



A HISTORY OF ANTI-CHRIST PART I - THE ANTEDELUVIAN AGE

By Albert James Dager

When the term “anti-Christ” is mentioned, there immediately comes to the minds of most Christians an image of a last-days man possessed of unimaginable evil—a man who will plunge the world into a time of great tribulation and will persecute the saints of God and, especially, the Jews living during his time. The truth is that anti-Christ has been at work since the foundation of creation. Anti-Christ is a spirit as much as, if not more than, any individual person. There have been many anti-Christes throughout history.

This does not negate the biblical prophecy of a last-days “man of sin.” It is merely to point out that the spirit of anti-Christ is far more prevalent than most would imagine, insinuating itself into every area of human endeavor including the media, government, and economics, as well as social, political, and military institutions, and every religion including even the Christian churches. This is why John, in warning about the impending last-days anti-Christ, stated:

Little children, it is the last time, and as you have heard that anti-Christ shall come, even now there are many anti-Christes, whereby we know that it is the last time. (1 John 2:18)

As history has progressed, and especially since the time of Jesus’ death on the cross and His resurrection, both of which resulted in the spiritual defeat of Satan and the conquest of sin and death, the anti-Christ spirit has increased its efforts to destroy the work of Christ in the hearts and minds of men, as well as to hinder the effect of the Gospel upon the nations. To understand how the anti-Christ spirit works, and its purpose, we



will look at its major implications upon God’s creation and, particularly, upon mankind. In order to do this we will be consulting history as well as Scripture. The Hebrew Scriptures were among the earliest histories of mankind. This is important because Scripture is so often dismissed as a viable source of historical information.

Many ancient civilizations have produced records of mankind’s achievements and there is no reason to question these records. Yet when it comes to the biblical records of the Hebrews and their civilization, they are dismissed as unworthy of study by historians simply because they contain spiritual guidelines and prophecies which unregenerate men choose to ignore to their own hurt. Although skeptics ridicule the Hebrew Scriptures and attempt to paint them as fantasies written by imaginative men, the truth is that they have proven themselves reliable historical records as well as accurate prophetic

indicators of the mind of God. Without these historical records there would be no reliable witnesses to the existence of the anti-Christ spirit, let alone prophetic warnings of its role in the future of the earth and mankind. Those who rely solely upon secular records for understanding man’s history are missing the most important elements that explain the reasons man’s history has progressed as it has. More important, they are missing the elements that explain man’s future and how individuals can avoid the spiritual pitfalls that drive mankind to the brink of destruction.

No history outside of the Bible records events that transpired at the very beginning of man’s existence and, in fact, at the very beginning of creation. The earliest secular histories go back in time no further than the ancient Etruscan civilizations of the Middle East. Those post-flood civilizations arose almost two thousand years after the creation of man. There are no records extant that are contemporary to the antediluvian (pre-flood) period. The only history of that time is found in the writings of Moses, which date to about 2600 years after Adam’s creation.

The question arises, and is certainly posed by skeptics, as to why we should believe Moses’ accounts. How could he have known of events that transpired almost three thousand years before he wrote? The answer lies in the genealogy of the Hebrew patriarchs.

It is fashionable in media representations of Christians reading the Scriptures to focus on the “begats” of that genealogy. Actors drone on about “Mahalaleel begat

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were close ties between the two that, for all practical purposes, link them over just a few generations.

For example, Adam lived long enough to convey the history of the creation to Noah's father, Lamech. Lamech, in turn, was the grandfather of Shem. Shem lived long enough to be able to convey the truth to Jacob! Jacob was the patriarch of the nation of Israel to which Moses was born. Even discounting the proven prophetic nature of the Scriptures, Moses could certainly have recorded with accuracy the knowledge that would have been handed down to him by his elders.

Thus, from Adam to Jacob the information was as fresh as that of a man to his great-great-grandson. Add to this the accurate prophetic nature of Moses' writings, and we have excellent reason to put our trust in his account of man's earliest history.

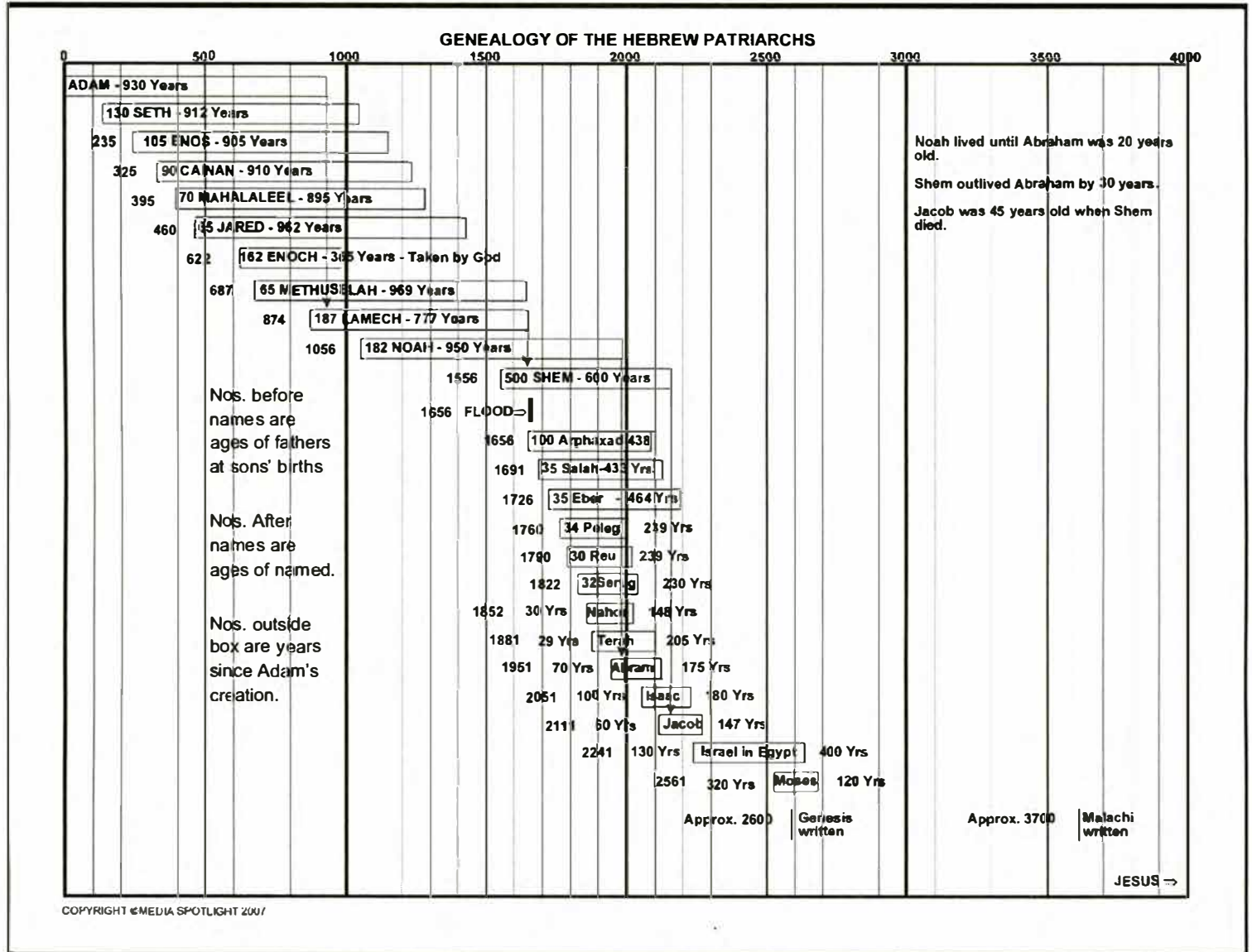
Moses, writing about the earliest of man's history beginning with the first man, Adam, takes us back before man was even created. "In the beginning, God..." (Genesis 1:1).

