GOD'S ORIGINAL CREATION

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Introduction

When the Revival Crusaders first stepped out onto the new earth, one of the first topics of discussion centered on whether the post-tribulation earth that God recreated is the same as the original earth that God created in the beginning. A thorough and exhaustive discussion by the Revival Crusaders ended with no definitive answers. At that time, the angel Cody comes forward to give an eye witness account of how things were both before and after the Original Creation.

Chapter 1 – A Round Table Discussion

It had been only a few days since the New Jerusalem had descended from heaven to the newly recreated earth. The Revival Crusaders had ventured out to explore the unparalleled and exquisite beauty of the Lord's handiwork. They still remembered the greatness of the old earth before the Tribulation. While attending the Mobile Bible College during the great revival, they often visited the beaches along the Gulf of Mexico. Its shores were sandy white and the waters were emerald green, with breathtaking combinations of colors at both sunrise and sunset. During the Tribulation, they had traveled to the Montana ranch of George Finney and saw the majestic Rocky Mountains with their snow capped peaks and matchless views of nature that existed away from the pollution of the cities. However, the very best memories from the old world paled in comparison to what they had seen during their early travels in God's new earth. Their journey had recently led them to the Garden of Eden, where they were staying in a guesthouse that was located on a hill overlooking the valley below. As the group gathered on a warm afternoon at a table outside the dining area, the topic of discussion quickly shifted to questions about the original creation of God.

Although each of the Crusaders had relationships with other friends and family members, the bonds that were created in the mission field during the Tribulation had grown stronger following the Rapture and Resurrection, the Thousand Years, and even after the Marriage of the Bride and Groom.

Denny Seicos said, "Our lifetime on earth before the Tribulation

seems very short in comparison to the thousands of years we have been together during the era of the Judgment Seat of Christ and the White Throne Judgment. Even though our first love will always be to Jesus, which was sealed at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, our friendship with one another remains as strong as ever."

Amanda Seicos replied, "Even our relationships through marriage continue to endure and grow stronger. Who would ever have thought that all of us would still be together in God's new recreated earth? What we have seen continues to put us in a daily state of awe."

George Finney declared, "God has abundantly blessed all of us. While the Garden of Eden was very special to Adam and Eve in the Original Creation, the New Creation still has a Garden of Eden which we are presently visiting."

Susanna Finney remarked, "From what we have seen so far, the whole earth is as pristine as the original earth before the Fall of Mankind. I have often wondered how similar our recreated earth is in comparison to the Original Creation of God?

Moe Abadi exclaimed, "I think the seven-day story in Genesis and the present Recreation are very similar, as God doesn't make mistakes, and there wasn't really anything to improve upon. Both reflect how a world and universe can exist without the tainting of sin. Yet, in the Original Creation, God created everything from nothing with His spoken word. In the Recreated heavens and earth, God used what had been tainted with sin in the Original Creation to bring about a restoration."

Bertha Pickett Abadi added, "For certain, the Original Creation likely took God a lot longer to finish.

George quickly chimed in, "And this leads us to one of the greatest mysteries of the Bible. Did God create the heavens and the earth in seven literal days or was it longer. I'm sure that one day Jesus will update us with the details, but at the present time, all of what we know comes from the Bible. Many scholars believed that the Original Creation took longer than seven literal day, and maybe much, much longer. I've seen as many as nine different theories, but realistically, there are only three or four major ones that existed before the Tribulation."

Will Wesley responded, "I know of two common explanations that are in opposition to each other. The first is the 'Young Earth Theory,' which believes that the earth was created approximated 6,000 years before the second coming of Jesus. It also believes that all of Creation took place in seven literal days, just as is described in the book of Genesis. Proponents accept that the flood of Noah can fully explain all of the geological changes in the earth's surface, such as the Grand Canyon. They think there was a canopy of vapor that watered the earth before the flood. They say that dinosaurs and other large animals were taken aboard the Ark, but died out soon after the flood. Furthermore, they reject all scientific evidence that the earth is older than six thousand years. They only concede that the earth has an appearance of age due to the flood. Some have even went as far as to say that God made the earth with layers of fossils that were later found by geologists. Others have said that these layers come from meteorites or from other planets."

Charles Edwards observed, "The major problem here is that if there was an appearance of age, then God must have wanted to deceive or fool man about creation. This can't be as TIT 1:2 said, 'God cannot lie.' This brings us to the opposing argument that is based on science. Scientific theories believe that the earth and universe are billions of years old, and the fossil record that lies in the earth's rock layers gives evidence to its very old age. They have shown that the light we see from distant stars would take millions of years to reach earth. Radiocarbon dating also has been used to date the ancient origins of the earth."

Ron Wesley elaborated, "After the ascent of the age of reason, there has been many scientific theories that are in direct opposition to the young earth theory, and neither side was ever very willing to make major compromises. Of course, some Bible students believe in the 'Day-Age Theory,' where the seven days of creation weren't literal twenty-four hour days, but either a thousand years or even represent seven long ages of time. This was one of the first attempts by theologians to resolve the Word of God with scientific findings. They believe that the seven days gives an order of creation, but it actually took place over an extended time frame, where God used progressive creation to make new forms of life throughout the period. They believe that life changes were due to adaptation rather than from mutations or evolution.

"However, if one reads the Bible closely, it reveals that the seven days are in fact literal. Both evening and morning are used to describe each of the seven days, as regulated by the sun and moon. A fundamental concept in bible interpretation is to always take God's Word literally when possible. Interpreting figurative should only be used if it's impossible to do so literally, or if the Bible specifically gives an example figuratively as in a parable. Common sense also leads us to reject this theory. Why would the waters remain on the earth before it became divided, or how could the created vegetation survive for a thousand years before the creation of the moon, sun, and stars"

George retorted, "Another theory that tried to reconcile science and scripture is 'Theistic Evolution,' which sidesteps the literal. It quickly jumps to a figurative explanation of Genesis where man was not made of dust but evolved from other forms according to the scientific model. In essence, scripture is modified to mesh with scientific theory, even to the point where secular wisdom is allowed to supersede the obviously plain teaching in Genesis. Why does the Bible say that God formed man from the dust, if he evolved from something else? This theory in essence ignores the literal interpretation of the Bible."

Moe exclaimed, "The only plausible theory that reconciles science and theory is know as the 'Gap Theory,' which states that there's a gap between the first two verses of Genesis 1. It's important to find support for this theory before the work of Darwin and evolutionists. The reason being that critics (anti-gappers) of the twentieth century said this theory was simply another modern day attempt by theologians to compromise the Bible to fit the scientific record. Looking before the age of science, however, shows a theory that was developed on its own worth rather than as a reaction to science.

"The idea of a gap is quite ancient, and considered by some to be the most plausible way to interpret what is said in Genesis 1:1-2. In this case we must consider that the seven days of Creation in Genesis wasn't the Original Creation. Rather, it was a Recreation similar in nature to the one that we live in now. If there was a gap, then one must also consider the possibility of a pre-Adamic world that existed before Adam and Eve. In addition, the Original Creation must necessarily precede this unfamiliar world. It looks like we are going to have to get our Bibles out and look very closely to see if a gap in fact did exist."

Wanda Wesley asked, "I haven't really heard much about this theory, yet you say its roots trace back into ancient times. Who exactly believed in this theory or explanation of the bible prior to the scientific era?

George answered, "It is important to note that both ancient and modern proponents of the gap theory considered the seven days of creation as literal twenty-four hour days. The key issue is that there is a large spacing of time between verse one and two in Genesis chapter one. The 'Targum of Onkelos' says the 'earth was laid waste,' showing that one of the first translations of Scripture indicated that something happened between verse one and verse two. In the Massoretic Text, Jewish scholars indicated that there was a pause occurring between verses one and two. The existence of a gap can also be traced to first century Christian church fathers, and even further back to the Babylonian captivity according to Church Fathers believed this commentaries. Some Jewish explanation, but others didn't. However, it wasn't a point of controversy, but simply an alternate view on the Creation Story. Origen said, 'It is certain that the present firmament isn't spoken of in this verse,' in reference to GEN 1:1. He also said that verse 2 was a 'casting down' of the original and a 'disruption.'

"The English poet Caedmon wrote about Genesis and said that man was created to replace the fallen angels, who had ruined the previous creation. This is but a few of the people that said a gap existed in the first two verses of the Bible. Nevertheless, these ideas became dormant for several centuries until after the age of reason when Thomas Chalmers revived the approach as an alternative to scientific evolution. He was followed by other people and books, such as William Buckland, the Scofield reference Bible, G. H. Pember, Arthur Custance, and Dake's annotated Bible. So, the evidence shows that a strong case exists in favor of the gap theory from both ancient and modern sources."

Denny explained, "Okay, Okay! So this theory seems to have a lot of support. But, all you have told us is that there's a gap between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis 1. How exactly can that be? Can someone tell me how the Bible supports this theory, and how the verses relate to the Original Creation?"

George said, "I'm sorry. I got ahead of myself talking about the people that support the theory, yet it hasn't been clearly laid out as to what is spoken of in the two verses in question."

Denny replied, "I have my Bible right here, so I'll end the mystery by reading from GEN 1:1-2, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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."

Moe added, "There is little doubt about what is referred to in the first verse. God created everything in the universe at the time of the beginning. This is most certainly the original creation. However, there is no indication when this took place. It could've been 6,000 years prior to the time of Christ's return, or it could've been millions or billions of years before." Amanda explained, "What's questioned is whether the original creation spoken of in verse 1 is the same as what is described in the rest of chapter 1 beginning in verse 3, as well as what is presented in Chapters 2 and 3. Obviously, the gap theory presents the argument that these are two separate creations; one being the original creation and the other a recreation."

Will added, "What Genesis says among believers has two different interpretations. The first is that the six days of creation starts at Gen 1:1. The second says the 6 days of creation begin at Gen 1:3. A major conflict occurs with the first view when one compares the six thousand year timeframe with the scientific framework that says the universe is several billion years old. The scientific proof against first scenario is substantial and documented in the fossil record. Proponents reply that God made a mature universe just like he created a mature Adam. Being God, this possibility must be considered. This would mean that He created the earth with all the rock layers in place without any layering taking place over the course of billions of years.

"But for those who follow the second option this seems to make our Creator a deceiver by making fossils of animals that never actually lived. There's also a problem with the stars that are much further away than six thousand light years. In addition, option one has a problem with the angels rejoicing as they observe God creating the material universe. Further, a young earth proponent doesn't indicate a place for the fall of Lucifer to earth. In essence, the scientific view seems strange to the believers of a young earth theory. What is even stranger, is that these supporters indicate that God wasn't doing anything in eternity until a mere six thousand years ago. Option two, however, isn't in conflict with science. If one looks closely, nature has continually revealed one proof after another that something much higher than man and the angels exists in the universe. Man's knowledge has increased incrementally during my own lifetime. There's little hope for mankind, if we're the smartest beings in the universe."

George retorted, "And that brings us to the dilemma of what is said in verse 2, "Why would God originally create the earth to be formless, void, with darkness over the waters that covered the earth? This is an indication that a flood of some kind had to have covered the earth with water and there was an absence of light. Darkness and a flood are never associated with creation. This was what the Holy Spirit had to clean up as he began to restore life to what had been created in an earlier time. If one reviews the Bible thoroughly, every time there's a reference to both a flood and darkness, it was associated with some kind of judgment for sin. There are no exceptions presented elsewhere, so why would we think that verse 2 is the lone anomaly?

"The Hebrew word 'bara' means to create and is associated with the original creation. This is the word that was used in verse 1. ISA 45:18 tells us that God created (bara) the earth to be inhabited, which occurred in the beginning. It would be difficult to make a case that God created in verse 2 the earth in vain (tohuw) and void. It seems the earth had to be inhabited before it was covered with water and darkness. Darkness is an indication of sin, and the state that is presented in verse 2 indicates that God had brought judgment on the original creation, and that there'd been some kind of social system before verse 3. So, the existence of a gap really comes from what's said in verse 2."

Moe replied, "So, the second verse seems to tell us that the waters, earth, and the darkness already existed prior to God's work during the six days beginning in verse 3, which was actually a recreation or restoration of the earth. Therefore, in the beginning, God created the heavens and earth, including the moon, sun, and stars. This original creation included dry land, rather than a flooded dark earth. This original creation was to be productive and inhabited, and not the result of a curse. Verse 2 indicates the heavens weren't a part of the curse, but it only applied to the earth. The fact that Satan was in the Garden along with Adam and Eve, also indicates that he existed prior to the seven days. Satan's presence as a tempter shows that sin existed prior to Adam. God didn't create Satan as a fallen creature, but rather as Lucifer, the perfect angel. In the original creation, Lucifer had to do something that brought sin into existence prior to the time of Adam and Eve. This seems straight forward enough. So, are there other verses in the Bible that can substantiate this claim?"

Susanna declared, "There is no single story in one portion of scripture that tells us about the existence of a pre-Adamic earth. I wonder why God didn't give a detailed account of a time before Adam?"

George commented, "The Bible was written for mankind, who was created in the image of God with a spirit, soul, and body. It isn't a book for angels and their life with God before the creation of Adam and Eve. However, if one looks closely enough, there are bits and pieces of information that give evidence of a time before Adam."

Charles added, "We can see a portrait of Lucifer before he fell in

EZE 28:12-17, 'Thou wast in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was in thee; in the day that thou wast created they were prepared. Thou wast the anointed cherub that covereth: and I set thee, so that thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till unrighteousness was found in thee. By the abundance of thy traffic they filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore have I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I have cast thee to the ground; I have laid thee before kings, that they may behold thee.' He was an anointed and holy cherub, and protector of the earth. He had perfection in beauty and wisdom, having dominion on the earth prior to Adam. This wasn't the case, when Satan met Adam and Eve in the Garden. He had already sinned and fallen from the grace of God."

Wanda remarked, "Lucifer actually hoped to overcome God and become the new ruler of heaven as shown in ISA 14:12-12, 'How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, that didst lay low the nations! And thou saidst in thy heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; and I will sit upon the mount of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' Before his fall, Lucifer has a kingdom, a throne, and followers. This wasn't on another star or in heaven, but below the clouds and under the stars, indicating a place on earth. Nothing like this has ever occurred after the time of Adam, so it had to happen in a pre-Adamic era on earth."

Bertha responded, 'There are other mentions of darkness and void in JER 4:23-26, 'I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was waste and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved to and fro. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful field was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of Jehovah, and before his fierce anger.' This sounds almost exactly like the description in verse 2. Since the time of Adam, the earth has never seen a time that is spoken of in this sequence of verses. This vision had to relate to what was described in verse 2 of GEN 1. Not even the recreation at the end of the Millennium renders the earth in such a terrible condition."

Amanda said, "It tells of a flood sent by God in PSM 104:5-8, 'Who laid the foundations of the earth, That it should not be moved for ever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a vesture; The waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; At the voice of thy thunder they hasted away (The mountains rose, the valleys sank down) Unto the place which thou hadst founded for them.' This could not have been Noah's flood, as it receded slowly. Here they retreated immediately at the command of God."

Moe added, "REV 12:9 revealed, 'The great dragon was cast

down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.' Some have said that Satan invaded heaven during the Tribulation, but this can't be if we look at a statement by Jesus in LUK 10:18. He said, 'I beheld Satan fallen as lightning from heaven.' If Jesus spoke of this during His incarnation, it had to have happened in an earlier time. Paul also spoke of powers, principalities, and thrones in heaven and on earth, in COL 1:15-18. Lucifer's kingdom had to be on earth, since he was returned there after his fall. Why else would he try to steal the authority God placed in Adam?"

George responded, "There is a very strong case for a pre-Adamic era from verse 2 if one looks at all of the evidence. This in no way interferes with the rest of the story in Genesis about Mankind, except that it was a recreation. There's also another recreation that took place after the White Throne Judgment that gave us the earth in which we now live in. So, there's no problem in dating everything after verse 2 to a time frame of about six to ten thousand years prior to the Tribulation. However, the time frame of the pre-Adamic era could stretch backward from Adam millions or billions of years. It would also mesh with the scientific timeframe that has been revealed from the fossil record in the layers of the earth."

Moe countered, "So, are you saying that eternity as described in the Bible could easily align with the timeframe of science in dating the earth around 4.5 billion years old and the universe at 14 billion years?"

George replied, "Yes, but eternity is even greater, and stretches

back before the creation of the universe. God has always existed and was present before the Creation. The universe can be measured and dated, but eternity stretches infinitely backward and forward. However, I see no conflict between the scientific era and that of eternity, except that God is bigger than anything set forth by science."

Moe retorted, "The fossil record indicates that the first vertebrate land animals existed in the Paleozoic age dating back about 500 million years ago. Dinosaurs were present during the Mesozoic age stretching from 65 to 250 million years. Hominids and other mammals are more recent and appeared less than 2 million years ago. Man created in the image of God, however is quite recent, occurring around 6,000 years ago. The earliest era of earth stretches from the Proterozoic (from 550M years to 2B years) through the Archean (to 3.8B years) to the Hadean (reaching 4.6B years). But this is quite young in comparison with the universe itself, which was created about 14B years ago. Fossils of Prokaryotes on earth have been dated back to 4B years. Of course, it is hard to argue that the rock layers don't exist, as there is evidence throughout the world in places such as the Grand Canyon. I'm not so sure about how all of this is actually dated although."

George commented, "The study of the occurrence of fossils in rock layers is called biostratigraphy, and shows the order of time in which organisms have lived as recorded in the rock layers of the earth. However, it doesn't reveal the age of rock layers in years, only how they have been sequentially laid down over time. With the discovery of radioactivity in the 19th century, scientists found a way to accurately date the rock layers as well as other materials in the universe. Today, radioactive dating has become quite precise with an error rate of less than 1%. The oldest know fossils have been dated to about 3.8B years using this process with the age of the earth around 4.6B years old."

"Therefore the timeframe for the original creation of the universe by God is extremely ancient. Most scientists have said that the universe always existed in what was called a 'steady state' or 'pulsating' state until about 50 years ago. In recent years, nearly all scientists no longer believe either of these theories. It has now been shown that the universe started with a 'big bang.' Everything was formed in an instant, and then exploded expanding outward.

"How it started, however, is a mystery. In a matter of nanoseconds, the universe grew from a single point and expanded at a phenomenal rate. Particles formed, as well as the four basic forces of nature. In less than a second, the universe was already a thousand times as big as our solar system, with the temperature beginning to drop significantly. In a few hundred thousand years, conditions were right for atoms to appear, with some stars and galaxies forming at the one million year mark. The universe is today still expanding, and scientists are able to calculate backwards the age of the universe."

Moe added, "Even with all of the growth in the universe, the big question has always been what brought about the big bang. How did this initial ball of something that exploded get created in the first place. After all, before the big bang there was nothing except God, the angels, and heaven. Generally, there are three options set forth as to how the initial matter, energy, etc was formed. One idea is that there was no causation, but it happened all by itself anyway. This seems illogical and is contrary to common sense. This option was used to avoid some type of supernatural answer. One scientist said that it's possible using a quantum field. But, other scientists criticized this idea since it didn't really start from nothing, since the quantum field is in fact something. A second possibility was that something had to cause the universe to begin. This implies that God created the initial mass, but some scientists tried to argue that it's a result from an earlier universe. But, this just leads back to the question of when this earlier universe was created. Basically, science has no good answer to substitute into the place of God.

