

In The Beginning

*This article is basically a series of thought processes and does not attempt to provide a definitive answer to all of the questions that may arise because of what is written within it. Rather, it is to try to get the reader curious and to start **thinking** and **finding out for themselves** about the depth and the range of the `hidden` information contained within **all** of the biblical scriptures.*

*We have already come to know and understand in this our present day, that once, (a very short time ago in geological terms) an `ice age` existed upon this earth. But what we do not know and what modern day `science` **cannot** accurately tell us is this. When did this `ice age` really begin? How long did it last? And the BIG question, what caused it to happen in the first place?*

The world`s so-called `scientists` don`t know what (or rather WHO) caused it, even though they loudly and proudly profess to the contrary! However, as bible-studying, true Christians, we can have a better understanding of **WHO** exactly did bring about the complete freezing over of this earth which killed off **all pre-human** flesh-and-blood creation that was alive and upon it at the time.

Nobody (flesh and blood) walking this earth knows how long the pre-ice age and pre-human created world was in existence for. We have fossil records which allow us to `guesstimate` back a certain amount of time but no further, and *no scientist as of yet, has managed to put an **accurate** date on the earth itself.*

Now, as the subject comes to mind, the only comment that I will make about `hairy mammoths` and `sabre-toothed tigers` is as follows.

The bible tells us of two species of animals that are no longer to be found upon this earth. These animals as with all others, were created just before Adam and Eve, who, as we know, were the pinnacle of the Lord`s flesh and blood creation. The two animals are named in the bible as being the `behemoth` and the `leviathan`. It is therefore possible that the `hairy mammoth` and the `sabre-toothed tiger` would have existed at the same time. *We are informed* that some of the `mammoth` corpses were found with unchewed food, in the shape and form of grasses, still in their mouths, which would indicate a *very rapid* and catastrophic reduction in temperature indeed, freezing solid the lungs and resulting in almost instantaneous death. This particular catastrophe would have been a **localised incident** rather than a world-wide `ice age` event. The fact that their corpses were found to this day still preserved in snow and ice, comes as no surprise, after all, they were obviously created (just like the polar bear etc.) to be able to exist in sub-zero temperatures and, as in the case of the `hairy mammoths`, they may well have been feeding on grasses buried under the snows of winter when their life was dramatically ended by a sudden and prolonged `cold spell`. The people who live in the entire area of north America have recently experienced killer, sub-zero temperatures of what is known as the `polar vortex`, a weather system which even brought freezing temperatures to the usually sub-tropical climate of Florida. This being the case, it is not difficult to accept that the `hairy mammoths` and the `sabre toothed tigers` could have been killed-off by something similar.

Let`s now go to the scriptures, right to the very beginning of creation **as we know it**, **Genesis 1: 1**. `In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth`. It must be understood that this passage of scripture relates to the **first** creation of all things **relating to our world**, the created **earth** as we understand it to be, and to **the history of it** and its **first** flesh and blood creatures. Only the Lord God knows how long the rest of the material creation, the stars etc., had been in existence for, and also for how long the spirit realm had existed.

And so we are told of the earth`s **initial** creation. Now think, how many millions of years might have passed before we get to this next piece of scripture? **Genesis 1: 2**. `And the earth **was** without form, and it was void; and darkness was upon the face of

the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters`. The word `was` as used in `And the earth **was** without form`, seems to read correctly until we realise that the proper translation should have been, and indeed is, `And the world **became** without form`, a BIG difference. The word `became` indicates to us that a **previous creation** had existed, the one in which the so-called `dinosaurs` walked the earth! Something terribly destructive seems to have happened to the Lord`s first creation, so much so in fact that we are told that the Lord`s spirit `moved upon the face of the waters`. The word `moved` (according to Strong`s biblical concordance) means `hovered`. And so we have the Lord`s spirit hovering over the (frozen) waters of a world which has become, or has been made, devoid of beauty and of meaningful shape. It conjours up in my imagination a picture of the Lord God going over in His mind His plan of just what exactly He intends to do to re-model this partially destroyed world. Let`s go back to that last scripture again, `And the earth **became** without form, and it was **void**`; here we have a description of what appears to be *total* devastation, the world has become/been made nothing more than an ice-covered, rocky sphere, totally devoid of beauty and of (flesh and blood) life. Let`s read on, `and **darkness** was upon the face of the deep`. *There is no light, and where there is no light there is no heat, and where there is no heat there is a freezingly low temperature, and where there is a freezingly low temperature and water, we have ice, not just sheets of it, but vast oceans of it!* But more of this later.

