT, emphasize a divine commission and delegated authority from the Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 1:14 *apostello* used of the elect angels who have been dispatched, sent out on a specific mission by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostello was used for the personal envoy of a king who had full powers of authority. It occurs as a technical term denoting divine authorization. Here in Hebrews 1:14, the elect angels, **“servant-spirits,”** are commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ and are authorized by Him to perform a specific mission. *Apostello* stresses the authority of the One who sends and here we have in view, it is the Lord Jesus Christ. The elect angels have been commissioned by the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the Lord Jesus Christ, and sent by Him to planet earth to fulfill a specific mission.

Apostellomena functions as a substantival participle. This is an iterative present describing that, which occurs at successive intervals. It is sometimes called the present of repeated action. The iterative present indicates that the Lord Jesus Christ repeatedly dispatches these elect angels as need arises. The passive expresses the fact that the angels as the subject are receiving the action of the verb. The passive voice indicates that the elect-angels are receiving marching orders from the Lord Jesus Christ to aid church age believers in whatever manner that the Lord authorizes.

The preposition *eis* plus the accusative *diakonian* denotes the purpose or objective. **Hebrews 1:14, “Are they not all as a spiritual truth servant-spirits who are divinely commissioned and repeatedly dispatched for service on behalf of those who are destined to inherit salvation.”** The service performed by the elect-angels can be summarized as follows: (1) Worship of God (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8). (2) Messengers of God (Dan. 9:22; Lk. 1:11, 26; 2:9; Rev. 1:1). (3) Soldiers in spiritual combat (Dan. 10:13f; Rev. 12:7). (4) Servants to regenerate humans beings (Heb. 1:14).

Angels: (1) Protect (2) Provide (3) Proclaim the Word of God (4) Execute God’s Judgments. As God’s servants who are dispatched from the throne room of heaven to execute God’s purposes, we may observe that the ministry of the elect-angels falls into several categories.

In Relation to God the elect-angels perform the following services: (1) Attendants around the throne of God, and are waiting to serve Him and do His bidding (Ps. 103:20; Isa. 6:1f; Job 1:6; 2:1; Rev. 5:11; 8:1f). (2) Worshipers in praise of Him (Isa. 6:3; Ps. 148:1-2; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 5:12). (3) Observers who rejoice over what the Lord does (Job 38:6-7; Luke 2:12-13; 15:10), Soldiers in battle with Satan (Rev. 12:7). (4) Instruments used by the God to execute judgments (Rev. 7:1; 8:2).

In Relation to the Nations, the elect-angels and non-elect angels perform the following services: (1) Michael, the archangel, is the guardian of the nation of Israel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9). (2) The non-elect angels rule over the Gentile nations (Dan. 4:17; Eph. 6:11-16) and seek to influence their human leaders (Dan. 10:21; 11:1). (3) In the Tribulation the elect-angels will be the agents God uses to pour out His judgments (see Rev. 8-9 and 16).

In Relation to Christ, the elect-angels perform the following services: (1) They prophesied of the birth of Christ (Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:26-28). (2) They announced his birth (Luke 2:8-15). (3) An angel warned Joseph to take Mary and the baby Jesus and flee into Egypt (Matt. 2:13-15), and an angel directed the family to return to Israel after Herod died (vv. 19-21).

In relation to His suffering, the elect-angels performed the following services: (1) They ministered to the Lord after His temptation (4:11). (2) They administered to the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43), and Jesus said He could have called a legion of angels who stood ready to come to His defense if He so desired (Matt. 26:53).

In relation to His resurrection, the elect-angels performed the following services: (1) An angel rolled away the stone from the tomb (28:1-2). (2) Angels announced His resurrection to the women on Easter morning (vv. 5-6; Luke 24:5-7). (3) Angels were present at His ascension and gave instruction to the disciples (Acts 1:10-11).

In relation to His coming again, the elect-angels perform the following services: (1) The voice of the archangel will be heard at the translation of the church (1 Thess. 4:16). (2) They will accompany Him in His glorious return to earth (Matt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7). (3) They will separate the wheat from the tares at Christ's second coming (Matt. 13:39-40).

In Relation to the unbeliever, the elect-angels will perform the following: (1) Angels not only announce and inflict judgment (Gen. 19:13; Rev. 14:6-7; Acts 12:23; Rev. 16:1). (2) They will separate the righteous from the unrighteous at the 2nd Advent (Matt. 13:39-40).