"The last choice is to deny that the universe had a beginning, which we've already shown to be abandoned by nearly all scientists. Some have said that if God can exist without being created, then why can't the universe exist without causation. However, the two aren't the same. God, is the Creator and the universe is the creation. Since the universe does in fact exist today, then one of the above options must be true. Prior to the big bang, there wasn't anything else in existence except God and possibly his angels. This can be the only answer."

George confirmed, "We know that God existed before the creation of the universe in heaven. What is heaven, but the anointed, glorified aura that surrounds God. Like God, heaven has always existed since it's an extension of his being. The angels, on the other hand, were the very first thing to be created by God, since they were present at the time of the universe's creation. This is shown in JOB 38:4-7, 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Declare to Me, if you have and know understanding. Who determined the measures of the earth, if you know? Or who

stretched the measuring line upon it? Upon what were the foundations of it fastened, or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?' The general consensus is that the angels not only worshipped God, but also helped Him as He created the universe."

Amanda observed, "So, the concept of eternity is timeless before the creation of the universe, since time itself only began with the big bang. Although the creation of the angels preceded the creation of the universe, there's a prior point when only God existed in heaven. Some have asked, 'What did God do then?' The Bible also has some answers for this question. God has always had things to do while in heaven. He never needed the angels, mankind, or the universe. He created all of these things out of His great love. We are told of this love and God's planning in JHN 17:24, 'Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.'

"Other people question, 'Who is God talking to?' We should never forget that God is a triune God, made up of three persons. In the previous quote, it is Jesus speaking of the Father loving Him before the creation of the universe. God also chose us before the foundations of the world (EPH 1:4), which shows that He had a plan for mankind in eternity. He speaks of promising mankind to join him in the hope of eternal life before time and creation began (TIT 1:2). Again, what person were these promises made to? This was a discussion that could only have been made among the three members of the holy trinity. This shows that dialogue took place among the Godhead prior to the creation of the angels. So, we can confirm that God existed before time began, and communicated within the Godhead, planning even then for the creation of the angels, the universe, and mankind."

Susanna answered, "When God first created the angels and then the universe, there was no sin. Sin didn't enter the creation until later when ISA 14:12-14 tells us that Lucifer, who had a throne, authority, and leadership, attempted to overthrow God, and was cast down to earth with a third of the angels. The state of the earth in GEN 1:2 indicates that judgment wasn't brought just to Lucifer and the fallen angels, but also to the earth. It's covered with water and darkness, killing everything there except for the angels that found refuge in hell. This dismal state was the point of recreation, which started in verse 3 of Genesis 1. So, it seems that prior to the fall of Lucifer, he had a throne and kingdom established on earth, and carried out leadership. But who was Lucifer leading?"

George professed, "Before your question about who Lucifer was leading, it must clearly be shown the order of importance of the angels in the pre-Adamic era. Angels are mentioned 93 times in the New Testament and 103 times in the Old Testament. Although the primary aim of the Bible is concerned with God's plan for Mankind, there is enough information on angels to make several observations. Angels are spiritual in nature, and were created to serve the purposes of God, both to worship and assist God in the beginning, but also to later be a messenger to mankind. As originally created, angels were of a higher order than mankind. Later on in the pre-Adamic era, two-thirds of the angels remained holy during the rebellion of Lucifer. God's immediate punishment for Lucifer and a third of the angels was banishment from heaven to earth, with the eventual punishment of being thrown into the lake of fire.

"The fallen angels choose to serve Lucifer, rather than God. However, before his fall, all angels were set apart by God to attend to His holiness (ISA 6). They have been called among other things, a heavenly host and the sons of God. God 'commanded and they were created as spirits (PSM 148:1).' Before the creation of the material universe, God, heaven, and the angels were all immaterial. The Bible tells us that Jesus created all things (JHN 1:1-3 and COL 1:16), and therefore was the creator of the angels. This shows that Jesus, being God, reigns above the angels despite His later incarnation as a man. This is important, as it's likely the source of Lucifer's original sin; he came to believe that he could rise above God, because Jesus would become a man, who is ranked below the angels. Hebrews 2:7 revealed, mankind is 'lower than the angels,' who have greater wisdom and power than man (SA2 14:20, ACT 5:19). Yet, the Bible also tells us that after the Tribulation, man will judge the angels, which indicates that mankind will eventual rise to a level above angels after the Rapture and Resurrection."

Moe replied, "It is interesting about your comments concerning the source of Lucifer's original sin. It has been common knowledge that he sinned because of pride, by thinking he could rise above God. I have always been perplexed by that statement. Why would Lucifer, the highest ranking angel in God's creation, and a being that had great wisdom, think that he could rise above the One that created him. That isn't just crazy thinking, but lunacy. Life was as good as it could get for Lucifer, as long as he remembered his place was lower than God and higher than the rest of creation. I'd never put two and two together concerning the inception of pride, until I realized that God's creation of mankind during the seven days was a threat to Lucifer's rank as an angel. Evidently, Lucifer being very close to God, overheard a conversation about God's plan for mankind.

"If mankind was to be created lower than the angels, and Jesus would one day be incarnated on earth as a man, this has to give Lucifer an incentive to believe that his status as an angel could supersede the authority of Jesus as a man. If he also heard the Godhead speaking of mankind judging angels in the end times, this could be the source that infuriated him to the point of leading a rebellion against God. However it happened, his pride led to sin and its consequences; judgment, darkness, and death. It not only affected the original creation of earth, but also later affected mankind after the seven-day recreation when Satan tempted Adam and Eve. Of course, the question might be asked, 'Why did God throw Lucifer to earth rather than directly into the lake of fire?' This would've put an end to Lucifer and the other rebellious angels once and for all."

George answered, "Although God didn't create sin, He knew that that the independent freewill of angels would eventually involve a testing to see if they would stay loyal to Him or rebel. Once sin had entered creation, God chose to let it run its course, even to the point of allowing Satan to later tempt Adam and Eve. Once the rebellion was over, God knew which angels would continue to be loyal to Him, and which had sinned. Although the judgment of the fallen angels had been made at this point, the punishment allowed them to remain on earth, where Satan would first test Adam and Eve in the Garden, and then test the human race from that point until the end of the Tribulation. Why?

"God likewise created Adam and Eve with a freewill, and allowed Satan to continually test mankind until the Rapture and Resurrection. In using Satan, God was able to determine, which humans would choose Jesus Christ and which would reject Him. God even allowed Satan to enter heaven to make accusations against mankind. In ZEC 3:1 it said, 'Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.' God, however, rebuked him and his accusations. He also allowed Satan to test Job in JOB 2:3, 'Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.' This continued to occur throughout the history of mankind until the Resurrection and Rapture.

"At the end of the Tribulation, it was time for the final consequences that God had rendered on the fallen angels when they were thrown out of heaven. First, the antichrist and the false prophet were thrown into the lake of fire. Satan was put in the pit for a thousand years, but later was thrown into the lake of fire. Prior to the White Throne Judgment, the rest of the fallen angels were thrown into the Lake of Fire. At that time, judgment was complete for the rebellious angels. God also dealt with all of the people whose names weren't written in the book of life at the White Throne Judgment, with each being pitched into the Lake of fire. Soon after, he destroyed the heavens and the earth that had been cursed, and recreated them anew. For the first time since before

the original sin of Lucifer, the universe was again pure and sinless. The plan of God began before the creation of the angels and the universe, and extends through today and forever. Throughout all of this, God knew exactly what He was doing, even when the angels and mankind rebelled and sinned."

Moe replied, "Lucifer's sin was serious and unforgiveable, and God's judgment was immediate. So, our discussion seems to have summed up the dilemma concerning the angels in the pre-Adamic era. It also reflects the cutting off of a third of the angels after the rebellion of Lucifer. So, now that the record is straight on the place of angels in creation, can we get on to the people that Lucifer was leading in the pre-Adamic world?"

George explained, "According to the time interval in verse 2, it seems that these pre-Adamic beings were a part of the original creation, along with other animals, plants, and other life forms. While they were mammals, they weren't formed in the image of God. Only after the recreation, was mankind created in the image of God with a soul, spirit, and body. Angels were the 1st creation and highest order of the pre-Adamic order, and the rest of creation was subject to their authority, which had been granted by God. So, how does this original creation tie in with the geological record of earth and the age of the universe?"

Moe iterated, "We must remember that the original creation from GEN 1:1 and the recreation that begins in GEN 1:3 are drastically different. Lucifer didn't have a tempter like Adam did. After living sinless in God's creation for eons, his sin came from his own self-righteous thinking that led to a rebellion against God. That's the reason God's judgment was final with no further opportunities for

additional grace or mercy. When God restored the earth beginning in GEN 1:3, everything was again perfect except for Lucifer and his angels. God had let him remain as a tempter to test Adam and Eve. Even though they failed and were thrown out of the Garden of Eden, God was merciful and gave them an opportunity for redemption through the Cross.

"The rest of the universe didn't need to be recreated, as only the earth was part of the judgment of Lucifer when he and his angels were hurled down to earth. The magnitude of the recreation pales in comparison with the work when God created the entire universe. In the beginning, He created everything from nothing. We must remember that there are virtually endless, solar systems, galaxies, stars, black holes, and the such that spread out as the universe expanded.

"We mustn't forget that as vast as the universe is today, it originated in the beginning as a small compacted mass at one point in space. It's God who created the mass from nothing other than his spoken word. Where there had been nothing, there's now a tiny mass in which God placed everything necessary to bring the universe into being, as well as the laws of nature that would dictate how this minute accumulation of matter, energy, etc would grow, expand and develop. In an instant, this mass exploded and spread outward, making the universe constantly expanded. However, there was still a lot of work to be done, as God and His angels would need to fine tune, refine, and help nature structure the universe exactly as He wanted.

"Through the eons of time that covered billions of years, (but maybe a day to the Lord), God went back and forth across the universe putting things together according to his plan of creation. He didn't do everything with one star, planet, or galaxy all at once, but let nature prepare the way ahead of Him. God would work in one place for a time, and then let nature take its course for millions or billions of years, and then return to continue His creative acts. A timeframe of 14B years for the universe is a nice estimate of how long it took to complete the original creation, as compared to the recreation that took only seven days. It's no wonder that the Godhead spent a lot of time in heaven planning for the creation of the universe before the first acts actually began. And remember, God didn't turn his attention to earth until nearly 10B years had elapsed from the point of the universe's beginning."

George added, "We can now look at the full spectrum of the universe to see exactly how God carried out His work. As Moe stated, God worked on the rest of the universe from 14B years back until around 4.6B years. Only then did he begin to work with our planet. It took this long for the forces of nature and God's creative acts to prepare the universe to the point that the earth might now be created. After earth's inception, the Hadean age began and lasted until 3.8B BC. So this initial cycle took nearly a billion years to complete. The sun was already in existence, and its gravitational pull set in motion the orbit of earth and its moon. God adjusted it at just the right position so life could be sustained when created. God made sure that everything necessary for the first forms of life were exactly put in place.

"The Prokaryotes sprung forth around 4B BC, which is verified in the first fossil rock layers. Then God left to continue His work elsewhere in the Universe. With each star that was created, God put an angel in charge to watch over its development. The Hadean period on earth turned into the Archean era, that lasted until 2.5B BC. Sometime during the early part of this age, God returned and created a process called photosynthesis, and quickly left again. The next age was the Proterozoic, and it lasted until .5B years BC. After its onset, God enriched the atmosphere with oxygen. Not long after the start of this age, He created the Eukaryotes, and then created multi-cellular life around the middle of this epoch, followed by the creation of the first animals towards the end of the period.

"When the Proterozoic age ended, the Paleozoic era began around 542M years BC and lasted until 251M BC. The first part of this era is called the Cambrian period, when an explosion of life began that lasted nearly 40M years. It is likely that God put Lucifer in charge of the earth around this time, since so many life forms were being created. Of course, all of these happenings are recorded in the fossil record of the earth's rock layers. God was very busy during this time frame bringing many new life forms into existence. Many land plants were created and grew in the Paleozoic era, beginning around 450M BC, with the first vertebrate land animals appearing not long after.

"Prior to this time, there had been no death for all of God's living creatures, although bacteria and other micro-organisms, as well as the plants and grasses were subject to the forces of a natural life cycle. Lucifer very subtly began to use his influence to carry out his own wishes rather than that of God. He hadn't yet sinned, but was attempting to put the earth under his control. His actions began to slowly taint the earth, and death appeared within God's creatures. God was merciful and gave Lucifer much leeway. But, slowly Lucifer continued to increase his own influence.

"The Mesozoic era stretched from 251M to 65M years BC. God created the first mammals at its beginning. The dinosaurs and other large animals were also created, but became extinct as the Cenozoic era began around 65M year BC. At this time, God created the Hominids, who became the first Pre-Adamites. These beings became the servants that were under the rule of Lucifer."

Denny remarked, "Wooey! I thought that the thousand years when we were helping Jesus get things ready for the Judgment Seat of Christ was a long time. But, this is a really, really long time that is mind-boggling. It is really hard to fathom the age of the universe as 14B years."

Moe replied, "Of course to God, time is of no consequence. A few billion years is like a day to us. Regardless of the timeframe, his original creation of the universe is a masterpiece! I guess we need to slow down and look in more detail at the Cenozoic era, since that is when most of the upright two-legged creatures appeared. By this time, God had created both hard-bodied and soft-bodied creatures, gastropods, and many other life forms that were much more complex. The Cenozoic era stretched from the Paleogene period to the Holocene period. Upright Hominids were created about 190,000 years ago in the Quaternary period. These beings quickly came under the control of Lucifer. Lucifer had now become the ruler of the earth, and these first Hominids were under his control. Lucifer's self interest was beginning to press against the limits of God's mercy and patience.

"The first part of this period lasted until 11,700 years BC, and was called the Pleistocene. The second part of this period is called

the Holocene. It's of great importance, since this is the time when Satan carried out his rebellion to try and overthrow God. God quickly threw him out of heaven to earth, as judgment occurred for both Lucifer and his angels. In addition, all life that then existed on the earth was killed with waters that covered the planet. A great darkness covered the earth as light from the sun and moon was shut off. This reflected the sins of Lucifer, and resulted in the death of all his servants as part of the curse that was placed on the earth. So finally we've come full circle, and we're back to GEN 1:2. This verse shows the state of the earth as God prepared to recreate the earth, and inhabit it with a new creature called man. However, I'm still puzzled by how the pre-Adamic flood covered the earth without polluting the land with salt water. I'm also baffled that nothing major shows up in the fossil record that indicates a worldwide flood."

George replied, "Your concerns aren't all of the problems that exist with a world-wide flood, whether it was Lucifer's or Noah's. Salt water mixing with fresh water surely has a polluting effect on the planet after the flood recedes. There's also the question, where did all of this water come from to cover the mountaintops? Some of the young earth proponents say it came from a canopy that ruptured to cause the flood, which has a host of problems like blocking sunlight, and having an incredible weight. The canopy supposedly replaced the need for clouds and rain. However, evaporation has been shown to cause water vapor that naturally collects in the clouds.

"It is more likely that any water for a flood would have to come from moisture accumulating in the clouds above. Of course, the water could've been supernaturally brought in from other parts of the universe. Another logical idea has the water coming from water deep within the earth. For a long time, scientists believed that such waters would be too hot and poach everything on the surface. Others have said the water came from a comet that hit the earth, but it's likely that it would be nothing but steam before hitting the earth. And then there is the problem of, where did all the water go after the flood receded? Then, there's a problem of where's all the fossils of the dead creatures that would've been preserved in a new rock layer? Fresh water fish would have died from all the salt water that covered the planet, as well as most vegetation. And, wouldn't the ice at the north and south poles rise up and become displaced?"

Moe replied, "All of this in a nature sense seems to make the possibilities of a world-wide flood hard to believe. But, new findings showed that there is enough water contained in wet ringwoodite at a deep of 400 miles all the way around the world to supply such a flood. Of course, neither Lucifer's or Noah's flood was completely natural, as God supernaturally intervened. In GEN 1:2 it tells us that 'the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep.' Of greater importance, it tells us that 'the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.' Why was He hovering over the waters? It had to be to clean up the mess from the earth's curse and God's earlier judgment. He was repairing the damage inflicted by the flood.

"The Holy Spirit was also present before the flood to cause the water to rise to flood levels above the mountaintops. He would've opened the clouds around the world to begin to rain, as well as create holes from the ocean floors into the reservoirs of the deep that were contained in the ringwoodite rock layers. It would've been an easy task for the Spirit to find the waters necessary for the flood. A more difficult task for the Holy Spirit would've been the massive cleanup that was necessary to rid the world of the destruction from God's judgment. All of this work would have been necessary before God began to recreate the earth.

"The Holy Spirit would first cause the water to recede back into the reservoirs of the deep, and into the clouds of the sky. As the waters receded, He would need to destroy all of the waste from the flood. Dead bodies, uprooted trees, and salt-water laden mud would cover the landmass as the waters edged back into the oceans and lakes of the earth. Then, the Spirit would need to rid the earth of all of this pollution from the curse. He would need to make the lake water fresh, remove the salt from the earth, and turn the mass of dead trees, plants, and animals into a fertilizer for the soil. When the Holy Spirit was finished, all traces of the curse had been eliminated and the earth was cleansed. It's now time for God to begin His recreation, which starts in GEN 1:3."

Denny remarked, "You make a strong case for Lucifer's flood. After the Holy Spirit finished His work, there's little to be observed by geologists in the fossil record. All of the living organisms that had been destroyed were converted into a compost fertilizer for the soil. If it weren't so, then why would the Holy Spirit be hovering above the waters before Jesus began his work on day one? The supernatural cleaning of the earth would be an easy task for a God that had spent billions of years creating the original universe. It also didn't take God long to recreate the earth during the seven days."

Amanda commented, "Wow! Now this is some story! We have

talked about all of the important theories on how God created the heavens and the earth. The argument for the GEN 1:1-2 gap seems to be the only plausible explanation. But, you know, we're still theorizing without really knowing exactly what happened."

Chapter 2 – Cody Arrives

It seemed like the intellectual discussion on God's original creation had exhausted all of the options relating to the dilemma of Genesis 1:1-2. As everyone started to get up, they heard a voice coming from above the group. Somewhat startled, they looked up in a big tree that stood nearby. On a branch, they saw Cody the angel that had earlier befriended the group.

George called out in loud voice, "What are you doing up there? Are you sunning, just passing by, or coming over for a visit?"

Cody replied, "I was coming over to visit, but actually I've been sitting here for most of the time that you've been talking. I started to interrupt and announce that I was here. But everyone seemed so involved in the discussion that I didn't want to butt in and risk ending the conversation before it had fully played out. So, I just stayed quiet and listened to how humans viewed the Creation of God. It's quite interesting to hear how you piece together several theories from what God has written in His Word. I hope you don't mind that I was listening in."

Denny laughed and said, "With your keen ears, you could have listened in from a long way off if you had wanted too. And, I'm not about to accuse you of eavesdropping! Come on down here and join us. We had just run out of things to say about God's Creation. I don't suppose that you have anything to add, now that we're done talking?"

Cody dropped down from the tree and answered, "You've covered the issues based on information from the Bible, as well as the scientific record. Would you like to hear an eyewitness account of what actually took place?"

Somewhat startled Denny declared, "You dang tootin! Nothing can better settle a bunch of theorizing than direct experience. Sit down by me. Being an angel, you must've been around when God began his original creation." As Cody sat down, all eyes and ears were upon him.