We have a world which has been devastated, it is now in a state of total chaos and confusion. Now let`s pause for thought, most of us realise that the Lord God has nothing in common with chaos and confusion, this next scripture tells us as much, it`s in the book of **1 Corinthians 14: 33**. `For God is not the author (originator) of **confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints`. But there is somebody in the scriptures who thrives on chaos, warfare and confusion and all of the misery that accompanies it, and that somebody is of course the arch demon, Satan, who is the epitome of all that is vile, cruel and evil.

Can you see where this is all leading? It leads us to the question, did the rebellion of Satan and his demons **instigate** the destruction of the Lord`s original pre-human creation? And if this is indeed the case, why was the telling of such a momentous event more or less totally omitted from the biblical scriptures? Well, I would suppose that is all to do with **our** `need to know`. The bible is after all, **our** history, **our** handbook for **our** life and how we should be striving to live that life in accordance with the Lord`s given laws. Any in-depth additional knowledge as to what happened **before** we were created to live on the world that we recognize and know, is of no immediate relevance or concern to us. But I think that with what little snippets of information that we do have, we should consider this next question. What if the state that the world was in **before** the re-creation, **was to begin to happen again**, but this time not brought about by a rebellion by Satan and his demons against the Lord God, but rather **by humankind rebelling against Him by totally forsaking Him and His commandments?**

I think that we have all read about `the day of the Lord`, (not to be confused with the Roman catholic `lord`s day`) and of how terrible it is to be when it happens, but could the outcome of it be **anywhere** near as bad as the state that the world was in before the Lord re-created it? There is a scripture that answers that question and it is one that we should all familiarise ourselves with, it is **Jeremiah 4: 22-27**. `For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are stupid children, and they have no

understanding; they have the knowledge to commit evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. I looked upon the earth, and lo, it *was* without form, and **void**, and the heavens had no light. I looked upon the mountains, and lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I looked, and lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I looked, and behold, **the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof** were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and **by His fierce anger**. For thus has the Lord said, **The whole land shall be desolate**; even so, I will not destroy it completely`.

I have referred to Strong`s bible concordance and checked the word `void` as used in that last scripture from Jeremiah, and it means exactly the same as in Genesis 1: 2., and to corroborate the information which it gives us, let`s read from **2 Peter 3: 3-7**. `Knowing this first, that in the last days shall come mockers, who walk after their own lusts and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for ever since the fathers died, all things continue as from the beginning of creation. For they are willingly ignorant of this, that by the Word of God, the heavens were of old, and the earth stood out above the water and in the water. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, (the flood that Noah survived) perished. **But the heavens and the earth which are in existence now, by the same Word, are kept in store, reserved for the fire in the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly men`.**

And so we have God the Father and God the Son, all powerful spirit beings who decided on a plan to create a physical/material dimension and have now put that plan into operation. The words `In the beginning` refer **only** to our earth`s re-creation and to **our** beginning. The Lord simply **rested** from His labours on the seventh day, the Sabbath, He did not pack His bags and go off on a never-ending vacation! **He is working right now**, He is still creating, sustaining and protecting. Let`s read these words of the Lord from the book of **Isaiah 48: 6-7**. `You have heard, see all this; and will you not declare it? **I have showed you new things, things from this time**, even hidden things, and you did not know them. **They are created now**, and not from the beginning; even before the day when you heard them not, lest you should say, Behold, I knew of them`.

The Lord God laid the foundations for a physical/material existence a long, long time before He created humankind. We can have an insight into this fact if we read a section from a series of questions that the Lord asked Job. And so from the book of Job we`ll read **Job 38: 4-7**. `Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if you have an understanding. Who has laid the measures thereof, if you know? or who has stretched the (measuring) line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the cornerstone thereof, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?` And now down to **verse 21**, `Do you know these things because you were born then? or because the number of your days is great?`

We can safely believe that the created earth that exists now, is a re-creation, at least as far as the workings of it (eg. weather cycles etc.) are concerned, and that the act of humankind living upon it is also a *relatively* new happening. But what did happen to the original created earth, the one with the `dinosaurs` etc., living upon it? and what then caused the Lord to take extreme and drastic action to remove and prevent any further light from shining upon it, (until the re-creation) thus creating a world which on the surface consisted of a lifeless, frozen wilderness? Of course I cannot with any accuracy

answer those questions, but there are clues within the scriptures that point to the fact that events **similar to** those just outlined, are to **happen again!** For example in the new testament we can find this reference in the book of **Mark 13: 19-20.** **For in those days (yet to come) there shall be tribulation, such as was not (experienced) since the beginning of the creation which God created, to this time, neither shall be.** (neither shall there be anything like it again) **And but for the fact that the Lord shortened those days, no flesh would survive. . .**