The "beginning" refers to the dateless past, the time that the Word of God spoke into existence everything that would come to be—every atom and sub-atomic particle that would take on a form assigned it by the Creator.

It is a scientific given that (God aside) matter cannot be created or destroyed. All the matter that exists in the universe has been there since its inception and, although matter may take on different forms at different times, it cannot be destroyed. The nutrients that we take into our bodies build muscle, blood, skin, bone, and other essential elements. As we grow from newborns to adults the atoms

Jared; Jared begat Enoch; Enoch begat Methuselah," and-on-and-on. This gives the impression that the Bible is nothing more than an endless droning on of unimportant and boring data. The truth is that the genealogy of the Hebrew patriarchs contains a wealth of information important to the recognition of Israel's Messiah, and offers good reason to trust the Scriptures for their historical accuracy.

The chart below demonstrates that, although some two-and-a-half millennia passed between Adam and Moses, there



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in our bodies shift into different forms. When we die, those atoms convert to dust to be reused in the formation of other elements. The stability of matter contributes to the stability of the creation as a whole and, to a degree, allows for predictability and accuracy in science. Because the creation is stable, man has been able to calculate where heavenly bodies will be in relation to the earth (even particular spots on the earth), so that he has been able to send his machines to explore the outer reaches of the solar system and beyond. Every scientific discipline rests upon the important fact that the material universe is measurable and predictable in its composition and functioning.

These mundane aspects of the creation are important to us, but not as important as the spiritual aspects. And this is where the spirit of anti-Christ comes in. This spirit, which opposes everything that is of God, uses even the stability of the creation to fashion "science" so-called, that is at odds with the true science of God.

As we progress we will see exactly how this works. For now, we will begin with a definition of anti-Christ. From there we will go back to the earliest mentions of anti-Christ and begin our historical progression of its influences among us.

A DEFINITION OF ANTI-CHRIST

If we are to accomplish our study of anti-Christ's progression through history we must first define just what "anti-Christ" means.

It is said by some that the coming anti-Christ will not be against Christ, but will take the place of Christ. He will come as a false messiah to Israel. It is reasoned that the prefix, "anti" does not mean only "against," but also "instead of." But there is no scriptural evidence that the coming anti-Christ will be Jewish, let alone be accepted as Israel's Messiah. Scripture offers the most encompassing understanding of who is anti-Christ:

Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is anti-Christ, that denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son, the same does not have the Father; he that acknowledges the Son has the Father also. (1 John 2:22-23)

For many deceivers have entered into the world, who do not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti-Christ. (2 John 1:7)

Scripture indicates that anti-Christ is whoever denies that Jesus is the Messiah—the uniquely anointed, only-begotten Son of God. This definition of anti-Christ forms the basis for the biblical understanding of what "anti" means: to wit, "against." It also forms the basis for all the rebellion against God that occurs. Even religion (including Christianity to a large degree) is anti-Christ simply because all religions, including large numbers of professing Christians in the churches—among them church leaders—deny that Jesus is the Christ.

When John and all the writers of Scripture refer to "Christ" they are speaking of that unique anointing to which the title "Christ" refers. "Christ" means "anointed." But this is not just any anointing. No man was ever called "Christ" before modern men began to apply the title to any perceived "holy man" of their particular religious affiliation. It was first (and rightly) applied only to Yeshua (Jesus) of Nazareth, and this for two thousand years. He owns it; no man may rightfully usurp it.

Thus, to deny that Jesus is the only Christ or Messiah sent in human flesh through the virgin birth as an act of God is to be anti-Christ. It is to be against Christ.

But this is merely one expression of the anti-Christ spirit. The full definition of anti-Christ is anything or anyone that opposes the will of God to any degree. The reason it is called "anti-Christ," and not just "anti-God" is because God the Father chose to accomplish all things by and for His Son, the Word of God who came forth from Him, and who is the very essence and nature of the Father—God. Speaking of Jesus as the Son of God, the apostle Paul explains:

For by Him were all things created that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether

they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. All things were created by Him, and for Him, and He existed before all things, and by Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:16-17)

Just as every man and woman today is of the same essence and nature of their father, man, so the Word of God, who came forth from the Father, and who existed with the Father from eternity, is of the same essence and nature as the Father (God). Likewise, every man and woman that has ever lived, and will live, was in Adam from the beginning:

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

We are born in sin, dead to God, because we were in Adam when he sinned. His genes are our genes. Even though we had no consciousness and, indeed, were not fashioned until the time our immediate fathers and mothers produced the life that germinated in the womb, we were still reckoned as in Adam by God.

