

Two Virgins

by Steve Barwick,

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Warning: This Bible study pre-supposes the reader is a mature student of the Word of God and is already familiar with the events described in Genesis chapter 3 regarding Eve's seduction by the serpent, which led to Eve's conception of twins, Cain and Abel. If you're not familiar with the Biblical account of Eve's seduction, but instead believe the religious tradition that "Eve ate an apple," then this study is most likely not for you. I'd suggest, if you're interested in the subject of what really happened to Eve in the Garden of Eden, that you read a different study first, as background. Then come back to this one. The study I recommend for background is titled "[A Strange Thing: Mystery in the Garden.](#)"

Also, it's important to note that throughout this Bible study I make some strictly speculative comments, contentions and suppositions. These are based on my long-time studies of the Scripture, and upon spiritual insights I've gained from those studies. But they're not in any way meant to be taken as *doctrinal* in nature. Take them with a grain of salt. Meditate on them for yourself. And make your own decisions as to their veracity and value. You won't hurt my feelings if you disagree with me. My goal is simply to get you to think a little bit deeper in line with the Scriptures on the subject matter of this study. That said, let's get started...

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There are *two* important virgins discussed in the Bible.

The first one, of course, is mother Eve, the "help mate" and young, virgin wife-to-be of Adam, who in the Garden of Eden was seduced by that old serpent, the devil, and who ultimately became the mother of two children: Cain (through Satan) and Abel (through Adam).

And the second is Mary, the betrothed virgin wife-to-be of Joseph, who would ultimately become the mother of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Both of these young virgins had angelic visitations before their pregnancies. And both of them conceived as a direct result of those visitations – one, being a very holy conception brought about by the power of God, and one being quite carnal, being brought about by an act of spiritual and physical *seduction*.

Types of the Christian Church

It's my contention in this study that these two well-known virgins, and the events surrounding their conceptions, represent distinct *types* of the Christian church of the final days of this flesh earth age.

That is to say, there's one type of Christian who *hears* the Word of God, *believes it and bears it in their bosoms*, spiritually speaking, laboring to bring it forth to the people of the world for their edification, salvation and ultimate reconciliation into the eternal family household of God. This, much the same as the virgin Mary heard the Word of God from the angel Gabriel, believed it, and as a result bore the Living Word of God in her bosom and brought Him forth to all mankind for their edification, salvation and reconciliation into the eternal family household of God.

Conversely, there's another type of Christian – one that's easily seduced away from the Word of God by empty religious traditions, and as a result bears in their bosoms and brings forth to the world something quite *unlike* the Word of God, which is to say, the empty religious traditions that *estrangle* man from God and sabotage his chances of being reconciled into the eternal family household of God. This, much the same as the virgin Eve was seduced away from God's Word by the serpent, and as a result of that seduction not only bare in her bosom and brought forth into this world Cain, the very child of the devil, but also caused Adamic man to lose what would have been his eternal family home in the garden of Eden.

It's my contention in this study that these two different types of Christians make up the Christian church of the final days of this flesh earth age. And I believe we can learn a *lot* about what's going to happen to the Christian church in these final days by more closely examining the Bible accounts of these two virgins and their conceptions, and meditating on the two Christian types they represent. For as we'll see later in this study, one type of Christian will go on to participate in the Kingdom Wedding at Christ's Second Advent, while the other, much to their own shame, and as we'll see later in this study, will be *refused entry* into that same wedding, *even though they were Christians*.

So let's take a look at the Biblical accounts of these two virgins, and their angelic visitations and resulting conceptions, and see what we can discover about the events that unfolded around them in *their* times, so we can get a pretty good idea of what will unfold around *us* in the final days of this flesh earth age, particularly during the deception of the false Christ.

We'll start with the Blessed Virgin Mary, and examine her angelic visitation and the resulting conception of the Christ child. Then we'll compare and contrast that with the young virgin, Eve, and her angelic visitation and the resulting conception of Cain and Abel.

The Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

As it was written long ago, in the great book of Isaiah, the Messiah of God would be born of a virgin birth. And He would be called "God with us," being the definition of the Hebrew word "Immanuel."

In other words, Christ Jesus was the human form in which our heavenly Father chose to appear to us when He came to this earth through a virgin birth to give His very own life for our sins.

But let's take a quick look at how this virgin birth came to pass, because it will tie-in later with something very important I'd like to show you regarding the other virgin we'll be examining in this study, Eve, and her first birth.

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

This is the angel Gabriel, one of the most powerful angels of God in heaven, second in power only to Michael the archangel (Daniel 10:21). And he was "sent from God" on this very special mission during the sixth month of pregnancy for Elizabeth, Mary's elderly cousin, who would bare John the Baptist.

But who was Gabriel sent to?

Luke 1:27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married. But their marriage had not yet been consummated. In other words, they had not yet had intimate relations.

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

What a greeting! The word "Hail" is translated from the Greek word *chairo* (i.e., Strong's G-5463) and it means "to be full of cheer."

The phrase "highly favored" is translated from the Greek word *charitoo* (i.e., Strong's G-5487), and it means to "indue (or clothe) with special honor."

And the word "blessed" as used in this verse is from the Greek word *eulogeo* (i.e., Strong's G-2127), meaning "to speak well of...to praise...to invoke a benediction upon."

Finally, the word "among" is also quite interesting, as it's translated from the Greek word *en* (i.e., Strong's G-1722), which is a primary preposition denoting a *fixed position* in place, time or state, and by implication *instrumentality*.

In other words, in regards to the very special way in which Mary would be used by God to carry out His purpose, she was not just "blessed" among any old group of women, but among *all* women. The angel Gabriel said, in essence, to the young virgin:

"Be full of cheer. You've been clothed with special honor. The Supreme Authority is with you. A blessing has been spoken upon you above all women who have ever existed."

Luke 1:29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

Now we're getting down to the nitty gritty. Mary was troubled at Gabriel's salutation. The word "troubled" in this verse is translated from the Greek word *diatarasso* (i.e., Strong's G-1298), and it means "to disturb wholly...to agitate (with alarm)." It's derived from the Greek word *tarasso*, meaning "to roil the water."

In other words, Mary was deeply shaken by Gabriel's salutation. It disturbed her, like the surface of the ocean is disturbed and turned to roiling, crashing waves by a sudden wind storm.

Of course, being in the presence of the supernatural can be very unnerving in its own right, if only because it's so unusual. It's not uncommon for people to become very afraid in the presence of an angel. Indeed, as it's written in Daniel 8:17, Daniel himself once fell to the ground quaking in fear at the presence of this very same angel, Gabriel.

But Mary's reaction was not borne out of fear. The verse above tells us she was disturbed by what Gabriel had to *say*, not by his presence. So I want you to think this through:

For what reason might Mary have been so troubled at Gabriel's salutation? Mary was obviously a Godly woman. She likely knew the Holy Scripture like she knew the back of her hand. After all, our heavenly Father would not pick a Scripturally ignorant or spiritually blind woman to bear His only begotten Son – or perhaps better stated, to be the flesh vessel through which God Himself would come into this earth to provide salvation for all.

Therefore, it's my contention in this study that being a Scripturally knowledgeable woman, Mary would have known what had been written way back in the book of Genesis regarding an event that took place some 4,000 years earlier, when another powerful angel had hailed her ancestor, the virgin Eve, speaking smooth words that resulted in *an unexpected pregnancy*.

I contend also that Mary would likewise have known about the events described in the first five verses of Genesis chapter six, at which time the fallen angels (i.e., nephilim) came to this earth and began taking the daughters of Adam for wives, producing an evil and ungodly race of half-angelic, half-human hybrids known as the *geber*, or giants.

You see, God's chosen servants know to be wary of angels (I Corinthians 11:10), at least until you know exactly who you're dealing with, and why. So it's no surprise that Gabriel's salutation caused such a troubling disturbance in Mary's mind.

Luke 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

The angel Gabriel seeks to reassure Mary immediately. He explains he's there because she's been found pleasing to the Lord.

The word "favour" in this verse is translated from the Greek word *charis* (i.e., Strong's G-5485) from which we derive our English word charisma. It refers to a grace that *reflects the divine influence upon one's heart*. In other words, Mary had been under the influence of God's Holy Spirit for a long time. And that influence was reflected in her actions, which were righteous.

The angel Gabriel continues addressing the young virgin, and his message becomes even more astonishing as he speaks:

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

The name “Jesus” is translated from the Greek word *Iesous* (i.e., Strong’s G-2424), which in turn is derived from the Hebrew word *yehoshua*.

It quite literally means *YHVH’s salvation*, or perhaps more aptly put, *YHVH, Savior*. In other words, that child spoken of by Gabriel would quite literally be “God with us” (i.e., Immanuel) in His role as the Savior of mankind.

After all, Jesus Christ was simply the flesh body our heavenly Father chose to tabernacle in, in his role as Savior, so we could see, hear and even touch Him. But more importantly, so He could sacrificially give His own flesh life for our sins, once and for all times, as the Passover Lamb.

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Don’t overlook the fact that there are two specific time-frames in that verse, i.e., the first advent and the second advent.

In other words, Mary has just been told she’s been chosen to bear the Christ child and bring Him into the world (first advent) – the very Messiah who had been promised by our heavenly Father since the beginning of time, and who would one day sit on the very throne of David, as Lord of lords and King of kings (second advent).

In short, the angel Gabriel is telling Mary she’s been chosen to fulfill the prophetic Scripture in Isaiah 7:14 which we looked at earlier, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel,” meaning “God with us.”

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

This leaves no doubt as to whom the child about to begin growing in Mary’s womb would be.

Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

Now Mary asks the angel Gabriel the sixty four thousand dollar question: *How am I going to bear this Son, considering the fact I’ve never had sexual relations with a man?*

She’s pretty shrewd, isn’t she? I believe Mary knew that if the angel answered by saying he wants to have sexual relations with her, then this would constitute an attempt to seduce her, just

as Satan had seduced the virgin Eve in the Garden of Eden. But if the angel had the *right* answer to this question, Mary would be blessed of God, indeed.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Gabriel tells this young virgin the very Spirit of God (i.e., *pneuma Hagion* in the Greek, meaning *Holy breath of life*, or by extension *Holy Spirit*) would come upon her, and the power of the Most High would overshadow her. In other words, it would be a *God-breathed* event.

I'll bet Gabriel's words were a great comfort to Mary. After all, had Gabriel told Mary she was going to have to engage in physical sexual relations with him in order to have this child, Mary would have had every right to remain deeply troubled by the angel's message.

Again, I want to remind you that Mary, being a righteous woman, would have known God's Word regarding the Genesis account of the events that transpired in the Garden of Eden concerning Eve's seduction by Satan.

And she would have known as well about the events described in the first five verses of Genesis chapter six, concerning the fallen angels and their taking of wives from among the daughters of Adam, in an attempt to corrupt the holy bloodline through which the Messiah was to be born.

So my contention here is that God simply would not have had His only begotten Son born into this earth through a Scripturally ignorant and/or spiritually blind woman. It follows then that Mary would not only have understood the events of Genesis chapter 3, and Genesis chapter 6, but she would also understand God's creation. She would know that He -- and He *alone* -- can simply speak a thing, and whatever He speaks comes into being. It is the breath of His very mouth -- the *pneuma Hagion* (i.e., holy breath of life) -- that brings about all things in His creation. Mary would have well understood this.

After all, this is why the very first chapter of Genesis repeats the phrase "And God *said*..." a total of *eight times* in relation to God's bringing about the very furnishings of this earth age, including the light of life...the boundary between heaven and earth...the water...the food crops along with other plants and trees...the sun, moon and stars...the fish and fowl...the cattle and other animals...and finally, mankind itself.

All of these things came about when God *breathed them* (through His spoken Word) into existence.

So in regards to Mary's pregnancy, God would speak it, and the breath, or *Spirit* of that command would go forth to accomplish that which He'd spoken.

Again, this would likely be very comforting to Mary. She would have known by this answer from Gabriel to her \$64,000 question that she was not dealing with some fallen angel out to

physically seduce her, but instead, a bona-fide messenger of God delivering a very important message regarding her destiny as a faithful servant of God.

Indeed, I contend once more that Mary understood she was going to be used in the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel,” meaning *God with us*.

Those are my contentions, of course. I’m not teaching that as Biblical doctrine. So weigh it in your own mind, along with your own knowledge of the Scriptures and of how your heavenly Father operates, and make your own decision.

Gabriel continues speaking...

Luke 1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Those would be Gabriel’s concluding words to Mary. As proof that Mary would indeed experience this miraculous virgin conception and birth, Gabriel offers Mary’s cousin Elisabeth as an example.