Cody exclaimed, "Are you ready to hear my story. It'll take a little while, so if you would rather wait, we can postpone until tomorrow."

Moe blurted out, "No way! After all of our endless theorizing, I don't think any of us want to put things off until tomorrow. It would be a real pleasure to hear the real story about Creation. Of course that is just me talking. Does anyone else object?"

The group in unison responded, "Let's do it now!"

Amanda interrupted, "You go ahead and get started. I'll get some food and drinks for everybody. Don't worry about me missing out on anything, as I've pretty sharp ears too, and will be listening as lunch is prepared." As Amanda went into the house, all eyes turned back towards the angel.

Cody began to speak slowly, "There are lots of places I could start, as a great gulf of time has elapsed from the original creation until now. I guess that it would be best to commence the story at the time God created the angels, since that is as far back as my memory can take me. Rather than me just narrating the story, I'll present it as if it's actually happening right now. As I speak, it'll seem as if the entire group has been transported back in time, and will be actually present in the events as they begin to occur. However, you'll be observers, rather than participants in this virtual reality adventure. Does this seem okay with everyone?" As all heads nodded, the tale began.

Chapter 3 – The Story Begins

As Cody opened his eyes for the first time, his initial thoughts were about how beautiful everything was around him. He wasn't alone, as there were uncountable hosts of other being that resembled him in appearance. In the midst of this multitude of angels, there was a light radiating out from a central point. Looking more closely, Cody was able to see two being seated upon a throne, with a third hovering above. While these three being were distinct persons, it was also apparent that they were interconnected as one. Everything became very silent as the one on the right side of the throne stood up, and gazed at the beings that He'd just finished creating. Although all the occupants had a body, it was one of a spiritual or ethereal nature, where its substance radiated outward with a glow. Cody reached down and touched his other hand. His body was one that could be both seen and felt. He also put his hand on the shoulder of another being that stood near him, and he felt the presence of another being similar in nature to himself.

Cody smiled and said, "Hello. My name is Cody." Very quickly Cody thought, how did I know that?

The other being turned his head and replied, "Greetings, my name is Andrea." Very quickly, a resounding rumble began to resonate throughout, as all of the beings began to talk to each other. At this point, the being beside the throne raised his hand.

He said, "Silence." And the room quickly became quiet once again.

The being on the left side of the throne stood up began to converse with the being beside him, and to the one that hovered above. This conversation went on for some time. Finally, a voice said, "My name is Jesus, and this is my Father standing beside me. The person above is the Holy Spirit, and we three make up the eternal Godhead. You may be wondering who you are, and where you came from. I created all of you from nothing but my spoken word just a little while ago, and designated the entire group to be called angels. However, each of you has your own special name, which you already know. You were created with a unique mind that knows everything that'll be needed for you to function and live as an angel. Like us, all of you are spirit, as well as your home, which is called heaven. You were created to worship and serve the Godhead. There are various ranks within your hosts that reflect the authority that's been granted to you.

"The highest rank of angels is the Archangel, and there are three; Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel. Of these three, Lucifer has been given the greatest level of authority, and will report directly to the Father, Holy Spirit, and myself. Get to know these Archangels, as they are your primary leaders. There are also two basic categories of angels called Seraphim and Cherubim. Other categories and classifications will be established later on as needed. I'm sorry to have interrupted you earlier, but wanted everyone to know some of the basics about my first creation. Now, it's time for fellowship, where you can begin to meet some of the other angels around you." As the Lord finished speaking, He prompted Lucifer to come join the persons of the Holy Trinity. Soon after, the hosts of angels began to converse with one another.

As Lucifer approached the throne of God, Jesus said, "Welcome! This is our first meeting, and you've been created perfect in beauty and full of wisdom. Every precious stone that will later be created will be 'thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.' Thou will become 'the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (EZE 28:11-17).' Your name means light bearer, shining one, and morning star. You are the liaison that we'll primarily use to communicate with the other two archangels. You've no internal light of your own, but reflect the light of the Godhead down upon the other angels. You'll occupy a place nearest our throne. Do you have any questions?"

Lucifer answered, "I'll do my best to serve you in the capacity you have created me for. I'll be your messenger to the rest of the angels. By the way, what exactly is a star and all of these precious stones you're talking about?"

The Lord smiled and said, "Don't worry about that for now. There's much that'll be created later on. In time, you'll find your answer, as God's plan continues to be carried out." At that point, the Godhead again began to communicate among themselves, as Lucifer walked off.

"What's this plan that God is referring to? It must be of great importance if I'm going to be covered with precious stones that are yet to be created. I'll have to keep my eyes and ears open to learn more about this plan," thought Lucifer.

Very soon the angels began to gather around the throne, as Lucifer commenced to lead worship with his pipes. The sound of the music resonated along with the voices of the choirs of angels throughout the heavenly domain. The sounds were beyond description in honor of our awesome God. The worship occurred over and over, and it's hard to say exactly how long it lasted; in earthly terms, maybe a few hours, or it could've been an eon or so. Life in heaven just naturally happened with no need for measurement. In between the rounds of worship, the angels could see the three members of the Godhead gathered in conversation around the throne. Most of what the angels did during these early occasions in heaven was to gather around the throne and worship God. If time could be measured, it's likely that the happenings of heaven continued over and over for millions or even billions of years. Then at one point, Lucifer asked the angels to gather around for a special meeting.

He said, "There is a change coming very soon. We have enjoyed worshipping our heavenly Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, but it's time for God to implement the next phase of his plan. While the realm of heaven and all its inhabitants is spiritual and ethereal, God now intends to create a material universe."

Cody asked Lucifer, "What's the nature of a material universe and how can it come into being."

Lucifer answered, "It'll be different than heaven and have a physical quality that we've never seen before. I don't know exactly how God will make this happen, but He's asked for all of us to meet in front of the throne as soon as I'm finished." In short order, the angels converged around their Sovereign, and anxiously waited to hear what was going to happen.

Jesus arose from the throne and said, "I'm about to create a universe that'll be full of matter, energy, and other forces of nature. It'll come into existence by nothing other than my direct proclamation." He then turned and walked to the edge of heaven and stepped out into empty space. As the Lord began to speak, He created a small, compacted, round mass in a place where was nothing only moments before. Before this juncture, there'd been nothing in existence outside of heaven. Now, there was this small ball that was suspended in space. The ball began to compress until it's the size of a pinhead. The Lord then caused it to quickly move a great distance from heaven. Soon after, Jesus turned and came back into heaven, and walked back over to His throne and sat down.

With a puzzled look on His face, Michael said, "Is that all there is to the universe. It sure seems insignificant in comparison to heaven. It's so small that we can't even see it from here."

Jesus answered, "The universe is yet to be birthed. What I've created contains everything that'll ever be needed in the universe. There is matter, energy, forces of nature, and so on. I've packed it all in so tightly that at my command, it'll explode with great ferocity and grow rapidly in size. What starts out small, will one day be incalculable and constantly expanding."

Cody replied, "When is the explosion going to happen? So far, I can't see anything."

The Father stood up and said, "Universe be born." Immediately, in the distance, everyone could see an immensely bright flash, with everything in the mass exploding outward at an incredible rate of speed.

Jesus said, "With this beginning, time has been set in motion, and we've got a lot of work to do in order to carry out our design for the material universe." Lucifer was standing together with Michael and Gabriel, as they watched the explosion.

Lucifer said, "I've been able to learn a lot about the plan for the universe from being so near to the Godhead. They've been in constant discussion about this blueprint since before Jesus created the angels. The expansion after the initial blast was so fast that the edge of the universe went outward in every direction, from the size of an atom to that of a galaxy in less than a second. In addition, heaven moved into a position that keeps it just outside the expanding cosmos. At first, everything was incredibly hot, but it'll begin to cool slowly as it expands. Soon, the temperature will fall to around 1B degrees Celsius, which will allow the neutrons and protons to move together for the formation of helium and hydrogen nuclei. It'll take nearly 300,000 years before it will cool to around 3000 degrees, where clouds of helium and hydrogen gas can form. Until that time, most of the energy will be in the form of radiation. But then, the energy of radiation will drop and allow the energy of matter to increase.

"This is a time that will be called the cosmic 'dark age.' It'll take about 300 million years before these pockets of gas become dense enough to ignite and form stars and galaxies. The very first generation of stars will be called population III stars or quasars. They'll begin to appear around 560M years after the big bang. This generation is extremely metal poor in nature, and will be followed by population II stars with a little more metal. Population I stars are considered to be metal rich, and will form later on. They are the ones that have the greatest likelihood of possessing planetary systems. It'll be nearly 9B years before the solar system forms the Milky Way with the sun, earth, and moon. At that time, new life forms will begin to appear. It'll be necessary for our Lord to fine tune the universe from time to time, so that the best performance can be achieved in the eons to come."

Michael replied, "So far, all we could see was the initial explosion, and then it became quite dark again with a slight greenish glow observable as the universe enlarges. It'll be quite awhile before quasars and the first stars begin to illuminate the cosmos to the point that we can really see what is out there."

Gabriel added, "I guess there's no need for God to go out and make any adjustments for the time being. Of course, with God, a few billion years is nothing, and it'll happen rather quickly. I suggest that we use this interval to continue our praise and worship of God. It won't be long before God will be giving us other assignments to do."

In another part of heaven, Cody said, "That was certainly quite an explosion. It really looked like an enormous flash in outer space. But, then it died down to a warm glow in the distance."

Andrea replied, "I guess God doesn't plan to finish his work all at once. I'm sure that we'll soon learn more about this new creation that He calls the Universe."

In what seemed like a blink of an eye, 300M years had passed and Lucifer again spoke to the angels.

He said, "The Lord has informed me to tell all of you to get ready for our first trip out of heaven."

Jesus stood up from the throne and exclaimed, "Everyone follow me as we're going out to light up the stars." Everyone arose and flew into the atmosphere of heaven, soon passing beyond its boundaries, and on through empty space, before entering the universe. The speed at which they were traveling is incalculable, but it's possible to fly from one end of the universe to the other almost instantaneously. Soon, Jesus and the hosts of angels veered to the left towards a dense pocket of gas.

Jesus said, 'Let the gas ignite with the creation of a light producing star." As quickly as the words left his mouth, the massive gas pocket caught on fire and began to emit light throughout that portion of the universe. Jesus then turned and moved onward toward another massive pocket of gas.

He again cried out, "Let there be light," and another star was born. This sequence of events occurred over and over until Jesus had crossed the entire universe and lit every cluster of gas. When He was finished the universe was filled with millions of light producing stars. At this point, Jesus circled back towards heaven with everyone landing in front of the Throne.

The Father declared, "Well done my son! The universe is now filled with light." All of the angels gazed in awe as they saw the twinkling stars that were now clearly visible in the universe. The angels turned back towards God and again began to praise Him, as Lucifer started to play his pipes. Soon the heavenly hosts began to sing and honor God, who had just finished another stage in His creation. Everyone became lost in the glory of God and the wonderful peace that existed around the throne of God.

Chapter 4 – Journeys into The Universe

Eons passed and there was a prolonged time of worship around the Throne during the intervals when the Godhead was discussing further projects for the new universe. This sequence of events continued for an immeasurable amount of time. At a point towards the end of the age of heaven, Lucifer once again addressed the angels.

He said, "We watched and rejoiced as the Lord created the material universe and set it in motion according to the laws of nature. Earlier, I gave you a time frame of approximately 9B years from the start of the universe until a solar system containing the Milky Way, the sun, moon, and earth will come into existence. At that time, many new life forms will spring forth into being, which will require a wide array of adjustments by the Lord. This new era is nearly upon us, and will require considerable work by the Lord. The good news is that he'll be taking all of us to assist in the new project. I'll attempt to explain the upcoming timeframe for the universe, so you'll be familiar with the multitude of tasks that lie before us.

"Soon God will create life upon the earth. This newly formed planet will exist approximately 4.6B years, when all life is destroyed in a great flood. At that time, the light of the sun will suddenly go dormant. I begged the Lord to give me more specific details about why this was allowed to happen, but He only said that from this darkness, He would recreate a new earth and turn the light of the sun back on. This second age of recreation also would have a tragic ending. After several thousand years, the Lord not only destroys the earth, but also the heavens. At that time, God will again restore a new heavens and earth. It hastens me to ask if God would ever destroy the heavens and earth again after that?"

God interrupted Lucifer, "No. The final new heavens and earth that I'll recreate will be everlasting."

Lucifer asked God, "How can your last recreated universe not have an ending, if it has a beginning? After all, You are the Alpha and the Omega. Theories will later be developed to explain your universe by Mankind. Some will say there can be a 'steady state' where the universe will perpetuate itself by continuing to expand with new matter being constantly created. This theory will be deposed in favor of the 'big bang' theory, which will state that the universe was created from a single tiny mass, which we already know is exactly what has happened. However, scientists will say that if there was a beginning to the universe, there must be an ending also, and several other theories will be developed to go along with the big bang theory.

"One will be the 'big crunch,' which will say that the big bang expansion will slow down and stop because of gravity, and will then contract. In this case, everything will end up back in a single point. A variation is the 'big bounce,' which allows the big crunch to rebound back out into another big bang and begin to repeat itself. Another different idea will be a 'multiverse,' where our universe is simple one of many, where old universes may end and other new ones occur to replace them. Then, there'll be the 'big freeze' where everything will freeze, and also the 'heat death' theory where all matter will simply burn up. Also, another is the 'big rip' where all matter disintegrates into elementary particles. There will be others, but these will be the main gems from the brilliance of mankind."

God added, "Mankind will be brilliant, but can never know the mind of the Godhead. Their idea of a steady state, however, will at least be on the right tract. With the final recreation after the end times, the universe will reach a point where it'll no longer expand. At that time, I'll fine-tune and change some of the forces of nature, so that the universe will become self-sustaining and eternal."

Rather perplexed Lucifer replied, "What are these end times you are talking about Lord?

Jesus answered, "There are some things we have given you in detail concerning the future of the universe. Others things aren't meant for any of the angels to know at this time. It is best for everyone to keep focused on the next step in our plan."

Lucifer said, "Thank you my Lord."

Later on, Michael addressed the angels. "It's been a time of magnificent worship, where you have given all the glory to God. However, it's time to prepare for another journey back into the universe. God is ready to breathe an abundance of life into the planet. There are many things in the universe that are in of need of his creative touch. God has already formed the solar system with the sun, and several planets rotating in orbit. The earth has a moon that rotates around it and gives light at night. On a recent visit, God created the first life forms as prokaryotes, around .6B years after the birth of the earth. Nature has slowly gotten things ready for more advanced forms of life. God created the eukayotes at about 2.6B years after the formation of the earth, and then multicellular life .5B years later. At the present time, the earth is approximately 4.1M years old, and it's time for what'll be known as the Cambrian

explosion.

"Starting now, there are many things that need the assistance of God to make small adjustment in the conditions that nature has brought to the earth. This will take a few million years to complete. God will want most of the angels to return to the star systems that they have already been assigned and to maintain their work there. The rest of the angels, including Lucifer, will accompany God to earth to aid in His new work there. We'll all meet back here in heaven from time to time for updates on God's plan, as well as to continue our praise and worship of the Lord. So, it's time for everyone to make provisions for the next step in this grand adventure."

It didn't take long until the angels were assembled before the throne in preparation for the upcoming journey. Michael and Gabriel had been put in charge of the angels that would follow the Holy Spirit to make alterations among the many stars of the universe. Lucifer was in charge of the angels that would be following Jesus to earth.

Gabriel blew his horn and shouted, "All of my angels need to follow me into the right half of the universe." Very quickly, they arose and flew out of heaven.

Michael then commanded, "The angels under my authority need to arise and come after me into the left half of the universe to commence our tasks." In short order, Michael and his hosts of angels had also left heaven.

Jesus then directed, "Lucifer, make ready your angels and follow me to the surface of the earth." As the last group of angels left, only the Father and several bands of ministering angels remained in heaven.

As the hosts flew towards the earth, Lucifer said, "What will later be called the 'Cambrian Explosion' is about to be set in motion. Up until this time, only bacteria and other basic life forms existed. It'll last only around 30M years, which is a drop in the bucket of time. However, nearly 90% the life forms that'll ever exist on the earth are to be created by God in this window of time. At first, the Lord will create many basic and primitive life forms that'll cover all of the major branches in the tree of life. By the end of the Cambrian and the beginning of the Paleozoic era, Jesus will create the first vertebrate animals. Then, in the Mesozoic era, he'll create the dinosaurs and mammals. However, the Lord won't create the first hominids until the Cenozoic era.

"All of the basic body blueprints are about to be put in place. Plants, grasses, trees, fish, and the first animals, will soon appear. Bodies with tails and heads, and walking appendages will start to venture out across the planet. Men of scientific means will later have trouble trying to explain evolution because of the sudden explosion in this period. However, God will not create mammals for several million more years." As they approached the earth, the angels could see a clear blue sky that enveloped the planet, which was filled with oxygen. On a previous trip, the Lord divided the water from the dry land, and positioned the clouds in the upper atmosphere.

As they landed, Jesus said, "I christen the immediate area around us with the name, 'Garden of Eden.' It'll serve as our headquarters during our stay on earth, and will be a special place in all of God's creation." As they landed, Jesus quickly began to adapt some of the present life forms, as well as creating totally new configurations. As He spoke, new life began to fill the earth. The land began to produce an abundance of new vegetation in the form of trees and plants according to their kind with seeds for growing more later on.

Although the stars and the moon had been created for some time, the oxygen-rich atmosphere magnified their appearance in the sky above. The sparking of the stars and the brightness of the moon was quite a sight for the angels to behold from the surface of the earth. Over the span of the next 30M years, the Lord continued to work on the earth. At times, there would be rest and relaxation in the Garden of Eden, to give God and the angels a break from their labor. The entire earth had become very beautiful, but its most spectacular gem was the Garden. As the era continued, Jesus continued to make more advanced forms of animals and then mammals. There were birds in the sky, fish in the sea, and livestock on the dry land. However, it wasn't time for the creation of Mankind.

When the work was finished, Jesus gathered the angels and said, "The Cambrian era is a grand time in the history of the universe. God has always had a special place for the earth in His majestic design of the universe. Major changes have just taken place, with most of the life forms now created. It's time for me to go back to Heaven and rejoin the Father. The Holy Spirit has been working with Michael, Gabriel, and the rest of the angels in other parts of the universe. He too is coming back for a meeting with the Father. I give Lucifer authority to rule on the earth and establish a throne. He will be summoned as needed to meet with me in heaven. Of course, I'll be back, as there is still much work yet to be completed on the earth." Praises arose from the angels, as Jesus flew into the clouds on his journey back to heaven.

Lucifer said, "I'll do my best to carry out the duties that Jesus has given me. In turn, I'll expect all of the angels on the earth to honor the authority that has been vested in me, and follow my orders." It just so happened that both Cody and Andrea were under the command of Lucifer at this time.

Cody exclaimed, "I think it's time to take a trip around the earth to see all of the wondrous creations of the Lord."

Andrea replied, "Sounds good to me. Let's get going." Soon the two had risen into the air, and they could see the area that would later be called Israel. As they journeyed, they saw fruit trees everywhere, and abundant grasses where animals grazed to their heart's content. As they rose higher, they could see the land masses that stood out from the oceans. Veering towards the west, they caught a glimpse of the Americas as well as many islands that lay in between the major land areas. They were thoroughly enjoying their sightseeing, when they heard a loud voice.