In a similar manner the Word of God existed from eternity within the Father and came forth from the Father:

"For the Father Himself loves you because you have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." (John 16:27-28)

There is no explaining the Godhead beyond this. Nor do I profess to know anything about the Godhead beyond what the Scriptures have revealed. Theologians may argue back-and-forth about the meaning of the Trinity, or any other concept of God, but we cannot go beyond the Scriptures.

What we do know is that the Word of God, who became the man Jesus of Nazareth, is God in the flesh:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by Him, and nothing that was made was made without Him.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not understand it....

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14)

The Word of God became the "Son of Man" in the flesh. Through the virgin birth He acquired the unique anointing as the only-begotten Son of God. All things were created by Jesus Christ, who existed as the Word of God in the beginning with the Father. He came forth from the Father. Just as important, all things were created *for* Jesus Christ according to the will of the Father. The creation is the Father's gift to His Son, fashioned in accordance with the Son's creative powers. Therefore, anything or anyone who opposes the will of the Father opposes the will of the Son who is pre-eminent in creation. All such opposition is anti-Christ.

Much of what we cover in our first two parts are found in the Scriptures with which most of our readers are familiar. Yet each time we consult God's Word we learn new things. It is my hope that this writing will shed some new light into corners of the Scriptures that some may have overlooked or taken for granted.

THE DATELESS PAST

The Word of God existed from the beginning with God the Father (John 1:1). The "beginning" of John 1:1 is not the same as that in Genesis 1:1. John's "beginning" speaks of the dateless past, the eternity in which God dwelt before He created the heavens and the earth "in the beginning" of Genesis 1:1. Obviously, God had to exist before that beginning.

Scripture does not dwell upon what transpired in the time between John 1:1 and Genesis 1:1. Certainly the creation has not stood as long as God has existed. So for all the ageless past in which God existed prior to the accounts of Genesis 1, there must be some history, unstated to man and unfathomable without at least some clues provided by God's Word.

God's abode, Heaven (not the heavens of creation), has existed from the dateless past. No doubt the angels whom He created as His messengers and aides for the

purpose of managing His creation were brought into being during that time. But when, exactly, did God create the heavens and the earth from nothingness? That is the mystery.

Two Theories

There are two theories on the age of the creation that are based on different understandings of Scripture. Both are opposed to the theory of evolution.

The first and most commonly held theory among Christians, is that of a "Young Earth," or "Young Creation." This theory posits that God created the universe about 6,000 years ago. Those who hold to this theory believe that Genesis 1:1 is inextricably tied to the following verses:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good, and God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5)

According to this theory God created the earth void and without form, that is, uninhabitable. He then began to make it habitable by planting a garden in "the east of Eden," and populating it with all forms of life including mankind.

This is considered by most Christians the only orthodox position. It is greatly cherished and defended by many solid believers in Christ, particularly among the "Creation Science" proponents. Among these are scientists of varied disciplines who argue well against evolutionary theory.

The second theory is that the earth is untold eons old, and separates Genesis 1:1 from the following verses. It posits that the six day "creation" was really a refurbishing of the original creation which fell into chaos due to the fall of Satan and the angels who followed him. Some believe also that there were inhabitants of the earth prior to Adam, but they were destroyed by an earth-wide flood similar to Noah's because they, too, followed Satan.

There are good arguments for both sides, although some on each side tend to deride those on the other side.

The young-earth proponents do seem to be more unforgiving of the ancient-earth theorists, some even insisting that believers who oppose them are guilty of heresy. The following is one example of this reasoning, as well as a general statement supporting the young earth theory from Charlie Liebert, a young earth proponent with Creation Science Resources:

Here are the two Biblical reasons why I believe the "young Earth" position is essential to Biblical belief. I do NOT take it because of science, since science is an interpretation of evidence and can and does change. I ONLY use Biblical reasoning when answering the question of the reason for my "young Earth" position. I believe science does, in fact, verify the young Earth but that's not our purpose here. Here are the Biblical reasons why a young Earth is essential:

1) Death Before Sin. The Bible is clear that death was a direct result of Adam's sin, yet all "old Earth" positions have death in the creation long before Adam's sin because they try to accommodate the long ages REQUIRED for evolution. They argue that the death that came by Adam was only spiritual death. If that's the case you then have to explain how we can have a better place in the new Heaven and Earth than Adam had in Eden. Remember in the new creation (I believe it is a restored Eden); "the lion will lie down with the lamb" animals will be herbivores... That could not happen in the worlds old Earthers describe before Adam appeared. God would have used death and struggle as a POSITIVE process to gain improvement in all the old Earth scenarios. Death then would be a creative process used by God. That is NOT the God of Scripture!!!

2) Very Good. At the end of each day God says his creative process is good and at the end of day six the scripture states; "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:31 (KJV). EVERYTHING was VERY GOOD. This expression implies a per-

fect Creation with no sin, death, rebellion... Most "old Earth" processes have the fall of Satan, death, sin, and all other kinds of imperfection present before the end of day six. That would imply that the clear statement of Scripture either wasn't "everything that He had made" or it really wasn't "very good". Thus the "old Earth" position is in direct conflict with the clear words of Scripture.

The old Earth position is heresy because of these two clear violations of God's word. These two conflicts are real and not just interpretation of the meaning of the words. Death before Adam's sin and an imperfect Creation before the end of Day six are concrete violation of the nature and character of God as He revealed Himself in Scripture. There are other indirect Biblical reasons, but they are not as compelling as these two. For example, why did God give us the genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 and Luke and Matthew if daring weren't important? I don't believe that any particular believers that hold these positions are not truly saved but I believe the beliefs themselves are heretical. All believers understanding of God is imperfect and I would implore "old Earth" advocates to be receptive to the teaching of God's Word. I was first an atheistic evolutionist, then a theistic evolutionist, then I considered gap, day-age, long days, etc. and finally arrived at the "young Earth" position three years after my conversion and an extended study of both Scripture and science (perhaps a process of evolution in my life!!).¹

Others do posit scientific reasons for belief in a young earth, but the arguments both for and against that theory are plausible. The issue is not only what science says, but how science is interpreted.