He tells Mary, in essence, “Your cousin Elizabeth, who’s far too old to bear children, is now six months pregnant as we speak. And just as God through His great power accomplished this otherwise impossible feat in her, allowing her to conceive, so He will accomplish in you that which I’ve explained.”

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Better translated, she stated, humbly yet emphatically, “*Behold, I’m the Lord’s female servant. Let it happen to me as you’ve uttered.*”

Clearly, Mary was no longer disturbed by the angel’s words. I believe Gabriel’s words convinced her that this was truly a message from the Lord, and not some angelic attempt at deception and seduction.

And with that, Gabriel left. And you know the rest of the story. Mary would immediately rush to her cousin Elizabeth’s home in the hill country outside of Jerusalem, knowing that if she found her elderly, previously barren cousin six months pregnant, then the angel’s words were indeed true.

And upon entering Elizabeth’s home and greeting her, the baby inside Elizabeth’s womb immediately leapt with joy due to the presence of the Holy Child that was *already beginning to grow in Mary’s womb*.

Mary's conception had taken place that quickly, i.e., as soon as the angel Gabriel had left, and Mary had said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." As it is written:

Luk 1:39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

Mary didn't wait around. After Gabriel left, she lit out fast for her older cousin Elizabeth's house. She had to know for sure that Elizabeth was six months pregnant, as Gabriel had told her. That would be her confirmation that Gabriel's message was true.

Luk 1:40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

Mary entered the house of Zacharias and Elisabeth, and greeted Elisabeth.

Luk 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

The baby that had been growing in Elizabeth's womb for the past six months suddenly leaped for joy inside her, and the Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth to tell her what had just happened to her cousin, Mary.

Luk 1:42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Elizabeth exclaimed boldly, and in great excitement, the message the Holy Spirit had just imparted to her as the baby John leapt in her womb. She knew instantly that Mary was pregnant with a very blessed pregnancy.

Luk 1:43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Yes, Elizabeth not only knew Mary was pregnant, but as you can see, she also knew that the child was the promised Messiah – our Lord Himself. The Holy Spirit had revealed it to her.

In other words, the Holy Spirit revealed that Mary had indeed been chosen to fulfill the prophesy of Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," meaning *God with us*.

Luk 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

The baby, John, growing in Elizabeth's womb, could feel the presence of the baby, Jesus, just conceived in Mary's womb. In other words, the power of the Holy Spirit emanating from the baby Jesus filled not only Elizabeth with joy, but her growing baby, as well.

A word to the wise: This tells us clearly that life in the womb begins at *conception*. The baby John growing in Elizabeth's womb could not have felt the presence of the Christ child – a child that had just been conceived -- unless that child was full of life.

Luk 1:45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Under the unction of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth continues to prophesy, telling Mary the Lord's message to her would indeed be brought to full fruition.

Mary now had the confirmation she had come for. Not only was her elderly once-barren cousin Elizabeth six months pregnant, but Mary was miraculously with child herself!

The word "blessed" in this verse is translated from the Greek word *makarios* (i.e., Strong's G-3107), meaning *supremely blest*, or supremely happy. And you can bet Mary was indeed supremely happy, thanks to the unction of the Holy Spirit, the revelations then being poured out upon her through Elizabeth, and the knowledge of her astonishing destiny on behalf of our heavenly Father.

By the way, the word "believed" in this verse is translated from the Greek word *pisteuo* (i.e., Strong's G-4100), which means "to have faith in" or to "put one's trust in."

Mary heard the Word of God as spoken by the angel Gabriel who was "sent by God," and she put her trust in it. As a result, she quite literally – and *instantly* -- began to bear the Living Word of God in her womb, faithfully carrying it forth to a waiting world.

Similarly, God's elect, like Mary, hear the Word of God with understanding, and immediately put their trust in it. And so they quickly become *bearers* of God's Word, carrying it forth to a waiting world. Spiritually speaking, the Holy Spirit of God "impregnates" God's elect with the Word of God as they "hear" it through study, helping them to understand it and to carry it forth to others.

Two Trees

We've now examined the Bible account in the great book of Luke regarding the Virgin Mary, and her visitation by the angel Gabriel who brought God's message to her regarding her subsequent conception. And we've seen that Mary was, in essence, a type of God's elect who bear the Word of God in their bosoms, spiritually speaking, and who carry that Word forth to the people of the world for their edification, redemption, salvation and ultimately, their reconciliation into the eternal family household of God.

And in just a moment, we're going to take a look at the Bible account of *another* virgin, Adam's virgin-wife-to-be, Eve, who was also visited by an angel before her conception. And in examining the Bible account of Eve's visitation and subsequent conception, we'll discover that she represents a completely different type of Christian altogether – a naïve and easily seduced type that our Lord and Savior would later term "foolish virgins" in His parable of the 10 virgins.

However, before we take a look at the events leading up to the virgin Eve's seduction and conception, including her visitation in the garden by that old serpent, the devil, who is indeed one of God's most powerful angels (i.e., Lucifer, the cherub, aka Satan) there's an important concept that must first be understood.

It's this: The Bible account of the events leading up to Eve's seduction and conception is couched in analogous or metaphorical terms by our heavenly Father. This means there's more to the written account than initially meets the eye. And to get the full picture, you have to understand the analogies or metaphors being used.

You see, in the Bible, when our heavenly Father wants to hide something from spiritually immature eyes, and reveal it only to those with spiritually *mature* eyes, He often presents the information in the form of a euphemism, metaphor, analogy or even in parable form, which is simply a story rich in euphemisms, metaphors and analogies.

In other words, He'll use language that works on two distinct levels, i.e., the *physical* level (for those who might be too spiritually immature to handle the deeper spiritual truth involved in the Bible account), and the *spiritual* level (for those who are spiritually mature enough to handle the deeper spiritual truth involved in the account).

For example, in order to understand the events that took place in the garden when Eve was approached by the serpent, you must first understand the two "trees" in the Garden of Eden, and what they represent. They are simply metaphors for two living beings. Let's take a look, and see what we can learn about the metaphors for the two trees in the garden. As it is written:

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

When God furnished this old earth for this flesh age we now live in, one of the furnishings He provided were trees, i.e., "every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food..." God made them all, whether large or small and whether meant for decorative purposes, or to provide fruit, or shade, or shelter, or all of the above.

But He *also* had two very specifically-named "trees" growing in the garden – indeed, both of them in the very midst of the Garden of Eden. One was called "the tree of life." And one was called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Now keeping in mind that God often speaks euphemistically when He's imparting a deeper truth, it's important to know that these two "trees" are representative of something far more important and instructional than actual trees. And if you fail to understand exactly what these two "trees" represent, you really won't understand the deeper truths imparted in the account of the virgin Eve's encounter with Satan and her subsequent conception.

So consider the analogy:

Trees help sustain human life by providing oxygen to this earth. The leaves take in carbon dioxide and convert it to oxygen which is then released back to us to breathe. Trees also provide food to all people, such as fruits, nuts, etc. And they provide shelter, through the wood. Indeed, trees provide many of the very things that keep us alive. Without the oxygen provided by trees, we'd die of suffocation. Without the food provided by trees, we'd die of starvation or nutritionally deficiencies. Without the wood for housing provided by trees, we'd be exposed to the extreme elements, and would likely die. Trees are even used to make paper, which in turn is used to print books, which provide us with knowledge and education that helps prosper us and keep us alive, if we wisely use them.

In short, trees are life-sustaining creations of God. So the “tree of life,” of course, is representative of our heavenly Father Himself, in His role as the life-sustaining Savior. And the “fruit” of that “tree” is the *doctrine* of salvation in Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God – the very doctrine that ultimately *reconciles us to the eternal family household of God*.

As our heavenly Father states of Himself in the great book of Hosea: “*I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found*” (Hosea 14:8). In other words, God likens Himself to a green fir tree, which is an *evergreen tree*, symbolic of eternal life. And as that “tree,” He provides us with everything we need to sustain ourselves – not just physical necessities like oxygen and food and the materials needed for shelter, but more importantly *spiritual* necessities like the doctrine of salvation that leads to reconciliation into His eternal family household.

That's why this “tree” in the midst of the garden is referred to as the tree of life. It's representative of the person of our heavenly Father, in his role as Lord and Savior. And the *fruit* hanging from its branches is representative of the *doctrine* of salvation which, when we faithfully partake of it, restores us to our place in the eternal family household of God.

If you partake of the fruit of this tree of life, which is to say, if you partake of the doctrine of salvation through the Living Word of God, then you'll enjoy everlasting life from our heavenly Father. You'll become part of the “family tree” of God, through Christ. In essence, through the doctrine of salvation in Christ Jesus, you can become a “branch” in this eternal family tree. And your children become little branches, as well, if you raise them in Christ and they take it to heart and choose to live their lives by the doctrine of God as they get older. And in turn, each new branch then begins to bear “fruit,” which is to say, sets forth the doctrine of salvation for even more people to partake of and ultimately regain their place in the eternal family household of God.

So we see that this “tree of life” in the midst of the garden of God is a *family tree*, and its branches are representative of those who faithfully bear the “fruit” (i.e., doctrine) of that tree, which in turn is representative of the everlasting life provided by our heavenly Father through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God.

In other words, our heavenly Father dwelt as the “tree of life” in that very Garden of Eden, with Adam and Eve. He was their life-sustainer. As we'll see in this study, He walked in that garden, and conversed with Adam and Eve, and led, guided and directed them. Truth be told, He raised

them as a Father. After all, He *is* their Father, as well as our own. And all they had to do was follow His simple instructions.

But if the “tree of life” in the garden of Eden is representative of the family tree of our heavenly Father Himself in His role as the Savior, and the branches of that tree are representative of his faithful servants who bring forth fruit, and the fruit of that tree is representative of the doctrine of salvation through Christ Jesus that restores us to our place in the eternal family household of God, then what in the world is the other tree – the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” – representative of? And what are *its* branches and fruit representative of, as well?

Naturally, Satan imitates just about everything that’s of God. And if our heavenly Father represents Himself symbolically as a life-sustaining “tree,” then so will Satan. Indeed, one of Satan’s titles in the Bible is “the Assyrian” (i.e., Isaiah 14:12-27). And in Ezekiel 31:3-8, we can see that this Assyrian was in the garden of God and was likened there unto a great “tree” -- a cedar of Lebanon. As it is written:

“Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs.”⁽³⁾

The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field.⁽⁴⁾ Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth.⁽⁵⁾

*All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, **and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.**⁽⁶⁾ Thus was he fair in his greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters.⁽⁷⁾*

The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chesnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty.⁽⁸⁾

A “cedar of Lebanon” is also a green fir tree, like our heavenly Father. But in the original Hebrew, the word “Assyrian” in verse three above is actually a play on words (i.e., *ashshur* being put for *te ashshur*), which properly translated means a small box-tree, or cypress tree. In other words, this small box-tree is *exalting itself* in the garden of God as a cedar of Lebanon (see Dr. Bullinger’s side note in the Companion Bible on the word “Assyrian” in Ezekiel 31:3).

So we see that the Assyrian – who is Satan, in type -- portrays himself as a life-sustaining evergreen tree, in imitation of God. But since he is *not* the Creator, he in reality *cannot* sustain life. He might *exalt* himself as a life-sustaining “tree.” But in truth, his “fruit” (i.e., seductive doctrine) is set forth as a *substitute* for God’s doctrine of salvation and reconciliation. Rather than sustaining life, this “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” uses its “fruit” to draw God’s children *away* from the life-giving fruit of the “tree of life.” And in the process, it robs them of their salvation and their opportunity for reconciliation into the eternal family household of God.

So the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is representative of Satan and *his* family tree, with all of its little “branches” (i.e., the children of Cain are the earthly “branches” of this family tree). But as we can see from Ezekiel 31:3-8 above, it also includes *all who nestle among its branches and dwell under its branches, including “all the great nations” of the world.*

In other words, Satan has the vast majority of the people of the world – including all of the great nations -- depending upon the substitute “fruit” (i.e., seductive doctrine) of *his* family tree for their salvation and reconciliation, rather than the “fruit” (i.e., saving doctrine) of God’s family tree of life. And he accomplishes this feat through seduction into false religion.

As it is written in Revelation 12:9, “*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*”

Yes, that old serpent, the Devil, ultimately deceives the whole world into looking to him as the tree of life, rather than looking to our heavenly Father in His role as Savior.

And he does this through his “fruit” (i.e., seductive doctrine). You see, just as the fruit of the tree of life is representative of God’s doctrine of salvation and reconciliation into His eternal family household, so the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is representative of the empty religious traditions set forth to the world by Satan and his children as *substitutes* for the doctrine of God.

