

The Word of God – 3

Between that recorded in Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 something happened that caused the earth to become without form and void and we can know this to be true by going to the Word of God and comparing Scripture with Scripture - Isa 45:18 *For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

The verse here from Isaiah, provides God's own commentary on Genesis 1:1, and it states categorically that God did not create the earth 'in vain'. The word that is translated 'vain' is the same word translated 'void' in Genesis 1:2, the Hebrew word, 'tohu'.

And so, in Genesis 1:1 we read that God created the heavens and the earth. Then at the beginning of verse 2 we read that the earth was 'tohu'.

However, God has said through Isaiah that the earth was not created 'tohu'.

So, if God did not create the earth, 'tohu' and yet it became that way, then clearly something took place that brought this about.

Rulership with respect to the earth was never an afterthought, it was the primary thought, and in Ezekiel we can find a description of the messianic angel created to rule - Eze 28:12.... *"You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*

Here we find the description of a beautifully created angelic being whose location was – ‘in Eden the garden of God’, an Eden that is somewhat different to one in which we find Adam, this one being filled with minerals and precious stones.

And we can know that we are not dealing with a man here as v13 speaks of ‘the day you were created’, and all men since Adam have been procreated. He is also described as the ‘anointed cherub’ – literally meaning the messianic angel, who was created to ‘cover’, a word that means to fence in and protect. In other words, he was created to have charge over, to rule over, to govern under God’s authority, this one province in God’s universal Kingdom that included Eden the garden of God.

And it is within the jurisdiction given to him, as an action of governance, that we find him going back and forth – Job 1:6 ¶ *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."*

It is in Ezekiel that we find the description of this created angelic being, whose location was – ‘in Eden the garden of God’. Now let’s continue to read about him - Eze 28:16 *"By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.""*

What we see here then is that the covering cherub sinned and as a result Divine judgment came upon him and those who sided with him,

prophetically shown to us in v18-19. And the creation given to be under his dominion also came into judgment, leaving his sanctuaries, the places that had been consecrated for him to protect in a defiled, or polluted state; they became ruined, they became formless and void, because of his actions.

d). The Scripture also reveals to us what it was that Satan did which brought God's Judgment and the ruin of the creation - Isa 14:12 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'*

In essence Satan wanted to replace God as the ruler of the universe. He rejected what God had said about his position as the covering cherub and chose to do what seemed right in his own eyes instead. And right here, although it isn't verbalized, is the question he would ask later in a different Garden, 'Has God indeed said?'

In beginning then God created the heavens and the earth in a perfect state and Satan was created as the ruler of this one province in God's universal kingdom and he was given an unspecified number of angels to assist him in his task. However, Satan's sin brought Divine intervention in the form of judgment resulting in the heavens and the earth becoming formless and void. But this Scriptural revelation is something the 'scoffers' deliberately chose to ignore.

a). But knowing as we do the immutability of God, we will realize that His plan for the rulership of the earth was not going to change - Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

Heb 2:6 *But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection*

under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

Satan then, the one originally created for this purpose, was now disqualified, but as a prerequisite of Biblical rulership the one to replace the one disqualified must not only be present, but also be proved worthy to rule before the incumbent can be replaced. Saul and David provide our type for this.

b). And with Satan's sin that caused the ruin of the creation in mind, let's just recall his words to the Woman in the Garden following the restoration of the material creation – *Ge 3:4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

He said to her, 'You will be like God', the very thing that Satan had desired that led to his disqualification. And he knew full well that if the Woman received this deception and acted in accordance with it, then ultimately it would bring about the disqualification of Adam, the federal head as Adam and the Woman were 'one flesh'.