Liebert's position is echoed by other young-earth proponents. However, there are a number of holes in this position as stated.

First, the idea that sin entered creation through Adam, and therefore there could not have been an existence of intelligent beings on the earth prior to Adam ignores the scriptural account of Satan's fall. Certainly Satan fell before Adam, because Satan was in the garden tempting Eve before Adam sinned. Young-earth proponents believe that Satan fell just prior to Adam. But there is no scriptural evidence for this. In any case, sin entered creation before Adam sinned. Death and corruption was pronounced upon man and his domain because of Adam's sin, but there is evidence of chaos in the universe that is exhibited in the heavens billions of light-years distant. The description of the earth as "void and without form," and the Garden of Eden being contrasted with the rest of the earth's condition of decay certainly indicates that something was remiss in the earth.

Second, that God confirmed as "very good," everything He did in the six days of Genesis does not negate the possibility of an ancient earth. The ancient-earth theory posits that Genesis 1:1 relates the actual creation of the universe, including the earth, but that it is separated from the refurbishing or "re-creating" of the earth out of chaos due to the fall of Satan and his minions that existed on the earth prior.

These points may be debatable, but it is wrong to accuse of heresy those who do not agree with the young-earth theory.

Another accusation is that those who believe in an ancient earth are trying to accommodate evolution and, therefore, they believe in evolution. This is an unreasonable charge. How and when God first brought the creation into being has nothing to do with evolution, either secular or theocratic. The vast majority of those who hold to an ancient-earth creation by God reject evolution, and affirm that Adam was a unique creation made in the image of God, not descended from lower primates. The age of the earth and the theory of evolution are mutually exclusive apart from secular "science." One has nothing to do with the other.

There are "theocratic evolutionists" who believe God used the evolutionary

process to create life on earth, but they are rejected by true believers in Jesus who believe in an ancient earth. To lump all ancient-earth proponents in the same category with evolutionists is dishonest. It's as if those who insist upon the young-earth belief have little or no grace toward those who believe otherwise. Their focus is primarily upon debunking evolutionary theory, and for that they are to be commended. But to imply (and often state unequivocally) that unless one believes as they do one is guilty of conforming to false science, or is promoting heresy, is a serious error.

One may reasonably ask what this has to do with a study on anti-Christ. In order to properly understand the history of anti-Christ we must at least consider the possibility of an ancient creation. For if Satan fell sometime during the dateless past, then his encroachment upon the earth is better understood.

From all indications in Scripture it appears as if the earth is Satan's domain, and was so even before the creation of Adam. The angels of God are often referred to as "stars" (Judges 5:18-19; Job 38:4-7; Daniel 8:10; Revelation 8:10-11; 9:1). Jesus is called the "Star out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17), and "the bright and morning Star" (Revelation 22:16).

These references to Jesus and the angels as "stars" indicate that the angels have dominion over the stars and their solar systems. (Of course, Jesus is not an angel, but, as the Word of God, does have authority over all the angels.) One may not be dogmatic about this, but if Satan's star is our Sun, then it explains why he is the prince of the power of the air and the ruler of this world. When he sinned he brought chaos into our solar system, which is evidenced by the barren, pock-marked landscapes of the planets and their moons. His taking one-third of the angels with him would account for the chaotic state of the universe in general. All this could have taken place eons ago in the dateless past.

It isn't my intention to be dogmatic in favor of an ancient-earth belief, but to point out the unreasonableness of those

1 Charlie Liebert, "Why is a Young Earth Essential to Biblical Belief?" Creation Science Resources, www.sixdaycreation.com/

who call proponents of an ancient-earth theory “heretics.” One cannot insist that those who believe something are heretics, but may still be saved. This is simply because the term “heretic” denotes someone who has departed from the truth of God, and is proclaiming a different Gospel. Our salvation does not rest upon the age of the universe, but upon the atonement for our sins effected by Jesus Christ.

I personally believe in the ancient earth, but I will not break fellowship with those who disagree. Nor would I ever call them heretics. Scripture does give clues to the existence of a pre-Adamic world, which we address shortly.

This is not a new idea; it has been held by good brethren for many years. But it has been met with ridicule by those who insist upon a 6,000-year age for the universe.

What else besides an ancient creation can explain the fact that matter 15 billion light years distant can be detected from earth? This indicates that the universe spans at least 30 billion light years. A light year is the amount of time it takes light, travelling at 186,000 miles per second, to travel in one year. The distance of a light year is almost 6 trillion miles. Discounting the “Big Bang” theory, and relying solely upon the observation of stars 15 billion light years distant in one direction, the universe appears to be at least 180 trillion billion miles in diameter. If the young-earth theory is correct we should not be able to see stars beyond 6,000 light years distant, or 36 billion miles. That would not even take us outside our own galaxy which is about 100,000 light years across. There are billions upon billions of galaxies containing billions upon billions of stars.

The argument for a young earth insists that God created the light to reach the earth at the same time that He created the stars and the earth. This is certainly possible, and one can surmise that He may have done this in order to demonstrate His majesty.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handywork. (Psalms 19:1)

However, it is not that simple. Did God also counterfeit radio-carbon dating? Did He manufacture the geologic strata that contain evidence of an ancient earth? Did He also create the illusion of millions of

years of erosion? Did He manufacture fossil evidence? Did He create supernovae (exploding stars) that would take billions of years to form? Young earthers say yes.

Yet supernovae, colliding galaxies, and other such forces in creation, indicate eons far beyond 6,000 years would need to have passed (they would have to move far greater distances through space than 6,000 light years). It would take more than 2 million light years for our galaxy to collide with its nearest neighbor, the Great Nebula in Andromeda, *if both were travelling at half the speed of light toward each other!*

This leaves open to reason the belief that some hold of a pre-Adamic existence upon the earth. Could it be that human-like creatures once had civilizations that God destroyed because of their rebellion? Might they have willfully followed Satan in his rebellion, and thus suffered the wrath of God upon their existence with no hope of a Redeemer? May these be the alleged “cave men” and other human-like creatures unearthed in ancient soil?