Again, just as fruit hangs from the branches of a tree, so these substitute religious traditions are set forth by the “branches” of the family “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” And those branches are the children of Cain who carry forth the seductive religious doctrine of Satan. And the purpose thereof is to attract as many of God’s children as possible to live under the branches of this lying “tree” rather than taking their fruit (i.e., doctrine) from the life-sustaining branches of the tree of life.

Of course, should you choose to embrace these empty religious traditions (i.e., eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) in place of God’s Word, they rather quickly estrange you from God and thereby rob you of your salvation and reconciliation into the eternal family household of God. You can’t sustain your life from the fruit of Satan’s family tree. Only the salvation doctrine of God – the fruit of the tree of life -- is life-sustaining. We’ll see how this works in just a moment, when the virgin Eve allows Satan to replace God’s doctrine in her mind with *his deceptive substitute doctrine* instead, resulting in the most famous seduction and subsequent fall from grace of all time. And throughout the remainder of this study, we’ll also discover how Eve’s seduction by that old serpent, the devil, relates directly to *another* seduction that’s soon-to-come – the seduction of the virgin bride of Christ in the final days of this flesh earth age.

So to sum up, we have the family tree of God in that garden. And we have the family tree of Satan, as well. It’s that simple. The “fruit” of the “tree of life” is the doctrine of God that leads to salvation and reconciliation into the eternal family household of God. And the “fruit” of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” is the doctrine of Satan, in the form of his deceptive

substitute religious traditions that estrange man from God and rob man of his opportunity for salvation and reconciliation into the eternal family household of God.

Another Virgin, Another Angel, Another Conception

Understanding the metaphors surrounding the two “trees” in the midst of the garden of God will help us understand the rest of the metaphors in the Genesis account of Eve’s seduction in the garden by the serpent.

So with all of that as background, let’s now take a look at Eve’s encounter with the angel (i.e., cherub) we know as Satan, back when she was the young, innocent virgin wife-to-be of Adam. And as we examine this Bible account in the great book of Genesis, I want you to do two things:

One, remember that Satan is an *imitator* of God. And two, reflect back mentally on Mary’s encounter with the angel Gabriel. Keep in mind the words Gabriel spoke to Mary, for it’s my contention that Satan is about to tell the virgin Eve a very similar-sounding story, but with a devastating hidden twist that would negatively affect her family lineage all of the way to the final generation of this flesh earth age. Here’s what the Scripture has to say:

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

It’s important to understand the full meanings of some of the words in this verse. For example, the word “serpent” is translated from the Hebrew word *nachash* (i.e., Strong’s H-5175), simply meaning “a snake.” But it’s derived from a very similar root word *nachash* (i.e., Strong’s H-5172), meaning “to hiss” as in to “whisper a magic spell,” “to prognosticate,” “to divine,” “to enhant” or “to use enchantment.”

Of course, there’s no such thing as a talking serpent. And there’s certainly no snake that can “whisper a magic spell,” or “prognosticate,” “divine,” or use “enchantment.” So the serpent in these verses is indeed representative of “that old serpent, called the devil” – meaning Satan himself -- who’s described exactly in those terms in Revelation 12:9, “*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*”

In other words, the serpent in the garden was simply another role of Satan himself – the role of the enchanter, or perhaps better stated, the *seducer* who, as we can see in Revelation 12:9 above, gets tossed out of heaven in the final days of this flesh earth age and comes back to this old earth with his fallen angels to deceive the world – including Christ’s virgin bride, the Church -- into believing he’s the Savior of mankind. But here we see him at the very *beginning*, in the Garden of Eden, working his seductive subtleties on the virgin Eve.

The word “subtil” in the above verse, by the way, is translated from the Hebrew word *arum* (i.e., Strong’s H-6175), and it means “cunning” or “crafty.” That old serpent in the garden was the craftiest of all of God’s creation. In other words, he was a master con artist. Interestingly, the

Hebrew word *arum* is derived directly from a related Hebrew root word, *aram* (i.e., Strong's H-6191), meaning "to lay bare."

So the serpent, which is simply Satan in his role as the enchanter, or *seducer* – is the one who through his cunning ways deceives God's children into sinning, and in the process lays them bare and leaves them exposed, naked and ashamed (spiritually speaking) for all to see. We've probably all experienced this, to one degree or another, at some point in our lives. So there's really no surprise in it. While we're all directly responsible for our own sins, shortcomings and the related shame, Satan is often the instigator who we, in our naiveté, *listened to* as he whispered into our ears, "Go ahead...it's all right...do it...don't worry...nothing bad will happen."

Note above how cunning Satan really is. The very first words he says to Eve are posed as a question: "*Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*"

Con artists often start their conversations with a question they already know the answer to, in order to draw their "mark" into the conversation. And, of course, Satan knew full well that God had *never* said Adam and Eve couldn't eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. Quite the opposite. God had said Adam and Eve could eat of *every* tree in the garden *except for* the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which is Satan in his role as the substitute messiah, the false savior of mankind – the imitator of the tree of life.

So the old serpent's question was a set-up, right from the start, to get the conversation with Eve started. He knew Eve would naively respond to *correct* him. And then, once she got into the conversation with him, she'd be like putty in his hands.

This tells us that one of the keys to dealing with Satan when he comes to this earth in imitation of Christ, just before Christ's Second Advent, is to *avoid engaging with him*. We all think we're pretty smart. We all think we're sharp as tacks in God's Word. But Satan is indeed smarter. He arrives to this earth in imitation of the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. And as such, he knows God's Word inside out. And we as Christians have to accept that.

I've always said that Eve's biggest sin in the garden was not so much what she ultimately *did* with Satan (for she was tricked into it when she was seduced), but instead, for *engaging in conversation* with him in the first place. She *should* have known better than that. Indeed, that's the one thing she truly had control over. The moment he opened his mouth with that shrewdly worded question, she should have said nothing more to him than "The Lord rebuke thee, Satan." And then walked away. But he *is* the enchanting serpent. And she was indeed enchanted into engaging in conversation with him.

When he comes to this earth in his role as the false messiah in the final days of this flesh earth age, we should know better than to engage in conversation with him, at all. We should not be as the naïve virgin Eve, who fell for his trap. The only time we're to speak in Satan's presence is when we're delivered up to trial in front of those councils described in Mark 13:9-11, to give our testimony. And even then, as the Scripture explains, we're not to even contemplate what we're going to say, but instead, allow the Holy Spirit of God to speak through us.

Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Eve, falling for the ploy, corrects the old seducer's statement, and tells him that she and Adam were indeed allowed to eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. Satan, of course, already knew this.

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Eve continues speaking to that old serpent, explaining that they're not allowed to eat of the fruit of the tree "which is in the midst of the garden," meaning, of course, the fruit of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" which is representative of the seductive religious doctrines of the family tree of Satan.

The "fruit" (i.e., seductive religious doctrines) of *that* particular tree was forbidden to them. But as you'll see, that seductive religious doctrine is about to be used on Eve to con her into participating in another act of seduction – a very *physical* one, as in sex outside of the bonds of marriage.

Keep in mind that in this account of the events in the Garden of Eden, the virgin Eve was obviously just reaching sexual maturity. But she was Adam's virgin wife-to-be, just as in Luke chapter one Mary was Joseph's virgin wife-to-be. So for Eve to partake of the fruit (i.e., seductive doctrine) of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" would be for her to listen to Satan's seductive sales pitch, and then allow him to plant his seed in her womb, which in turn would bring forth earthly "branches" (i.e., bloodline progeny) in the family tree of Satan, starting with Cain.

This supposition is further borne out by some very interesting words Eve added to God's admonition to refrain from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So take just a moment and re-read Eve's words to the serpent, in Genesis 3:3 above. Did you notice that Eve added the words "neither shall ye touch it" to God's admonition to refrain from eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

You see, our heavenly Father didn't use those words when he originally commanded Adam not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As a reminder, here's what our heavenly Father said, in Genesis 2:16-17:

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God told Adam, basically, “You can eat of the fruit of every tree in the garden. But do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because if you do, it will lead directly to your death.

There wasn’t a word about “neither shall ye touch it.”

In other words, just as Christ Jesus would thousands of years later instruct His disciples not to partake of the “leaven of the Pharisees,” meaning they should not partake of the *doctrine* (i.e., empty religious traditions) of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:12), here our heavenly Father is admonishing Adam not to partake of the seductive doctrine (i.e., fruit) of the family tree of Satan, which is the *point of origin* of those same empty religious traditions.

So you can see that Eve added the words “neither shall ye touch it,” onto God’s commandment. But *why* would she do so? Well, let’s examine more closely one of the key words she added.

The word “touch” is what’s most important here. Obviously, you couldn’t eat fruit from a tree without touching it, could you? That’s a given. So if we were talking solely about a physical tree here, with roots and branches and leaves and fruit, then the command not to eat of its fruit *nor to touch it* would be redundant. No. Eve added the phrase “neither shall ye touch it...” for quite *another* reason altogether.

To figure it out, it’s important to understand that the word “touch” in that verse is translated from the Hebrew word *naga* (i.e., Strong’s H-5060), which quite literally means “to lay the hand upon.” But *figuratively* it means “to lie with a woman.” In other words, the word *naga* is frequently used in the Hebrew language as a euphemism for sex.

Our modern-day euphemisms for sex are not that much different. If, for example, a father were to say his teenage daughter’s movie date for the night “You can take my daughter out to see a movie tonight, but don’t you dare *touch* her!” the young man would understand instantly that the father means *don’t touch her sexually*, not don’t hold hands with her. Correct?

The fact that Eve used the word *naga* (i.e., “touch”) in the phrase she added to God’s command regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil clearly tells us there was something else going on that the Bible account only hints at. She added “neither shall ye touch it” to God’s command, meaning, neither shall you lay with this “tree” (i.e., angelic being) carnally, as a woman lies with a man.

We can ascertain from this that the old seducing angel was trying to seduce her. And she *knew* it. She replied to the serpent that if she did such a thing, she’d *die*, in accord with God’s Word which strictly forbade her from partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In other words, such rank disobedience to God’s Word on the matter would ultimately bring about death – something that Adam and Eve were not subject to in the garden as long as they remained true to God’s Word.

It’s also important to understand that in Genesis 2:17 above the phrase “in the day ye eat thereof” does *not* constitute a 24-hour day. In fact, that “day” is a 1,000 year day, just as it’s written in II Peter 3:8, “...*one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*”

And we know for a fact that the above verse refers to a 1,000 year “day” because even though Adam and Eve would go on to partake of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they indeed still lived to be over 900 years old, dying just short of the 1,000 year mark (Genesis 5:5). The Lord promised that if they partook of the forbidden fruit, they’d die “in that day,” meaning within 1,000 years.

You see, in the garden of God, there was no expiration date on their lives. They were living in complete innocence, in what you might think of as heaven on earth. But once the stain of sin was upon them, all of that would change, and death would indeed be ushered in, not just for them, *but for their posterity as well*. And it would all happen in the “day” they disobeyed God’s Word. But as you’re about to see, Satan contradicted the Lord’s Word, and told Eve quite another story altogether.

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not** surely die:

Here, Satan directly contradicts God’s Word. He tells her in no uncertain terms that if she does what he’s asking, she *won’t* die. Remember, he’s talking to a young virgin here, on the cusp of sexual maturity, saying, in essence, “Go ahead. *Touch* it. Nothing bad will happen. I promise you.”

He’s playing a game of semantics with her. He knows she won’t die *immediately*. But the stain of sin and the estrangement from God brought about by her act of disobedience would put her and her family from that day forward under the curse of death until the time of repentance and salvation would be ushered in many centuries later through the redemptive act of Christ Jesus on the cross at Calvary.

What’s more, the *cycle of life and death* that would be ushered in through childbirth after this seduction and estrangement from God would indeed take its toll, not just on Eve, but on *all of her and Adam’s descendants* from that point forward. In other words, from that point forward, instead of living forever in the Garden of Eden, innocently and naturally, we’d instead live *outside* of the garden of God, and we’d all experience death. As it was written in Romans 5:12, sin and death would reign from that point forward, until the time of Christ’s redemptive act on the cross, which would usher in salvation and the dispensation of grace for all believers. But look what Satan tells Eve, instead:

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Now there’s a *lot* of spiritual meat in that verse. And you’ll miss out on it if you just gloss over it. So please bear with me as we take the time to more closely examine some of the words and phrases in this verse, in order to unlock exactly what Satan was saying to this naïve young virgin. For it’s my contention that this verse holds the key to understanding exactly *why* Eve would end up allowing Satan to impregnate her with his seed.