Lucifer called, "Get back down here. Nobody gave you permission to just fly off on your own!"

Cody subtly remarked, "It seems odd, but Lucifer appears to be out of his normal gracious character." So Cody and Andrea reversed their direction, and flew back towards the Garden of Eden.

As they set down, Lucifer glared and said, "Don't ever go off again unless I tell you too. Jesus has made me boss of this place, and I expect every angel to obey me. Have you got that clear? Rather than going on a sightseeing tour, you need to get to work tending the garden."

Both angels replied, "Yes sir," as they walked off into another part

of Eden.

As they got out of hearing distance of Lucifer, Andrea observed, "It seems like a little bit of authority has gone to Lucifer's head. He has always been so respectful of God and gentle in his dealings with the angels."

Cody replied, "Of course that was when he was in the direct presence of God. Now that Jesus is gone, there seems to be another side of Lucifer immersing. Maybe I'm jumping to conclusions, but it might be best to keep a watchful eye on how Lucifer treats the rest of the angels, now that He is the prince of the earth." Over the course of time while Jesus was absent, Cody and Andrea noticed that this new behavior pattern of Lucifer didn't go away. If anything, it kept growing steadily. He was disrespectful to many of the angels, and didn't lead worship as often as he had done in heaven. When Jesus returned for visits, Lucifer was his old charming self, that is, until Jesus departed again for heaven.

Andrea observed, "While I would never tell this to anyone else but you, Lucifer seems to have a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality. Let's hope that this is just a temporary thing because of his new authority. Hopefully, he will gradually return to his old self."

Jesus had returned to heaven for a meeting with the Father and the Holy Spirit concerning an update on creation. As he walked past the sea of glass, he sat down on the throne next to the Father. The Holy Spirit had also recently gotten back from his work in the universe.

The Father asked, "How are things progressing for each of you?" The Holy Spirit commented, "Most of the angels have been with me in the various galaxies of the universe, where I've been finetuning the initial creation so that everything works precisely as we want it."

Jesus responded, "My work on earth is about 95% complete as of now, and the stage is set for the creation of upright animals, mammals, and then the early hominids. Sadly, I have noticed a change in the behavior of Lucifer when I'm away from earth. Throughout the eons of time, He has been loyal and exemplary in his role as our chief intermediary with the rest of the angels. However, since he has been given authority over the earth, he doesn't act the same when I'm absence from the earth. Cody alerted me of some of these changes on my last visit to earth. I've instructed him to keep watch, and report back to me from time to time."

The Father answered, "We created the angels with a free will, and so far they have honored us in both their worship and work. Let's give Lucifer more time to adjust to having this new authority. I think it might be a good idea to have Lucifer return to heaven for awhile on your next visit to earth."

Jesus replied, "On my next visit to earth, I'm going to create some giant creatures that'll be called dinosaurs. Soon after, I'll create a new type of animal called mammals. As time progresses, our creations are becoming more complex. It won't be long until it is time to create hominids that will walk upright, and have a larger brain with more intellect. I know that you are pleased as we get nearer the time when mankind will be created in our image."

It was not long after Jesus returned to earth that he set up a private meeting with Cody.

Cody frowned, "I was hoping to bring good news upon your return. However, things have continually worsened. Lucifer has verbally abused many angels, with one receiving five lashes with a whip for not paying close enough attention. I've also seen him abuse some of the animals on occasions."

Jesus grimly replied, "At this time, I must honor Lucifer for his faithfulness over the many billions of years he's served us and give him the benefit of the doubt. It's the hope of the Godhead that he will return to his old self. In the meantime, it's important for you to continue to keep a close watch on him. If needed you can fly back to heaven to report to me during my absence. I'm going to cut this meeting short, as I've yet to greet Lucifer." Jesus left and made his way into the section of Eden where he resided.

Lucifer said, "Lord, I'm glad you are back. Everything has been going quite well during your absence, but I'm always happy to again be in your presence." On the surface, Lucifer seemed to be normal, acting both gracious and kind.

Jesus replied, "So, I guess there is nothing out of the ordinary to report? No problems with the angels or with the new creations on earth?"

Lucifer noted, "Just some minor issues with authority, but everything is basically going according to plan. There is really nothing to bother you about, as I have it all under control."

Jesus answered, "It is time for me to create the dinosaurs and the first mammals. While I was in heaven, the Father noted that you have been at work on the earth for a long time. He suggested that it would be a good idea for you to return to heaven, while I'm here on earth. I agree, and think it would also be good for the angels to have you leading worship before the throne of God once again. Of course this is only temporary, and you'll be free to return after I finish with my work on the earth."

Somewhat shocked Lucifer responded, "Are you sure you won't be needing me while you're here?"

Jesus answered, "Of course you are needed here, but I think the greater good would be for you to visit heaven right now."

Lucifer commented, "Of course you're right. I'll make plans to leave immediately." Not too long after, Lucifer bid Jesus and the angels farewell, as he flew upward into the clouds on his trip back to heaven.

Jesus said to Cody, "I think this visit back to heaven will help Lucifer and get him re-centered on who he is and what his purpose is in the plan of God."

Cody uttered, "I hope so too. Lucifer has always been very gracious and selfless until his appointment as the prince of earth."

Soon Jesus went throughout the earth and began to create a new type of cold-blooded creature called a dinosaur, along with other large reptiles. They would play a major role on the earth for a time. There will be pterosaurs, ichthyosaurs, and plesiosaurs, among many other large bodied creatures. A new kind of warm-blooded, furbearing animal called mammals was also created.

Jesus proclaimed, "Let there be dinosaurs." In an instant, the area surrounding him was filled with creatures that were many times bigger than any of the angels. With his spoken word, many other large reptiles were also created. At this time, all of the creatures ate vegetation, as no animals preyed on other animals. It was quite a sight to see these gigantic creatures walk and eat beside the smaller animals of earth. Some of the smaller animals were the newly created mammals like the marsupials, shrews, and hedgehogs. Jesus also continued to create a wide variety of other mammals that inhabited the air, land, and sea. There were whales, bats, and herbivores, as well as birds, amphibians, fish, and many more. The Lord also caused the Pangaea to break up into different continents that were separated by oceans and seas. The earth had now become a very dynamic place in God's creation. Yet, it wasn't time for the apple of God's eye, mankind, to be created.

Jesus said, "Everything I've created is good, and I'm finished for awhile. It's time to rest and relax with my angels before I return to the Father in heaven."

Lucifer had been in heaven for only a short time, when he was called before the Father. As Lucifer approached the throne, he fell on his knees before God and began to cry.

Lucifer said, "I've missed being able to serve you here in heaven. I know my work on earth is important, but I really needed to be able to stand before the throne in the present of the glorious one. I thank you for summoning me back to heaven."

The Father answered, "Come closer Lucifer. You were created as an archangel; one my most important angels to help lead and direct the others. You've served me well during all of the hard work of creating the universe. As we go forward, your loyalty and obedience are more important now than ever. For a time, I would like for you to stay close to me and rejuvenate yourself for the upcoming tasks ahead."

Lucifer seemed to become his old self, and graciously led worship

before the throne of God. He also was close enough to hear some of the conversations that regularly took place between the Father and the Holy Spirit. In previous eons of time, he didn't pay a lot of attention to what was said between the members of the Trinity, as it was private council. However, Lucifer now found himself straining to hear what was being said. He was somewhat concerned that he had been ordered back to heaven from his post as prince of the earth. On one particular occasion, as the Father and the Holy Spirit began a conversation, Lucifer drew close enough to listen in.

The Father said, "Jesus is presently creating a large portion of the life that is needed for a fully functioning earth. There are dinosaurs, reptiles, and the mammals."

The Holy Spirit replied, "Yes, the stage has been set for the creation of more intelligent animals called hominids. They'll have a body structure that resembles that of the angels, yet in a material form. They'll, however, not have a spirit or soul, and will be the first of the mammals to form societies, capable of domestication, and other forms of civilized behavior. However, they'll not be directly related to mankind, a creature that Jesus will create in another era. Mankind will be a complex being that is created in our image with a spirit, soul, and body. They will be a special creation that'll have a rank just below the angels."

The Father commented, "The universe was designed especially for the earth to be the home of mankind. At a point later in time, we'll incarnate Jesus to be born as a man, so as to bring a much needed gift to this species. Mankind has a unique place in our creation, and will in the end times judge angels." Lucifer's eyes were as big as saucers, and he had a frown on his face as he listened. Lucifer thought, "I'm comfortable with the idea that mankind will be a little lower than the angels, but why would God incarnate himself in a creature that is lower than us. If that is true, then maybe I, as the head angel, can rise above the creator when he becomes a man. Why would God create a being in his own image? Is he trying to replace the angels? And what bothers me the most is, how can man ever judge the angels? Maybe my place isn't just in serving God. If God becomes a man that is below the angels, then maybe the head angel can rise to a position above God!"

Lucifer was interrupted from his eavesdropping by several hosts of angels that had started to gather for worship before the throne. Soon, Lucifer seemed to be his old self, playing the pipes and leading the praise and worship. But, he hadn't forgotten what he had overheard.

Jesus had recently finished the latest round of creation, and it was time for Lucifer to return and assume his position as prince of the earth. Lucifer bid farewell to the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the heavenly angels, as he made his way back to earth. When he landed, he immediately made his way into the presence of the Lord.

Jesus said, "I 'm glad to see you back on earth. My work is done for the present, and it's time to depart for heaven very soon. You are looking well. How was your visit to heaven?

Lucifer smiled and replied, "It was a glorious time of refreshment for me. I feel recharged and ready to return to my duties on earth. I'm sorry that we won't have much time to visit before you leave."

Jesus answered, "There'll be another time soon when I'll return. Maybe we'll be able to visit more then. But, for now, I must hasten to see the Father." In short order, Jesus blessed the angels and proceeded to fly into the sky towards heaven.

Lucifer smiled and thought, "I've also been working on a plan of my own, but I'm not going to share it with anyone else right now, as there could be an informant among the angels on earth. This planet has been made mine, and I must take measures to preserve my authority in this part of the universe. I must also prepare for the time when Jesus becomes a lowly man."

Lucifer toured the earth to see what new things Jesus had created. He was shocked by the size of the dinosaurs and large reptiles. They didn't seem to pay much attention to him, and went about doing whatever they wanted. It was apparent that he would somehow need to bring them into line, and put them under his authority. However, Lucifer would need to devise some new tactics for handing these giant creatures.

Lucifer called Cody, "I need to have a large metal pole made that has three prongs on the end of it."

Cody replied, "I can have it made, but it'll take a few days. Might I ask what it's to be used for?"

Lucifer answered harshly, "No you may not ask. If I wanted you to know, then I would have already told you. It is best to mind your own business. Get out of here and back to work."

Cody thought to himself, "Now that Jesus has left, it doesn't look like Lucifer has changed any since his visit to heaven. I'll have to keep a watch on what he is up to with that pronged devise." Soon, it was finished and Cody brought the pole to Lucifer.

Lucifer said, "Thank you Cody. This shows good workmanship and should serve my purposes well." After Cody had left, Lucifer picked up the spear-like devise and threw it at a tree. It hit with such force that it splintered wood in every direction, and caused the tree to dry up and die. He went over and picked up the spear and thought, "It's time to get these dinosaurs to respect my authority."

Lucifer flew off into the air and made his way towards a group of large reptiles. He began to herd them with his pitchfork. He was like a cow dog circling the herd. As he moved, he poked the animals to make them mind. They reacted and tried to bite him, but he stayed just outside of their grasp. He also continued to taunt and pressure several other groups of large retiles. He particularly enjoyed fighting with the flying reptiles, as they were more of a challenge. These tactics seemed to work somewhat, but the dinosaurs still didn't want to fully obey. Over the years, Lucifer became increasingly courageous and used other tactics. It seemed the only way for these dim-witted creatures to learn obedience was to teach them a lesson that they wouldn't forget. On one excursion, Lucifer came across a defiant dinosaur, even when he used the pitchfork to prod it repeatedly. So, Lucifer took the spear and violently threw it into the reptile, piercing the outer body and plunging into its vital organs. The animal slowed, staggered off, and fell over dead. Lucifer pulled the spear out, and looked back at the rest of the reptiles. There was a new sense of fear in all of them, and they ran off to find shelter. What he didn't notice was that the animals later returned to eat the flesh of the dead animal. Thereafter, on his hunting trips, Lucifer regularly killed dinosaurs in other groups to instill fear in the large creatures. Death had now been brought to the earth, and the creatures had become accustomed to eating flesh. But, Lucifer's kills weren't enough to satisfy their growing appetite. Soon, the dinosaurs began to kill other creatures on their own so they could eat their flesh. This led to a chain reaction that permeated many of God's animals on earth. Not only did animals begin to hunt other animals, but death became a natural thing as animals began to age and die.

Lucifer's actions had actually altered the nature of what God had originally created. From about 200,000 years BC until 65 BC, the dinosaurs thrived, and became more vicious. However, life was no longer eternal for the dinosaurs, large reptiles, mammals, and many of the creatures that God had created. Death now reigned on the earth, and Lucifer was happy, by being able to effectively change a part of God's original plan. He had found a way to place his own imprint on the planet. But this was only the beginning of his plan, which up until now had been kept a secret.

Jesus had been back in heaven now for millions of years, and had left the development of the earth under the control of Lucifer. The Godhead had chosen to allow Lucifer to continue to have authority on the earth, despite his misgivings. Time would tell if Lucifer would continue to act in his own self-interest, or eventually return to being a genuine servant of God.

Jesus said, "Lucifer seemed to have returned to normal when I was last on the earth. However, since then things have taken a turn for the worse."

The Father replied, "What is he up to now? He was a perfect angel in every way when he was visiting heaven. No one can lead worship like Lucifer. Of course, we knew that when the angels were created with a freewill, they would have an opportunity to act in a fashion that's not pleasing to God."

Jesus answered, "We didn't want mindless robots as angels, who were programmed to respond in just one way. The eons since the beginning of the universe have provided a time of testing for the use of freewill in the angels. So far, Lucifer, is the only angel that has veered away from what would be considered desirable behavior. Yet, he hasn't gone past the point of no return. Just as he has used his freewill in his own self-interest, it's hoped that he'll use that same free will to find himself and return to being righteous in God."

The Father added, "So what do you suggest we do? From my observations of him during the last few million years, I don't see any indication of his behavior getting any better."

The Holy Spirit remarked, "Lucifer has tainted our creation and caused death on the earth. He has especially altered the behavior of the dinosaurs and the large reptiles. They're now known as 'the terrible lizards.' Their actions threaten to makes some species that we have created extinct because of their predatorial tendencies."

Jesus commented, "Sadly, the dinosaurs seem to be a lost cause because of Lucifer's actions. If we eliminate all of the large animals, then it'll help preserve many of the other species. It'll also allow us to see how Lucifer reacts when we intervene to remove what he's altered. It's time for the Holy Spirit to take action against these large creatures in the hopes that the earth might yet be returned to its previous state."

The Holy Spirit said, "I'll cause a large meteorite to hit the earth around the Yucatan Peninsula, which will cause an abrupt temperature change, as well as cause several volcanos to erupt and fill the air with debris. This will be severe enough to kill off all of the dinosaurs in a mass extinction, except for some of the avian dinosaurs. Many groups of birds, ammonites, plesiosaurs. mosasaurs, pterosaurs, and some groups of mammals will also be made extinct. However, the rest of the creatures on the earth will be able to survive what will be called the 'Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event." As he finished speaking, the Holy Spirit flew out of heaven and into the universe. From a position near the Solar System, he altered the direction of a large meteorite so that it was on a collision course with the earth. As quickly as he had left, the Holy Spirit returned to heaven.

Jesus exclaimed, "The process has now been put in motion to destroy all of the large creatures."

Back on earth, Lucifer surveyed the earth and viewed with satisfaction how he had altered God's creation towards his own desires. He saw this as the beginning of his complete domination of the earth, including control over mankind. Lucifer had now found a core group of angels who swore first allegiance to him, rather than to the Father. Their influence would be instrumental in bringing mankind under his submission later on. As he sat talking with Apollyon, a bright light appeared and began to streak across the sky, eventually hitting the earth in a large explosion. Soon after, a large earthquake caused several volcanoes to become active and spew large clouds over much of the earth.

Looking alarmed Apollyon exclaimed, "What's going on? This is not a part of your plan. Has Jesus returned in anger?"

Lucifer peered out over the destruction, "If Jesus had returned

we would have already seen him. I think he's still in heaven. Something else has occurred. We need to go out and find out what is going on." The two angels flew into the sky and immediately could see the center of the initial destruction in Mexico. There was a large crater that was the result of a meteorite hitting the earth. As they looked into the other corners of the earth, they could see several volcanoes erupting.

Apollyon cried, "Look what one misguided rock has done to your earth. I wonder how many of the animals are still alive?"

Lucifer grimly added, "We had better check more closely. Maybe we can help to save any creatures in trouble." As the pair toured the earth, they could see a mass of dead dinosaurs. However, most of the smaller mammals had been able to find shelter. Over the course of a few weeks, the rest of the dinosaurs and large reptiles died, and they were no more.

Later on Lucifer said, "I hated to lose the dinosaurs. They were the first to fall according to my plan. But at least, most of the other creatures have survived now that the air has cleared, and the vegetation is growing once again. I hope that Jesus waits another few million years before he returns, so nature can help restore the earth. Right now it's quite a wreak." No sooner had he spoken than he could see the Lord's appearance on the clouds. "Oh no, I'm in trouble now!" As Jesus came down from the clouds and landed upon the earth, Lucifer watched from behind a tree as the Lord found Cody.

Cody waved and said, "I'm glad that you are back. If you thought that things were bad before, they have gotten much worse. Over the years, Lucifer has actually killed many of the dinosaurs, and allowed death to be brought into God's creation. But, that's nothing compared to what's just happened. The meteorite has killed off all of the big dinosaurs."

Jesus sadly replied, "I was hoping that things would have changed for the better after Lucifer's visit to heaven. It seems that the problem has grown larger. The Godhead saw that the only chance for the revival of Lucifer would be to kill all of the dinosaurs that he has tainted. The Father wants to give him another opportunity to redeem himself. I'll be sending him back to heaven while I'm at work at here on earth." Jesus slowly walked away from Cody and approached the lair of Lucifer. Meanwhile, Lucifer had hurried from his hiding place and returned to his throne. As Jesus came near, Lucifer looked surprised and jumped up.

He said, "I didn't know when you would be coming back, but I'm glad that you're here. Nature has tried to destroy God's creation on the earth. It's a good thing I was here, or everything would likely have been wiped out. Most everything has survived except for the dinosaurs and a few species of mammals."

Jesus replied, "It's time that I create a uniquely new kind of mammal that'll replace the dinosaurs. Some will be monkeys and apes, and others will be called hominids. They'll all possess a higher intellect, and some will have the ability to speak languages. Of course, they will come under your authority here on earth. It does seem that we have a problem, as I can see that death has made its way onto the earth. What do you know of this?"

Lucifer stammered, "I was having trouble with the dinosaurs being obedient. I had a special spear made to help herd them and bring them under control. But, on one occasion, one was accidentally killed, and the animals started eating it. They liked the taste of flesh and later started killing other animals for food. This seemed to have radiated out among many of the animals, and they too became flesh eaters. Aging and dead have also entered the animal kingdom. I am sorry to accidentally have been the one to start this chain reaction."