Warning Israel of impending judgment, God spoke through Jeremiah, reminding Israel of an earlier age:

I beheld the earth, and, look, it was without form, and void, and the heavens, and they had no light.

I beheld the mountains, and, look, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.

I beheld, and, look, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled.

I beheld, and, look, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of YHWH, and by his fierce anger.

For thus has YHWH said, “The whole land shall be desolate; yet I will not make a full end.” (Jeremiah 4:23-27)

Of what cities was Jeremiah speaking? Were there cities prior to the earth becoming void and without form, and the heavens not giving their light? Was Jeremiah merely speaking allegorically? There is no evidence to suggest so.

Peter speaks as if his contemporaries understood and knew of an ancient world before man. Speaking of scoffers coming in the last days He says:

For this they are willingly ignorant of: that by the Word of God the heavens were ancient, and the earth was standing out of the water and in the water. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same Word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:5-7)

Genesis 1 tells us that the whole earth was under water before God commanded the dry land to appear. Why then does Peter speak of ancient heavens and the earth which perished standing both in the water and out of the water? Was he speaking of Noah’s flood? Not likely, since he continues by delineating between the heavens that then were, and the heavens that are now. The heavens during Noah’s time are the same heavens we have today. This suggests that some great calamity came upon the heavens and the earth. It suggests that there was a flood prior to Noah’s flood—a flood from which God caused the dry land to appear (Genesis 1:9).

When God divided the light from the darkness on the first day, the earth was already in existence, having become “void and without form.”

But wait. Does the Bible not say, “The earth *was* without form and void” right after it says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”? Didn’t God create the earth without form and void?

No. The Hebrew word, *hayah*, translated “was” in Genesis 1:1 could more properly be translated “became.” It is so translated in many other places in Scripture. One such place is Genesis 2:7:

And YHWH God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became (*hayah*) a living soul.

What the churches have believed about the age of the creation is inherited from the Dark Ages when so-called “science” was controlled by the Roman Catholic Church. It was also believed that the earth is flat. This lack of understanding leaves most Christians unable to carry on a meaningful evangelism with scientists who see clearly the evidence for an ancient creation. It is no wonder some sci-

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entists scoff at Christianity, thinking that it is in conflict with true science. Let us stretch our thinking without being dogmatic on either side, or accusing of heresy those on either side. And while evolutionary "science" has certainly misinterpreted some evidence (in many cases, willfully), it has not necessarily misinterpreted everything that points to an ancient creation.

Nor are all earth scientists evolutionists as we've been led to believe. Many scientists are ungodly, but not all reject the existence of God. Many prominent scientists have spoken against evolution, and even some evolutionists are honestly trying to understand the evidence set before them. Their misinterpretations must not blind us to legitimate science.

In any case, Satan was certainly created prior to Adam. He was able to enter into the Garden, already having fallen some time prior to Adam being placed there. How much time passed between his fall and his influence upon the new earth and its inhabitants?

Such questions cannot be answered definitively. Yet an intractable insistence that the earth is only 6,000 years old hinders the Gospel in the face of reason.

It is not my purpose to insist upon the ancient-earth theory. Rather, it is to establish a reasonable basis for understanding the working of Satan from ancient times without being dogmatic or accusing of heresy those who disagree with me.

True faith is reasonable; it does not insist on belief based upon nothing more than what a religion has held to be true. God has left it to our reason to come to conclusions about His creation based upon what His Word and physical evidence say. And while we know that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17), we understand that it is primarily for our spiritual benefit. Some things may be hinted at, but they are not essential for true faith in Jesus.

Still, there are reasons for those things that are hinted at, though not fully explained. The fact that there had to be an interim of time between the eternity in which God has existed and the creation of the earth, regardless of when that occurred, helps us understand that there were spiritual forces at work to undermine the purposes of God. Those forces are what we call anti-Christ.

Since all that exists was created by the Word of God, and for the Word of God, the very first rebellion against Him was the very first act of the anti-Christ spirit. That anti-Christ spirit is embodied most fully in God's enemy the devil, or Satan ("Adversary").

Ezekiel likens the king of Tyrus to the covering angel who was in the Garden of God, but who fell because of his pride:

"Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord YHWH: "You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You have been in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering—the ruby, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold. The workmanship of your tambourines and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created.

"You are the anointed cherub that covers, and I have set you so. You were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

"You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you.

"By the multitude of your merchandise they have filled your midst with violence, and you have sinned. Therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God, and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings, that they may behold you.

"You have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your traffic. Therefore I will bring forth a fire from within your midst; it shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold you.

"All they that know you among the people will be astonished at you.

You shall be a terror, and never will you be anymore.'"" (Ezekiel 28:12-19)

While this is specifically addressed to the king of Tyrus, it is obvious that Ezekiel (or, more properly, YHWH) was equating him to Satan.

This may be directly referenced to Luke 10:18 where Jesus tells of seeing Satan fall from Heaven like lightning. Speaking to the unbelieving Jews of His day, Jesus said:

You are of your father the devil, and you will do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not abide in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, because he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44)

Satan was a murderer from the beginning because he brought death into the creation. The angels who followed him died a spiritual death, as did Adam and Eve because of Satan's seduction.

It is considered quaint today to speak of "the devil," or "Satan," because he is thought to be a fabrication of Christianity. But if Jesus spoke of him, why would we not take His warning seriously? Jesus did not promulgate myths. He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." If He is the Truth, then everything He said is truth. Just because we cannot see Satan in the flesh does not mean he does not exist. Jesus knew him in Heaven before he fell. The Book of Job tells of Satan's influence in Heaven even while he is fallen:

Now there was a day when the sons of God [angels or messengers—spirit beings] came to present themselves before YHWH, and Satan also came among them.

And YHWH said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered YHWH, and said, "From going back and forth in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

And YHWH said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and resists evil?"

Then Satan answered YHWH, and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he has on every side?"

You have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

“But put forth Your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face.”