Keeping firmly in mind that this is a *seduction* – meaning Satan wants to plant his seed in the womb of this virgin maiden – please consider the following information carefully:

The word “know” in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *yada* (i.e., Strong’s H-3045), meaning “to know” or to “ascertain by seeing.” And that’s the way this word is most commonly used in the Bible. But according to the Strong’s Concordance, this word can be used in “a great variety of senses, figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially.” And in one of those senses it can mean “instructs,” “designates,” “declares,” or even “teaches.”

In other words, I contend that Satan was *prophesying* to Eve, just as 4,000 years later the angel Gabriel would prophesy to a young virgin named Mary. And Satan’s sales pitch to Eve was that God *instructs* or even *declares* that in the day she and Adam eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, then their eyes would be opened and they’d “be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

In short, I believe Satan claimed to be delivering as a *message from God to Eve*, just as many years later the angel Gabriel would bring a message from God to another young virgin named Mary.

Satan is telling Eve that her previous understanding of God’s Word on the matter at hand (i.e., eating of the forbidden fruit) is mistaken, and that he’s come to bring her fresh understanding *directly from God* that would correct her mistaken understanding. In other words, he’s saying “God declares” or “God instructs” that “in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Hold that idea in your mind for a moment, as we thoroughly dissect this verse and see what additional nuggets of truth we can uncover.

It’s important to note that in this verse we once again have that same phrase “in the day ye eat thereof.” And of course it’s speaking of a 1,000 year day rather than a 24 hour day. In essence, Satan is prophesying to Eve of events that would transpire over a 1,000 year period. If you think about it for a moment, he’s promising her a “Millennium” of his own making – a one thousand year period of enlightenment and arcane knowledge, i.e., “in *the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened*, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

It’s also very important to understand that the word “be” in this verse (i.e., “ye shall be as gods”) is translated into English from the Hebrew word *hayah* (i.e., Strong’s H-1961), which is a term most serious students of God’s Word are already quite familiar with from Genesis 1:2 where it’s incorrectly translated into English as “was,” and should have been translated as “became,” i.e., the earth “*became* void and without form.” That’s another study, for another time, of course.

But in Genesis 3:5 above, based upon the context, the Hebrew word *hayah* should have been similarly translated – it should have been rendered as “become” (i.e., as in a transformation that takes place over time) rather than “be” (which would indicate an immediate action, rather than a long-term process).

In other words, Satan was promising an ongoing process of enlightenment and change that would take place over a period of 1,000 years. Satan essentially said to Eve “For God doth know [i.e. instructs, or declares] that *in the day ye eat thereof* [i.e., a 1,000 year period] then your eyes shall

be opened [i.e., you'll experience great spiritual enlightenment], and ye shall *become* as gods, knowing good and evil."

Again, I submit that Satan is essentially promising Eve that a Millennium of enlightenment would come to pass, culminating in the restoration of herself and her progeny to the eternal family household of God. And all she had to do in order to kick this process into high gear would be to partake of his seductive "fruit."

Satan is saying to Eve that *God Himself* teaches or declares that in the day she partakes of the forbidden fruit (i.e., allows the serpent to impregnate her), this extraordinary thing will happen to her (and to her *seedline* thereafter). They will over the course of that 1,000 year "day" become as gods, knowing good and evil in the process. So what did Satan mean by "ye shall become as gods, knowing good and evil"? Let's take the phrase "ye shall become as gods" first, and thoroughly examine it.

It's important to understand that the plural word "gods" in this verse is translated into English from the Hebrew word *elohiym* (i.e., Strong's H-430), which in this context refers to *God and the angels of heaven*. This, I believe, is the key to understanding *everything* that old serpent (i.e., Satan) was pitching to Eve. I contend that Satan is saying, in essence, to this naïve virgin maiden, who stood before him on the cusp of womanhood, "Now that you're old enough to bear children, God wants you to know that partaking of the fruit of my loins will bring about an age of enlightenment through which you and your bloodline posterity – that is, your children, and grandchildren, etc. -- will become as God and the angels, knowing good and evil."

In other words, he was saying that if she assented to his seduction, it would usher in *the reconciliation of her posterity to the eternal family household of God*. Now think about that: He was in essence telling her she would *bear the Christ child* through whom all mankind would ultimately be reconciled into God's eternal family household. In other words, he was promising her that through *his* seed planted in *her* womb, a new age of enlightenment would be ushered in, the world would be saved and we'd ultimately be restored to our positions as angels in the family household of God. Check out the Hebrew for yourself, and you'll see.

The problem, of course, is that Satan was flat-out lying. He knew that some 4,000 years into the future it would be the virgin *Mary's* child, Jesus Christ, *not* Eve's child, Cain, who was destined to be the bridge, so to speak, between flesh mankind and the *Elohiym*. And Satan knew that the 1,000 year period of enlightenment known today as the Millennium teaching period, through which many of God's children would be saved and restored to their place in God's eternal family household, would be ushered in by Christ Jesus many centuries in the future at His Second Advent, *not* by the first-born son of Satan, who would be Cain.

In other words, it would be through Christ Jesus that each man and woman could ultimately return to their place in God's eternal family household (Genesis 28:12-17). In accord with the plan of God, Christ Jesus is the bridge back into the eternal family household of God. *And there is no other.*

But in his role as the seducing serpent, Satan told Eve, in essence, that *her child through him* (i.e., Cain) would become that bridge back into the family household of God. Can you see the parallels between what Satan told Eve in the garden, and what the angel Gabriel would tell Mary 4,000 years later? I contend that Satan was simply imitating what he knew God was going to say at another point in time, further down the road, to a completely different virgin.

In other words, Satan was trying to *pre-empt* God's plan of salvation by planting the *opposing seed line* in Eve's womb thousands of years before the virgin Mary would actually bear the Christ child in her womb. And to plant that opposing seed line, Satan in essence told Eve she was destined to bear the very child that would usher in an age of enlightenment and ultimately reunite man eternally with God and the angels. He wanted her to believe that she would be the bearer of the Holy One of God who would bring mankind back into the fold as part of God's eternal family household, i.e., "become as God and the angels."

After all, that's our goal in this life, right? We all want to return to our place in God's eternal family household, in good standing. We all want to regain our eternal spiritual (i.e., angel) bodies that never feel pain, never get tired, never become sick and never or get old. But that reconciliation to the eternal family household of God can only happen through Christ Jesus and God's great plan of salvation. Here, once again, Satan was telling Eve quite a different story, but with just enough of a grain of truth to it to get her attention and appeal to her flesh ego.

But of course, not being the Creator, Satan had to *physically* seduce Eve to plant his own seed on this earth. Our heavenly Father, being the Creator, simply had to speak the virgin Mary's conception into existence, and it was done. As I stated earlier, we see in these two conceptions two similar yet very different pictures: One conception being quite holy, the other being quite carnal. One based on God's plan of salvation, and one based on seduction with the ultimate intention of *derailing* God's plan of salvation through deception.

In essence, Eve's child, Cain, while not the antichrist, was the *antichrist's child* – the very son of Satan, and quite the opposite of Mary's child, Jesus Christ. Cain would become the progenitor of a race of antichrist children (i.e., 1 John 2:18) who down through the ages and to this very day would work to substitute Satan's empty religious traditions in place of God's great plan of salvation that ultimately restores us to His eternal family household.

Of course, Satan's seductive religious traditions can never enlighten or save anyone. Christ tells us in Matthew 7:13 that these substitute doctrines make void the Word of God, and serve to put God's children into *estrangement* from Him (Matthew 23:15). In other words, Satan's religious traditions are in reality designed to *derail* our reconciliation into the eternal family household of God, just as the serpent's substitute doctrine is about to put Adam and Eve into estrangement from God and get them kicked out of the garden of God.

It's *Mary's* child -- Christ Jesus, and *only* He -- who can restore us to God's eternal family household. And it's not through empty religious traditions, but through the process of redemption and salvation which began when He gave His life for us on that cross at Calvary, and ends on the final day of the Millennium teaching period after His second advent. In other words,

plain and simple it's faith in Jesus Christ that brings about redemption, salvation, and ultimately, *restoration of God's children to His eternal family household.*

Only through Christ Jesus can we once again "become as *Elohiym*" (i.e., become as God and His angels) which is to say, enjoy blessed restoration to God's family household for the eternity.

As we noted earlier, another interesting thing Satan told Eve in Genesis 3:5 above is that her progeny through him would "know good and evil." Now, a lot of Christian preachers teach that this "knowing good and evil" means losing one's innocence. And of course, it means exactly that, in the carnal sense. Adam and Eve were completely innocent of carnal sin up to that point in the garden. They were like innocent little children in the presence of God. But they were about to lose that innocence through Satan's seduction and their resulting disobedience to God.

As usual, however, a *lot* more is said in that phrase "good and evil" than might initially meet the eye. Even in the English, the phrase "good and evil" has a pretty broad range of meaning, I think you'll have to agree. And it would be impossible for Adam and Eve, being completely innocent, to "know" that entire range of meaning all at once after they were robbed of their child-like innocence by the serpent. This is another reason why I submit the idea that the promises being made to Eve by Satan were *generational* in nature, i.e., while Adam and Eve lost their innocence *on the spot* during the seduction, it would be over *the broad course of time* – i.e., the following 1,000 year period that preceded the arrival of the fallen angels in Genesis chapter 6 -- that they would come to "know good and evil" more intimately.

Satan in essence promised Eve a "millennium" of enlightenment. But he knew what he'd really be ushering in with the birth of his child, Cain, would be a lineage of deceivers who would work on his behalf to substitute seductive religious traditions in place of God's Word of salvation, for the explicit purpose of corrupting mankind, estranging them from God and derailing their reconciliation into God's eternal family household. He promised spiritual light. But he ushered in spiritual darkness.

Indeed, thanks to Satan's seduction of Eve, and Eve's resulting conception of Satan's child Cain, that wicked race of the Kenites would be brought into the world. And they in turn would carry forth Satan's doctrine to the world in the form of empty religious traditions that contradict God's Word. Through this means, that old serpent would now be able to introduce the "knowledge of good and evil" to God's children *over many generations of time*, with each generation subsequently becoming more and more carnally and spiritually corrupted.

Indeed, only 42 years after the 1,000 year period of "enlightenment" promised by Satan was over, Noah was born. And the world by the time of Noah's birth had *already* been corrupted to the point that *every single member* of the Adamic race – except for Noah's family – had been hybridized by the fallen angels. Think about that. By the time Noah was born, there was no other Adamic family left that had not already been corrupted by the fallen angels. In other words, Satan's promised 1,000 years of "enlightenment" culminated with a false "kingdom wedding" in which his fallen angels took brides of the daughters of Adam, and corrupted the entire bloodline.

Now that's some pretty heady stuff. And I understand if you take issue with it. But meditate on it for awhile and see what you come up with. And in the meantime let's see if we can unlock the last little bit of information from the puzzle of Satan's words to Eve in Genesis 3:5 above. Satan promised Eve that if she consented to his seduction, she'd end up "knowing good and evil." So let's learn a little bit more by taking a look at the definitions of the words "good" and "evil" in this verse, from the original Hebrew:

The word "good" for example, is translated from the Hebrew word *tob* (i.e., Strong's H-2896), and while it most certainly means "good," it can also mean "good things," "prosperity," "bounty," "cheer," "favor," "pleasure," or even "joy" – in other words, in this context it has to do with *all of the good things life has to offer*.

What's more, the word "evil" in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *ra ah* (i.e., Strong's H-7451), meaning "bad" or "evil," but also meaning "adversity," "distress," "affliction," "displeasure," "injury," "loss," "calamity" or even "sorrow" – in other words, in this context it has to do with *all of the bad things life has to offer*.

So "knowing good and evil" could just as easily be translated to read, "knowing joy and sorrow," or "knowing bounty and loss," or "knowing favor and dis-favor," or "knowing cheer and distress" or even "knowing pleasure and displeasure." It takes in a very broad range of meaning, as I mentioned earlier.

In other words, through Satan's seduction of Eve, a *cycle* of "good" and "evil" would be ushered in. Life was already there. But now, *death* would enter the picture for Adam and Eve, as well as for their posterity. God's favor was already there. But now God's *dis-favor* would enter the picture. Peace was already there. But now *disruption* would enter the picture. Great bounty was already there. But now, *loss* would enter the picture, even as Cain would later kill Abel resulting in the first recorded loss of a child. Cheerfulness and well-being were already there. But now, *sorrow* and *disruption* would enter the picture.

In short, not only would this seduction ultimately bring about Adam and Eve's flesh death (as previously, being innocent of sin, there was no death for them in the garden), but to their *progeny* it would also usher in the ongoing *cycle* of life and death so inherent in child-bearing. In other words, we're born, and then we age and die. But in the interim our progeny are born, and the cycle of birth and death (good and evil) repeats itself, generation after generation all of the way to the end.