Jesus sternly asked, "It's unfortunate that you've killed, but I'll accept your story. Thus far, death has been confined to the earth, and hasn't entered the rest of the universe. Killing and death wasn't a part of God's original creation. At some point in the future, I'll need to completely eliminate death from the earth, but for now my main interest is in giving you a chance to be fully restored. We need to be sure that you'll never do this again. It'll be best for you to immediately go back to heaven. When I'm done with my work here, I'll return and we can have a meeting before the throne of God. Do you understand that this is serious?"

Lucifer responded with head hung low, "Yes my Lord! I'm sorry that I killed some the dinosaurs. I guess the meteorite hitting the earth took care of the problem of death and dying for the dinosaurs and many of the mammal species. I'll go back to heaven, and really try to get myself back on track. I'm sure that being in the glorious presence of the Father will revive me and renew my life." As the conversation ended, Lucifer bowed and left the presence of Jesus. Before he flew off, he found Cody.

A surprised Cody said, "What are you doing here? I thought that you were on your way back to heaven?"

Lucifer snickered, "You ought to know, you snitch! There's nothing worse than a behind the back informant. I'm perfectly able

to report things directly to Jesus without your help. If you can't learn to respect your boss, then you may need to be replaced. I'll be watching you when I get back. And don't go telling Jesus anything else while I'm gone, as I'll handle things directly myself." Lucifer then hid his pitchfork, and turned to fly off towards heaven.

Not long after, Jesus said to Cody, "We have much to do. I'm making you my chief assistance, as the allegiance of the rest of the angels on earth is questionable at the present time. Over the next few million years we'll have a multitude of tasks to complete. I'll create all kind of upright creatures. Lucifer has overheard some of the details about God's plan, but he doesn't know the particulars on when mankind will be created. I'm certain that he thinks that I'm about to create mankind at the present time. It's best to let him continue to think that way. However, the era of mankind won't build on the creations of the present age, and will be a unique creation at a later point in time. Are you ready to help out?"

Cody responded, "I'll help you in any way that I can." At first, Jesus created some four-legged creatures like the Euarchanta, which are insect eating mammals. He also created new world monkeys and old world monkeys. Then around 15M years BC, Jesus made the hominidae or great apes, and then the orangutan, the chimpanzees, and the bonobos. This was followed by one of the earliest hominin genus called ardipithecus and the bipedal australopithecines. By 2.8M BC, the first homo habilis were created in east Africa. This was followed by homo erectus, homo antecessor, the Neanderthals, and then the first homo sapiens around 200,000 BC.

After a few million years, Jesus said, "My work again is concluded

for the time being."

Cody replied, "It's been a pleasure helping you create all of these new upright creatures. When will Lucifer return?"

Jesus replied, "Once I get to heaven, the Godhead will sent Lucifer back to earth in the hope that he'll be a better caretaker."

Upon entering heaven, Jesus could hear the pipes of Lucifer as he led worship with the angels before the throne of God. After landing, Jesus quietly came over and sat down at the right hand of the Father. The worship continued for quite some time. As soon as it had subsided, Lucifer quick came over and bowed before Jesus.

He said, "I'm so happy that you're back. It's been a very long time. I've been thoroughly refreshed and restored, being able to serve before the Father and the Holy Ghost both day and night."

Jesus looked at Lucifer and replied, "Well, maybe it would be a good idea for you to stay around permanently and serve God here in heaven!"

Lucifer with a look of horror on his face cried, "Oh, no, no! With the multitude of other angels here in heaven, my presence is insignificant. Your plan would be better served if I returned to earth."

Jesus laughed, "Just kidding. I wanted to see what your reaction would be if you could never return to the earth. I was already planning to ask you to resume your role as caretaker of the earth. However, I want you to know that this is your last chance. If you blow it, you will have to be permanently reassigned."

Lucifer wept with joy and said, "You'll see that I'm now my old

self, and will be worthy of my reappointment as prince of the earth."

Jesus added, "You might as well get ready. I've left Cody in charge of things until you get back." Lucifer quickly bowed and made preparations for his journey back to earth.

The Father proclaimed, "It's really been wonderful having Lucifer back. No other angel can lead worship like he does. He truly seems to have been restored."

Jesus replied, "I just hope that the old self hasn't developed a fatal flaw that will draw him back into his own self interests. Things have reached a critical point with Lucifer. If he fails again to serve as prince of the earth, he'll have reached a point of irreversibility. The final testing of his freewill is at hand."

The Father answered, "With the creation of the homo sapiens, we'll see if he'll try to serve and faithfully watch after them or try to dominate them. Even though these creatures have no spirit or soul, they look very man-like."

Jesus added, "Lucifer doesn't know for sure that this isn't mankind. He's aware of the certainty that we'll create mankind, since I noticed him eavesdropping on some of our conversations on his previous visit to heaven. When he returns to earth, it's likely that he'll think that my latest creation is in fact mankind. This'll be his ultimate test. Will he be a servant to our latest creation, or will he attempt to put them into servitude."

As Lucifer was flying back to earth, he had a lot to think about. He truly had enjoyed resuming his old role as the chief archangel between God and the rest of the angels. It's so tempting to just stay in the presence of God and continue serving as he had done for eons. However, he couldn't get the conversation out of his head that he had overheard between the members of the Trinity on my earlier visit to heaven. It's like a cancer that won't go away. Mankind is to be created a little lower than the angels, and Jesus will incarnate himself as a man. This may be the only opportunity to wrestle control away from Jesus, and ascend into a place above God. A window of opportunity is quickly approaching, but won't last forever. If I try and fail, there'll be no more last chance. It was a tough choice that Lucifer must make as he flew past the sun.

Chapter 5 – The Migration of Homo Sapiens

As Lucifer landed on earth, he left the pitchfork where it'd been hidden, and returned to sit on his throne. The extinction of the dinosaurs and large reptiles had eliminated a major part the problem that death that created. Jesus had promised to totally eliminate death at some point in the future. Lucifer truly had a chance to start over and be the prince of the earth that God wanted him to become.

As Lucifer contemplated his future, a dim speck in the distance began to grow brighter until it filled the area around him with the glory of God. Soon, the archangel felt the mighty presence of God as the Holy Spirit came into a position just above his throne.

The Spirit said, "You seem deep in thought. Your upcoming decision will have serious consequences on all of creation. When you were in heaven the last time, I listened intently as the Father repeatedly showed his love for you in the hope that you would be fully restored. After Jesus returned from earth, it seemed that you had become your old self. These two members of the Godhead have given you every possible chance for you to be revived to your former glory. What do you have to say for yourself, now that you are back on earth?"

Lucifer raised his head and replied, "I truly enjoyed my visit to heaven and it's made me fully aware of the ramifications of my actions if I continue to act in my own self interest, rather than following the plan of God. I've long known that I'm the favorite of the Father in all of creation. I don't think that his love would allow him to come against me even if I decided to carry out a rebellion. He'd likely abdicate his throne before destroying me."

The Holy Spirit answered, "God's love and mercy are extensive and long-lasting. But, they're not infinite when it comes to sin. You error if you think that the Father will let your rebellion take place without extreme repercussions. God has always acted in love towards everything in his creation. There is, however, another side to love that you must consider if you continue to bring evil into his creation. God's wrath is actually his love put into action against sin. He hates sin because he's holy and it's the antithesis of his very nature. 'For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with You (PSM 5:4).' If you carry out your rebellion against the Father, be fully aware that his wrath will fully come against you. There'll be no further mercy and his judgment will be final and absolute."

Somewhat stunned Lucifer responded, "I've never seen God's wrath. What exactly is it?"

The Spirit proclaimed, "Sin will bring a separation between the sinner and God, because he has turned his back on God. This has never happened before in the history of God's creation. But, if you continue on a path of revolt, God has no choice but to bring his wrath against you. His wrath is a terrifying and fearsome thing. At best, you would be thrown permanently out of heaven. At worst, God can destroy what he once created."

Lucifer cried, "I don't believe that the Father would ever destroy me! If my rebellion failed, how would he separate me from heaven?

The Holy Spirit exclaimed, "Just as wrath is the other side of love, heaven also has an opposite that has never existed up until this point in time. It is a place called hell." Lucifer reacted, "I've never heard of hell any more than wrath. Where is this place?"

The Holy Spirit responded, "Although hell isn't yet an actual place, I can tell you exactly what it'll be like if the Father needs to create it. It'll be a place of torments. It'll be a site of outer darkness. It'll be a location where there'll be gnashing of teeth and weeping. It'll be a site where there are great sorrows. It'll be a setting of torture with unquenchable brimstone and fire with everlasting destruction. It'll be an area where there isn't any rest, with unsatisfied desires and great hopelessness. But, it'll be nothing in comparison with the Lake of Fire, where hell will be thrown in the last days. This place called hell would be specially created for you and any angels that chooses to follow you in an act of rebellion. So, you really need to thoroughly weight the consequences of your upcoming decision."

Lucifer laughed, "Are you and the Father trying to scare me so that I might return to his good graces?"

The Holy Spirit retorted, "These aren't threats, but an explanation of what God will do if sin is brought into his creation. He would act in wrath against anyone or anything that brings evil into his universe. He'll most certainly act in order to eliminate it. Sin and evil have no rightful place in God's creation. Yet, with freewill, it's always been a possibility, if one chooses to turn against God and follow his own selfish desires. The choice is left up to you. God will not force you to return."

Lucifer uttered, "I don't think that God would really bring such a horrible place into existence within his perfect creation."

The Holy Spirit replied, "I don't think you've fully grasped the actuality of what hell will be like. It's time for a demonstration." The

Spirit waved his hand and a panoramic vision was set before Lucifer, who was drawn into its virtual reality. Very quickly, Lucifer was inside of hell and could see and feel exactly what the Holy Spirit had talked about earlier. However, he was an observer rather than a participant of what was taking place. The first thing that Lucifer noticed was the total lack of God's presence. Although the Spirit was standing outside of the vision and could still speak to him, there was no sensing of his presence within the chasm of hell.

Lucifer shouted, "Okay. You've made your point. Now get me out of here! I believe that God could create such a place. But, I don't think he would put me and my angels in it."

The Holy Spirit replied, "Hold tight for awhile. I think you need to take a little tour before coming back to the comforts of earth. Maybe then you'll think differently about the true purpose of hell." Lucifer was standing on a high ledge overlooking one of the compartments of hell. He began to look more closely at some of the beings that were chained there.

Lucifer said, "None of these creatures are my angels. I recognize nobody. This place is meant for someone else."

The Holy Spirit remarked, "You don't recognize them because a fallen creature will no longer resemble an angel of God. They'll become demons whose nature and appearance is quite different. Why don't you talk to one of them."

Lucifer cried out, "Are you in here, Apollyon?"

An answer came from a far corner, "I'm here Lucifer. You didn't say anything about God putting us in a place like this. I thought that if the rebellion failed, we would be chastised and locked away in a dungeon for a time, and then released. This place is awful. I've been crying out to God to come and help me, but to no avail. Get me out of here Lucifer!"

Lucifer was so stunned that he could not speak. Apollyon didn't resemble the angel that he once knew. His brow was thick, his skin was leathery and red in color. He no longer had any wings, but a small set of horns had replaced them. His feet were similar to those of a donkey. As he watched, a blast of molten rock dropped on his head and made its way to the ground, burning up the demon's entire being. As it fell to the floor, Apollyon was restored, and then tormented again and again. He cried out in great agony. Lucifer turned his head, as he couldn't bear to see his top-ranking angel suffer in such a manner. But, when he looked in the other direction, he saw another member of his high council standing in excruciating pain as both of his eyes were burned from their sockets, only to be regenerated and burned out again. Lucifer turned again, and saw a very large creature in the middle of the room being tortured.

The Holy Spirit said, "Don't you know who that is? No one in hell has a greater presence than the former favorite of God. Yes, Lucifer, that is you."

Lucifer whimpered, "It can't be me, as it looks nothing like the light bearer of God." The huge demon was struggling to get free from his unrelenting pain. A nearby cauldron had spit brimstone all over his body, burning holes in his skin and singeing the feathers on his wings. The demon had a large set of horns on his head, and a ruddy complexion with serpent-like skin.

The demon looked up and said, "Yes, Lucifer, it is you! Not quite the most glorious angel of heaven any more. When you're put in here, you'll no longer be an angel called Lucifer, but a devil named Satan. If you're smart, you'll change your ways and avoid the fate that follows rebellion."

Lucifer awoke on the floor in front of his throne. He was sweating profusely, and felt feverish. He looked around and there was no Holy Spirit. Maybe he'd just had a bad dream. Apollyon was making his way towards the throne.

He said, "Lucifer, you look terrible! You are pale as a ghost, and there is no reflection of God's glory upon you. What happened?"

Lucifer climbed up on his throne and replied, "I just had a very bad nightmare, or I hope that's what it was. But, don't worry I'm all right, and will gain my composure shortly. Please leave me alone for a time." He thought, surely this wasn't something that Holy Spirit would do to him. After all, he was the favorite angel of the Father. Soon, Lucifer had convinced himself that all of this was nothing but a bad dream, and something that needed to be quickly forgotten.

He continued to ponder which direction he should choose. Should he return to God's fold, and remain the Father's favorite. Or, should he continue in his plan of rebellion. In the end, Lucifer knew that his self-righteousness had carried him too far into the deep abyss. Lucifer had come up with the idea that he could rise above God, and he couldn't seem get this out of his mind. He also hadn't truly tried all that hard to alter his pattern of thinking, as in his heart he like the idea of superseding God.

These new Homo Sapiens that Jesus had created were now in the southern portion of Africa. This was as good a time as any to take control of them while the population was still small. If Lucifer could rule these new beings, he would be in a position to deal with Jesus when he became a man. So, his decision had been made. Lucifer would proceed according to his own plan. Of course, He'd need to keep all of this quiet, and confined to a small circle of his most loyal angels. He'd have to work incognito until it was time to lead a rebellion against Jesus.

As Cody approached Lucifer he said, "I was wondering when you would be back. Jesus has created all kinds of new creatures since you departure. How was your trip in heaven?"

Weighing his words, Lucifer replied, "It is good to be back. There's a lot of work yet to do here on the earth. Do you remember what I told you before I left for heaven? Did you follow my orders?"

Cody answered, "I remember. However, my allegiance is first to God and then to you. As long as you continue to serve God, we'll not have any more difficulties."

Lucifer stood up and said, "The problem is that you keep going behind my back to report things to Jesus. I can't allow that to happen any longer. Apollyon, come quickly and put Cody in chains in the dungeon just outside Eden."

Apollyon said, "You're coming with me. I am going to put an end to your incessant troublemaking," as he grabbed Cody by the arm. Soon, Cody was confined in the dungeon, where he could only see out through a small opening in the door.

Lucifer remarked, "Now that Cody is out of the way, I'll not have to worry about him tipping Jesus off about what is going on here. It's important that my plan is kept among a select group. If Jesus comes back suddenly, we want everything to look on the surface like it's progressing according to God's plan. However, we'll continue to carry out my plan under cover. Your next assignment is to determine if the rest of the angels on earth have first loyal to me. If you find any more like Cody, then put them in the dungeon too."

Apollyon answered, "Your plan will go no further than your most steadfast followers. I'll keep on the lookout for any angels that aren't dedicated to following you."

After Cody had been in the dungeon for a while, there was a knock on the door one night.

Earl called out, "Are you in there Cody?"

Cody answered, "I'm still here, as I haven't been able to find a means of escape."

Earl replied, "I was watching when Apollyon threw you in here, and wanted to let things simmer down before I came to visit. From my observations, the only angels on earth that are still primarily loyal to God are my friend Edgar and myself. I thought that maybe we could find a way to get you out of this cell."

Cody proclaimed, "I really like the idea of getting out of here, but it might be better for me to remain in the dungeon and let Edgar and you do some detective work. I really have no solid proof right now to give Jesus that will firmly show that Lucifer isn't following God's plan. I think it might be better for the two of you to continue your duties under Lucifer, and gather evidence against him. This may take a long time, as I'm sure that Lucifer is going to try and conceal what he's really up to. You can visit when needed under the veil of night to keep me informed of your progress."

Earl added, "Well, it looks like we have a plan of our own too, but it's one that serves God. Sooner or later, Lucifer will slip up and we'll have enough corroborating evidence to take to Jesus. I'm just sorry that you'll have to stay in the dungeon in the mean time. I guess I had better leave before it gets light."

Lucifer called, "Apollyon, make yourself ready to go with me on a trip to survey these new creatures that God has created. I want to visit the Homo Erectus and Neanderthal groups that have already made their way out of Africa and onto the other continents. They seem to be very aggressive in migrating into new areas. The Sapiens, however, seem content to just sit around and live in south Africa."

Apollyon replied, "It seems that death and dying has benefited both Erectus and the Neanderthals, by allowing reproduction to enter the species in order for them to multiply and grow. This has aided their populations to expand in other parts of the world. This isn't true of the Sapiens, who are still untainted by the sting of death. Jesus always creates a being that is pure and can live forever. Without death, there's no aging or dying, which means no need for them to reproduce themselves. They'll likely remain content with just living in the lower part of Africa. It'd be most advantageous for you to gain control over both Erectus and the Neanderthals. If you're able to bring them into submission, then you'll have a large group of subjects under your influence throughout the world."

Lucifer answered, "I like your line of reasoning. You're giving me good evidence that I made the right choice in placing you first in command under me. Keep up the good work. Let's go visit some of the Erectus groups in China." Soon after the pair had made their way into Asia, they found the primary leader, Genghis, and attempted to set up a meeting with him. As they approached the leader, a group of followers with clubs surrounded Lucifer and Apollyon, and brought them in front of Genghis, who was sitting on a wooden chair that resembled a throne.

Genghis said, "Why have you walked into my territory without asking permission?"

Lucifer smiled and answered, "We didn't know whose territories..." Before he was finished speaking, one of the men raised his Club.

He said, "Don't stand before our king and speak. Get on the ground and keep your head low." Both Lucifer and Apollyon were forced down on their knees with heads bowed.

Lucifer reiterated, "We didn't know whose territories these belonged to or who was the ruler."

Genghis proclaimed, "Are you stupid. You should've inquired before you attempted to come near my throne. This is good enough reason to take off your head. What do you want, and don't take long as I've other more important things to deal with."

Lucifer said, "I came to let you know that I'm the prince of this world, and willing to make you a key leader, if you'll agree to serve me." Before he could say anything more, the king interrupted.

Genghis shouted, "It's you on your knees, not me! You may be a leader elsewhere, but not in my territory. I'll bow to no one. You've made a mistake coming here. I think that we'll make a nice stew out of you."

Soon a fight broke out as Lucifer and Apollyon tried to assert dominance over the Genghis clan. Lucifer was surprised by the hostile nature of the group and their raw undisciplined power. Quickly, he decided that it might be best to simply fly away from this particular fight. In a heartbeat, the two angels were in the air and out of harm's way. Later on, Lucifer tried to reason with several other groups of Erectus, but had very similar results. Afterwards, they tried to establish their control over the Neanderthals with no better luck.

In frustration Lucifer said, "I give up on both Erectus and the Neanderthals. I'm sure that we would prevail, but it would take a major battle to bring these primitive beings into submission."