*At this point in the article I feel that I should mention that I know of a school of thought which at some point in time long ago had the Lord God and His angels fighting a kind of `star wars` battle against Satan and his demons. This battle was supposed to have raged at least across the entire universe and as a consequence the earth was just one of many worlds that became a casualty of the unimaginable forces which were being wielded by both sides. Suffice it for me to say this about such a scenario. If the Lord God wanted to stop Satan and his demons from doing anything, He would merely have to speak the words!! **That is how powerful He is!!** But, as in all things, the Lord allows certain events to take their course until **He decides** it is time to step in and intervene.*

We who are now living in our so-called `technological age`, have come to know that `space` is cold, very cold. We know that even the extremities of our own earth, the polar regions, regions that are the furthest from the warmth of the sun but still in receipt of *some* light and warmth, are cold, cold to the point of having many minus degrees of temperature. Imagine therefore just how cold it would be, not just at the polar regions of the earth but across the whole extent of it, if the sun were to suddenly `go out`. There would be total darkness and an extreme and sustained temperature of freezing cold, and in not too long a time the whole of the earth`s oceans would become almost solid blocks of ice many miles deep, probably swelling and expanding to cover most if not all of the land mass with just the tops of the mountain ranges (and any volcanoes) peeking through. If left in this condition for long enough new `land` would begin to appear on top of the thick ice, land that had been created by the earth`s volcanoes which of course would have continued to erupt. There is **no** life on the surface of **this** earth.

Just how the Lord God prevented the sun`s light and warmth from reaching this now frozen earth, I cannot accurately determine. Suffice it for me to conjecture that all that God may have done was to block the sun off by perhaps putting another planetary object/body in between it and the earth. Now the question arises, **why? Why would He do such a thing?**

Well, if indeed a `star wars` battle had taken place (or as another school of thought suggests, Satan had deliberately and horribly interfered with the Lord`s original creation on this earth after having been left in charge of it) then perhaps Satan, along with all of his demons, had been deliberately imprisoned (by the Lord) within the confines of this frozen earth, maybe for thousands of years, whilst the Lord God let them consider the enormity of their crime as He made preparations for a brand-new creation which would include His masterpiece, humankind, actual flesh and blood likenesses of God the Father and God the Son.

So, (because of their rebellion) where Satan and his demons left incarcerated in the depths of the deepest oceans, perhaps trapped in the unfrozen, oxygen-starved water

that existed between the comparatively warm earth and the thick ice above it? I cannot say *for sure*, but on reading these next pieces of scripture you can formulate your own opinions. **1Peter 3: 18-20.** `For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but being made alive by the spirit, by which He also went and preached **to the spirits in prison, who once were disobedient**, as when at one time (*similar to* the time) the patience of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built, wherein few, that is eight souls, were saved by water`. We should also consider this scripture, **Mark 5: 12-13.** `And all the demons begged of Him, saying, Send us into the swine, so that we may enter in and possess them. And right away, Jesus allowed them. And the unclean spirits went out and entered into the swine, and the whole herd ran violently down a steep hillside into the sea, (about two thousand of them) and they were all drowned in the sea`. But in the book of Luke we can read of how these demons **specifically requested** Jesus **not** to send them into the sea, **Luke 8: 31.** `And the demons pleaded with Him, **asking that He would not command them to go out into the deep**`. *Why then, should these demons who were now seeking a new flesh and blood life experience by possessing the bodies of pigs, suddenly and violently decide to `end it all` by committing their newly (albeit second best) acquired flesh and blood existence to death by drowning?* Obviously they had **no choice** in the matter. Could it be that Jesus Christ was giving them a reminder of a previous punishment? The demons *already* **knew** that they could be restrained and punished, but *how* did they know? *is it because they had been punished before?* They also know that there is yet a final punishment that awaits them, as evidenced by what they said to Jesus in this next piece of scripture, **Matthew 8: 29.** `And behold, they (the demons) cried out saying, **What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? are You come here to torment us before the time?**`

No matter what we may discover in our reading of the scriptures, no matter what frightens or confuses us, no matter our inability to fully understand, one thing is for sure, and we **must** have faith in this, **Almighty God is in complete control**. It is His plan, it is His will that is being carried out. We can look at the so-called `Lord`s prayer` for confirmation of that, we`ll find the relevant verse in **Matthew 6: 10.** `Your kingdom come, **Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven**`. Notice also that the Lord`s will is to be done in heaven as well as upon the earth. Ah, heaven, that dreamy place of love and peace somewhere up in the soft, fluffy-white clouds, were the spirits of the dead contentedly play on harps all day long.

I don`t think so! Heaven is a lot more `down-to-earth` than most people care to admit or to think about! Let`s read what Jesus Christ had to say about heaven, **Matthew 11: 12.** `And from the days of John the baptist until now, **the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force**`. (Note: why only `from the days of John the baptist`? perhaps the reader can come up with an answer?)