In Genesis 3:16-19, our heavenly Father further explains what Adam and Eve brought upon themselves, by disobeying His Word. They had experienced a purely idyllic existence, knowing only good things, and *not* evil. But from that point forward, as Father would explain, first to Eve and then to Adam, the negative side of the coin would now be added to their lives, in the form of calamity, disfavor, adversity, distress, affliction and even birth and death. As it is written in Genesis 3:16-19:

*“Unto the woman he said, I will **greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.***

*And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;***

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

In other words, through their blatant disobedience to God’s Word, Adam and Eve not only lost their innocence, but *from that day forward* the so-called “yin and yang” of life was ushered in, not just for them, but for their “conception” (i.e., their entire bloodline progeny) as well:

For life, *death* would be added. For abundance, *poverty* would be added. For happiness, *sorrow* would be added. For strength and well-being, *weakness* and *sickness* would be added. For leisure, there would also be *toil*. For pleasure, there would also be *pain*. For wisdom, there would also be *ignorance*. For righteousness, there would also be *wickedness*. You get the picture. From that day forward, they would begin to “know good and evil.

Let’s take this one level further:

Consider the fact that when we were all angels in heaven during the first earth and heaven age, we were perfectly innocent of sin, just like Adam and Eve in the garden, until Satan introduced corruption and iniquity through his temptation. As it is written in the Job 38:7, our life in the world-that-was was innocent and carefree, when “*the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy...*” But by the time Satan got through with his deception in that first age, which you can read of in Ezekiel 28, the children of God had been thoroughly corrupted, to the point that one-third of them turned their backs on God altogether and followed Satan himself (Rev. 12:4).

In the first earth age, Satan tried to replace God’s system of perfect fairness, equality, well-being, personal responsibility and abundance for everybody with his own dog-eat-dog system of “good and evil,” which *allows some to prosper while others perish*.

If you look around yourself today at the world we live in, with all of its disparities, inequalities and dichotomies, you’ll have a pretty good idea of the outcome of Satan’s “knowing good and evil” system during the first earth and heaven age, and why our heavenly Father finally overthrew it in His righteous indignation and ushered in His great plan to save his children from the corruption and iniquity that had beset them, and still does to this very day.

Moving forward to this flesh earth age, we now have a repeat of that system of “good and evil,” and all of its consequences: Instead of perfect peace, tranquility and abundance for everybody based on complete trust in God and His Word, we have the filthy rich and the dirt poor and

everything in between...the mighty and the weak, and everything in between...the healthy and the sick, and everything in between...the well-fed and the starving, and everything in between...the well-educated and the ignorant, and everything in between – all thanks to Satan’s system of “knowing good and evil.”

And it’s all because of Satan’s seductive treachery, and Adam and Eve’s act of disobedience in the garden, that Satan’s system of “knowing good and evil” began anew in this flesh earth age, just as it had been in the world that was. Which is why our heavenly Father would later say, when He kicked Adam and Eve out of the garden, “*Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*” (Genesis 3:22-23)

Satan’s system of “knowing good and evil” from the world that was – being quite well-known to God and the angels, but not to Adam and Eve who were innocent of it in the flesh – would now spring forth in this flesh earth age. And since Adam and Eve were no longer innocent after the seduction, they could not be allowed to partake of the fruit of the tree of life and live eternally in their sinful state. Sin can only lead to death. So atonement through sacrifice would have to be made. And of course, that atonement through sacrifice could only come through Christ Jesus, in accord with God’s great plan to save His children. As it is written in the great book of Romans:

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Rom. 5:12)...

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 5:21)...

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:23).”

So think about it: Satan’s promise to Eve that she and her progeny would come to “know good and evil” over the ensuing 1,000 years of “enlightenment” was probably the most honest statement he had made to her that day. But she could not possibly have comprehended the vast extent of his wicked intentions. In her naiveté, she was truly wholly seduced, mentally, spiritually and *physically* as well. She would bear Cain, the first murderer. And Cain would go on to bring corruption, greed, avarice and all other forms of sin into the world. But most important of all, he would work to substitute Satan’s empty religious promises in place of God’s truth.

I hope through this lesson you now better understand what Satan robbed us of through his seduction of Eve in the garden. After all, Adam and Eve’s perfect, idyllic life of abundance and peace in the garden with God would have been *ours, too*, had Adam and Eve naturally and innocently went on to procreate without “knowing good and evil.”

In the world-that-was, Satan robbed God’s innocent children of their inheritance through his subtle deception and seduction. Then he did so again in this flesh earth age, in the garden. And

more importantly to those of us living in the final generation of this flesh earth age, he seeks to do so once again, when he's finally kicked out of heaven and returns to this earth one last time (Rev. 12:7-12), pretending to be Jesus Christ coming for His virgin bride, the Church (II Thessalonians 2:1-4).

Satan is hoping we'll all be like the virgin Eve, naïve, easy to deceive, and ever-so-willing to set aside God's Word in favor of his empty promises and false religious traditions. He's hoping we *won't* be like the Blessed Virgin Mary, wise and well-instructed in God's Word...hearing the truth, bearing it, and bringing it forth to fruition without turning aside from it.

I hope also through this section of the study you now better understand that Satan is not some nebulous adversary of God whose actions and plans are of little consequence to us. Quite the contrary. ALL of the consequences of his actions and plans fall directly upon our heads. Every single one of them. That's because they're all *directed at us*. He's the robber of our inheritance. He robbed us of our peace, prosperity and perpetual well-being in the world that was...he stole it from us again, in the garden, preventing Adam and Eve's posterity from even so much as briefly tasting of the abundance, tranquility and well-being that had been known before the seduction, and that was to be ours *perpetually* had not the seduction taken place...and he hopes to rob us of our eternal inheritance – our reconciliation to God and His family household, through Christ -- by setting *himself* in place of Christ Jesus as the *substitute messiah* for Christ's redemptive act on the cross that would otherwise restore us to the eternal family household of God.

In short, he's hoping we'll set aside God's Word *one last time*, just as Eve had, and naively participate in His false kingdom wedding when he arrives in star-spangled imitation of our Lord and Savior, promising to restore us to eternal glory in God's family household if we'll but allow him to impregnate our minds with his seductive but empty religious doctrine.

The bottom line is that Satan simply wanted to “plant” the first tare into the field (i.e., Matthew 13:38-39), which he knew would trigger the chain of events bringing into this world not just the cycle of life and death that had never been known in the garden, but *everything* that goes along with it, as well, i.e., pain, toil, sickness, suffering, hardship, and more.

In my opinion, Satan knew Adam and Eve had been set aside by God to begin the undefiled and unbroken lineage that would ultimately bring about Christ, through the Blessed Virgin Mary, and through Whom the sixth day creation would be saved. And in imitation of God, Satan wanted to plant both an opposing *lineage* as well as an opposing *system* of his own on this earth that he could use to challenge the Messiah of God and His great plan of salvation for all of mankind. And in that you have both “good” and “evil” – i.e., the “good” being Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary, the “evil” being Cain through Satan's bold and despicable seduction of the virgin Eve.

My contention is that Satan basically said to Eve, “*Honey, now that you're on the cusp of womanhood, God wants your eyes to be opened to the full knowledge of your destiny. You're destined to be the mother of the Savior who over a period of 1,000 years of enlightenment will help restore man's position among the angels of God, knowing both bounty and loss in the process. And all you have to do is partake of the fruit of my loins and the show will begin.*”

Of course, the truth was, Eve would be the mother of two distinct lineages, one *good*, and one *evil*. For the good, she'd be the mother of the lineage through which Mary would ultimately be born, and through whom the Savior Christ Jesus would ultimately come and the price would be paid on that cross that we might all regain our innocence in Him, as *He* would be completely innocent of all sins.

And for the evil, Eve would also be the mother of the lineage through which the children of the antichrist himself would be born, beginning with Cain – a wicked lineage that does the work of their father the devil in seeking to undermine God's efforts to bring eternal salvation to His children, keeping God's children in a state of chronic estrangement from Him. As Christ Himself said in John 8:44-47 to members of that wicked, murderous and lying lineage of Cain, nearly 4,000 years after Eve's seduction in the garden:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (44) And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. (45) Which of you convicteth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? (46) He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. (47)"

That was Christ speaking in reference to the *origin* of the wicked seed in the garden of God. Later, in Mathew 23:13-15, Christ would reveal how the members of this very same wicked seed line work to derail our reconciliation into God's eternal family household, saying:

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.(13) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.(14) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.(15)"

It would be through this wicked, murderous, lying lineage of Cain who refuse to acknowledge and embrace Christ Jesus and His redemptive gift of salvation that the vain religious traditions of man would spring forth, *infiltrating the Christian church in substitution of God's Word of eternal Life*. And all who embrace those vain religious traditions – wittingly or unwittingly – would become estranged from God, putting at dire risk their reconciliation to God and his eternal family household. As it is written above, they become “twofold more the child of hell” than the deceivers who falsely and ever-so-treacherously claim to be bringing them closer to God.

So we see here evil (or *dis-favor*) being ushered in to this world through Satan's seduction of the virgin Eve, and her subsequent pregnancy and birth of Cain. But then, through the later birth of the Christ child through the Blessed Virgin Mary, we see good (or *favor*) restored through Christ.

Satan's seduction of the virgin Eve ushered in estrangement from God. But the Virgin Mary's holy birth of the Christ child ultimately ushered in reconciliation and propitiation to God, for all who will but embrace Him in sincerity and truth.

Let's return to the Genesis account where we left off:

Gen 3:6 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 the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.**

In other words, keeping everything in context with the theme of seduction, which is exactly what's taking place here, we see that Eve perceived Satan to be quite an insightful and communicative preacher (i.e., "bountiful for food"). And he was quite good-looking, as well (i.e., "pleasant to the eyes"). What's more, she perceived him to be extremely desirable in terms of his ability to impart carnal knowledge (indeed, in the original Hebrew, the phrase "to be desired" in the verse above can just as easily be translated "to be lusted after"). So she fell for his seductive offer.

There's an old saying among con artists, "*If they buy the premise, they'll buy the bit.*" This means that in order to fool someone into giving up something you want from them, all you need to do is present a believable premise – something with just enough truth to it that your intended victim will keep swallowing the bait even though it might violate all of their previous instincts or understanding.

I believe that old serpent told Eve that she was destined to usher in a child and a lineage that would ultimately restore mankind to their place in the heavens among God and the angels. There was just enough of a grain of truth in it – i.e., it *sounded* to her like it just might be God's Plan of Salvation -- that Eve took the bait, hook, line and sinker, thinking she was the vessel through which the Savior would come, and Satan was the angel sent to make it happen.

Casting aside God's warning that eating of the "fruit" of this "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" could only bring about death, she depended instead upon her own perception that the "tree" was "good for food." She allowed her flesh *perception* – her feelings -- to override God's Word on the matter. Satan is hoping *we'll* do the same in the end of this flesh earth age when he returns in imitation of Jesus Christ, offering once again a "salvation" and reconciliation he simply cannot fulfill.

Satan in his role as the seducing serpent had promised to open Eve's eyes if she'd partake of the fruit of his family tree. But to do so, she had to *close her eyes to God's Word*, and open them to the empty religious promises Satan had set before her. Satan's promises were certainly enticing. But they were a complete fabrication, except for the small grain of truth that Eve's bloodline was destined to bring God and man back together in reconciliation. It *would* eventually, of course. But it would *not* be through the seed implanted by Satan in the virgin Eve's womb that the reconciliation between God and man would come. Instead, it would be many thousands of years later through Eve's descendant, the Virgin Mary, that the Christ child would be born and the

atonement sacrifice leading to redemption, reconciliation and atonement between God and man would take place.

I'm sure you noted in Genesis 3:6 above that Adam partook of the forbidden fruit, as well. As the verse clearly states, "...*she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*"

Over the years, some Bible students have speculated that this means Adam engaged in a homosexual act with Satan. And others have speculated that Satan, being supernatural, has the ability to turn himself into a beautiful woman, and by that means engaged in a sexual act with Adam. I have my doubts about either of those two speculations. And I urge serious Bible students to read that part of the verse concerning Adam again, carefully. It says the woman took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and *gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*" It doesn't say Satan gave Adam anything, in any form.

I propose that Adam, having watched the act of copulation between Eve and the serpent, simply partook of that same act with Eve directly afterwards. I also propose that he did so in a vain attempt to cover up what had happened between Satan and Eve – maybe even an attempt to keep it from God's knowledge. In other words, Adam knew Eve could become pregnant from the sexual encounter she'd just had with the serpent, so he planted his own seed in her womb, as well, in hopes that it would be his seed that would prevail.