Apollyon replied, "Maybe we should go and talk with the Sapiens in Africa. They will undoubtedly be more civil."

Lucifer retorted, "Another good idea. It's always possible to introduce death to the Sapiens if it would serve our purposes. Death brings aging and dying, which would cause this group to reproduce and their population to grow. It's possible that we might cause this group to prosper and move northward. At that point, they could migrate out of Africa and into Europe and Asia. We could introduce new tools and weaponry to them so that they would be able to defeat and kill off the Neanderthals and Erectus populations as they migrated. We could fill the earth with upright Sapiens. Of course, I'm getting a little ahead of myself. First, we'll need to fly down and visit this group in the southern part of Africa. Then, we can assess if they can be brought under our control." Soon the duo was flying south and entered the domain of the Sapiens. As before, they landed and sought to have a conference with the leaders. This time, the group didn't use weapons against the angels. They simply led them to an area in which their leaders lived. As they came into a clearing, they were brought before a female and male Sapien.

Lucifer said, "I'm the prince of this world, and have been given authority over the planet by its creator, Jesus."

The female answered, "I know of this man Jesus. He came and created us from the dust of the earth. We're most grateful, and were very sorry to see him go. But, it looks like he has sent someone else to replace him. What's it that you want."

Lucifer calmly replied, "I'm the prince in charge of the earth, and want to delegate authority to you, if you'll agree to serve and obey me."

The male proclaimed, "Why wouldn't we serve you, since you're an angel from heaven that serves God."

Lucifer declared, "Then it's agree that the two of you are my subjects, and are hereby appointed as the leaders of the Sapiens. We'll jointly begin my plan of populating the earth with Sapiens. I'm going to give each of you a new name. One will be Adam and the other Eve."

Adam replied, "Thank you for our new names. I'm not sure how we might populate the earth, since our numbers are small."

Lucifer added, "Don't worry about that. I'll take care of everything. All you have to do is follow my orders."

As they left Apollyon said, "Where in the world did you come up with the names Adam and Eve?"

Lucifer replied, "Once when I was in heaven, I overheard Jesus talking about the first humans being named Adam and Eve. I thought I might as well jump start everything and give them their new names. This'll put me in a position of authority when Jesus decides to incarnate himself as a human. He's going to be very surprised when he comes face to face with me, and finds that I'm his new boss."

Apollyon joked, "Ingenious my lord. You really do have a great plan, and we're about to implement the first stages. You know that later on, mankind will actually call these two leaders the father and mother of the Sapiens. They'll even use the names of 'Mitochrondrial Eve' and 'Y Chromosomal Adam,' as given to them by the evolutionists. These scientists will find evidence of their existence in the fossil records and from DNA testing. You're truly a genius my lord."

Lucifer added, "There's one more thing we can do to take firm control of the Sapiens. We can make them our own according to our own likeness. As angels, we primarily have an ethereal body, which is the same as the Godhead. However, inside the universe, we have the power to manifest ourselves in a material body when needed. When we do so, we have all of the physical attributes of the Sapiens."

With a smile, Apollyon replied, "Are you suggesting what I think you're saying?"

Lucifer proclaimed, "If some of our angels lay with the Sapien females, we can introduce our genes into their line, thereby corrupting the original seed that God created. In this way, we can introduce our line into them. Then, they will become ours in body as well as mentally."

Apollyon answered, "I'll spread the word, and I'm certain that there'll a lot of volunteers."

Lucifer added, "There's one more thing. We must hand pick the angels to breed with the Sapiens. This must be kept a secret from the rest of the angels. There may be others that are still loyal to God besides Cody, and we don't want them to find out about our breeding plans. If God were to learn of our little venture, I'm sure that judgment would soon follow. We need for everything on the surface of the earth to basically look like it's still going according to God's plan. My plan must remain under wraps for the time being."

Over the next few thousand years, Lucifer began to introduce new tools and weapons to the Sapiens. Spears and bow and arrows would give the Sapiens an advantage when they began to migrate into Europe and Asia. Erectus and the Neanterthals only had clublike weapons. Soon, Lucifer was teaching the Sapiens how to use the spears to kill animals for food. They were reluctant at first, but relented since he was an angel from heaven. They also began to settle personal disputes with weapons rather than words, and it wasn't long before Sapiens were killing other Sapiens. Death had now entered the species, and was quickly followed by the aging process and dying. But, they also had begun to reproduce and multiply. Lucifer told them to be fruitful and have many children.

The angels selected by Lucifer began to breed with some of the Sapien women. Within a few generations, nearly every Sapien on the planet had genes that were linked back to the angels. Lucifer was intent on making a kingdom with all the Sapiens as his subjects. In this way, when Jesus is born and has children, his lineage will have the genetic background of my angels. Someday, I'll control the destiny of not just the human race, but also the ancestry of Jesus. Most of the Sapiens still looked as they did when first created, although some are being born as giants, who are called Nephilim. They are particularly good as warriors, which makes the conquering of the Erectus and Neanderthals that much easier. As the years past and the population multiplied, some of the Sapiens began to migrate into eastern and northern Africa.

Of course, Earl and Edgar had been taking turns watching what Lucifer and Apollyon were doing. Soon, it was time to have another meeting with Cody at the dungeon.

Cody said, "I am glad you're back. It gets very lonely staying in this black hole. But, this seems to be the only way for us to keep up our surveillance. If you let me out now, and I went back to heaven, Lucifer would know that someone else on earth had first loyalty to God, and he would come looking for both of you. Then, our entire cover would be blown, and there'd be no way to gather further information. At least, I know that one day, I'll again be free and able to give a full report to Jesus."

Earl replied, "We've some more things to report to you. Lucifer has somehow succeeded in corrupting the Sapiens. They are now reproducing and the population has grown large enough to migrate into the upper regions of Africa. It is also strange that giants have suddenly appeared in the Sapien population, and they've been instrumental in giving them the upper hand against other species. It has taken nearly 100,000 years for them to finally get to the point where they can move out of Africa. Lucifer has given them knowledge of how to make superior tools and weapons. They'll have no trouble in overcoming all of the Hominids that are in other parts of the world. In a few more thousand years, they'll conquer all parts of the world and establish the Sapiens as the dominant upright being. At the same time, we have no concrete proof that Lucifer is behind all of this." Edgar added, "You might find it interesting that Lucifer named the first two Sapiens Adam and Eve. He really believes that God has already created mankind, and has a plan to defeat Jesus when he becomes a man."

Cody answered, "Lucifer overheard just enough of the Godhead's conversation to make him stupid. He doesn't realized that mankind won't be created until another age. However, it's probably best for him to be lost in his own deception for now. How exactly does Lucifer plan to proceed?"

Earl revealed, "Lucifer plans to use any tactics necessary to make sure the Sapiens enter the other continents and eventually migrate into the four corners of the earth. He'll let them proceed at their own pace if things are going well. Or he will use fire, famine, and other tactics to drive them away from one area into another. The date right now is around 70,000 BC. Jesus created the first Sapiens around Omo Kibish in Ethiopia around 200,000 BC. Later on, the fossil record will show that the Sapiens first migrated out of Africa around the present time period. This first group will go out from the Bab-al-Mandab Strait around Yemen, where they'll travel down the coastline to India, and progress on to Southeast Asia and later Australia. Later, another group will travel further north to Egypt and crossed the sea into the Middle East. From there, they'll split with some going east into Europe, others going into Central Asia and Russia, with others proceeding into east Asia. Finally, around 20,000 BC, the Sapiens will enter North America by the land bridge from the old world. Then, they'll progress downward into South America. Lucifer really does have a plan, but it's difficult to prove that he is behind all of this."

Cody proclaimed, "Keep up the good work. Eventually, we'll have enough hard evidence to prove that Lucifer is working on his own plan rather than God's. Your surveillance is extremely important, but you need to take extra precautions so you don't get caught. Even though, Apollyon thinks everyone is loyal to Lucifer, he's still on the watch for what he calls traitors. See you again next time!"

Lucifer said, "This is a preferable way of dominating the whole world than by battling with Erectus and the Neanderthals ourselves. If we killed them off ourselves, the Lord would surely notice, and our plan would be ended. It's better to let the Sapiens go out and do the dirty work. If there's a problem, we can blame everything on them."

Apollyon commented, "And it's so easy with the Sapiens being so naïve and downright stupid. We're able to take advantage of them because of their trust in Jesus. They are so gullible. Even if Jesus comes back for a surprise visit, we can blame death and dying on the Sapiens and other mammal groups rather than us. Phase one of your plan is well on the way to completion. The Sapiens have just entered the Middle East. I'll keep after them and prod them along when needed. Over the next few thousand years, the Sapiens will conquer the world for us."

Later on, around 15,000 BC, Earl and Edgar made another visit to see Cody.

Edgar reported, "The migration of the Sapiens throughout the earth is pretty much complete. They now dominate all of the other creatures on earth, and are in submission to Lucifer. He's been able to take over complete control of the earth without having to lift a finger against anyone. He's simply let the Sapiens do all of the work for him. While it's clear to us what he's been up to, we still need further proof. Lucifer has been very crafty to cover his tracks, so everything still seems on the up and up."

Earl added, "When the Sapiens first crossed over into the Middle East, they took their genetic differences along with their advanced knowledge of weaponry. Eventually, there were four basic ethnic groups; Caucasian, Khoisan, Aboriginal, and Mongolian. As they migrated, they were able to defeat Erectus and the Neanderthals either by hunting them or denying them food by controlling supplies. In some cases, there was also some interbreeding, which also was effective in eliminating all other species of Homo except for the Sapiens. They have learned to build rafts or canoes from hollowed out logs, and have been able to reach even the most remote islands. Now they are hunting some of the marsupials for food. As they migrated, they brought their new culture, lifestyles, and technology with them.

"The use of spears was particularly effective in defeating Erectus and the Neanderthals. They could fight from a distance. All the Neanderthals had were clubs, which was only good at close range. Later on, the entirety of this migration will be called 'the great leap forward.' Tools have become much more complex as bones were used to make all kinds of ornaments, and household items were crafted for use. Oil lamps, needles, jewelry, ceramic pots, and sculptures of leaders were also developed. Paintings have been made in many caves around the world.

"There has been some adaptation to different climates, such as

lighter skin colors in the north, where Europeans had to adapt to colder climates. Sapiens had succeeded where Erectus has earlier failed. The Americas were free of any kind of upright hominids until the Bering Strait dried up, and the Sapiens were able to cross. That is why it was called the 'new world.' They were also able to go into South America by a second land bridge in Panama. The arrival of the Stone Age allowed Sapiens to have a large effect on the ecosystems around the world. While the women went out to find vegetable, roots, fruits, insects, and nuts, the men would engage in hunting animals for meat. Farming and agriculture, however, won't arrive on the earth until the age of mankind."

Edgar continued, "These Sapiens stood upright and saw the world in a fashion that is similar to what'll later be found in humans. The key difference is that the Sapiens that now inhabit the earth don't a spirit that is in contact with God, and have a seed that has been corrupted by Lucifer. They are essentially like the rest of the animals that God has created, but have the ability to stand upright and think because of a larger brain. Therefore, they've been able to develop the foundations of civilization in the pre-Adamic world. Although, the Sapiens were created by God around 200,000 BC, Lucifer has quickly transformed their allegiance to him. He's truly the prince of this world."

Cody responded, "It seems like the migration of the Sapiens has come to a head. I wonder what's next on Lucifer's agenda? He thinks that Jesus will be born as a man very soon, but he has the timeframe wrong. However, this allows us some extra leeway to keep watch on what he is doing. Sooner or later, Lucifer is going to slip up big time." For the next few years, Lucifer walked to and fro on the earth, and extended his control over the social order that had been developed by these upright creatures throughout the world. He's also served by a large group of angels that had decided to serve him rather than God. Lucifer and his angels were cruel taskmasters, and many people were killed who wouldn't bow down and serve him. Again, the stench of death had permeated the earth, and God's latest creation had began to age and die. It seemed that everything was going exactly according to Lucifer's plan. The only major problem was that Jesus hadn't been incarnated as a man, and Lucifer couldn't figure out why this event had been delayed. But, a surprise visit by Andrea from heaven would soon give him a clue.

Tens of thousands of years had passed, and Andrea had not heard anything from her best friend, Cody. So, she decided to take a trip to earth and surprise him. She was totally unaware of the real events that had taken place on the earth. So when she arrived on the earth, she began to inquire about where Cody was living. One angel directed her to Cody's old home on the earth, but he wasn't there. She began to search quietly in other places, but had little luck until she came across Apollyon.

Apollyon said, "What are you doing here? You're supposed to be in heaven."

Andrea replied, "I'm on a surprise visit and was looking for Cody, but can't find him anywhere."

Apollyon smiled and added, "Why don't you follow me and I'll take you to Lucifer. Maybe, he'll be able to help you." The pair of angels made their way to the throne of Lucifer. Looking surprised, Lucifer said, "When did you get here Andrea?" Andrea replied, "I haven't been here long, and have been looking for Cody. Do you know where he is?"

Lucifer answered, "Maybe we can go out and look for him. But, first I think we need to talk. I'm sure that there is much news about heaven that you can fill me in on."

Andrea proclaimed, "Worship has been great while you've been gone, but we do miss the special way that you play your pipes. Ask me whatever you would like."

Lucifer replied, "I have many questions, but one is most pressing. Since Jesus created mankind, the species has spread throughout the whole world. I think the Lord would be pleased. The time seems ripe for him to incarnate himself as a man and enter the world."

Andrea interrupted, "You speak of the Lord creating mankind. Somehow, you're mistaken. These beings on earth aren't mankind, but just another animal species called Homo Sapiens. They don't have a spirit, and they weren't created in God's image. Mankind won't be created until a later age."

Looking quite stunned, Lucifer slowly responded, "Well, that does change everything. I've been anxiously awaiting the birth of Jesus as a man. I want to thank you for being so informative. What you've just told me will drastically reshape my plans. Apollyon, please take Andrea to see Cody. I think they need a long visit together, if you know what I mean."

Apollyon winked at Lucifer, "Come with me Andrea. I know exactly where Cody is staying."

Andrea happily replied, "I'll be so glad to at last see Cody. I'll have to come back later and visit further with Lucifer." Soon, Apollyon and Andrea reached the dungeon.

Apollyon unlocked the door and said, "He's in the back. Why don't you go in find him." Andea was now getting suspicious since the door was locked. But, it was too late. Apollyon pushed her forward into the opening, and quickly closed and locked the door. He added, "Surprise. Here's Cody! But not exactly how you envisioned meeting him." Then Apollyon turned and quickly returned to Lucifer.

Cody found Andrea and said, "Sorry that you've been thrown in here with me. I've been alone in this prison for tens of thousands of years. However, Earl and Edgar, who are the only loyal angels left on earth, come to visit me regularly. I hope your stay won't be as long as mine."

Andrea exclaimed, "I didn't think that anything was wrong on earth, and innocently went to see Lucifer. It seems I let the cat out of the bag when I told him that the Sapiens on earth aren't mankind, and that particular species hasn't been created yet. He really seemed upset and said something about a change in plans. Then, Apollyon brought me to this dungeon."

Cody declared, "I bet he about blew a fuse. I already knew that he thought all of the Sapiens were mankind, but no one had ever told him any differently until now. It'll be interesting to see what kind of change in plans he has in mind. For the time being, all we can do is sit tight and wait." Meanwhile, Lucifer called a meeting with Apollyon and his highest council. Soon, the group had gather around the throne.

Lucifer said, "Everything has gone perfectly according to the plan of my domination of the Sapiens. However, I jumped the gun in believing that this group was mankind. I've been waiting for Jesus to be born so that I might take control of him and his heritage. However, that isn't going to happen right now. So, I must quickly alter my plan." Nearby, Earl and Edgar had positioned themselves so that they could overhear what Lucifer was saying.

Earl commented, "It looks like things are coming to a head. Lucifer isn't waiting any more for Jesus to be born as a man. Whatever his new plan may be, he'll likely take action soon. We'd better go and see Cody. It's probably time to help him escape." As they approached the dungeon, Earl happened to look up in nearby tree. He saw a key hanging on a branch. It had probably had been there all along, but they hadn't ever seen it on their nighttime visits. However, in the daylight it was clearly visible. Earl reached up and grabbed the key as they came to the door of the dungeon.

Cody cried, "My goodness, I didn't expect a visit from you during daylight hours. Hopefully, you haven't been seen.'

Earl replied, "I'll hurry as we don't have much time. Lucifer is presently in a meeting with his high council. I'm not sure exactly all of what is taking place, but it's no longer safe for you to stay here. We've got enough information anyway that indicates Lucifer is about to take action against God. We better get out of here while the getting is good. I've found the key, so that solves to problem of how to get the door open." Swiftly, he inserted the key and unlocked the door. All four angels were soon in the air, with Cody setting their direction towards heaven. As Apollyon left the meeting with Lucifer, he glanced upward, and saw the four angels streaking across the sky towards heaven. He looked back at Lucifer.

Apollyon said, "I had a notion that there were still other traitors

yet in our ranks, but I'd never suspected Earl and Edgar."

Lucifer replied, "Take a few of your fastest angels and go get them. Try to cut them off before they reach heaven. It's best if we can catch them and maintain an element of surprise." Apollyon bolted upward and took up pursuit of the small band of fleeing angels. Back and forth they zoomed past the moon, and weaved their way through the stars. As they left the universe, Apollyon and his angels had almost caught up with Cody's group. Just as he was about to nab them, a loud voice was heard.

Michael the Archangel said, "Apollyon. Leave God's angels alone or you'll have to deal with me."

Apollyon smirked, "I'd like nothing better, but this isn't the time or place. Take them back with you to heaven. I'll deal with you later." Then, Apollyon and his angels abruptly wheeled around and swung back towards the earth.

Chapter 6 – Lucifer's Rebellion

After Michael had successfully turned back Apollyon, he led the four angels into heaven, where they approach the throne of God.

Cody said, "Along with Earl and Edgar, we have been watching Lucifer for 120,000 years. He has been clever and kept most of his plans a secret. He has been working undercover with the Sapiens for a long time, and they seem to have given their full allegiance to Lucifer. All of the angels left on earth have sworn primary allegiance to him also. Just before we escaped, he said that there's a change in tactics that would be taking place soon. This seems to indicate that he's about to take direct action against heaven. However, we were unable to determine exactly what he's up to."

Jesus replied, "I'm sorry that you had to spend so much time locked away, but your efforts will be abundantly rewarded. The Godhead has also been watching Lucifer's work on earth with great concern. We've given him every possible opportunity to redeem himself. But, it seems that everything is about to come to a head. Any direct action against God would be considered rebellion and an unforgivable sin. He's about to reveal his true intention in front of all of heaven."

As soon as Apollyon got back to the earth, he briskly reported to Lucifer, and presented him with the news that the angels had escaped with the help of Michael.

Lucifer said, "You might know that Michael would interfere. He has been a thorn in my backside for a long time. But, payback is coming soon. I've finalized phase two of my plan, and it's ready to be put in action. Since Jesus isn't coming to earth as a man in the near future, it looks like our only real alternative is to go to heaven and confront him."

Apollyon replied, "Is it wise to confront him directly, since his loyal angels outnumber us two to one? That isn't very good odds, especially when the Godhead stands behind them."

