

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. ([2 Peter 1:12 KJV](#))

Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2005

## Spiritual War Series

### The Kingdom of Darkness Part 2

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In our last teaching newsletter we looked at the origin of the kingdom of darkness. We determined that it started in the heart of Lucifer, one of God's created beings. Lucifer became Satan when he rebelled against God's order and fell. Prior to Lucifer's fall he ruled some portion of the universe for God and performed functions associated with the purpose for which he was created. The earth existed prior to his fall and was most likely the base of operations from which Lucifer exercised dominion for God. He defiled his sanctuary by operating a whispering smear campaign against the Lord that seduced a third of God's angels that are now referred to as Satan's angels (Rev. 12:7-9).

The question is, how did God deal with Lucifer and the situation he created? We know that God instigated decisive action in eternity past that is still being consummated in our space-time continuum with final disposition in eternity future. In this issue of the newsletter, we will look at the results of God's actions in eternity past. In the coming months we will look at the results as manifested in our natural universe and in eternity future.

As we said in the last issue, the bible is primarily a history of Adam and his descendants, God's purpose for them and the fulfillment of that purpose. We have already seen that Lucifer was a part of the angelic creation that preceded Adam. With this understanding let's look at the first two verses of Genesis.

#### [Genesis 1:1-2 NASB](#)

- (1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- (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.

How you understand what is said in these two verses will impact how you interpret many verses that relate to the kingdom of darkness.

## In the Beginning

There are number of possible interpretations of these two verses, but only two that are widely endorsed concern us here. They are commonly called: 1) the *Geologic* interpretation; and 2) the *Catastrophic* interpretation.

The Geologic interpretation has taken the stance that verse one is the introductory statement of what God comprehensively did, “created the heavens and the earth”, and the remainder of the chapter are the details of how He did it. In other words, verse one gives us the *fact* of creation and the rest of the chapter gives us the *process*. This has been a popular view, especially since the “scientific principle” has become embedded in our culture. This view allows a broader interpretation of the seven days than twenty-four hour periods (if one so desires); thereby, trying to reconcile a science and Bible time frame for creation.

The Catastrophic interpretation says that verse one is a statement of fact and is all that Genesis has to say about the creation of the heavens and the earth. Then verse two describes the condition of the earth after a catastrophe that occurred between verse one and two while the rest of the chapter details the re-establishing of order and function by God (He told Adam to be fruitful, multiply and re-plenish the earth, which is exactly the same thing that He told Noah). This is also referred to as the “gap theory” since, in this interpretation, there is an unknown amount of time or gap between verse one and verse two of Genesis.

The key is the translation of verse two:

the Authorized Version is “*and the earth was without form and void ...*”

an alternate version is “*but the earth became without form and void ...*”

While one may object to the interpretation, one translation (as a translation) is as acceptable as the other. As a matter of fact, I prefer the “became” version. The Hebrew word in the original is translated “became” 66 times and “become” 67 times in the King James Bible. If this is accepted, then there were six days of re-creation to make the earth a habitable place for man.

Now, let's look at the words that are translated “without from and void”: *tohu va-bohu*. These words together, as a phrase, are only used three times in the Bible: Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 34:11; Jeremiah 4:23. Both Isaiah and Jeremiah used the phrase to describe the results of the severe judgment of God. It would seem reasonable to assume that this is also the case in Genesis, the only other occurrence of the phrase.

The individual words, *tohu* and *bohu*, are used separately to describe scenes of emptiness, wilderness, and desolation in the Scriptures, usually as a consequence of God's judgment. (You can look these up in your concordance).

It would seem reasonable to infer then that the earth wasn't created in a condition of desolation, emptiness and waste but through some catastrophic occurrence became that way. As a matter of fact, there is a scripture which seems to support this conclusion.

### Isaiah 45:18 NASB

(18) For thus says the LORD, 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, *but* formed it to be

inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else.

The word that the New American Standard Bible translates as "waste place" is *tohu*. This verse specifically states that God did not create the world *tohu* but to be inhabited. This further supports the idea that Genesis 1:2 should be translated as "the earth became *tohu va-bohu*."

If this is true, then what happened between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2? Since *tohu va-bohu* relates to the judgment of God, then it would seem that a major judgment of God occurred. The conclusion would be that it was during this period that Lucifer rebelled and his domain, which included the earth, was devastated by the judgment of God.