After all, as it is written in 1 Timothy 2:14, "*And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*" In other words, Adam was not fooled by Satan's smooth sales pitch to Eve. He didn't believe for a minute that Eve would be ushering in through Satan's loins either the Christ child or a bloodline race that would ultimately restore God's children to their place in God's heavenly family household. But he most certainly *did* know that Eve sinned in partaking of the forbidden fruit. Now perhaps Adam simply joined in and had sexual relations with Eve out of his own lust, after having watched Satan's seduction and copulation. Or perhaps...just perhaps...Adam thought to himself he might be able to resolve the problem by claiming his wife for himself, sexually speaking, and planting his own seed in her womb in a hopeful attempt to displace the serpent's seed.

Regardless of the reason for Adam's participation, both Adam and Eve had nevertheless transgressed the *only* prohibition God had placed upon them in the garden as a test of their fidelity and love for Him. They had discourse with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and participated in its subsequent actions (i.e., ate of the forbidden fruit) when they both should have quickly rebuked him and high-tailed it the other direction the moment he appeared on the scene and opened his filthy, lying and seductive mouth that day in the garden.

Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Their eyes were opened to their sinfulness and subsequent shame – not quite the “eye opening” experience Eve was expecting, I'm sure.

Of course, as any decent student of God's Word would note at this point, it's clear that Adam and Eve had not eaten an apple. After all, if they'd simply eaten an apple, why would their very first actions after partaking of the forbidden fruit be to sew fig leaves together and make *aprons* for themselves? Aprons go over one's private parts. Adam and Eve were *covering* their private parts, because that's what the seduction centered around.

You'll note as well that this seduction likely took place in a fig grove, not in an apple grove. After all, it's obvious from the verse above that *fig leaves* were abundantly available. And if you think about it, leaves from an apple tree would hardly make a good apron, being so small. But fig leaves are large and broad and well-suited to be used as aprons to cover one's privates.

For deeper students of God's Word, this is the very beginning of the parable of the fig tree, as told by Christ in Matthew 24:33-35. You simply cannot understand Christ's parable of the fig tree, in its fullness, without first knowing what actually took place in that fig grove in the Garden of Eden. For just as two distinct seed lines -- both the *good* and *evil* -- were planted in the virgin's womb in the Garden of Eden in the very beginning of this flesh earth age, so too were two distinct seed lines -- both the *good* and *evil* -- planted in the Holy Land in the very end of this flesh earth age. And just as Eve was naïve and deceived regarding the two distinct seed growing in her womb, so too are most Christians today naïve and deceived regarding the two seed lines living and growing together in the Holy Land, as we approach the time of Satan's return to this earth in his role as the false messiah.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

God *dwelt* in the garden, with Adam and Eve. What a wonderful time that would have been, to live in the presence of God, in complete innocence and in full favor with Him. Can you let your mind expand enough to understand that your heavenly Father *raised* these two children Himself, right there in that garden?

But Adam and Eve knew they'd transgressed the *one* command He'd given them as a test of their fidelity to His Word and of their appreciation of all of His blessings. So they hid themselves from Him, knowing He would be greatly displeased, and knowing the penalty for their transgression would be quite the opposite of the glittering lies Satan had told Eve.

Gen 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Gen 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

The word *naked*, as used in this verse, is translated into English from the Hebrew word *eyrom* (i.e., Strong's H-5903) meaning "nudity." But it's from a derivative of a Hebrew root word we looked at earlier in this study, *aram* (i.e., Strong's H-6191) meaning to lay bare through crafty counsel or cunning. This, in turn, is a derivative of the Hebrew word *arum* (i.e., Strong's H-6175), which is translated as "subtil" in Genesis 3:1, where the serpent is described as being

more “subtil” (i.e., a sneaky ability to strip one of their cloak of innocence) than any beast of the field.

In other words, through Satan’s crafty counsel and subtil cunning, Adam and Eve had not only been stripped bare of their child-like innocence (i.e., their nakedness in the garden had carried no shame until after the seduction), but they had been stripped bare of the *benefits* of that child-like innocence, as well, which up to that point had allowed them to live happily and bountifully in the very *presence* of God rather than suffering in estrangement from God as they now would.

Gen 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

God knew what had happened. But He wanted to hear it from Adam who was supposed to have been protecting his Eve as any man would protect his virgin wife-to-be from seduction.

Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Adam not only blames Eve for the problem, but in a back-handed way blames God Himself, i.e., “It was that woman *you gave me, Lord*, that caused us to be naked and ashamed.”

Gen 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the woman, of course, blames the serpent, though she knew from the start that she was not to partake of the forbidden fruit being offered by the serpent.

The word “beguiled” in that above verse is translated from the Hebrew word *nasha* (i.e., Strong’s H-5377), meaning “to lead astray,” “to delude” or “to seduce.” In the Hebrew language, it carries the connotation of being greatly or utterly seduced. And when we later examine St. Paul’s choice of words in the New Testament to describe this “beguilement” or seduction in the garden, you’ll see it means to be *wholly seduced*. She bought Satan’s smooth, seductive sales pitch. And she spread her legs for him, thinking she was doing God’s will.

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

This is a statement of complete and utter degradation. From that day forward there would be no entity in the kingdom of God lower in stature than Satan, himself. And why? Because just as God was attempting to restore innocence to His family household, raising the two children Himself in the Garden of Eden and preparing them to bring forth progeny *in complete innocence*, Satan stepped in and harvested them out-of-season, bringing them into his system of “good and evil.”

Through deception and seduction he robbed these two children of their innocence *right in God's own earthly household*. Satan spiritually and physically molested Eve. And through that seduction he caused Adam to participate in her carnal ravishment as well. Can you imagine a person coming into your own household, molesting one of your children and teaching the other to do the same?

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

As you can see, *two distinct seed* were growing in the woman's womb. The serpent's seed. And the woman's own seed, through Adam. You either have to believe your Father's Word at this point, or reject it.

Later, in Genesis 4:1, we'll learn that Adam indeed had conjugal relations with his wife, Eve, and she conceived. But that verse is simply a statement of fact, with God letting you know for a certainty that Adam and Eve had conjugal relations and a conception took place. *This* verse, on the other hand, is a statement of both *geography* and *time-frame*, which is to say, it lets you know *where* and *when* that conception took place.

Both seed lines – Satan's and the woman's through her husband Adam -- were conceived *in the garden*, right there in the fig grove, during Eve's seduction by Satan. In the verse above, when our heavenly Father appeared on the scene in the garden, directly after the seduction, *two different seed were already growing in Eve's womb* – i.e., both Satan's and Adam's. As I pointed out earlier, the Scripture in Genesis 3:6 clearly says of Eve and Adam, regarding what happened during the seduction, "*she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*" If you want to know when and where the conception of *both* seed took place, you've just read it.

Note carefully in Genesis 3:15 above that our heavenly Father states He'll put "enmity" (i.e., constant hostility, hatred, *warfare* – Strong's H-342) between the serpent and the woman, and just as importantly, between the serpent's *seed*, and the woman's *seed*.

This means there would be *inter-generational* warfare between the two seed lines, all of the way to Christ's Second Advent. In other words, as I stated earlier, it would be the *lineage* of the serpent that would perpetually battle on Satan's behalf against the *lineage* of the woman which was destined to bring about the birth of the Christ child some four thousand years later, as well as the birth of God's faithful elect in the final generation of this flesh earth age.

As it's written in Psalm 22:30-31 regarding that elect "seed" that would be brought forth to testify as to the faithfulness of God's Word in the final generation, "*A seed shall serve Him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. (30) They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this. (31)*" It is God's faithful elect – which is to say, the faithful virgins among His church -- who stand in opposition to Satan and his seductive but empty religious traditions, and through whom God will speak in the final days of this flesh earth age (Mark 13:9-11).

So we see here that Satan's real goal in seducing Eve was a preemptive act to plant his own seed line as the *earthly opposition* to the Christ child, and ultimately in opposition to the elect of Christ who would protect, preserve and defend the Word of God all of the way to Christ's Second Advent.

As it's written in Revelation 12:15-17, the chronic warfare that began in the garden between these two seed lines culminates when that old serpent, the devil, returns to this earth at the end of this flesh earth age as the imitation Savior, and attempts to seduce the woman and her seed through a great flood of lies which proceed forth from his mouth:

"And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. (15) And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. (16) And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (17)

Do you see how the above verse ties directly in with Genesis 3:15? You have the "woman" and her "seed" in the very beginning of this flesh earth age. And you have the "woman" and her "seed" again, at the very end of this flesh earth age when that old serpent returns. As then, so again. There's nothing new under the sun.

In other words, the "enmity" or chronic warfare between the serpent and Eve, and between the serpent's seed line and Eve's seed line through Adam, began with the birth of Cain and Abel (i.e., Cain would murder his brother Abel, as part of this warfare between two seed lines)...was carried forth to the time of Christ when the serpent's seed would do everything in their power to make sure He was crucified...and runs *all of the way to the end of this flesh earth age* when that old serpent, the dragon, returns in a final attempt to spiritually slay the elect of God through seduction (Mark 13:22).

Our heavenly Father considers His many-membered body in Christ to be a "virgin" body. But the question is this: When the serpent arrives on the scene as the false Savior, will you be a "virgin Eve" who ultimately rejects the truth and falls for the serpent's cunning lies and false promises, or will you be a "Virgin Mary," Eve's descendant, who is representative of the elect of God who faithfully carry forth the truth and who refused to deviate from it?

You'll note in Revelation 12:15-17 above that the serpent/dragon/Satan "*went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*"

Isn't that fascinating? It tells us that in the final days of this flesh earth age there's a remnant (which is to say, a *very small part*) of **the woman's seed line** who still "keep (i.e., preserve, protect, guard from loss or injury) the commandments of God" and who still "have (i.e., hold, possess, follow) the testimony of Jesus Christ." Unlike the virgin Eve in the garden, who *failed* to "keep the commandments of God" and who *failed* to possess the "testimony of Jesus Christ" but in its place possessed the lying testimony of the serpent, this faithful virgin "remnant of her

seed” of the final generation stand firm in God’s Word and refuse to fall for the empty religious traditions that flow from the serpent’s mouth.

Finally, it’s important to note in Genesis 3:15 above that God speaks of Christ who would eventually come through Adam and Eve’s lineage. In fact, He prophesies that the serpent’s seed line would bruise the heel of Christ (i.e., when He was nailed to the cross, of course), but that Christ would crush the serpent’s head in the very end.

This is the very *first* recorded prophesy in the Word of God. And it’s given by our heavenly Father Himself rather than through a prophet, *because He wants you to take it very seriously*. He wants you to understand what this seduction in the garden was all about, along with all of its broad ramifications. The serpent wanted to plant his wicked seed line in the virgin’s womb as a direct *countermeasure* to the seed line of Adam and Eve that would ultimately bring about Christ as well as His faithful elect in the final generation. That elect “remnant” of the woman’s “seed” would work to preserve the Word of God exactly as it’s written at the very time Satan’s seed line has reached its zenith of power and Satan himself arrives on the scene in his role as the false messiah.

In short, Satan wanted his seed line well-established on this earth by the time the Christ child would arrive. It would be that wicked, Satanic seed line that would oppose every move of Christ’s, and that ultimately would make sure the Romans crucified our Lord and Savior on that cross. And it would be that same wicked seed line Satan would use to draw Christians away from their heavenly Father’s Word all of the way up to the final days of this flesh earth age when Satan returns to this earth as the false savior, and makes his bid to defeat the “*remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*”

Let’s return to the account in Genesis chapter 3, where we left off...

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

We looked at this verse earlier, as well as the next three verses. So I won’t spend a lot of time on them, except to remind you we’re still in the garden at this point...the seduction has just taken place...God is still dressing down Adam and Eve and Satan...and the topic is still *conception* and *bringing forth children*, not apple eating.

Here God essentially tells Eve she’s going to have twins, i.e., “I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception.” Indeed, in the original Hebrew the words “greatly” and “multiply” are both translated from the same Hebrew word *rabah* (H-7235 i.e., “to increase”). In other words, that word is repeated twice in this verse, so that the verse actually reads, “I will *increase, increase* your labor pains and pregnancy.” In other words, twins would be born. And one of these twins, of course, would be Cain, through the seed of Satan. And the other would be Abel, through the seed of Adam.

And we also see here the fulfillment of Satan's words to Eve that her entire seed line forever after would "know good and evil." For in her womb there would be the good seed, as well as the evil seed. And the deceptive and murderous actions of the evil seed line growing in her womb would usher into the world much false religious doctrine...much wickedness...much want... much pain and suffering.