Lucifer exclaimed, "Who says that we are going to confront all of the angels directly in heaven. While two-thirds of God's angels have remained steadfast, most are on assignments to galaxies within the universe, and only come into heaven for visits. At best, only ten percent of the angels are ever present in heaven at any given time. That means that my band of renegade angels out number the angels in heaven by more than three to one."

Apollyon countered, "But, at the first sign of an attack on heaven, all of the angels in the universe would return, and we'd quickly be outnumbered."

Lucifer remarked, "You need to use your God-given brain. Of course it would be foolish to take on the Godhead and all of the loyal angels at once. And this is why my attack on heaven won't occur until after the first part of my new plan has been deemed a success."

Apollyon added, "There is no doubt that you are the master planner here on earth. So, what's the first part of your new plan?"

Lucifer declared, "At the present time, we are only outnumbered by the angels that are commissioned throughout the universe. Any attempt by us to invade heaven would result in Gabriel blowing his horn to alert all of the angels through the cosmos. We need to let heaven settle back down after Cody has blabbed all he knows about what he's learned during his stay on earth. Even though Cody has been here for over 100,000 years, he hasn't been able to gather any definitive evidence that I'm not following God's plan. All he has is a bag full of suspicions. We've covered our tracks very well. God still hopes that I'll yet be restored and will return to my proper place among the loyal angels of heaven. So, we still have time to act according to the new plan.

"Get this straight we aren't attacking heaven right now. Rather, we will carry out a surprise and secretive assault on all of the angels assigned throughout the universe. We'll do this under the cover of darkness, so God won't be alerted. The offensive will occur one by one, until they are all in chains. When the light of a star or sun hits other objects in the universe, it reflects the light back and away just like the moon. However, on the backside, there is a dark shadow that goes outward. All of my angels will be given orders to proceed first in the lower quadrant of the universe immediately to our west. Every angel must stay within the shadows that are cast throughout the universe, and stay shielded from the light. Otherwise, someone in heaven will take notice of what we are doing.

"All of my angels will slowly move into positions near where God's angels are stationed. Groups of four will be used to overpower each of these angels, one by one. They'll be bound, gagged, and chained. When one of God's angels has been secured, the group will move on to the next location until every loyal angel in quadrant 1 is under shackles. Then, all of my renegade angels will move under the cover of darkness into quadrant 2 where the same procedure is to be repeated. Later, my angels will continue on into quadrants 3 and 4. Once, the universe is under my control, all of my angels will be instructed to return to earth under the cover of darkness. Do you think that you can follow these instruction with no deviation?"

Apollyon shouted, "Yes, my lord! I'll not only carry out your orders, but will return as the bearer of good news for you."

Soon, Lucifer's angels had been divided up into groups of four. Each was given instructions on which galaxies they were to enter in quadrant 1, and which of God's loyal angels they were to attack. Very slowly, each group of angels began their journey under the cover of darkness.

Lucifer proclaimed, "It is amazing what can be done when the light is blocked. I look out in the sky and can't see anything out of the ordinary. If I can't see my legions, then neither will God. We are in the process of eliminating a majority of God's angels from combat."

Apollyon himself was part of one group. As they approached an unnamed galaxy, they could see a loyal angel standing guard on a mountaintop of a planet. Each of Apollyon's angels was careful to stay in the shadow of a moon that rotated around the planet. When close enough, they soared out to execute their assault.

Apollyon said to the loyal angel, "Greetings! We're just passing by on our way back to heaven, and thought we'd stop by for a quick visit." The rest of the group slowly approached the angel on guard.

The loyal angel replied, "Which galaxy are you coming from? I didn't realize that angels returned to heaven in bands. Who was sent to replace you while you're gone?" Before the angel could say more, Apollyon put his hand over his mouth, as the others grabbed him by the arms and legs. Soon, the loyal angel was both bound

and gagged.

Apollyon said, "Be sure to put the shackles on his feet and chain him to an anchor that is placed in the ground. This was easier than I thought; like shooting a duck on the water. Lucifer's plan is ingenious. If we're careful, it won't take too long to gain control of the entire cosmos." This scenario was repeated over and over by not only Apollyon's group, but by the other groups of Lucifer's angels. Gradually, every loyal angel of God in quadrant 1 was in manacles. The legions of Lucifer's angels then replicated their actions in quadrants 2 and 3. By the time they were about half finished in quadrant 4, they'd become overconfident, and gotten sloppy. Everyone could sense that the first part of Lucifer's plan was about to be complete, and they'd soon return to earth in victory.

Apollyon in a stultified tone said, "This used to be fun at first, but now it's just plain boring. These guardian angels are no challenge to our forces. We need to hurry up and get this over with. I'm ready to hear about Lucifer's plan on attacking heaven." As the group approached the next target, one of his angels stepped out of the darkness and began to taunt the loyal angel that was stationed on a meteorite.

The angel uttered mockingly, "Why are you out here all by yourself? Have you been a bad boy and God is punishing you?"

Startled, the loyal angel replied, "What are you talking about? You should know that it's an honor to serve the Lord in this special place in the universe. And who are you to speak to me in such a manner? What's your name?"

Apollyon's angel answered, "I'm an angel of Lord Lucifer. Now

you just quiet down and we'll not hurt you too much." The band of rebel angels began to made their way toward the angel on guard, as they had done on countless other occasions.

The loyal angel shouted, "Stop right there or I'll have to report your presence to the Lord."

Apollyon laughed, "And how are you going to do that all these billions of miles from heaven. No one in heaven can hear you; it's too far. Just be a good boy and let us finish our work."

The loyal angel replied, "I don't have to get the attention of heaven. As a special sentry in quadrant 4, I've the ability to alert every angel in this section with my horn." As Apollyon and his band of angels came nearer, the loyal angel pulled the horn from off his back and blew several short blasts that penetrated the atmosphere in that part of the cosmos. Soon, the watchful eyes of countless angels guarding nearby galaxies turned toward the sound of the trumpet blast. They watched as Apollyon and his group grabbed the loyal angel and bound him up. As the rebels finished and turned to leave, they could see millions of God's angels streaking across the sky towards heaven.

Apollyon cried, "Now you've done it! You couldn't just follow the procedure that has worked millions of times. No, you had to get smart and give this angel a reason to alert this part of the universe. You'll have to answer to Lucifer when we get back. Every last loyal angel has hightailed it out of quadrant 4 by now. There goes our surprise attack on heaven. Alert the rest of Lucifer's legions and tell them to rapidly return to earth." As the loyal angels of God made their way towards the throne of God in heaven, the rebel legions returned to earth. As Apollyon approached the throne, Lucifer stood up and slapped him so hard that he was knocked unconscious for several minutes. As he came to, Lucifer began to speak.

He said, "I gave you a simple mission that any fool should be able to carry out. All you had to do was remain cautious and proceed according to plan. But, oh no, you had to get cocky and mess things up. You knew that sentries had to be approached with extra caution, since part of their duty was to keep on the lookout for trouble. You had to give him a reason to alert every last angel in that portion of the universe. So now, heaven will have more reinforcements to use against us. Luckily, our forces still outnumber God's loyal angels by two to one, but we have lost the element of surprise. Jesus will be ready for us as we approach heaven."

Apollyon quietly answered, "Yes, we got sloppy. We'd done the same thing over and over millions of times. We were nearly finished with the last quadrant, and were looking ahead toward the battle in heaven. I'm sorry."

Lucifer relented, "You're indeed a sorry sight, but are still the most loyal angel among my legions. We can't afford to delay the implementation of the next phase of my plan, or Jesus will send Michael to attempt to free the angels that you've bound. Sound the alert and get all of my angels in battle armour. Put them into battalions, and get them ready to leave within the hour." Another angel blasted the notes on his horn for everyone to prepare for combat, and report to their stations before the throne of Lucifer.

Apollyon suggested, "You have most certainly reached the point of no return. If you relent, repent, and return back into the fold of God, He'll likely still show mercy with his abundant grace. After some kind of probation program, you'd likely be reinstated as the prince of this world. If you persist and carry out your attack on heaven, there are two outcomes. If successful, you'll rise above God and become the head of both heaven and the universe. If you fail, you'll have crossed over from temptation to openly sinning against God. There'll be no recourse or extra chances to repent. Rebellion is unforgiveable. God will bring down judgment upon you and all your legions of angels. I don't want to even think of what his punishment would be in this case."

Lucifer sternly replied, "I've come too far with my plan to abandon it now. Besides, I could never eliminate the prideful thoughts of rising above God. More importantly, I don't want to repent, and must move forward with my scheme. Why would I ever consider the option that we could be defeated? I can see only victory ahead of us! Even with some of the angels returning to heaven from their outposts in the universe, phase one of my new plan has been a success.

"We still outnumber the loyal angels in. I'm also a better leader and strategist than either Michael or Gabriel. All Gabriel ever does is go around blowing on his horn. It's Michael that we'll have to worry about, as one of his assigned duties is as protector of heaven. Although he's never had to use his authority to defend God from an invasion, he still possesses the necessary attributes that were given to him by God. He has many legions of angels that've also been given the instincts to wage war if ever needed. There's no doubt in my mind that we'll come face to face with a wellprepared Michael and his angels, when we enter heaven." Apollyon answered, "So you've made your decision to continue on. I reaffirm my loyalty to you, and will lead our forces in the takeover of heaven. It's time for me to go and attend to our troops who are beginning to gather in front of your throne." As Apollyon turned around, there were countless legions of angels that had gathered before him. All had transformed themselves into a material body, so that they might fight with the greatest amount of impact against the forces of God. Each angel was in full battle gear, and ready for war.

Lucifer stood up and said, "We've waited a long time to maneuver ourselves into a position where we aren't just the rulers of earth, but also have the strength to enter heaven and defeat the armies of Michael. Then, I'll rise above God and become the master of the Godhead. As part of my merciful nature, I'll give the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit a chance to bow down and swear allegiance to me. If they do so, then they'll be allowed to serve in a role as worshippers of me. If they don't bow down, I'll have them imprisoned in chains for the rest of eternity. After my victory over heaven, there'll be no alternative but to pledge obedience solely to me. Is there anyone out there in our ranks that has second thoughts, and wants to return to God's fold? I'll allow you to leave at this time. This'll be the last opportunity for you to recant your loyalty to me. " Lucifer looked out across the mass of angels, and was shocked to see several angels from every legion throw down their weapons and armour. Then, they proceeded to rise in the air and began to fly off.

Apollyon looked at Lucifer and proclaimed, "Seize these traitors. Lucifer said that you could leave the ranks of his angels. But, he didn't say that you could return to heaven. Throw them all into the underground prison and put them in chains. Did you think we would just let you leave to fight against us in heaven? No way. We'll decide your proper punishment when we return to earth from our victory in heaven." Soon, all of those who had renounced their allegiance to Lucifer had been captured and placed in the dungeon where Cody had once been confined.

Lucifer added, "It is good to finally ferret out the last of those who aren't loyal to me or my cause. Now I know for certain who's faithful to me, and who isn't. It's time to commence our journey to heaven. Take charge of the troops, Apollyon."

As the legions of Lucifer's angels ascended into the sky, it was an imposing sight as the sun glistened off of their armour. Apollyon took a position at the forefront of the massive army who followed his lead. Lucifer took up a position at the back of the angels.

In heaven, all of heaven watched as the army of Lucifer lifted off from the earth. Many tears could be seen on the cheeks of God's loyal angels. Even now, there was a lingering hope that Lucifer would somehow regain his senses and stop the invasion.

Jesus cried, "This is the saddest day that's ever occurred in heaven or on earth. All of the angels were created pure and free from sin. Yet now, Lucifer's band of angels is about to carry out a rebellious act that's in defiance of God. Up to this point, it's been possible for both Lucifer and his followers to turn back from their selfish ways and return to God's community of loyal angels. However, as soon as he enters heaven and engages in battle with Michael's legions, a grave sin will have been committed in Creation. It's a sin so great that there can't be any repentance or forgiveness.

"The Godhead will have to bring judgment down upon all who have taken part in this rebellion against heaven and God. Lucifer thinks that he's been able to hide his actions from the Godhead, and that we're unaware of what he's been doing for so many years. Yet, we've watched his every move in the hope that he'd eventually see the wrongness of his actions. But, when the first sword is swung, it'll be too late, and this deed can never be undone or forgiven. It'll mark the full manifestation of evil into God's universe.

"Yet, there're some that recanted their allegiance to Lucifer at the last minute, and are now chained in his dungeon on earth. Cody, I want you to follow a route around the approaching angels of Lucifer, and go to earth to set the captives free. Then, bring them back here to answer for their actions against God. Michael, it's time for you to have your angels put on their battle gear and take up their weapons. Let them gather before the throne of God and stand in legions ready for defensive action. Make sure that no one attacks any of the angels of Lucifer until after they swing their swords against us."

Michael called out, "Angels prepare to do battle with the army of Lucifer. Put on your best armour, take up your finest weapons, and begin to take your position in your assigned legions before the throne of God."

As the legions of Lucifer thundered through the universe towards heaven, they didn't see a lone angel circling around them towards the earth. As the light from the army faded on the horizon, Cody landed and made his way to the underground prison. As he looked into the dungeon that had once confined him for thousands of years, he could see a mass of chained angels that, at the last minute, had rejected Lucifer.

Cody said, "Don't worry. You won't have to remain imprisoned for as long as I was. I have the key that'll not only open the door, but will set you free from your shackles. But, it'll take a little while for me to release all of you. When I am done, we can return to heaven and hopefully help in the battle before it's over."

As Cody opened the door, a loud cheer went up, "Praise the Lord, God almighty!" While Cody was working to free the angels in the dungeon, Lucifer's legions had crossed over and exited the universe.

In heaven, both Michael and Gabriel stood in front of the loyal angels of God, who in turn stood in front of the Godhead. They could see a massive bright light that glistened in the distance like fire. Everyone knew that Lucifer was approaching with a third of the angels that had joined in the rebellion against God and heaven.

Michael signed, "This is truly a day of sorrow. Lucifer has always been like a brother to both of us. He was the anointed Cherub, perfect in every way from the day of his creation. Yet, he's veered far from the role that God originally intended him to play in his plan. It looks like he's hell-bent on following through with his own plan to overcome God and conquer heaven."

With tears in his eyes, Gabriel replied, "There's no one that could lead worship in heaven like Lucifer. Maybe he should've stayed in heaven rather than being made the prince of the earth?" Michael answered, "It would've made no difference. He would've been tempted in some other way to exalt himself."

Gabriel cried, "Maybe he'll yet listen to reason. There's still time. He hasn't actually engaged in the war against us. I'm going to lay down my weapons, and fly up to talk to him. He'll not hurt me when he sees that I'm unarmed. Why don't you come with me?

A dejected Michael lamented, "I guess it won't hurt anything. Lucifer deserves one last chance to change his mind. I'll go with you." Both archangels put their weapons down, and flew off into the sky.

Jesus said to the Father, "Those two really love Lucifer, and are going to try and reason with him one last time. It's sad to see what Lucifer has become. It's something that we knew all along might happen when we gave the angels a free will at creation. They all had the ability to choose to be loyal to us or to act in rebellion. This is a testing of all of the angels that we knew from the start was inevitable. Soon, it will be finalized as to who'll remain loyal and who'll reject us. The outcome will have implications later on when we create mankind."

The Father replied, "We didn't want mindless robots that obey us because they were programmed that way. We've always wanted the angels to choose us of their own freewill. And if some choose to rebel and go their own way, then we'll have to deal with that also. Let's wait and see what happens when the three archangels talk."

As Michael and Gabriel left heaven and flew toward the approaching legions, Lucifer held up his hand and motioned everyone to stop. He then put down his weapons, and flew out to meet them. As he came near to the other two archangels, his mind was filled with emotions and fond memories.

Lucifer said, "I guess you've come to offer a last chance reconciliation. I'll surely listen, since we've been like brothers for billions of years."

Gabriel replied, "I can't deny my love for you, and how it hurts to have our armies facing each other. Why don't you rethink what you're doing, and change your mind while there's still time."

Michael added, "Even after all of this, God will surely forgive you if you recant and return to the ranks of the holy angels. His long suffering and mercy are great."

With his head bowed Lucifer answered, "I'd be lying if I said that I hadn't thought about what you've suggested. But, I can't get rid of the thoughts in my mind that I can rise above God and become the emperor of the universe. Things have gone too far. It's too late!" Quickly, before anything else could be said, Lucifer turned to rejoin his forces.

Gabriel proclaimed, "Well, we have his final answer. There'll be no more opportunities for him." The two archangels spun around and made their way back to heaven and picked up their weapons. The two opposing armies looked across at each other for an extended period of time.

Lucifer cried loudly, "Everyone follow Apollyon as we enter heaven. Raise your weapons high and attack the angels of God with great ferocity." Then he went back among his men to a position behind the legions.

Michael shouted, "Make yourselves ready. The legions of Lucifer are making their way into heaven. Be sure to not strike first, but wait until after the first blow before taking action."

It was hard for the Godhead to watch as angels advanced to fight other angels. As the two armies engaged, Apollyon made his way towards Michael, and raised his gleaming sword.

He said, "We declare war on both God and heaven." With a downward motion, he swung hard at Michael who blocked it with his own sword. In an instant, the battle raged throughout heaven. The two archangels were both masters of swordsmanship, and were very closely matched. They proceeded to fight and moved in a circular motion. The fighting continued for hours with neither side gaining an advantage. The legions of Lucifer fought with both malevolence and hatred in their hearts. They believed that Lucifer was the chosen one who would not only defeat God, but also replace him as the sovereign of heaven. The sounds of steel hitting against steel filled the heavens. At one point, Michael lost his footing and fell to the ground. Apollyon immediately move into a position above him, and raised his sword to deal a deathblow to the fallen warrior angel. Before he could proceed, an energy force came forth from the throne of God, and knocked Apollyon to the ground. Massive waves of energy continued to pour out from the throne and hit all the legions of Lucifer with a power that rendered them defenseless. All of Lucifer's troops staggered and fell helplessly to the ground.

Lucifer hollered, "Retreat! We must pull back and regroup." He remained behind his legions, and had turned to make a quick exit. However, he came face to face with Cody and the angels returning from earth.

Cody said, "Look who's trying to sneak away. This is your former boss that put all of you into prison back on earth. Sorry to mess with your plans to escape, Lucifer, but that isn't going to happen. Grab him and bring him with us." With hardly any resistance, Lucifer relented and was brought into heaven.

Michael said, "Cody, I see that you were not only successful in releasing the angels from the prison on earth, but also captured the leader of the rebellion. I'm so glad that this group of angels, when given the chance to renounce Lucifer, did so and have now repented from turning away from God in the first place. However, they must stand before the Godhead along with Lucifer." Michael's angels brought the whole group before the throne of God. However, the rest of Lucifer's angels couldn't get up off of the ground and could only watch what was happening. As Lucifer approached the Godhead, his self-righteousness pride and rage turned first to agony and torment, and then to extreme fear. He was shaking as Michael forced him down on his knees. The rest of the angels that Cody had rescued bowed down behind Lucifer.

Jesus said, "We will first deal with the issue of the angels who choose to follow Lucifer but recanted before the rebellion began. How do you plead?"

One of the angels turned his head towards the throne and replied, "We're all guilty of listening to Lucifer and turning our back on you. Lucifer made it so easy for us to switch allegiance. Yet, when it came time to actually carry out the rebellion, all of us realized that we had made a big mistake. We attempted to come to heaven to ask God to forgive us, but were put in prison. Now that we are free, we ask that you might have mercy on us, but will accept whatever verdict you have for us."