For all of the perceived turmoil, war and disruption that is on-going at this present time, if it is the Lord God`s will that it should be allowed to run its` course (and it is) then we can be sure that it is very necessary, and that the final outcome will be to the benefit of the good. Satan may well be the destroyer, or rather the one who is being allowed (within specific limits) to destroy, but it should be understood, that even destruction, in the hands of Almighty God, can be used by Him as a tool for creation. For

the moment, the Lord is allowing **all** of His living creation (including the spirit realm) a certain freedom so that their `true colours` will ultimately shine through.

Let`s return to the book of Genesis, **Genesis 1: 3.** `And God said, **Let there be light: and there was light`.** Picture the scenario. The Lord has returned to His created earth. He has been away for some time. What had He been doing during that time? Had He, as I speculated earlier in this article, been putting into place the final details of His master plan for the earth? It would seem that the time long awaited for had finally arrived, the re-creation was about to take place. The sun has been allowed to shine once more upon the earth, producing light and heat and the slow melting of the ice. I know that the scriptures tell us that the Lord created (re-created) the heavens and the earth in six days, but consider this next scripture and its` implications, as regards this six *day* period, **2 Peter 3: 8.** `But, beloved, do not be ignorant of this one thing, that one day to the Lord is the same as a thousand years, and a thousand years is the same as one day`. Six days for the re-creation, or six thousand years? You decide!

Ever asked yourself the question as to how Lucifer, became Satan? I mean, did the Lord God, a loving God, create Lucifer a **particularly** beautiful-to-look-at angel with the sole intent of later utterly destroying him because he had deliberately been **created** evil? Or could this next proposed scenario have been the way that it happened? And think on this, an evil entity had to one day exist, after all, how could any of us humans have been able to become `like God` (see Genesis 3: 22.) if we did not grow to know the difference between the good and the evil and eventually make the choice as to which one we wanted to grow to be like and follow?

Satan can **never** accuse the Lord God of making him the way that he is. Why not? Because God created Lucifer, and **Lucifer became Satan**. Lucifer, over who knows how many millions of years, gradually created his own, evil self, whom the Lord God then called Satan, meaning `the destroyer`. How then should evil have manifested itself in Lucifer, or rather why did Lucifer create himself as the very embodiment of evil? Well, let me offer a possibility for this situation. God created the angels as a heirarchy. At the top we had, in no particular order, Gabriel, Michael and Lucifer. Now let us suppose that no obvious partiality was shown towards any of these three by the Lord and that they each had their own particular personalities and attributes. God the Father and God the Son having created the angelic realm then prepared themselves to wait, for no matter how long it was to take, until one of their angels (probably knowing that it would be one of the top three) **of their own free will**, rebelled against them both. Let`s read the Lord`s description of Lucifer and what happened to turn him into Satan. **Ezekiel 28: 13-17.** `You have been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, ruby, topaz and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of your tabrets and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were **created**. You are the anointed cherub that covers; and I have set you so: you were upon the holy mountain of God, and you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you.** Because of the multitude of your works they (the works) have filled the midst of you with violence, and you have sinned: therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God: **and I will destroy you**, O covering cherub from the midst of

the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness: I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings so that they may look upon you.`

Satan is also known as the `hater` and the `accuser` (the whisperer). Who then does he hate and who does he accuse? Satan hates God and **all** of His creation. Satan only has time for himself. In particular he hates humankind, and he never ceases to accuse us before the Lord of our continual wrongdoings, our sins. Satan`s attitude is, `If I`m guilty of sin and worthy of death, then so is **every** human being, because **they all sin!**` That much is true, we all commit sin, which is why we needed/need Jesus Christ as our Saviour, our perfect sacrifice for the remission of sins for those who believe on Him **and** obey His commandments. Satan is unwilling to take *any* blame in humankind`s downward spiral into the evils of sin. He is arrogant and a law unto himself, and he probably considers what we know to be sin as his right to live an `alternative lifestyle`. As I mentioned before, Satan hates **all** of God`s creation, he even hates those humans who worship him, the people who like to call themselves `Satanists`, and after all why wouldn`t he? for he acknowledges nobody but himself !