In Relation to the Church: Hebrews 1:14 describes ministry of the elect-angels "servant-spirits who are divinely commissioned and repeatedly dispatched for service on behalf of those who are destined to inherit salvation." In this, however, Scripture points to a number of specific ministries: (1) The elect-angels bring answers to prayer (Acts 12:5-10). (2) They help in bringing people to the Savior (Acts 8:26; 10:3). (3) They may encourage in times of danger (Acts 27:23-24). (4) They care for God's people at the time of death (Luke 16:22).

In Relation to the introduction of a new dispensation, angels are actively involved when God institutes a new epoch in history: (1) They Joined in Praise When the Earth Was Created (Job 38:6-7) (2) They Were Involved in the Giving of the Mosaic Law (Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2) (3) They Were Active at the First Advent of Christ (Matt. 1:20; 4:11) (4) They Were Active During the Early Years of the Church (Acts 8:26; 10:3, 7; 12:11) (5) They Will Be Involved in Events Surrounding the Second Advent of Christ (Matt. 25:31; 1 Thes. 4:1).

There are many terms that are employed in the Scriptures to describe both elect and non-elect angels and their function: (1) *Bene ha Elohim*, "sons of God" (2) *Malak* (noun), "angel, messenger, ambassador" (3) *Cherub* (noun), "cherub, an order of angelic beings, four-winged angels" (4) *Seraphim* (noun), "an order of angelic beings, six-winged angels" (5) *Boqer kokab*, "morning stars" (6) *Ruach*, "spirit" (Nm. 11:25; 1 Sm. 16:14; Is. 11:2). (7) *Tsava* (noun), "host, army." (8) *Qadhosh* (adjective), "holy ones." (9) *Angelos* (noun), "angel, messenger, envoy" (10) *Pneuma* (noun), "spirit." (11) *Satan* (noun), "Satan" (12) *Halel Ben Shachar*, "son of the dawn, morning star" (13) *Diabolos* (adjective), "the adversary, the devil, slanderous, false accuser" (14) *Archangelos* (noun), "archangel" (15) *Arche* (noun), "authority, rule, domain, principality" (16) *Exousia* (noun), "authority, right, power" (17) *Kosmokrator* (noun), "world ruler" (18) *Ta pneumatikos tes ponerias en tois epouraniois*, "wicked spirit-beings in the heavenlies"

There are 2 categories of angels: (1) Elect (2) Non-elect. Angels are created spirit beings (Ps. 148:2, 5). **Ps 148:1-5, "Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all stars of light! Praise Him, highest heavens, and the waters that are above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created." The angels were created in eternity past, before the creation of the cosmos (Job 38:4, 7). Job 38:4-7, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell {Me} if you have understanding, Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?" The Lord Jesus Christ created the angels in eternity past (Col. 1:16). Col 1:16, "For by Him all things were created, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him." They are innumerable (He. 12:22). Heb 12:22, "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels." They are in eternity (present) a higher category of beings than humans are (Heb. 2:6-7). Heb 2:6-7, "But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS."**

In eternity (future), redeemed humans will be a higher category of beings than the angels (Ps. 8:4-5). **Ps 8:4-5, "What is man that you take thought of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than God, and you crown him with glory and majesty!"** The doctrine of positional

sanctification states that the church age believer is positionally higher than the angels by virtue of their union with Christ through the Baptism of the Spirit, which takes place at the moment of salvation.

Man cannot see angels for they are invisible but can be seen by man when God does 1 of 2 things: (1) He lifts the veil of the spiritual dimension (2 Kin. 6:17). (2) He allows them to change their form to human (Heb. 13:2).

Not only does Daniel 10 teach the principle that the elect-angels are involved in spiritual combat with the fallen angels but this passage also teaches that the elect-angels render service to believers. Daniel 10 takes place in the 70th year of the Babylonian deportation of the nation of Israel. It is 536 B.C. The Persians had defeated the Babylonians. Daniel was now under the authority of Cyrus king of Persia. It was the 3rd year of Cyrus' reign that Daniel received his 4th and final prophetic vision. Daniel was still being called by his Babylonian name: Belteshazzar. Daniel was an old man now when he received this vision.

In Daniel chapter 10, verses 4-9, we have Daniel seeing the transfigured Christ. Daniel sees here in Daniel 10 what Peter, James, John, Moses and Elijah saw, namely, the transfigured Christ or in other the glorified resurrected Christ. Now many Bible scholars believe that Daniel 10:4-9 is what we call in theology, a theophany. A theophany is a theological term used to refer to either a visible or auditory manifestation of the pre-incarnate Christ. The following are examples of theophanies: (1) The burning bush (Ex. 3:2-6). (2) Pillar of fire and pillar of cloud over the Tabernacle (Ex. 19:8-10). (3) Small still voice to Elijah (1 K. 19:12ff.). I don't believe this is the case and I'll explain why?