Jesus answered, "God created all of the angels with a freewill,

knowing that it was possible for some to rebel and turn away. You turned, but eventually found your way back. I can see the purity of your repentance, and that you'll now stand loyal before your God forever. You are forgiven, and all of you are washed clean. Stand up and rejoin the heavenly hosts." Immediately, the entire band stood up and began to praise God. Jesus' attention then turned back to Lucifer, as He looked him directly in the eyes. Lucifer tried to turn away and shield himself from the purity that poured out from the throne. All he could do was to bow down with closed eyes. The silence in heaven was so great that you could hear a pin drop. Both Michael and Gabriel could hardly stand to watch and turned their heads away.

Lucifer in a soft voice said, "I was always loyal to you as one of the archangels of heaven. I was created pure, but fell into sin because of my own pride. I was jealous that you were going to create mankind, who would one day rise above and judge the angels. Weren't the angels enough for you? Even if you chose to create mankind, they should've had a permanent place below us. The straw that broke the camel's back was when the Godhead said it would allow Jesus to incarnate himself as a man. I couldn't allow that to happen. I had to act to secure the rightful place of the angels in heaven by attempting to rise above the Godhead and make myself the eternal emperor. But, I have failed." Tears began to well up in his eyes.

Sternly, Jesus asked, "Would you repent right now if the opportunity were given to you?"

Lucifer cried, "I can't. Please tell the Father that things have gone too far, and the rebellious thoughts in my mind will never go away. I would never be able to follow God with a pure heart again. My sin can't be undone."

Jesus called out to the rest of Lucifer's angels, "You've heard the answer of your leader concerning the rebellion. Do you still stand behind Lucifer?"

Apollyon looked up and said, "All of Lucifer's angels suffer from the same afflictions as our leader. We've gone too far in our rebellious behavior. We must therefore stand loyal to our leader Lucifer. If any of our angels think differently, now is the time for you to plead your case." Not a word was spoken, nor any cries for mercy from the ranks of Lucifer's angels.

Jesus proclaimed, "Lucifer. 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turguoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.' So I will drive 'you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.' So I'll throw 'you to the earth;' I'll make 'a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries (EZE 28:12-18).'

"This will be the final judgment for both you and your angels. You've sinned and corrupted not only yourself, but a third of God's angels. You have also corrupted the Sapiens and other creatures that God placed in purity on the earth. All of these things will be a part of our judgment. There'll be no further mercy or repentance for any of you. For your sins against the Godhead, we find you guilty as charged. You are striped of all the authority that was granted to you by God, as well as your name, Lucifer, which was one that reflected your rank as a holy angel of God. From this day forward, you will cease to be an angel, and have become a devil named Satan. All of your followers also cease to be angels, and will become demons.

"At the end of God's plan, when mankind will be judged, both you and your demons will be thrown into the lake of fire that God will create as a future home for all evil. Until that time you will be banished back to earth, and placed in a newly created place, called hell, which is within the bowels of the earth. All of the demons that fornicated with the Sapiens to have corrupted children will be placed in chains until the end times. You and the rest of your demons will also be temporarily placed in chains." As the Lord finished speaking, the appearance of Lucifer rapidly changed into that of Satan.

A being that had been pure and beautiful, now was changed into an ugly evil spirit. His nails elongated into twisted talons that were yellowish in appearance. His facial features began to alter with his perfect nose becoming crooked, his eyebrows thickening and growing together, and his lips growing thin and gaunt. His body took on the scaly appearance of a reptile. Likewise, all of the rest of Satan's followers quickly were changed from angels of light into demons of destruction, with similar changes in appearance to that of their leader. In an instant, like a bolt of lightening, Satan and his demons were gathered by a hurricane force current of air, and swept out of heaven and down through the universe into the bowels of hell. A group of holy angels followed to place both Satan and the demons in shackles. When this task was finished, the entryway into hell was sealed, so no one could come in or out.

The Father exclaimed, "Now that judgment has been handed down for the former angels that rebelled against me, it's also time to render judgment on the earth which Satan has corrupted. What is your sentence for the earth and everything on it?"

Jesus answered, "We'll not destroyed the earth entirely, but will destroy everything that lives on its surface. This'll include all of the grasses, trees, birds, fish, animals, and the Sapiens. The Holy Spirit will set in motion the means of carrying out this destruction." Very quickly, the Holy Spirit rose up from the throne and left heaven, to move into a position just above earth.

The Holy Spirit said, "Let the clouds of the sky grow greatly in size and encircle the earth. Then, let it begin to rain with a great ferocity that hasn't been seen before. Also, let passageways open from the waters deep within the earth, and allow the waters to flow up and flood the entire earth." The Holy Spirit hovered above the earth as the waters began to rise. The Sapiens, in great fear, began to take shelter. Some hid in their homes or climbed trees, some climbed up the sides of the mountains, and others got into boats to try and stay above the rising waters. As the water level rose above the rooflines of the houses and the tops of trees, people began to frantically swim in an attempt to find some place to save them. Most of the creatures quickly tired and perished in the waters. Some of the Sapiens swam up to the boats that were already filled with people and tried to get in. All of the boats were capsized and these people also died. The flooding did not stop, and the waters continued to rise up the sides of hills and mountains. The remaining Sapiens kept climbing up the mountains until they could go no higher. Eventually, the waters rose above even the highest mountains of the earth. At that point all the creatures on earth had perished.

The Holy Spirit continued, "Now that the earth is completely covered in flood waters, let darkness fill the skies as part of the judgment for sin. I command the sun to stop shining, and a blackness of continuous night to permeate the entire earth. Let the light from other parts of the universe also be blocked from reaching the surface of the earth." As he finished speaking, the Holy Spirit turned away and made his way back to heaven.

Jesus said, "Our verdict has been carried out. It's sad to see what sin can do once it has raised its ugly head among the angels. Of course, we could've ended the judgment of Satan and the demons quickly by throwing them all into the lake of fire right now. However, we know the full ramifications of what can happen when a being is created with a free will. The sins of Satan were always a possibility, since the beginning. It was necessary for all of the angels to be tested. Now we know which ones are loyal and which are rebellious. There has been a permanent separation that has taken place as a result of these trials. All of the remaining holy angels will be with the Godhead forever, and all of the fallen angel will be in darkness forever. It'll be necessary for mankind to also be tested later on after he is created. We could wait for millions of years for mankind to test themselves, much like what happened with the angels. Or we can at some point turn Satan and his demons loose to test mankind. He could become the tempter, and speed up the process of assessment for mankind. But, for the time being, it is best for Satan and his demons to stay chained, and endure the torments of the fires in hell, a special place that has been created for them."

Chapter 7 – The Re-Creation Of The Earth

Although there was a sadness that lingered for a while in heaven because of the judgment of Satan and the demons, it was soon replaced by a joy unspeakable that spread throughout the ranks of the angels. As battle-tested veterans, they felt worthy of the authority that the Lord had placed with them. They also looked with anticipation to the future and the creation of mankind. There was much to be thankful for, which led to a special time of worship and praise of God that extended on for a long time. Finally, a day came when Jesus again addressed the angels.

Jesus said, "This has been a special time of renewal and rejoicing for all of God's angels. It's been a wonderful juncture, and we could let the worship continue on for several thousand more years. But, it's time for us to restore the earth, and do what's necessary for life to live and flourish again on the planet. Much of the life that existed before the flood will be recreated in purity. However, some life forms, like Mankind, will need to be created anew for the first time. The Holy Spirit and I will both be involved in bringing new life to the planet. 'Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters (GEN 1:2)."' As He hovered over the earth, the Holy Spirit began to speak and commence the restoration.

"Jesus said, "Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he 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—the first day (GEN 1:3-5)." The light from the sun that the Holy Spirit had earlier turned off was now turned back on. The darkness that was like an endless night was augmented with light. Once again, it was possible to have both day and night on earth like before the flood, which led to the evening and morning of the first day. The curse of darkness had now been removed from the earth, as God proceeded to end the judgment that was placed on the earth. The angels in heaven watched in awe and rejoiced, "and the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy (JOB 38:7)."

And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water. So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault sky. And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day (GEN 1:6-8)."

The Holy Spirit said, "Let the water on the earth begin to again evaporate and gather moisture in the clouds. Let the clouds grow larger and larger until the floodwaters dissipate. Let the excess moisture dissipate back into other parts of the universe, with the clouds beginning to function normally. At the same time, let there be openings from the earth's surface into the reservoirs of the deep. Just as the waters flowed out of these reservoirs to flood the earth, the flow of the water will now reverse and take the flood waters back into the underground reservoirs." Soon, the waters had receded to how it was before the flood.

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear. And it was so. God called the dry ground land, and the gathered waters he called seas. And God saw that it was good (vs 9-10)." At this time, the Holy Spirit moved across the earth to cleanse it of all the rubble and chaff that was left from the flood. The bones of all the dead creatures, as well the scrapes from dead trees and plants were transformed into nutrients to enrich the soils and waters. All of the salt that was left on the land and lakes from the flood was returned to the oceans and seas. When He was finished, all of the destruction that had been caused by the flood and darkness was removed.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds. And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day (vs 11-13)." Nearly all of the types of vegetation that had existed before the flood were restored on this day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth. And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day (vs 14-19)." Although, God had restored the light from the sun on day one, the lights that had been blocked from the rest of the solar system weren't allowed to reach the earth again until the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let

birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky. So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day (vs 20-23)." Up until this time, God had simply been restoring what had been before on the earth. However, on the fifth day, God had creatively acted to form both new marine and bird life.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind. And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all that move along the ground. So the creatures God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. Then God said, I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food. And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day (vs 24-31)." On this day, God again used his creative abilities to form new animal life. The humans that God created were different than the Sapiens in the previous world, as they were formed in the image of God with a spirit, soul, and body.

Thus, the vast array of life on the earth had been completely restored in six days. By the last day, God had finished all of his work. At that time, God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done (GEN 2:1-3).

The major part of God's creative work took place during the original creation of the universe, which took eons to complete. His work during the seven days was much shorter, since most of it involved the restoration of what had been previously created. By the seventh day, everything on the earth had been restored to a pure state, as was the case in the beginning. However, there was a key difference. In the original creation, there was no evil or sin present in heaven or God's universe. While the curse and judgment for sin had been removed from the surface of the earth in the recreation, evil was still present in the depths of the earth in a place called hell. God didn't destroy Satan and his demons, but only contained them within a holding place for evil.

After God's work of restoration was finished on the earth, Jesus divided his time between heaven and earth. It was important for

him to be on the earth to instruct the man and woman, who he'd named Adam and Eve. "Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east. in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground-trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters... The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.

"The LORD God said, It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him... So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man... Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame (GEN 2:8-25)."

Later on, while Jesus was in heaven with the other members of the Godhead, there came a distant calling from the bowels of the earth.

Satan cried, "I guess you have created your most prized possession by now?"

Jesus replied, "Everything on the earth has been restored to a state that resembles the original creation. Yes, mankind, who you envied so much as to bring sin into the universe, has been created and now lives in Eden."

Satan answered, "That's my old home, and the place from which I once ruled as the prince of the earth. I guess you've now given authority for tending the earth to man. Wasn't their names Adam and Eve, as I remember?"

Jesus proclaimed, "Adam is my caretaker for the earth, along with his wife Eve, and they are pure and sinless. 'There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil (JOB 1:8).'"

Satan laughed, "How can he shun evil, when there isn't any on the face of the earth. He doesn't sin because he hasn't been tempted. That's no challenge. 'Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land (JOB 1:10).' How can you test his freewill like that and know for certain if he'll remain loyal to you?"

Jesus added, "Given much time, there'll one day be a testing of his freewill, just as it was with you. Then, the truth of his loyalty will be revealed."

Satan cackled, "That could take billions of years! Why wait that long when you can use me. Isn't that the real reason you didn't initially throw my demons and I into the lake of fire? What purpose is there for us to be chained here in hell? I've actually gotten used to the fire and find the place quite pleasant. You ought to either send us to the lake of fire, or release us to tempt your precious Adam and Eve. I can go and tempt him right now! Then, you'll have your answer quickly. Are you afraid to let me go?"

Jesus rebuked Satan, "Don't dictate to me what I should do. I've

known what's necessary for a long time. But, you're right on both counts. One day you and your demons will burn in the unquenchable lake of fire, which is infinitely much hotter than hell. But, that's not to occur until the time of the White Throne Judgment. You purposely weren't destroyed, because you can actually help in the temptation of my new creation. I'll allow you to be set free to tempt Adam and Eve. This is the only way I can quickly determine their loyalty. Michael, go down to earth and open the gates of hell, and set Satan loose. However, all of the demons must remain chained at this time."

Michael said, "As much as I hate to see Satan turned loose, I can see the necessity. Hopefully, the man and the woman will stand strong and resist his temptations. Then, without any further ado, we can rejoice and throw Satan and the demons into the Lake of Fire." Soon, Michael made his way down to earth, and went to where the entrance to hell had been closed. He broke open the seal, and entered the cauldron of fire.

Satan proclaimed, "It's about time my old buddy got here. Release me you prima donna! Did you really think that I wouldn't get out of here. We may've lost the battle in heaven, but one day I'll again be the prince of earth and rule over mankind. My plans for becoming the emperor of heaven and the universe will yet become a reality."

Disguisedly Michael answered, "Just shut up Satan! All you can now predict is lies, and I'm not willing to waste my time listening to them." He took a key from around his neck and opened the chains that bound Satan. As soon as Michael was finished, he turned and left hell to fly back to heaven. As he looked back, he could see Satan slither out of hell, along the ground like a snake.

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

"The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

"But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?"

"Adam answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.'"

"And God said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

"The man said, 'The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.'"

"Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have

done?""

"The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'"

"So the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'"

"To the woman he said, 'I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

"To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, You must not eat from it, Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'"

"Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

"And the LORD God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.' So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life (GEN 3:1-24)." When the fall of mankind was over, Jesus returned to heaven to consult with the rest of the Godhead.

Satan called out from near the opening to hell, "I told you that the man wouldn't be able to withstand my smooth and crafty temptation. I've now succeeded in corrupting your new creation. Mankind is a failure. I've the right to accuse them because you've judged both my demons and I for similar transgressions. We've a right to demand justice, with the Godhead rendering the same judgment as you placed on us. That's the only rightful outcome for your new creation, or your judgments are not equal and fair. What's good for the fallen angels is also good for mankind. You must condemn them immediately to hell and the lake of fire. If we must suffer, your prized possession must also suffer."

Jesus spoke to the Father, "As we already knew, Adam and Eve were severely tempted by the serpent, and fell into sin. As Satan, the accuser implies, they deserve the same fate as was given the fallen angels. I know they are the apple of your eye. There's only one possible way that mankind can now be redeemed. We must for the time being allow Adam and Eve to live, reproduce, and populate the earth as flawed humans. Then at the right time, I'll allow the Holy Spirit to incarnate me as a man. I'll be the sinless one that'll bear the sins of all of mankind. I'll provide them a way to avoid death, judgment, and hell, and receive redemption and salvation."

The Father answered, "Of course, you're right. You knew all along what would need to be done when the man and woman sinned. Sadly, you must one day go to earth and suffer for their sins. The Jews will kill you, and you'll be buried and resurrected. Those humans that afterwards choose to follow you will receive a reprieve from the judgment that should be rendered on all of mankind. They can receive salvation and be forgiven of their sins, and allowed to enter heaven when they die. Our plan for mankind can yet have a positive outcome."

Satan cried out from earth, "Wait just a minute. If you are going to allow mankind to reproduce and spread out all over the earth, you must let me continue to tempt them. But, I'll need help. Release all of my demons from their chains in hell, so I'll have the proper means to tempt mankind all over the planet. It's also fitting that you let me enter heaven to accuse the brethren because of their sins. Those who sin in the future must have both a tempter and an accuser. Those who sin must pay the full price for their actions. I don't believe that all of mankind will choose to follow Jesus even if he does provide a way of redemption. Most will choose darkness and the lusts of the flesh. Those sinners will then be my servants. If enough of mankind follows me, I believe that I can come against heaven and yet rise about God. If I can kill the baby Jesus, then there'll not be any redemption for mankind. Even if I fail, I'll at least have the satisfaction taking many of your prized possessions to the lake of fire with me."

Jesus answered, "Your requests do have merit, although you can't be trusted anymore to tell the truth. Mankind must continue to be tempted until the end times, when final judgment will be rendered for all of humanity. I'll allow most of your demons to be set free from their chains in hell to help you tempt mankind. However, the ones that fornicated with the Sapiens must remain chained until the end times. This'll serve notice to all of your followers of what'll happen if they try to fornicate with humans in the future. Since mankind will continue to sin against God in the future, I'll allow you to come to the gates of heaven and accuse them of their transgressions. This is a new level of authority that I'll grant to you until the end times. You'll also assume your role as prince of the earth, but only to those who reject God. As far as what you believe, it doesn't matter much any more. You may think that you can one day rise up against me and win. But, be forewarned that your fate has already been determined long ago."

Satan proclaimed, "Fair enough. You can believe what you want, but so can I. The battle for the soul of the humans isn't over. I'll be out there with my demons, walking to and fro, to lead as many of mankind to hell as possible. And I most certainly accept being the role as chief accuser of the brethren. I'll become the prince of the earth to many. So, set my demons loose, and let's get this show on the road."

Chapter 8 – Cody Concludes His Story

Cody summarized, "There is no need for me to tell the rest of the story of God's plan for mankind, as it's already been recorded with great detail in the Bible.

George replied, "That was an amazing story of the original creation, and it's answered many questions I had about what was mentioned in the first chapter of Genesis. Probably, the most important answer is that God has created and re-created the earth three times. In the original creation, God spent eons making everything in the universe, just so that the earth could be born in perfection. There probably would've been no need for the other two recreations, if sin hadn't entered the universe. But, now I see the consequences of freewill that God gave the angels, and the need for a testing period to see if they would remain loyal.

"Allowing Lucifer to sin was the only way to find out who was loyal to God and who rejected him in favor of following Satan. This made it necessary to destroy life on the earth and restore everything in perfection with the 1st recreation. Of course, it was necessary to test the freewill of mankind just as God did with the angels. They also failed the test, but God was able to redeem and give them a way to receive salvation with Jesus being born as a man. Of course, this meant that God eventually had to destroy not only the earth again, but also the heavens. This was followed by God restoring them in a second recreation."

Denny added, "And this brings us back to the present. Here we are standing on the newly recreated earth. Everything has been restored back to its original purity, and all evil and sin has been eliminated from the universe. Boy, the earth sure is pretty. There's no comparison with how it was before the Tribulation. But, I still wonder what we're going to do now?"

Moe answered, "Well, the perfection of God's universe applies to all of God's angels and mankind who have been through the trials of testing. I wonder if there are other beings out there in the universe that don't know God?

George replied, "If there are, you can bet that God will use us to go forth and present the gospel to them."

Amanda added, "That would be a grand opportunity for us to help God spread his plan to the other beings of the universe."

Denny lamented, "It sounds like we may have a lot of work ahead of us if God has, in fact, actually created other types of beings with a spirit, soul, and body on other planets."

Excitedly, Moe said, "I guess you already know what my next question is going to be when we visit Jesus again."