Let`s now read from **Genesis 1: 4-5**. `And God saw the light, that it was good: and God separated the light from the darkness. And God called the light, Day, and the darkness He called, Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day`. Why, should we suppose, that the Lord God would want to continue to allow *any* darkness fall upon the earth? after all, if He calls the light `good`, where then does that leave the darkness? God, in the shape and form of Jesus Christ, also has this to say of darkness, also known as the night. **John 9: 4**. `I must perform the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: for the night comes when no man can work`. Does darkness picture for us, death? Is this then why we sleep when it is dark because the Lord has `programmed` us to `switch off` so that we should have little or nothing at all to do with the night or indeed with death? After all, it has been stated by Jesus Christ that the Lord our God is the God of the living, and **not** the God of the dead, and we can read of this in **Mark 12: 27**. `He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. . .`. Also, do we sleep in the darkness of the night as a constant reminder to us of the fact that death (*that is eternal death*) is **always** going to pose a *threat* to us in this present lifetime and beyond unless, through the Lord`s grace, we are deemed worthy to be spared it?

We who diligently read the scriptures should already understand that Death (in this life) **is a kind of sleep**, a deep sleep from which only the Lord can awaken us. (as opposed to `eternal death` to be suffered by the unrepentant wicked) Let`s read **John 11: 9-14**. `Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walks during the day he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles, because there is no light in him. These things said Jesus: and afterwards He said to them, Our friend Lazarus **sleeps**, but I go (to him) so that I may awaken him from out of his sleep. Then His disciples said to Him, Lord, if he but sleeps then he will recover. However, Jesus spoke of Lazarus` death: but they had thought that He had spoken of him taking a rest in sleep. Then Jesus spoke plainly to them, He said, **Lazarus is dead`**.

I can`t accurately comment on the spirit realm because I do not know enough about it, but I do know that before the Lord created the world there was darkness, and darkness must have existed in the entire vast expanse of that *material* astral desert

which we call `space` before the Lord made light to shine upon the objects that exist within it. This is why the very first day began with darkness, and this is why the new day, even now, begins at ***sunset and not at sunrise***. The darkness, and all that it allegorically pictures for us humans, must be endured before the life-giving light of the Lord intervenes to eventually banish it forever from the new Jerusalem which is to come down from heaven when the Lord God finally comes to live upon this earth of His. Let`s read from **Revelation 22: 5**. `And there shall be **no night there**; (the new Jerusalem) **and they shall not need a candle, neither the light of the sun; because the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever`**. We who believe in and walk in the knowledge of the Lord, walk in His light, and because of that we are not understood and we are counted as being strange by the rest of the world who are still walking in the darkness. It is just as this next scripture pictures it to be, **John 1: 5**. `And the light shines in the darkness; and **the darkness does not understand it`**. Death and life, darkness and light, evil and good, ***exact opposites***, and they **cannot** be blended or mixed to bind permanently with each other. They exist singularly, just as they are. This then being the case, such childish and Satanic imaginings such as zombies, vampires or ghosts etc, all supposed to be `the living dead`, (a contradiction in terms if ever there was one!) **cannot possibly exist**. Light cuts through and destroys the darkness, but the darkness has no means by which it can destroy the light!

Think about this if you will. If a person switches on a light in a room, the whole room is illuminated and anybody in that room could easily read a book because of it. But switch on that same light in a desert, and to somebody miles away on the sand dunes it is merely a luminous pin-point in a sea of darkness. There is no way from that distance that its `light could ever be used to read a book by. Nevertheless, if that somebody way out on the dunes was lost and looking for a sign of possible human activity, that pin-point of light could well be the thing that saves them, *providing that **they walk towards it***. Then, on reaching the source of that light, they not only find the contact with others that they have been searching for, but they are now close enough to be able to read by that light, and perhaps learn from that which they read.

Jesus Christ instructed His disciples to take His teachings (His light) out of the `room` (the area where they lived) and into the desert (the world) and to provide a light so that the lost sheep of Israel can find their way. Let`s have a read of **Matthew 5: 14-16**. `You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a candle and then cover it with a basket, but rather they place it on a candlestick, so that it provides light for all that are in the house. In like manner, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven`.

But, as I wrote just before, in order to get people into the `room` in the first place, so that they may then `read` by the light of the `candle`, that light must ***first*** be seen by those who are out in the `desert`, that is to say, the world. **Matthew 10: 5-7**. `These twelve Jesus sent out, and commanded them, saying, Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not go into to any city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand`.

We know that when we switch on a main light, that if that light is situated in one half of a small room it does not confine itself to just illuminating that one half of the room in which it is situated, it spreads out to illuminate the whole room. This can be taken as an example of good (the light) coming into contact with evil (the darkness) and instead of

becoming contaminated by it, the light overcomes and defeats it. It can be likened to the lump of leaven that Jesus spoke of in

Matthew 13: 33. `Another parable spoke He to them; The kingdom of heaven is like to leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, until the whole was leavened`. But is this generally the case in the life that we have to live? For example, if we were to be always (socially) in the company of evil doers, would our righteousness (such as that which we might possess) in due course and as a natural consequence ultimately influence and overcome the evil of the many others who we keep *constant* company with? Well, no, **rather the opposite**. Have you ever heard of this old saying? `If you play with dung then it will rub off on you`. This next scripture from `the books of the minor prophets` tells us as much. **Haggai 2: 11-13.** `Thus says the Lord of hosts; Ask now of the priests concerning the law, saying, If one carries holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and his skirt was then to touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be made holy? And the priests answered and said, No. Then Haggai said, If one who has been made unclean, because they have touched a dead body, should then touch any of those things, shall they become unclean? And the priests answered and said, They shall be unclean`. And in the new testament book of 1 Corinthians we can read, **1 Corinthians 15: 33.** `Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good behaviour`.