Gen 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Adam's only job in the garden was to "dress and keep it." As it is written in Genesis 2:15, "*And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*"

In the original Hebrew, the word "dress" is translated into English from the Hebrew word *abad* (i.e., Strong's H-5647) meaning to *work tillage*, i.e., to plant seed and bring forth growth.

And the word "keep" is translated into English from the Hebrew word *shamar* (i.e., Strong's H-8104), meaning to *guard, protect and preserve*.

In other words, in the Garden of Eden, Adam was the gardener. He was to both *cultivate* the garden (i.e., plant seed to bring forth growth), and *preserve* its pristine condition (i.e., by weeding the garden, pruning back overgrowth, etc.). Interestingly, if you think about it broadly, this was his responsibility to his virgin wife, Eve, as well. He was her husband, and ultimately it was he who was to "cultivate" her, i.e., to bring forth growth through her womb. As a man plants seed and brings forth plant growth in a garden at the proper and due season, so Adam also in the proper and due season was to plant seed and bring forth human growth in his wife's womb.

More importantly, perhaps, just as the gardener is to preserve and protect the garden from the growth of weeds or other undesirable plants, so it was Adam who was to guard over his virgin wife and preserve her from being "cultivated" (so to speak) prematurely, with undesirable seed.

Can you draw the parallel between Adam's duties in the garden of Eden, and his duties to his virgin wife, and see why our heavenly Father was so angered and distraught with Adam for allowing the seduction to take place, and for participating in the event? Though Adam was not the one deceived (1 Timothy 2:14), he had a grave responsibility to his virgin wife, and more importantly, to God. And he failed miserably at both of them.

Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Continuing the parallel, just as the ground would now be more difficult to cultivate, bringing forth thorns and thistles in addition to the edible green herb, so too would the fertile ground of Eve's womb bring forth "thorns and thistles" (i.e., through Cain, down through all generations). But that same womb would also bring forth the "herb of the field," meaning symbolically it would also bring forth that Adamic farming lineage that would spring forth through Adam and

continue into all generations, ultimately leading to Christ, whose field is the world and whose harvest is at the end of the world (Mt. 13:38-43).

So these verses here in Genesis chapter three represent *profound spiritual prophecies* from your heavenly Father. Therefore it's important to understand their significance in as much fullness as possible.

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Not only would Adam have to labor greatly to grow the wheat that would produce the bread that would keep his family alive, but death would now also enter into the picture -- not just for Adam and Eve, but for *all generations forward*. We're born. We labor and sweat each day for our food as we grow older. Then we die. This cycle of life and death was ushered in through the seduction in the garden. Had Adam and Eve not cooperated with Satan, their idyllic life in the garden of God, which had provided for all of their needs without the backbreaking labor they'd now experience, would not have ended.

Of course, what happens to us *after* our flesh death is dependent upon our actions, which is to say, our works. Did we also labor while here on this earth to partake of the Bread of Life, which is representative of the Word of God in Christ Jesus? If we indeed labored to partake of the Bread of Life, then we can still be reconciled to God and gain entry into His eternal family household in the world to come. If we labored instead, even unwittingly, to partake of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (i.e., the empty religious traditions of man that are set in substitution of God's Word by the children of Cain), then we end up estranged from God and under such conditions, short of sincere repentance during the Millennium teaching period, cannot be reconciled into the eternal family household of God.

Gen 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

"Eve" is the English name translated from the Hebrew word *chavvah* (i.e., Strong's H-2332), meaning "life-giver." Can you see that this entire account, starting in Genesis 3:1, has been about conception, i.e., bringing forth life? Adam didn't name his wife "the apple eater" after she partook of the forbidden fruit. He named her "the life-giver." Isn't that interesting?

She was to be the "mother of all living" in the sense that through her womb would come forth the Adamic bloodline that would eventually lead, umbilical cord to umbilical cord, to the blessed virgin Mary, and from there directly to Christ Jesus, Himself, our Lord and Savior. Jesus, being the Lamb of God, would then give His life on that cross at Calvary, rising from the tomb in defeat of death, which was the defeat of Satan himself (Hebrews 2:14).

And, of course, from that time forward all who would embrace Christ Jesus would be known, spiritually speaking, as "the living," whereas all who refuse to embrace Christ's redemptive act on the cross at Calvary are known, spiritually speaking, as "the dead."

So in that way, Eve would indeed become the mother of all living. She was not physically the mother of all flesh people, as some would have you believe, for there was the sixth day creation of the various races (Genesis 1:26-28) that took place *before* Adam was ever formed by God of the dust of the ground and placed in the garden of Eden to dress and keep it (Genesis 2:7; 2:15).

But spiritually speaking, thanks to God's great plan of salvation which could not be derailed by Satan's seduction of Eve in the garden, Eve's womb would indeed be the womb through which Adamic man would spring forth, ultimately leading to Jesus Christ some 4,000 years later. Unfortunately, it would also be the womb through which the Kenite (i.e., Cain's bloodline) would spring forth, leading to the arrival of their father the antichrist in the final days of this flesh earth age.

In other words, Eve was not "mother of all living" through her own virtues, but instead, through *Christ's* virtues. Left to her own devices she brought forth the antichrist child whose descendents have plagued all mankind ever since, vehemently working to draw each and every one of us away from the saving power of the Christ and into the deceptive religious doctrines of their father the devil instead.

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Our Father was angry with Adam and Eve for their disobedience. But He always takes care of His own. He made sure they were well-clothed before being cast out of the idyllic garden of God and into the world where they'd now be exposed to the elements unlike anything they'd experienced in the past.

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

We looked at this verse, briefly, earlier. Suffice it to say, Adam and Eve had now been initiated, if you will, into Satan's system of "good and evil" from the first earth age – a system God had overthrown in His righteous indignation before establishing this flesh earth age, and which He and the angels were of course *intimately* familiar with considering the pain and disruption it had caused for all of God's children at that time.

And since Adam and Eve were no longer innocent after the seduction, they could not be allowed to partake of the fruit of the tree of life and live forever in their sinful state. Sin can only lead to death. So atonement through blood sacrifice would have to be made. And over the long course of time that atonement through blood sacrifice would indeed eventually take place, thanks to Christ Jesus, in accord with God's great plan to save His children.

Gen 3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Adam and Eve's idyllic existence in the Garden of Eden was over. They had quite literally walked and talked with God in that beautiful and perfect garden. But in disobeying God's Word and losing their innocence in the process, they could no longer tread that holy ground with God. They would now be sent forth to become the farming race of the earth, laboring in the sweat of their brows.

Gen 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The phrase "drove out" is translated from the Hebrew word *garash* (i.e., Strong's H-1644), and it means "to drive out" or even "to expatriate" (i.e., to leave one's fatherland). More importantly, however, it's the same Hebrew word that's used in a legalistic sense in other parts of the Scripture, being translated "put away," as in *to divorce* (see Leviticus 21:7; Ezekiel 44:22). In that legalistic sense, God *divorced* Adam and Eve from His presence in the garden, which is symbolic of losing one's inheritance in the eternal family household of God. Spiritually speaking, through their disobedience and unfaithfulness to His command they had become unqualified to be "one" with Him. They were no longer spiritual virgins. That old serpent had promised they'd "become as the gods" (i.e., become as God and the angels, implying reconciliation) but instead they were cast *out* of the family household of God.

This of course represents the estrangement from God unwittingly endured today by all too many Christians because of their naïve willingness to embrace the vain religious promises and traditions of man in place of the Word of God. It's why in Mark chapter seven Christ tells us, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (Matthew 7:21-23).

They're Christians. They'll even cry out "Lord, Lord" at His arrival. But He told them "I never knew you" because up to that moment they'd been operating in the spirit of the vain religious traditions of man, and not the Spirit of the Word of God. They thought they were doing God's will and God's work in playing religion, but their religion was not founded upon the truth of God's Word. It was founded upon religious traditions, mixed in with just enough truth to sell them on it. It's Satan's "m.o." or method of operation, pure and simple, going all of the way back to the Garden of Eden.

Let's move right on in to Genesis chapter 4:

Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, **I have gotten a man from the LORD.**

Gen 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

These two verses tend to confuse many people just as they're starting to "see" what actually happened in the garden. But don't let these verses confuse *you*.

You have to keep in mind that in the original Hebrew, there were no chapter and verse numbers. What's more, there was basically no punctuation, either, meaning no commas, colons, capital letters, etc.

Man later added the punctuation you see in the verses above, as well as the chapter and verse numbers to the Scriptures, in an attempt to make God's Word easier for people to understand, in what you might call *bite-sized bits*. But sometimes those bite-sized bits break the flow of the thought being set forth in the Scriptures. And in such cases, punctuation might need to be examined carefully. And two or more verses might need to be read together in order to fully understand them. So in just a moment we'll read those above two verses together again, with punctuation that fits the context as well as the facts we've already established.

But first, let's take a quick look at two key words in these two verses. The first key word, in verse 1 above, is the word "knew." It's translated from the Hebrew word *yada* (i.e., Strong's H-3045), and it means "to know" or even "to ascertain by seeing." We looked at this word earlier, in Genesis 3:5, where it's used in a completely different context. But what's important to remember here is that it's also one of those euphemistic words like "touch" (i.e., *naga*) that has hidden or inferential meanings. In this case, as you can see from the context of conception and birth in verse one above, it means Adam "knew" his wife *conjugally*, which is to say, they had sexual relations with each other.

The second word that's important to understand is in verse 2. It's the word "again." And it's translated from the Hebrew word *yasaph* (i.e., Strong's H-3254) meaning "to add to," "to augment," or "to continue to do a thing."

In other words, in verse two we see Eve *continuing in labor* from verse 1, giving birth to Abel directly after having given birth to Cain. Yes, she had *twin* sons. Cain was the first-born. And Abel came out second. Cain was from the conception that resulted when Eve was seduced by the serpent. And Abel was from the conception that resulted directly afterwards, when Eve had conjugal relations with her husband Adam.

Therefore, in the original Hebrew, the above two verses, taken together, properly translated and properly punctuated in context with the seduction in the garden and its aftermath, would more accurately read as follows:

"Adam had conjugal relations with Eve his wife. She conceived. [Jumping ahead nine months here -- ED] Bringing forth Cain, she said I have gotten a man from the LORD. Continuing [in labor], she bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep. But Cain was a tiller of the ground."

In other words, directly after Eve was seduced by the serpent, Adam and Eve then had sexual relations, and Eve conceived *Abel*, through Adam. She had *already* conceived Cain through the serpent. Nothing in the original Hebrew, nor in the English translation from the Hebrew, makes

the claim that Adam had sex with Eve and she conceived Cain. It just says she had sex with her husband and conceived. Then, *nine months later*, both Cain and Abel were born of this same pregnancy. Two different children, from two different fathers. One being the son of the serpent, and one being the son of Adam.

Genesis 3:15, which we looked at very closely, earlier, proves this beyond any shadow of a doubt, for Eve *already* had two separate seed growing in her womb at that point. And both Adam and Eve were *still* in the Garden of Eden, with God, at that point. The seduction had just taken place. And God was still dressing down the serpent for what he had done. “*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*” You have to deny God’s own words in order to deny the fact that Eve was already pregnant with both Cain and Abel at that point – one being the seed of the serpent, and the other being Eve’s child Abel, through Adam.

What’s extremely interesting to me is that in various texts of the Aramaic Targums, which were ancient commentaries on the Hebrew Bible written in the Aramaic language, Genesis 4:1 and 4:2 above were often far more informative than what we see in the Hebrew manuscripts from which the King James Bible was translated. For example, one version of a Targum known as the Targum of Jonathan has Genesis 4:1 reading as follows:

*“And Adam knew his wife Eve, who was pregnant by the angel Sammael, and she conceived and bare Cain; and he was like the heavenly beings, and not like the earthly beings, and she said, I have acquired a man, **the angel of the Lord.**”*

Now that’s a “blow your mind” verse, I think you’ll agree. The “angel Sammael,” of course, is Satan. And this version of Genesis 4:1 falls into line with the idea that Eve honestly thought *she* was to be the virgin who would bear the Christ child, and not just the mother of the *lineage* that would eventually produce the Christ child far down the road. The above Targum version of Genesis 4:1 is also telling in that it displays Cain as having an angelic father, due to the fact that his appearance at birth was quite different than normal human appearance. This explains why Eve naively thought she’d just given birth to “the angel of the Lord,” meaning the Messenger of the Lord, or better stated, the Christ child.

Another Aramaic Targum known as the Palestinian Targum gives that same verse as follows:
*“And Adam knew his wife Eve, who had desired the Angel; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and she said, I have acquired a man, **the angel of the Lord.**”*

Once again, in this particular Targum, we see Eve under the mistaken notion that she’s just given birth to “the angel of the Lord,” meaning to the Christ child.