I believe Daniel is seeing a vision of the transfiguration of Christ that was recorded in Matthew 17. **Matt 17:1-5, "Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"**

In Daniel 10:4-9, we have Daniel seeing the transfigured Christ before Moses, Elijah, Peter, James and John did. This is an appearance of the post-incarnate or glorified Christ. The career of Christ has 3 divisions: (1) Pre-incarnate: Before He became a Man. (2) Incarnate: Hypostatic union during His 1st Advent. (3) Post-incarnate: After the resurrection, in His glorified resurrected body.

There have always been 3 representatives throughout the history of the nation of Israel: (1) Moses represents the Law (2) Elijah represented the Prophets (3) Daniels represents the Exiles. Daniel is given this vision of the transfigured Christ before the Moses and Elijah in order to encourage him and the nation of Israel that was presently in exile in Babylon.

Dan 10:1-21, "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and {one of} great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris."

Daniel indicates the time here. It is the April 24, 536 B.C. The first month and the 24th day of that first month. This refers to the 24th day of first month on the Jewish calendar, namely, Nisan, which occurs during the month of April. Thus, April 24th 536 B.C.

Daniel 10:5, "I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with {a belt of} pure gold of Uphaz." The phrase "a certain man" is reminiscent of the "certain man" he employed in His parables which describes either God the Son or God the Father.

Daniel 10:6, "His body also {was} like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult." The imagery here in verse 6 is nearly identical to that of John's description of the glorified Christ in Revelation 1.

The phrases "waist was girded with a belt of pure gold," "the appearance of lightning" and "his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze" is comparable to the description of Christ given by the apostle Paul in Revelation 1:13-17 where the apostle John describes the resurrection glorified Christ. **Rev 1:13-17, "and in the middle of the lampstands {I saw} one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet {were} like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice {was} like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His**

mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last."

Daniel 10:7, "Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves."

This is reminiscent of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Acts 9:3-7, "As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He {said} "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one."

Daniel 10:8, "So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding {this} and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia."

Here we have the veil lifted. The words of this angel reveal the reality of the angelic battle that is raging all around us here on planet earth, in the earth's atmosphere and in the stellar universe. Here the Word of God gives us information regarding this angelic battle between the forces of Satan and the forces of God.

Before we study the confrontation that takes place here in Daniel 10 between a fallen angel and an elect-angel sent by God, we must understand some principles regarding spiritual warfare in the angelic realm. First of all, angels do not die and nor does their number increase or decrease (Lu. 20:36). There are different ranks of angels (Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:16). The angels were created in a hierarchy because they are called "archangels" (1 Th. 4:16). The prefix *arch* means "one in priority or rank." A hierarchy is a system with the different levels of authority.

There is hierarchy of angels as noted in Ephesians 6:12 and Colossians 1:16. Eph 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual {forces} of wickedness in the heavenly {places}." Col 1:16, "For by Him all things were created, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him."

"The Prince of Persia": (1) Adversative use of the conjunction *w^e*, "but." (2) Masculine singular noun *sar*, "prince." (3) Proper name *Paras*, "Persia." The noun *sar* can be used of a political leader or a military commander. Here we have both in view. This fallen angel that withstood this elect-angel was both a political and military ruler of Persia. Every nation on planet earth has one of these angels ruling over it. This angelic military commander from the kingdom of darkness was preventing Daniel's prayer from being answered. This angelic dictator over the nation of Persia did not want information to get to Daniel regarding the future of both Persia and Greece. More importantly, this fallen angel that withstood the elect-angel did not want presented to Daniel regarding the future of the nation of Israel. The kingdom of darkness has waged war against the nation of Israel from its inception. Anti-Semitism originates not with humanity but with Satan and the kingdom of darkness. They promote anti-Semitism. Why? Satan does not want the Lord Jesus Christ to fulfill the 4 unconditional covenants to Israel in order that he might say that God doesn't keep His promises to His people and thus discredit God.

This information regarding the future of Israel, Greece and Persia is finally revealed to Daniel by the angel from God 21 days after the angel was dispatched from the throne room of God. This information regarding the future of these 3 nations is revealed in Daniel 11. If it were not for Michael who defends Israel, this angel would never have reached Daniel. Michael's responsibility regarding the human race is to protect and defend the nation of Israel from the attacks of Satan's military commanders. Dan 12:1, "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands {guard} over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."