And YHWH said to Satan, “Look, all that he has is in your power, only do not put your hand upon him.”

So Satan went forth from the presence of YHWH. (Job 1:6-12)

We see in this passage of Scripture Satan’s opposition to God and his desire to undo the work of God. Job’s faithfulness was proven in spite of Satan’s consistent efforts to break him. And while this is an inspiring story, for our purposes it reveals the spirit of anti-Christ that was at work in Heaven from the beginning.

We know also that Satan is not the only angelic anti-Christ. All who followed him in rebellion against God are his anti-Christ minions in the spirit realm working to destroy God’s Kingdom throughout the heavens and, especially, upon the earth.

The Book of Revelation tells of angels following after Satan:

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called “the Devil” and “Satan,” who deceives the whole world. He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:9)

It is assumed from Revelation 12:4 that one-third of all the angels followed Satan in his rebellion. This is because “stars” are thought by some to be a synonym for “angels” in Job 38:7. However, we cannot be dogmatic about this since it is not clearly stated. The important thing is that there are many, perhaps millions, or even billions, of angelic anti-Christ’s at work in the heavens and on the earth.

There also seem to be differences between fallen angels and demons. Some believe demons to be fallen angels of a lower order. But angels have bodies that are substantive. Demons appear to be wandering spirits driven to inhabit the bodies of men. They are called “unclean spirits” and exhibit all sorts of perverseness. The unclean and perverse angels are locked in chains awaiting their final judgment (Jude 1:6-7) while demons are free to roam the earth.

Could demons be disembodied spirits—remnants of a pre-Adamic race—that do the bidding of Satan with the hope of avoiding the final judgment of God?

Again, we cannot be dogmatic, but if the angels that did not keep their first estate are held in everlasting chains, who are these unclean spirits? Whatever they are, they contribute to the current condition of the fallen creation, and attack men as their primary targets. Angels seem to have a higher calling in Satan’s warfare upon God’s order. They are the principalities and powers in heavenly places, while demons appear to be earth-bound.

The natural calamities that occur upon the earth are the result of Satan’s fall. Before man was created, the earth had become chaotic—“void and without form”—due to Satan’s fall. God did not create the earth or the universe in a chaotic state. All He created was perfect. Because of Satan’s fall, and the resultant sin of Adam, the earth no longer gives of its fruits without hard labor.

And to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it,” the ground is cursed for your sake. In sorrow shall you eat from it all the days of your life. Thorns also, and thistles shall it bring forth to you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Genesis 3:17-19)

It is not only the earth that will be refashioned by God for its place in eternity. I believe that the apparent chaotic state of the universe is the result of heavenly warfare. Colliding galaxies, supernovae, black holes, pock-marked planets and moons, and the generally desolate condition of space, are all evidence of that warfare. The entire universe will melt, and from its ashes will come forth new heavens and a new earth:

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The earth also,

and the works that are therein, shall be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10)

And I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. (Revelation 21:1)

From this New Heaven and New Earth will be banished forever the anti-Christ spirit that currently rules in the heavenly places and on the earth:

And He has made you alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience. (Ephesians 2:1-2)

That spirit, which is the prince of the power of the air, is the anti-Christ spirit of Satan. This is why we are told that our warfare is not earthly but heavenly.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Therefore take upon yourselves the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Ephesians 6:12-13)

Jesus has destroyed these principalities and powers:

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)

Yet while Christ has already destroyed the anti-Christ spirit, He yet allows it to work in the lives of unregenerate men and through man’s earthly institutions to test the hearts of those who might be saved. Just as we were saved, continue to be saved, and will ultimately reap the reward of our salvation, so the anti-Christ’s of this age were destroyed, continue to be destroyed, and will ultimately reap the future reward of their destruction in the lake of fire.

The battle has been raging for men’s souls for the past six thousand years. Our short time on this earth cannot be wasted as we continue that battle.

THE FIRST HUMAN ANTI-CHRISTS

Satan's anti-Christ efforts upon mankind were not first inflicted upon Job. From the time that God created Adam, Satan was at work to destroy mankind and thwart God's design for redeeming the earth. His first recruit was Eve, Adam's wife, who was beguiled into eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It wasn't the fruit itself that opened Eve's eyes to her rebellion, but the knowledge that she had disobeyed her Creator. God could have chosen any one of the numerous trees and designated it "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." It is sin itself that brings to one's consciousness the knowledge of good and evil. Had Eve resisted, she would never have known evil. By rebelling against the command of YHWH she became the first human anti-Christ. Adam, by his acquiescence to Eve's seduction, became the second human anti-Christ.

Does this mean that they were eternally damned? Not necessarily. Even though we love Christ, every time we sin we take on the role of an anti-Christ.

That is a sobering thought that should cause us to walk more circumspectly in this world. Every sin is an act of the anti-Christ spirit. It doesn't matter from where the temptation to sin comes, whether from the world (inordinate love of riches and power over others), the flesh (inordinate desire [lust] of all sorts), or the devil (following after anti-Christ philosophies and religions). All sin is the anti-Christ spirit in action.

It is alarming to think that even the most dedicated of God's servants at times display an anti-Christ spirit by sinning. Yet there is hope for all men who will repent of their sins and confess them to God:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1 John 1:9-10)

There is not a man or woman on earth that has not been in the camp of the anti-Christ. Most will remain in that camp and will follow the anti-Christ to their destruction because they refuse to repent of their sins. But God has made a way for whomever will follow Him:

For God so loved the world that He gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him.

He that believes in Him is not condemned, but he that does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that does evil hates the light. Nor does he come to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

But he that does truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are fashioned by God. (John 3:16-21)

Satan and his fallen angels have no opportunity for redemption because they sinned willfully and with knowledge. They knew the holiness and the power of God, yet they chose to rebel against Him. Adam, through whom sin was imparted to all mankind, was seduced into sin. Thus, all men are partakers of the anti-Christ spirit in their sin nature. God, in His mercy and love, determined that He would send a Redeemer to pay the price for man's sins. That price was death through the shedding of blood, because life is in the blood. Man cannot live without blood coursing through his veins.