We sometimes think of Lucifer's rebellion as a quick thing: that one day he thought about it and the next day did it. However, that is not the case. Consider the verses about his trade and merchandise (Eze. 28:16-18), which relate to whispering, gossip, and innuendo. To develop and instigate the smear campaign against God took time and subtlety. It may even have taken considerable time since a third of God's angels fell for it (Rev. 12:4; 7-9).

To help us put this together, let's recap some of the facts dealing with Lucifer's rebellion:

1. It occurred prior to the creation of Adam.
2. For some undetermined time, Lucifer had functioned perfectly and fully in the job for which he was created.
3. His job included dominion over some portion of God's creation, which included the earth and its surrounding space.
4. The earth most likely contained other created beings (before man) since Isa. 45:18 tells us that God created the world to be inhabited. There is no indication in the Scriptures that man was the first created being to inhabit the earth. There could have been others of similar or different construction.
5. When Lucifer rebelled, he had already corrupted all of the beings in his domain so that they rebelled with him. This would include a third of the angels.
6. God's judgment on Lucifer included judgment on all of his domain.

## **When Judgment Fell**

Lucifer functioned as an angel of light and his domain was filled with the light of God as mentioned in the previous teaching newsletter. His sin removed him and his domain from the light of God leaving it in spiritual darkness. Some of the result of God's judgment also resulted in Lucifer's domain being plunged into natural darkness. As described in Genesis 1:2, the world and its surrounding space was all darkness, not even starlight was available and there was nothing that Lucifer could do about it. It took the Spirit of God to establish light again.

Scientists now tell us that at some time in the far past the earth suffered a devastating catastrophe that included the reversing of the magnetic poles. That is, the north and south poles switched places. This would have caused the complete upheaval of the entire surface of the planet, completely destroying everything. This could have resulted in the axis tilt that we have today.

## Results of Judgment

What happened to the created beings that inhabited the domain of Lucifer? First, we need to recognize that there would be two categories of these: 1) the angelic beings that inhabit the invisible, spiritual creation; and 2) any beings that inhabited the physical, natural creation.

### The Angelic Beings

Lucifer, which means shining one or light bearer, becomes Satan, which means opposer, accuser, slanderer, etc. All of those angelic beings who followed him now become fallen angels also in opposition to God. They, along with Satan, now constitute the leadership of the kingdom of darkness. *[For a discussion of how sin affected the fallen angels see the teaching, "Spiritual Entropy" available on the website.]* They become the ones that we struggle against as we walk with the Lord and seek to fulfill His purpose.

#### Ephesians 6:12 NASB

(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*.

*[See the first three lessons in the Spiritual War Series: The Things Invisible Parts 1, 2, and 3 for a discussion of the structure of these things.]*

One thing is clear: angelic beings, though fallen, are still angelic beings and as such reside in the habitat of angelic beings, that is, the heavens. If that is the case, then fallen angels are not demons, since demons do not inhabit the heavens.

### The Demons

If demons are not fallen angels, then what are they? First let's look at some of their characteristics.

1. They are living personalities. In the Scriptures, they express self-awareness, will, emotions, and desires. They speak and communicate.
2. They seek to occupy a body, preferably a human; however, they will accept an animal's body (such as a pig) if they must leave the human host (Mark 5:6-13).
3. While invisible to us, their habitat appears to be the earth. There is no reference to any demon associated in any way with the heavens.

It is my opinion that the demons are the dis-embodied spirits of the natural created beings that occupied the domain of Lucifer that rose in rebellion with him. When judgment came, their habitat and bodies were destroyed. Because they once had bodies, they desire a body more than anything.

The demons have become the foot soldiers of the kingdom of darkness under the direction of the fallen angels who are serving Satan and his goals. As we encounter the work of demons, we are directed to cast them out. This implies that all of the work of demons is from within people.

Without a body, it would appear that they are powerless.

However, fallen angels are another matter. We are never instructed to cast out a fallen angel. One reason may be that they don't occupy a human body since they have their own body (a body appropriate to their abode). Another is that the realm of their work is in the heavenlies. We struggle against them in order to see the will of the Lord done in earth as it is in heaven.

*[In coming issues we will look at how the kingdom of darkness has worked in the earth and at what the Lord has done to overcome it. ---Art Nelson]*

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