Michael also withstood Satan when the latter attempted to kidnap the body of Moses. **Jude 1:9, "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"**

Now, Michael was able to defeat the prince of Persia because of one simple principle: Victory or defeat in angelic warfare is gained by the application of power and the withdrawal of the inferior force. So we have here in Daniel 10:13 God delivering a message about the future of Israel, Greece and Persia through an angel of lower rank than the Prince of Persia who represented Satan's forces. We might say that the angel God sent was a lieutenant in the forces of God. As soon as he was opposed by a major angel of the forces of Satan, he was stopped at once. He could not go on with his mighty ministry on behalf of Daniel until there was intervention by God Himself. God then sent a still higher elect-angel to relieve this lieutenant from his struggle with superior adverse powers, thus permitting him to complete his mission to Daniel. There is a principle here that I want to note regarding angelic warfare. It appears that angels of every rank in both camps are constantly at war with each other in the invisible realm...we know this because the human governments in country are in a constant state of upheaval and war and the angels oversee these nations. So the conflict between nations is a reflection of the invisible angelic battle that is being waged throughout the 1st and 2nd heavens.

Now there is no question that these spiritual beings which we call angels cannot die. So how does one achieve victory in the angelic realm if they cannot kill each other? Victory or defeat in angelic warfare is gained by the application of power and the withdrawal of the inferior force. The importance of all this to believers in our day is that it can be demonstrated from the Word of God that the warfare in the invisible realm principally concerns individuals in the human realm. So Daniel gets the answer to his prayer regarding the future of the nation of Israel but only have the intervention of Michael, the archangel whose responsibility is to defend the nation of Israel from the demon armies.

Daniel 10:14, "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet {future.} When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, "O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me. Then {this} one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. He said, "O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me. Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these {forces} except Michael your prince."

This angelic war that is being waged in the cosmos is further illustrated in even greater detail by the apostle John in the book of Revelation. Revelation 12:14 also states that Satan and the fallen angels are behind the persecution of the nation of Israel since its inception.

Rev 12:1-12, "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth." Who does this woman clothed with sun signify? What does the moon under her feet signify and the crown of twelve stars upon her head? Well, Scripture always explains Scripture. This is a law of hermeneutics. This symbolism first occurred in Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9. Gen 37:9, "Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

The dream of Joseph concerned the nation of Israel, as does Revelation 12:1. **Gen 37:10, "He related {it} to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"** The "sun" represents Jacob and the "moon" represents Rachel and Leah who bore the 12 sons of Jacob. The "crown of twelve stars" represents the 12 patriarchs of Israel. The "woman" represents the nation of Israel and not Mary, the mother of Jesus as is suggested by many expositors. The reason for this interpretation is that the entire context is symbolic. The woman is thus to be consistent one must say that the woman here is symbolic as well. The career of the woman mentioned here in verses 1-2 fits perfectly with the history of the nation of Israel. Her travail refers undoubtedly to the sufferings of the nation of Israel throughout her history. The "child" is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:3, "Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads {were} seven diadems." The dragon refers to Satan. The "seven heads" refer to 7 great world empires: (1) Egypt (2) Assyria (3) Babylon (4) Medo-Persia (5) Graeco-Macedonia (6) Rome (7) Future Revived Roman Empire. The "ten horns" refers to the 10-nation confederacy, which will compose the future Revived Roman Empire during the Tribulation.

Revelation 12:4-12, "And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. And she gave birth to a son, a male {child} who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has {only} a short time."

Man cannot see angels for they are invisible but can be seen by man when God does 1 of 2 things: (1) He lifts the veil of the spiritual dimension (2 Kin. 6:17). (2) He allows them to change their form to human (Heb. 13:2).