Jesus paid that price on the cross. But because He is sinless, death could not hold Him. His resurrection opened the way for all who truly believe in Him to enter into His inheritance of the New Creation to come. True faith manifests itself in obedience to God's Word. Disobedience is a manifestation of the anti-Christ spirit, and must be confessed and forgiven each time it occurs.

After Adam manifested the anti-Christ spirit through disobedience, all of his offspring were infected by that spirit. It is called the sin nature. All men are born in sin and must submit to the will of God through faith in Jesus Christ in order to overcome that nature and be infused with the new nature:

Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who has called us to glory and virtue, whereby are given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things are in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see far off, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Therefore rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never fall. (2 Peter 1:2-10)

Being made partakers of the divine nature does not mean that we become God, or even little "gods." It means that we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God who comforts us and convicts us of sin, leading us to repentance. He also empowers us to live according to God's Word, and to manifest the gifts of God for the edification of the Body of Christ.

The Spirit of God has replaced the spirit of anti-Christ in our spirits, making us alive to God. As partakers of the divine nature we have an awesome responsibility to resist sinning willfully in order to thwart the attempts of the anti-Christ spirit to use us against our Master's eternal plan of redemption. This is why we are warned:

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three

witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, shall he be thought worthy, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the Covenant, by which he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has despised the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:26-29)

I have digressed slightly in order to impress upon us all the seriousness of sin. It is anti-Christ to sin. Couched in those terms, perhaps we will be more cognizant not only of its seriousness, but of the magnitude of the sacrifice by which we have been sanctified.

ANTEDELUVIAN ANTI-CHRISTS

Prior to the flood in Noah's time there was no written history, at least none that has survived or been found. Moses' account of the pre-flood world is all we have, and it becomes increasingly verified through continual archaeological findings. If anyone knows of any other accounts of that history to refute Moses' account, then let them present it. Otherwise they should at least concede that Moses' record is the best (the only) thing we have to go on.

We are all familiar with the temptation of Eve and her seduction of Adam. There is no need to elaborate upon this event other than to say that Satan's presentation of the forbidden fruit was mankind's first encounter with the anti-Christ spirit. That spirit always challenges what God says:

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which YHWH God had made. And he said to the woman, "Yes, has God said, 'You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?'"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

And the serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die, for God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes will be opened, and you will be as gods, knowing good and evil."

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it

was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:1-6)

It appears from these verses that Adam was with Eve when she was seduced by Satan. Yet he did nothing to prevent her from succumbing to the temptation. He seems eager to partake of the fruit with her. Perhaps he reasoned that if she took it first he could also take it and not be blamed. This, at least, seems to be his reason for blaming her:

And YHWH God called to Adam, and said to him, "Where are you?"

And he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

And the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate. (Genesis 3:9-12)

Notice that both Adam and Eve convoluted the truth. Eve elaborated upon God's prohibition, saying that they were commanded not even to touch the fruit. Adam blamed Eve in the hope of not incurring death for himself.

Of course, God saw through Adam's deception and laid upon him the death penalty.

Anti-Christ denies what God says. Men, exhibiting that same anti-Christ spirit, deny or change what God says. Even many Christians often deny what God says. They make excuses for any number of major or minor departures from Scripture, which essentially says God doesn't really mean what He says in His written Word. The world propagandizes against the Word of God and many Christians accept that propaganda because it is pleasant to their eyes and ears, and seems to make them wise.

Yet in spite of Adam's sin, God promised a Redeemer who would one day come to crush Satan and provide a sacrifice for man's sins.

It didn't take long in mankind's history for murder to be committed. When Cain failed to provide a proper sacrifice to God through the shedding of blood, it caused

God to reject his offering. This, in turn, caused Cain to envy his brother Abel, whose sacrifice was accepted. He further rebelled against God by killing Abel. This murder is the first anti-Christ act among men recorded in the Bible after Adam's first sin.

Scripture doesn't give many details about the antediluvian period of man's history. There are no secular histories from that time. Chapters 6 through 9 of Genesis offer the only accounts, Chapters 7 through 9 being devoted exclusively to Noah's experiences.

Knowing of God's promise to send a Redeemer, it became Satan's agenda to do all he could to thwart that promise in order to maintain his hold upon the world and to prevent his own final destruction. We see a concerted effort to that end in his fallen angels coming among men to pollute the race of man in an attempt to render it incapable of producing the promised Redeemer:

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took them wives of all whom they chose.

And YHWH said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man, because he also is flesh; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

There were giants in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. The same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

And YHWH saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And God was sorrowful that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.

And YHWH said, "I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air—for it sorrows Me that I have made them. (Genesis 6:1-7)

There is much controversy as to what these passages mean. Some say that the sons of God were men descended from Seth—a godly line of men who married the ungodly women of other bloodlines. But this does not explain how these men could produce giants. Nor do we find that Seth’s line is any godlier than any other line. All men corrupted themselves in time.

There are only two other references to “the sons of God” in the writings of the prophets, and they are found in Job 2:1 and 38:7. Both refer to angels, the messengers of God. The only mention of men as “sons of God” refers to the redeemed who are sons *by adoption* into the family of God (John 1:12; Romans 8:14-19; Philippians 2:15; 1 John 3:1-2). No men were adopted into God’s family until after Jesus came. The saints who came before Him could not enter into the presence of God as sons until Jesus made the way open for them to be joint heirs with Him to the Kingdom of God. Before that time the saints were called “friends” of God.

It is understandable that the idea of angels cohabiting with men and producing an offspring of giants would boggle minds, but I charge this to the lack of teaching in the churches regarding these “controversial” matters. The fallen angels had perverted themselves in many ways after following Satan in his rebellion. It is these to whom Jude refers in his epistle:

I will therefore put you in remembrance, though you once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that did not believe.

And the angels which did not keep their first estate, but left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day, even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set

forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 1:5-7)

Jude likens the fallen angels to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah in their fornication and going after strange flesh. Not all of Satan’s angels are bound in chains, but only those that left their natural habitation and committed fornication upon the earth with the daughters of men. These produced giants called Nephilim—beings of extraordinary size and strength, so that men seemed as grasshoppers in their presence (Numbers 13:33). No doubt these Nephilim inspired the concepts of Titans and other gods for pagan religions such as those of the Greeks and Romans.