It would seem that the `natural` way of things, as designed by the Lord God, is for opposites to always exist, for example, left and right, hot and cold, up and down. But what about good and evil? In this our present lifetime, it is the Lord`s will that the good has to exist alongside the evil, as this next piece of scripture informs us. **Matthew 13: 24-30.** `Jesus told them another parable, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed weeds amongst the wheat, and then went on his way. But when the wheat was grown, and bore fruit, the weeds also appeared. So the servants of his household came and said to him, Sir, didn`t you sow good seed in your field? how then have these weeds appeared? And he said to them, An enemy has done this. So his servants said, Shall we then go and gather the weeds up? But he told them, No, in case that when you gather up the weeds, you root up also the wheat with them. **Let them both grow together** until the harvest: and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, First, gather together the weeds, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn`.

We know that Satan is to be destroyed, but how many reading this article realise that he, and all of the evil that he has caused to happen (including pain and suffering) is to be forgotten, **along with this present world and our present lives?!!!** Let`s read from **Isaiah 65: 17.** `For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: **and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind`.** Let`s couple that scripture with this one from the new testament, **2 Peter 3: 10-13.** `But the day of the Lord shall come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Knowing then, that all these things shall be destroyed, consider what manner of persons you ought to be, conducting yourselves in all manner of holy conduct and godliness. Looking for and hasting to the coming day of the Lord, wherein, the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for **new heavens and a**

new earth, wherein dwells righteousness`. If all that we have suffered in this present lifetime, (especially the suffering endured by those who believe in and love Jesus christ) is to be forgotten, along with all of the life-lessons that we have learned and the people we have loved, **what then is the point of it all?** Well, if indeed this is to be the case, I can only offer this explanation. Who we physically are when we are born into this life **is not** the important thing for us, **what is important for us** is the ***character*** that we have developed when we depart it. It is this character, this person, the very essence of who we really are, who we have become as an **individual**, which is precious to the Lord. All sin, all rottenness, is to be stripped away from us and that which remains is what the Lord will use as a basis for our new selves in our new, eternal lives. Obviously, if the whole or most of the individual is `rotten` because of continued, unrepentant of sin, then they can be of no use to the Lord and are fit only for the fire. There is an allegorical scripture which alludes to this, it is **Jeremiah 24: 1-3.** `The Lord showed me, and behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the Lord One basket contained very good figs, just like figs when they are first ripe: but the other basket contained very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten. Then the Lord said to me, What do you see Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs very good, and the evil very evil, so evil that they cannot be eaten`.

Physical opposites play a very important role in our lives, but it is the moral opposites which are the critical ones. The Lord God has allowed each and every one of us to have free choices between all of these moral opposites. He does not *force* anybody to make a particular decision as to which choices to make. However, we are continually warned throughout the biblical scriptures to make ourselves learned enough to eventually make the right choices, that is to say the choices that are pleasing to the Lord. **Philippians 2: 12.** ` . . .work out your own salvation with fear and trembling`.

This next portion of scripture warns of the consequences of making the wrong choice (the Lord God having previously laid out the choices) and the blessings given to an individual if they make the right choice.

Deuteronomy 30: 15-19. `See, I have set before you this day, life and good, and death and evil. In that I command you this day to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, so that you may live and multiply: and the Lord your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it. But if your heart turn away, so that you will not hear, and shall be drawn away, and worship others gods, and serve them; I denounce to you this day, that you shall surely perish, and that you shall not prolong your days upon the land, where you pass over Jordon to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you, insomuch that **I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:** therefore choose life, so that both you and your descendants may live`.

Let`s once again go back to `the beginning`. **Genesis 1: 6.** `And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters`. At first reading this portion of scripture may seem a little odd, but it becomes clearer if we break it down. The word `firmament` as used in this scripture means `expanse` or `area`. Now let`s consider. There *is* on this earth literally water beneath us and above us. The oceans on the earth`s surface are lower than us and there are also subterranean oceans and lakes, and there is water above us in the shape and form of clouds. This being the case, we literally live in the expanse/area that divides the two `waters` one from the other. This is further outlined in **Genesis 1: 7.** `And God made the firmament,

(the area which contains and is above the surface of the land on which we stand, aka `heaven`) and (it) **divided the waters** (kept them apart) **which were under the firmament** (the land surface) **from the waters which were (are) above the firmament** (the clouds): **and it was so`**.