In 2 Kings 6 we have Elisha and his servant encountering danger in Dothan. The name "Elisha" means, "God is salvation," or "God saves." He was the son of *Shaphat* from the town of Abel Meholoah (1 K. 19:16). Elisha was originally a farmer (1 K. 19:19). He had a home in Samaria (2 K. 2:25; 5:3, 9; 6:32). Elisha was evidently bald (1 K. 2:23) and he employed a staff to walk (2 K. 4:29). In the 9th century B.C. Elisha succeeded Elijah the prophet and ministered primarily to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Elijah upon God's command, anointed Elisha to succeed him (1 K. 19:16f). Elisha was willing to serve Elijah and learn from him so that he might be prepared for this work that God commissioned him to do (1 K. 19:20-21). He remained with Elijah until the latter was taken up to heaven by the Lord (2 K. 2:1-18). Elisha then took up Elijah's mantle and work. During Elisha's prophetic ministry, he exposed and confronted idolatry, injustice, immorality and impiety among God's people (1 K. 19:17; 2 K. 2:24; 5:20-27; 7:17-20). Elisha also spent much of his time reaching out to those in need and demonstrated to these needy individuals the power and compassion of God (2 K. 4:1-5:14; 8:1-6; Lk. 4:27). The miracles Elisha performed helped his fellow countrymen come to know the Lord better, trust Him more and obey His Law (2 K. 2:14, 19-22; 3:15-20; 5:15, 17-19; 6:1-7:3; 13:21). Elisha functioned as a prophet in Israel for over 50 years, which encompassed the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz and Jehoash, from 850 B.C. to 800 B.C.

The king of Syria had been engaged in war against Israel. The king of Syria was extremely disturbed because every plan he had made and every place he went was discovered by the king of Israel. Elisha was bugging the king of Syria's quarters but not by the means employed by the FBI and CIA but rather the Lord was telling Elisha everything the king of Syria was planning to do militarily.

Finally one of the servants of the king of Syria is told by a servant that Elisha was the culprit so the king dispatches some troops captured Elisha. This is where we pick up the story.

2 Kings 6:8-17, "Now the king of Aram was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp. The man of God sent {word} to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Arameans are coming down there. The king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice. Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel? One of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom. So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the

LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Ps 68:17-20, "The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them {as at} Sinai, in holiness. You have ascended on high, you have led captive {your} captives; you have received gifts among men, even {among} the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell {there.} Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God {who} is our salvation. Selah. God is to us a God of deliverances; and to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death." Ps 104:4, "He makes the winds His messengers, flaming fire His ministers." Ps 78:49, "He sent upon them His burning anger, fury and indignation and trouble, a band of destroying angels." Ps 91:11, "For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways." Ps 103:20, "Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word!"

2 Kings 6:18, "When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha." As God's celestial servants who are dispatched from the throne room of heaven to execute God's purposes, we may observe that the ministry of the elect-angels falls into several categories.

Tactics of the Enemy

The kingdom of darkness will employ fear and intimidation tactics as well as the sins of the tongue in order to get the believer to go AWOL (Absent without Official Leave) from the Plan of God (Phil. 1:28; Heb. 2:15; Jm. 3:1-12; 1 Pet. 5:1-9). They will employ intimidation tactics in order to get the believer to enter into fear and thus render the believer's spiritual life inactive. Intimidation tactics by the kingdom of darkness are employed to get the believer out of fellowship with God and to ultimately render the believer's spiritual life totally inactive and inoperative. Fear is a contradiction to the believer's spiritual life, which is a lifestyle of wisdom and confidence (2 Tim. 1:7). When the believer applies the Word of God, which is his spiritual armor, he will prevent these tactics being successful upon the believer who is on the road to spiritual maturity.

Fear produced by these intimidation tactics sponsored by the kingdom of darkness destroys spiritual growth and the execution of the Plan of God. Intimidation tactics which produce fear, worry and anxiety in the believer are only successful when the believer allows his soul to be overrun by them. The believer is his own worst enemy when he allows fear to produce stress in the soul. Adversity is outside pressure but stress is inside pressure. Adversity is what circumstances and other do to you but stress is what you do to yourself. Fear intensifies everything. If you fear in living, you will have fear in dying. Adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. Stress in the soul contradicts the integrity of God. Stress in the soul is tantamount to sin nature control over the soul. Stress in the soul destroys the spiritual life. Adversity demands the application of the Word of God. The more things you surrender to fear, the more things you fear. The extent to which you surrender to fear, the greater your capacity for fear. The greater your capacity for fear, the more you increase the power of fear in your life. The loser believer in perpetual carnality cultivates fear in life with the result that he chooses to live under the sin face to face with death (1 John 5:16). The more you increase the power of fear in your life, the greater your failure to execute the spiritual life. Undeserved suffering experienced by the believer in spiritual adulthood either advances the believer forward in the spiritual life or it stops them. He who does not go forward goes backward. The believer will be confronted with the kingdom of darkness intimidation tactics while undergoing undeserved suffering. The failure to meet this challenge by entering into fear can be immediately dealt with by the use of Rebound, which restores fellowship with God and allows the believer to go on the offensive.