There are a number of giants mentioned by name, all of whom were enemies of God and Israel:

And YHWH said to me, “Do not bother the Moabites, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the children of Lot for a possession.

The Emims dwelt there in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims, who were also accounted giants as the Anakims, but the Moabites call them Emims. (Deuteronomy 2:9-11)

For only Og, king of Bashan, remained of the remnant of giants. Look, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron. Is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? Its length was nine cubits, and its width was four cubits, after the cubit of a man. (Deuteronomy 3:11)²

Some say that a cubit was about 18 inches, others say that it was anywhere from 18 inches to 24 inches. Even applying the most conservative measure, it is certain that the giants described in Scripture were of enormous size. Og’s bed was at least thirteen and one-half feet long and six feet wide, made of iron.

Goliath, the most famous giant in Scripture, is described in 1 Samuel 17:3-7:

And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, and there was a valley between them.

And there went out from the camp of the Philistines, a giant named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

And he had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

And he had shin guards of brass on his legs, and a shield of brass between his shoulders.

And the staff of his spear was like a weaver’s beam; and his spear’s head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And one bearing a shield went before him.

Using the 18-inch equation, Goliath stood at least ten feet tall. His coat of mail weighed no less than 500 lbs. The head of his spear alone weighed no less than 22 lbs., heavier than the Olympic shot put. These giants were far greater in size and strength than pure-bred men.

Many scoff at the idea of angels breeding with men. They ask, what about Jesus’ words that in our immortal bodies we will be like the angels, neither marrying, nor giving in marriage?

For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in Heaven. (Matthew 22:30)

Doesn’t this mean that angels cannot procreate?

Well, are men who do not marry incapable of producing offspring? Catholic priests who take the vow of celibacy (originally meaning unmarried) maintain that vow even though they commit fornication.

2 “cubit a historic unit of distance frequently mentioned in the Bible. The word comes from the Latin *cubitus*, “elbow,” because the unit represents the length of a man’s forearm from his elbow to the tip of his outstretched middle finger. This distance tends to be about 18 inches or roughly 45 centimeters.” *A Dictionary of Units of Measurement*
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Angels do not marry, but that does not mean they are sexless beings. They are, after all, male in their anatomy.

Some would argue that they are spirit beings, not physical, so how can they marry women? The spirit body of angels is just as tangible as that of men. There is nothing in Scripture to say that spirit bodies do not have substance. It is a different substance to be sure, capable of being invisible and moving through the heavenlies, but substance nevertheless. Spirit beings are not nothingness.

There are several accounts in Scripture in which angels appear as men. They eat, drink, and feel the heat of the sun:

And YHWH appeared to him [Abraham] in the plains of Mamre, and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day. And he lifted his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him. And when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground and said, "My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, do not pass away, I pray You, from Your servant.

"Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

"And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort your hearts. After that you shall pass on, for therefore you have come to your servant."

And they said, "So do as you have said." (Genesis 18:1-5)

And there came two angels to Sodom at evening, and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom. And Lot seeing them, rose up to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, "Look now, my lords, turn in, I ask you, into your servant's house, and stay all night, and wash your feet, and you shall rise up early, and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will stay in the street all night."

And he pressed on them greatly, and they turned to him, and entered into his house, and he made them a feast. And they baked unleavened bread, and they ate. (Genesis 19:1-3)

Angels are not limited more than men. Anything men can do, angels can do as

well. In view of the Scriptures which indicate that some fallen angels did leave their proper habitation and dwelt with men, there is no reason to think otherwise.

These angelic beings were all anti-Christ in their attempts to pollute the race of man in order to prevent the Redeemer from coming. If they could infect man's DNA sufficiently so that no one would be fully human, pure-bred from Adam, then no Redeemer could come from that lineage.

This is why it was necessary for God to command Israel to destroy entire tribes, including women and children. Those tribes had become polluted in their generations. Had Israel cohabited with them, Israel herself would most likely have become polluted in the same manner. This was God's way of cleansing the Land of the corruption from these ungodly offspring of fallen angels.

For those who disagree, I understand how you might not be able to accept this. If that is the case, just shelve it for now and continue through the remainder of this article. I do not wish to be argumentative.

In any case, the entire race of man became so corrupt through the influence of satanic entities that God was sorry that He had made man. Except for one man's faithfulness mankind would have been wiped from the face of the earth.

And YHWH said, "I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air—for it sorrows Me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of YHWH.

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6:6-9)

God preserved Noah in order to defeat the schemes of Satan to destroy the race of man, and to ensure that a pure bloodline would continue. The reference to Noah being perfect in his generations indicates that his lineage had not become corrupted by the Nephilim. This doesn't necessarily mean that all other men had become hybrids. Many others may have been perfect in their generations as well, but they were not righteous and did not walk with God. They had become corrupted spiritually at least. This required

that God start over with Noah who is the patriarch of all men living today.

Yet God gave man one hundred twenty years to repent and save himself:

And YHWH said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man, because he also is flesh; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

Some believe this means that God shortened man's lifespan to one hundred twenty years. But the lifespans of the Hebrew patriarchs after the flood reflect hundreds of years, though not as long as their forebears. God has set the average age of a man at seventy years:

The days of our years are seventy, and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their strength is labor and sorrow, for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. (Psalms 90:10)

Thus, the 120 years allotted man was the time He decided to destroy them until the time He sent the flood.

That there was a time for repentance granted man is found in 1 Peter 3:18-20:

For Christ has also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, by which also he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who at some time were disobedient, when once the patience of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

The patience of God caused Him to wait in the days of Noah before sending the deluge. His patience is still manifested in His holding off of judgment upon the present ungodly generation.

As we see evil abounding in the world true believers in Jesus Christ are left with two choices: 1) work for our own comfort and ignore the warning signs of impending judgment; 2) work for the Kingdom of God, warning our sleeping brethren and the lost of the coming tribulation upon the inhabitants of the earth.

We may choose sides on the age of the earth, but there are consequences to choosing sides on this issue. ❖