And so we have the drinkable, clear water above our heads in the shape and form of clouds, which every now and again deposit their water droplets (rain) in varying intensity and volume upon the whole surface of the earth, and we have the undrinkable, salty sea water of the earth`s vast oceans. And as if this were not enough, we have further lakes and oceans of mostly fresh water circulating beneath our feet and the earth`s surface. All of this water is constantly on the move, evaporating and condensing, being heated and being cooled, playing its` part in affecting world weather patterns and climate.

But was this always the way in which the Lord had designed the world to operate? I mean has the drinking water always *rained* down upon us from above? Apparently not, well at least not until God created humankind to exist and walk upon the world as we can read of in **Genesis 2: 4-6**. `These are the generations (the times in the making) of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day(s) that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: **for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth**, and there was not a man to till the ground. But (instead of rain) there went up a mist from the earth, and (it) watered the whole face of the ground`.

Now as most of us understand, the occurrence of a `rainbow`, as explained to us by `science`, is caused by sunlight striking suspended water droplets at a certain angle in order for it to become visible to us. Bearing this in mind, if basically all that is required for a rainbow to exist is suspended water droplets and sunshine, then haven`t rainbows existed since the first mists went up from this earth? and that, as we have just read, is a time before man even set foot upon it. Well the answer to that must be no. Why? because the scriptures tell us so. This then being the case did the Lord actively prevent the formation of rainbows, or to be more precise, did He prevent the formation of the huge arches in the sky that we generally refer to as being rainbows?

Let`s clarify one thing, before the great flood there *was* rain, but there were no rainbows. God said this to Noah, **Genesis 7: 4**. `For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made, I will destroy from off the face of the earth`. After hearing these words, did Noah then have to ask God what He meant by `rain`? no, because he already knew. But he did not, **could not** know what a rainbow was, because if he did already know, then what would be the point of these words that the Lord spoke to him after the flood? **Genesis 9: 12-15**. `And God said, This is the sign of the agreement which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations. I do set My bow (rainbow) in the cloud, and it shall be for a token (sign) of the agreement between Me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, that when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My agreement which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no longer become a flood to destroy all flesh`.

On hearing these words did Noah simply shrug his shoulders and say something like, ``Okay Lord, we now know that the next time that we see an *everyday* rainbow it`ll have a special meaning for us``, I don`t think so. I think that the large, in the sky

rainbow was an entirely new creation. It would be amusing to inform the so-called scientists of this world that there was a time when rainbows did not exist!

Let's now go back to where we left off in Genesis. Verse 8 of Genesis 1, really starts to confuse things for the reader. If, as I've already said, that the 'firmament' is the space between the two waters (clouds and oceans etc.) that contains the dry land, (the earth's surface) then how is it that it is now described as being 'heaven' in Genesis 1: 8? Let's read it, **Genesis 1: 8.** 'And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day'. Well let's be common-sensible about this. As I said before, at its very basic the word 'firmament' means space or area. The scripture tells us that the firmament (area) where the earth's surface is exists until it meets the waters above it, the clouds. Now we know that cloud level varies from extremely high to very low and so it would make it far easier for us to understand if we were to imagine that 'heaven' was the *entire* space from the earth's surface to the very edge of what we call 'space'. Otherwise 'heaven' (because of cloud height) would be in a constant state of size variation and there would *never* be any area of it at the same height around the whole world for any worthwhile length of time. Not that something like that would trouble spirit beings, but I'm just trying to get things into some sort of context. What the Lord is telling us is that 'Heaven' is not as far away as some would have us believe, ***it is in fact right above us and therefore constantly with us!!*** Now, couple that fact with this, heaven is also described as being 'the invisible realm of God'. This being the case, ***then God must also be right above us and constantly with us!!***