Occupation with Christ is the greatest weapon that a Church Age believer can employ when entering into offensive action. The intimidation tactics sponsored by the kingdom of darkness through unregenerate humanity and reversionistic believers are rendered inoperative when the believer goes on the offensive. The intimidation tactics sponsored by the kingdom of darkness through the agencies of unregenerate humanity and reversionistic believers are no match for the Church Age believer's spiritual weapons which were provided by God in eternity past under the principles of Election and Predestination. The utilization of the 2 Great Divine Provisions, the Spirit and the Word, places the believer on the offensive and prevents the outside pressures of adversity becoming in the inside pressure of stress in the soul. These intimidation tactics are only successful if the believer fails to learn and apply the mystery doctrine for the Church Age. Confidence, contentment and courage are characteristic of the believer in spiritual adulthood who does not allow the command post of the soul (volition) to be overrun by fear produced by the intimidation tactics of the kingdom of darkness. Insecurity, anxiety and cowardice are characteristic of the believer who allows the command post of the soul to be overrun by fear produced by the intimidation tactics

employed by the kingdom of darkness. The believer's relationship to the communication of doctrine and the communicator of doctrine will provoke these intimidation tactics upon the believer. Faithfulness to the communication of doctrine will inevitably produce undeserved suffering, which is designed by God to advance the believer forward in the spiritual life. God uses Satan's evil policy against himself and to advance the believer to spiritual maturity. All soul prosperity and spiritual growth in the believer originates from God the Father in eternity past under the principles of Election and Predestination. The failure of the believer to be intimidated by their adversaries the kingdom of darkness is evidence of their guilt and ultimate destruction in the Lake of Fire. But on the other hand it is evidence that the believer is advancing to spiritual maturity resulting in the execution of the Plan of God, which glorifies God. The failure of the believer in spiritual adulthood to be intimidated while enduring undeserved suffering is evidence for the Prosecution in the rebuttal phase of Satan's appeal trial.

Soul prosperity is achieved through undeserved suffering. Undeserved suffering is the instrument used by God to advance the believer to spiritual maturity. It puts spiritual muscle on the believer's soul. Advancement in the spiritual life is accomplished through undeserved suffering. The 2 strategic and tactical objectives of the spiritual life can only be achieved through undeserved suffering. Undeserved suffering is an opportunity presented by God to the believer to advance in the spiritual life resulting in the ultimate glorification of God and the conveyance of rewards and Escrow Blessings at the Bema Seat Evaluation of Christ.

Evil

Church Age believers who grow to spiritual maturity and do not get involved with evil can also become a witness for the Prosecution in the Rebuttal Phase of Satan's Appeal trial. Believers in reversionism take the side of Satan. Believers who get involved with evil side with Satan. Believers who reject doctrine will get involved with evil. There are only 2 ways of thinking: (1) Divine viewpoint: Bible doctrine (2) Satanic viewpoint: Evil.

Satanic viewpoint, which is evil, sides with the defense but Divine viewpoint, which is Bible Doctrine sides with the Prosecution. You are either involved with one or the other. The Church Age is the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict. There is a spiritual war between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of God to gain control of human souls (Eph. 6:12-17). Your soul is the battleground for this spiritual warfare because volition is the issue in the Angelic Conflict. Your volitional response to the Gospel will determine your eternal destiny whether in the Lake of Fire or heaven (John 3:18, 35). Your volitional response to Bible Doctrine as a believer will determine whether you will receive rewards at the Bema Seat Judgment (1 Cor. 3:11-4), or whether you will be embarrassed (1 John 2:28).

Believers who think Satanic viewpoint and reject Bible Doctrine are not used as witnesses for the Prosecution. Only believers who think divine viewpoint, Bible Doctrine and reject Satanic viewpoint, evil, can become witnesses for the Prosecution in this Appeal Trial of Satan.

Satan's Cosmic System

Satan has invented his own system of power, which produces a false or counterfeit happiness. The cosmic system relies upon environment and circumstances and is therefore flawed. God's power system relies upon Himself and What He has provided and is therefore perfect. Satan is miserable because he is arrogant. Because Satan is arrogant, he is antagonistic to God and His plan. Arrogance produces unhappiness. An unhappy person cannot design a system of happiness. Satan deceives the whole world with his cosmic system of false happiness (Rev. 12:9). Satan uses the Cosmic System as: (1) The vehicle for ruling the world (Eph. 2:2). (2) The classroom for communicating cosmic doctrine to man (1 Tim. 4:1-2). (3) A trap to enslave mankind (2 Tim. 2:26). (4) A factory for producing losers (Heb. 4:1-2).

Tribulation

There are 2 Eschatological Dispensations: (1) Tribulation: The Rapture of the Church to the 2nd Advent of Christ (Rev. 6-19). (2) Millennium: The 2nd Advent of Christ to the Last Judgment and destruction of the earth. The Great Tribulation takes place after the Rapture of the Church. It is Satan's last attempt to rule the world. Satan's Rebuttal takes place during the 1st of the 2 Eschatological dispensations called the Tribulation period which goes from the Rapture to the 2nd Advent of Christ, 7 years from the Rapture to the 2nd Advent of Christ, Prophesied in the Old Testament, Matt. 24-25 and Rev. 6-19. The invisible warfare of the Church Age will become visible during

the Tribulation period after the exit-resurrection of the Church. The Great Tribulation ends with the Second Advent of Christ. The Tribulation is also called Daniel's 70th Week or Satan's Desperation. The Great Tribulation is the worst period in all of human history.

The Tribulation is prophesied in: Jer. 30:4-8; Zech. 12:1-3; 14; Dan. 9:26-27; 11:40-46; Isa. 34:1-6; Isa. 63:1-6; Ezek. 38-39; Matt. 24:24-25; Rev. 6-19. Only believers are left following the Great Tribulation while unbelievers are taken from the earth (Matt. 24:24-25). Salvation during the Tribulation is the same as in every Dispensation: Faith Alone In Christ Alone (Rev. 14:12).

2nd Triumphal Procession (2nd Advent)

The 2nd Advent is the visible return of Christ to planet earth with the elect angels and the Church in order to save the nation of Israel from her enemies and establish His 1000-year millennial reign resulting in the fulfillment of the 4 unconditional covenants to Israel. The 2nd Advent of Christ is well documented in both the Old and New Testaments (Dan. 2:44-45; Zech. 14; Mt. 24:29-31; Rv. 1:7; 19:11-21). The Lord and His armies will orbit the earth before landing on the Mount of Olives, which was the site of His Ascension (Acts. 1:9-11). There will be a great earthquake when our Lord's foot touches the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:1-8). It will be a unique day having neither day nor night (Zech. 14:7). The 2nd Advent is distinct from the Rapture of the Church. The Rapture delivers the Church while the 2nd Advent delivers Israel. The Rapture is seen only by the Church and is therefore; invisible while the 2nd Advent is the visible manifestation of Christ on the earth. The Lord meets the Church in the earth's atmosphere at the Rapture, whereas the Lord physically lands on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem at the 2nd Advent. The Rapture is not preceded by signs whereas the 2nd Advent is preceded by visible signs. The Lord claims His Bride at the Rapture but He returns with her at the 2nd Advent. The Rapture completes God's program for the Church while the 2nd Advent is related to God's program for Israel. The Rapture is a mystery, not known to Old Testament saints whereas the 2nd Advent is prophesied throughout the Old Testament canon. The Rapture leaves creation unchanged whereas the 2nd Advent entails a change in creation. The Rapture does not fulfill God's covenants to Israel whereas the 2nd Advent marks the beginning of their fulfillment. The Rapture precedes the Tribulation whereas the 2nd Advent follows it. The Rapture affects only the Church Age believer whereas the 2nd Advent will affect all mankind. The Rapture marks the beginning of the worst period in all of human history whereas the 2nd Advent marks the beginning of the greatest time of prosperity and peace in human history. The Rapture removes only believers from the earth whereas the 2nd Advent removes all unbelievers from the earth. Satan remains on the earth after the Rapture while he is removed and thrown into prison at the 2nd Advent. The Rapture precedes the appearance of the anti-Christ on the earth whereas the 2nd Advent precedes his removal. Religion remains active on the earth after the Rapture whereas after the 2nd Advent it no longer exists. The Rapture precedes the marriage of the Lamb whereas the 2nd Advent follows it.