If heaven, as we are given to understand it, is an integral part of the 'atmosphere' which surrounds the earth, it therefore cannot exist (for us) without the earth, and therefore it cannot be any older than the earth. In fact Genesis chapter 1, verse 7. tells us that the earth was created *before* heaven. There are numerous scriptures that tell us that our Heavenly Father dwells in heaven, this next example being just one of them; **Matthew 5: 45.** 'So that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven . . .' Many reading this will already know that the Lord does not exactly *need* somewhere to dwell, as this next portion of scripture informs us, **2 Chronicles 2: 6.** 'But who is able to build Him a house, seeing that the heaven and heaven of heavens ('outer space') cannot contain Him? . . .' And in the book of Isaiah we can read this; **Isaiah 66: 1.** 'Thus says the Lord, The heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool: where is the house that you (can) build for Me? and where is the place of My rest?' Obviously that last piece of scripture has been written to indicate that although the Lord God dwells in the earth's heaven, He has not restricted himself solely to its confines, otherwise how could He use the earth as His footstool? It also indicates that the word 'heaven' has a meaning which goes beyond the confines of our earth. The Lord states that His throne is in heaven whilst His feet are on His footstool the earth, thus indicating that the 'heaven' mentioned is not the earth's heaven, but what we know of as 'space'. The earth's heaven where the Lord dwells is but a temporary residence for Him, we could suppose that it is more of a workplace, a working 'royal court' as it were, with stately 'accommodation' and which is attended by the angels and other spirit beings.

There will be a time (not so very far off now in the great scale of things) when the Lord God will come down from heaven and make His permanent dwelling place

amongst men on earth. It will be a new earth, the old one which we currently live upon will have been burned up and then re-modelled. **A totally new beginning.** Let`s again read from **2 Peter 3: 10-13.** `But the day of the Lord shall come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and all the works therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be destroyed, (consider) what manner of persons you ought to be, (behaving) in all holy conduct and godliness. Looking for and hasting to the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be destroyed, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens** (skys) and a **new earth**, whereupon dwells righteousness.` And once again from **Isaiah 65: 17-18.** `For behold, I create **new heavens** and a **new earth**: and **the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.** But be you glad, and rejoice **for ever** in that which I create: for behold I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy` Compare that last scripture with this from the book of Revelation, **Revelation 21: 1-3.** `And I saw a **new heaven** and a **new earth**: for **the first heaven and the first earth were passed away**; and there was no more sea. (refers to the Red Sea) And I John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and **He will live with them**, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God`. Further, in the book of Psalms we can read this; **Psalms 132: 13-14.** `For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for **His dwelling place**. This is **My rest for ever**: here will **I dwell**; because **I have desired it**`.

Yes, the Lord God will dwell amongst `men`. But will the Lord be a spirit being having shape but no physical properties? Will `men` be spirit beings? Well, consider carefully these words of Jesus which He spoke to his disciples after His resurrection from the dead and **after** He had ascended to His heavenly Father, *and then make up your own mind.* **Luke 24: 36-43.** `And as they (the disciples) thus spoke, Jesus Himself appeared in the middle of them, and said to them, Peace be to you. But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they were seeing a spirit. And Jesus said to them, Why are you troubled? and why do doubts arise in your minds? See My hands and My feet, see that it is I, Myself: **touch Me and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.** And when He had spoken these words He showed them his hands and His feet. And while they believed not for joy, and wondered, He said to them, Have you any food here? And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and some honeycomb. And He took it, **and He ate it in front of them**`.

This body that the risen Christ now has can materialise and dematerialise at will. It can partake of food. This body has flesh and bones. This body can run and jump, it can swim in the sea, it can breathe, it can feel, it can taste and **it can experience life as we know it.** And yet it will never grow old or die, it is warm, it can feel but it cannot experience pain. This body **has no blood** flowing through it, it cannot have, remember the words of this scripture,

1 Corinthians 15: 50. `Now this I say bretheren, that flesh **and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God . . .` Jesus states that his body has flesh and bones, but He makes **no mention of it having blood.** We should remember that blood is a fluid which is endowed with so much importance throughout most of the scriptures, so much so in fact that it is described as giving life to the flesh, as we can read of in, **Leviticus 17:11.** `For

the life of the flesh is in the blood . . .` This being the case, can we safely suppose that the new spirit body that is given to those worthy enough to receive it will not have any blood running through its` veins in order to supply life to the flesh, but instead it will have a pure, incorruptible spirit force, consisting of the very essence of the person themselves and thus supplying the whole fleshly body with life eternal? Whatever, for the person who receives their new spirit body, death will no longer exist! **1Corinthians 15: 51-54.** `Behold, I show to you a secret. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: because the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this to happen, corruptible must be replaced by incorruptible, and the mortal replaced by immortality. So when the corruptible shall have been replaced by the incorruptible, and the mortal replaced by immortality, then shall be brought to happen the saying which is written, Death is swallowed up in victory` .

*And so, **our present beginning** was always destined to have an end, and it is to be the end of all things as we now understand them to be. **Revelation 1: 8.** `I Am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, (says the Lord) which is ,and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty` . We can rest assured though, that **all things** are safely in the hands of our Creator, Almighty God, and that He is the designer of a soon-to-be **new beginning** for those of us blessed enough to receive it **and live it!***