The exact time of the Rapture cannot be determined because it is imminent whereas the exact time of the 2nd Advent can be determined once the anti-Christ sets himself up in the Jewish Temple to claim himself to be God at the middle of the 7 years period called the Tribulation. The Rapture precedes the Bema Seat Judgment of the Church before Christ whereas the 2nd Advent precedes the judgment of Israel before the Lord. The Rapture marks the beginning of the rulership of anti-Christ on the earth whereas the 2nd Advent marks the end of his rule and the beginning of our Lord's Millennial reign. Evil flourishes after the removal of the Church at the Rapture whereas evil no longer exists on the earth after the 2nd Advent. The Rapture marks the end of God's Rebuttal in the Appeal Trial of Satan whereas the 2nd Advent marks the end of Satan's Rebuttal in the Trial. The Rapture marks the exit of the Church from the earth while the 2nd Advent marks the entrance of regenerated Israel into the Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

Millennium

The 2nd Eschatological Dispensation is that of the Millennium. The Millennium is the visible 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth. The Closing argument by God as the Prosecution takes place during the 2nd Eschatological dispensation called the Millennium which is the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth following Satan's imprisonment. The Millennium begins with the 2nd Advent of Christ and ends with the destruction of planet earth (Isa. 11:35, 62, 65; Psalm 72; Zech. 14:4-9; Rev. 20). General Outline of the Millennium: (1) Begins with 2nd Advent of Christ (2) Christ delivers Israel from its enemies (3) Baptism of Fire: Unbelievers removed from the earth (Note: Civilization always begins with Believers.) (4) Coronation of Jesus Christ as King (5) 1000 year rule of Christ (6) Release of Satan after the 1000 years and his conspiracy (7) Judgment of Fallen Angels (8) Great White Throne

Judgment of Unbelievers (9) Destruction of the present universe (10) Creation of a New Universe (11) Eternal State.

General Characteristics of the Millennium: (1) Perfect environment (2) Greatest period of evangelism the world has ever seen (3) Salvation: faith alone in Christ alone. (4) Spirituality in the Millennium will be the filling of the Spirit but also emotion because Christ is visible on the earth during this period of human history (Isa. 65:24; Joel 2:28-29; Zech. 14:16-17). (a) In the Church Age, the Filling of the Spirit is non-emotional. (b) In the Millennium, the Filling of the Spirit is emotional because Christ is on the earth. (5) Millennium begins with Judgments that are designed to produce perfect environment on the earth: (6) Satan is put in prison. (7) Unbelievers are removed from the earth. (9) Religion has been abolished from the earth. (10) The demons have all been removed from the earth.

A new civilization will begin with believers only. Every home in the Millennium will start off with believers. The Baptism of Fire removes all unbelievers from the earth and begins a new civilization and a new Dispensation: (1) Judgment of Jewish Unbelievers (Ezek. 20:34-38), (2) Judgment of Gentile Unbelievers (Matt. 25:31-46). There will be no war for 1000 years during the Millennium.

During the Millennium: (1) Israel will be regathered (2) The Covenants will all be fulfilled literally (3) All of creation will be at peace (Rom. 8:19-20) (4) There will be no deserts on the earth (Isa. 35:1-3) (5) The animal kingdom will be changed (Isa. 11). There will be International prosperity: (1) No starvation (2) No socialism (3) No charity (4) There will be a universal knowledge of God.

The life of a man being during the Millennium will be greatly increased. Capital punishment will be used for punishment of any criminals during the Millennium. There will be a perfect world government under the rule of Christ (Isa. 11:1-2; Zech. 14:9). Winner believers in this the Church Age Dispensation will also be ruling with Christ on the earth during the Millennium. There will be a population explosion on the earth during the Millennium.

Gog and Magog Rebellion

The Gog and Magog revolution will take place at the conclusion of the Millennium proving that perfect environment doesn't solve problems (Rv. 20:7-10). Satan will be released from his 1000-year prison sentence at the conclusion of the Millennium. His incarceration will not rehabilitate him but rather serve to make him even more bitter. Satan leads the Gog and Magog revolution and Satan once again uses violence. Those who follow him into rebellion will be unregenerate human beings who lived during the Millennial reign of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Perfect environment under perfect leadership cannot eradicate the old sin nature. The fact that these individuals will live in a perfect environment and under the reign of a perfect Ruler with perfect integrity will only serve to make them bitter and rebellious rather than content and loyal. God will destroy this revolution by sending fire down from heaven. Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennium. Following the Great White Throne Judgment will be the destruction of the present earth and the creation of a New Heaven and a New Earth (2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21:1). The dispensations will then cease with the execution of Satan's sentence. Then the Lord will destroy the present 1st, 2nd and 3rd heavens as well as the earth and create a New Heaven and New Earth. He will destroy them because they have been contaminated by the sin and rebellion of angels and men, thus, the need for a new heavens and a new earth. Following the creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth is the Eternal State.