Again, I must emphasize I’m *not* teaching as Biblical doctrine the idea that Eve thought she was bearing the Christ child. Instead, I’m bringing up this information merely as food for thought – something for you to meditate on as you study and contemplate the Scriptures in regards to the two virgins, Eve and Mary.

It's a *very* serious sin to add to, or to take away from, the Word of God (i.e., Revelation 22:18-19). So I'm not by any stretch of the imagination asking you to do so. But when the actual Scriptural evidence backs up a concept, as we've seen in taking a deeper look at each of the relevant verses in Genesis chapter 3, and as we've seen in mentally juxtaposing that information against the Biblical account of the blessed virgin Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel in Luke chapter one, an interesting pattern emerges, particularly in light of the fact that Satan loves to imitate God, at least to the limited extent he can.

So here's the question: Did Satan, in his role as the serpent, tell Eve she was going to bear the Christ child who would usher in a new age of enlightenment and ultimately reconcile the world to the eternal family household of God, meaning to God and the angels? Well, the Hebrew manuscripts from which the King James Bible was translated *do not say so*. They only *hint* at it when you look at the relevant verses in more depth and with understanding, as we've done throughout this study.

But did Satan know Eve was the woman chosen by God to bring forth the lineage that would ultimately lead to Christ? I believe he did. After all, according to Ezekiel 28 he was God's wisest angel (i.e., cherub). Indeed, in Ezekiel 28:3 we learn of him, "*Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that can be hid from thee.*" So he was completely knowledgeable of God's great plan to save His children. And when presenting that information to Eve, did he twist his knowledge of Eve's destiny to make her think it would be she *herself* who would give birth to the Christ child? Did he claim he'd been sent to her by God Himself to bring this message, and to bring about the conception? Again, food for thought. But I think it helps explain *a lot*, particularly with Eve naively crying out "I have gotten a man from the Lord" after giving birth to Cain, when in reality it was a man child from Satan himself.

The bottom line is that Eve had *two* children, each from a different father, and each being very different from the other. But Cain's actions would soon prove his true origins, as he would ultimately murder his brother Abel. As it is written:

Gen 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Gen 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Gen 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Cain and Abel made their first sacrifices to God, together. Abel sacrificed one of the "firstlings of his flock," meaning a first-born lamb. And Cain sacrificed some of the fruit he'd grown. But Cain's offering was rejected, and Abel's was accepted. We'll see why in just a moment.

These two verses prove once again that Cain and Able were twins. They both came of age at the same time, and offered sacrifices to the Lord. Cain was the first-born. And Abel was the second born of the same pregnancy. And they had both reached the age of accountability together, when

men were to commit themselves sacrificially to the Lord and go forth from their parents and start new lives of their own in service to God.

You'll note from verses three and four above that Cain only offered the fruit of the ground in sacrifice, whereas Abel offered one of the firstlings of his flock (i.e., a lamb) and the fat thereof. In other words, Abel offered a *blood* sacrifice, humbly acknowledging his own sins and looking forward in type to that coming great sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God for the sins of all mankind. This sacrifice was very pleasing to our heavenly Father. It demonstrated both *humility* on Abel's part for his sins, as well as *knowledge of, and respect for* God's great plan to save His children.

But Cain's offering of the fruit of the ground neither acknowledged sin (for it was not a blood offering), nor did it acknowledge God's great plan to save His children through the sacrifice of Christ. This displeased our heavenly Father greatly. In other words, there was no humility from Cain. Nor did Cain demonstrate any respect for God's redemptive plan through Christ. It was as if Cain was saying to God, "I don't answer to you. I answer to another. Therefore I have no use for your future plans. Here, have some fruit. And don't say I never gave you anything."

Perhaps now you can see why God blessed Abel for his sacrifice. But he did not bless Cain for his, at all. This angered Cain deeply.

Gen 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

In the original Hebrew, God asked Cain why he was blazing with anger and looking so dejected. And He told Cain plainly that all he has to do in order to be accepted was to amend his behavior and make things right (i.e., the Hebrew word *yatab* from which the phrase "doest well" is translated, means to "make amends" or "to make things right"). This implies Cain could have simply offered a blood sacrifice in place of his contemptuous fruit-of-the-ground sacrifice, and if offered with due contrition the Lord would have been pleased with it.

In the original Hebrew in verse 7 above, God also warns Cain that if he does *not* amend his behavior and make things right (i.e., "if thou doest not well"), then there can be no redemption from sin for him, but instead sin would be counted as part of his very nature. He would live and rule by sin.

But of course, Cain would ignore this offer. And so would his descendants over the broad course of history. Indeed, we see some 4,000 years later in Matthew 3:7-8 reference to this very same "fruit of the ground" sacrifice, when John the Baptist would say to the descendants of Cain who had taken up religious leadership positions in Israel:

"O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (7) Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: (8)"

The word “generation” in the above verses is translated from the Greek word *genema* (i.e., Strong’s G-1081), meaning “offspring.” The word “vipers” is translated from the Greek word *echidna* (i.e., Strong’s G-2191), meaning “serpent.” The word “warned” is translated from the Greek word *hupodeiknumi* (i.e., Strong’s G-5263), meaning *instructed* or *admonished*. The word “therefore” is translated from the Greek word *oun* (i.e., Strong’s 3767), meaning *truly* or *accordingly*. The phrase “bring forth” is translated from the Greek word *poieo* (i.e., Strong’s G-4160), meaning to *yield, produce* or *provide*. And the word “meet” in the above verses is translated from the Greek word *axios* (i.e., Strong’s G-514), meaning “suitable.”

In other words, John the Baptist essentially said, “Oh offspring of serpents, who instructed you to escape from the wrath to come? Provide fruits truly suitable for repentance.”

In that way, John the Baptist not only identified the religious leaders as children of the serpent of the lineage of Cain himself, but he told them their “fruits” (i.e., their religious works and sacrificial offerings to God) were no more suitable today than they were when first made by their forefather Cain some 4,000 years earlier. In other words, the descendants of Cain had steadfastly maintained Cain’s disdainful attitude toward God, providing religious lip service for show, while in reality scorning God’s great plan of salvation by rejecting His doctrine of salvation through Christ.

In Matthew 3:9-10, John the Baptist went on to say to those same descendants of Cain, “*And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*”

In essence, John the Baptist told the descendants of Cain, “You might think you’ve successfully infiltrated the family lineage of Abraham, but God is able to discern the members of the family tree of the knowledge of good and evil *by their fruits* [i.e., their always deficient and self-serving sacrificial works]. And that family tree is going to be axed at its very roots and cast into the lake of fire at the end of this flesh earth age.”

The bottom line is that way back in Genesis God asked Cain for contrition. He never got it. Indeed, as you’ll see, he answered God’s request for contrition by murdering his brother Abel, just as the children of Cain in the above verse would respond to John the Baptist’s request for true repentance by arranging for the death of Christ on the cross.

Gen 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Cain would *not* make things right with God, because he was the son of the devil himself. Instead of making amends with God, Cain murdered his righteous brother Abel who was justified in God’s eyes due to the humble nature of his coming-of-age sacrifice which honored God’s great plan of salvation. Indeed, Cain struck out against Abel and his righteousness just as Cain’s

descendants, four thousand years later, would strike out against Christ Jesus and His righteousness when they arranged for His crucifixion.

I've brought you through all of these verses, from the seduction in the garden to Cain's murder of his twin brother Abel, because I wanted you to see the stark contrast between these two children brought into the world through Eve. Eve was promised by that old serpent that she (and all future generations) would "know good and evil" if she would partake of his "fruit." And that "good and evil" quite literally started *in her womb*, when she cast aside God's Word and partook of the forbidden fruit, and then gave to her husband Adam, as well thereby carrying two seeds from two separate fathers.

One of her resulting twin sons, Cain, was wicked, unrighteous and murderous, and not even remotely acknowledging or embracing God's plan to save His children from the fate ushered in during the seduction in the garden. And the other son, Abel, had gained favor from God for humbly acknowledging (through his coming-of-age blood sacrifice) not just his own sins, but also, God's great plan to save His children through the sacrificial Lamb of God.

One child sprang forth from Eve's womb of his father the devil. The other sprang forth from Eve's womb of his father Adam. One brought the first recorded murder into the world. And the other, through his death at the hands of Cain, testifies to this day to the utter unrepentant wickedness of Cain and his descendants.

The Church, Naïve, Deceived

As I stated at the very beginning of this study, it's my contention that the two virgins we've been examining in so much detail up to this point – the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Eve, the virgin wife of Adam -- represent distinct *types* of the Christian church of the final days of this flesh earth age.

In type, the church is supposed to be the "virgin Mary," carrying forth Christ (i.e., the Word of God) to an awaiting world through the power of the Holy Spirit of God. Instead, it's Eve, carrying forth Cain (i.e., the religious traditions of man) via the spirit of the antichrist, and thinking all along it's little "man child" is "of the Lord."

Taking the analogy further, there's one type of Christian – God's election -- who *hear* the Word of God, *believe it and bear it in their bosoms*, spiritually speaking, working diligently to bring it forth to the world for the edification and ultimate salvation of many, including their reconciliation into the eternal family household of God. This, much the same as the blessed virgin Mary heard the Word of God from the angel Gabriel, believed it, and as a result bare the Living Word of God in her bosom and brought it forth to the world so all who would believe on Him could be reconciled to God and to His eternal family household.

And then there's the *other* type of Christian – naïve and easily deceived – who hear the religious traditions and promises being presented to them in the guise of religious doctrine, and are quickly seduced away from the truth of God's Word. Just as the virgin Eve was seduced away from her obedience to God's Word by the serpent's empty promises, and as a direct result

brought forth the wicked and deceptive seed line of Cain, so these Christians have been seduced away from the truth of God's Word to empty religious traditions and unscriptural promises, bringing forth to the world something quite *unlike* the Word of God, which is to say, false doctrine that *estranges* man from God and His eternal family household, rather than *reunites* man with God and His eternal family household.

St. Paul speaks of this in II Corinthians 11:2-4, when writing to the Christians of Corinth who had been straying from the doctrine of Christ thanks to the seducing teachings of false religious leaders. Let's examine St. Paul's words to the Corinthians in light of what we've learned so far:

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Note carefully that the subject matter is *maintaining one's spiritual virginity*. Spiritually speaking, we as Christians are espoused to "one husband" and one husband *only*, meaning Christ Jesus. Just as Eve had been espoused to one husband, named Adam, so the Christian church is supposed to be the virgin bride of Christ. As such, Christians are not supposed to allow themselves to be impregnated (spiritually speaking) with false doctrine and religious traditions, but instead, are to remain true to their Husband and His Word until He returns at His long-awaited second advent.

Eve's virginity was no one else's to harvest (so to speak) but Adam's. They were both innocent, meaning they had not transgressed God's command to stay away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (i.e., the family tree of Satan), which they knew would bring death into the world. But then that old serpent slithered into the picture and told Eve otherwise. "*Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*"

In my opinion, he seduced her with the tall tale that she was the chosen vessel to bear the child who would restore mankind to the family household of God, and all she had to do was spread her legs for him. It was a brilliant ploy on Satan's part. And it worked. He convinced Eve she was missing out on her hidden destiny. And she ignored God's Word and allowed the serpent to seduce her, *because the story was so intriguing*, and there was that tiny grain of truth in it which made it sound not only plausible, but completely palatable to her.

Could that old serpent fool *you* with an intriguing story that perhaps might contain a tiny bit of truth to it, wrapped in a great big lie? Are you knowledgeable enough in your Father's Word to know the difference? As we count down the final days of this flesh earth age, you'll soon have a chance to find out, for just as the old serpent was there in the garden with Adam and Eve, so he'll be here once again, singing his sweet song of spiritual seduction to each and every one of us. Indeed, he's even here now, in *spirit* – and unfortunately, that spirit resounds throughout the halls of all too many churches, just as Paul warns below.

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The word “beguiled” in the above verse is translated from the Greek word *exapatao* (i.e., Strong’s G-1818), which means to be *wholly seduced*. This is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew word used by Eve in Genesis 3:13, when she said “The serpent *beguiled* me, and I did eat.”

The word is derived from two Greek words, *ek* and *apatao*, meaning to be deluded from the point of origin, outward. Or perhaps better stated, it means to be deluded from the *inside out*. The prefix *ek* even implies “abundant,” “exceeding” or even “vehement” when conjoined with other Greek words such as *apatao*.

In other words, Eve was exceedingly (or abundantly, vehemently) seduced by that old serpent, from the inside out. There’s no mistaking the meaning. That old serpent seduced her in every way, i.e., *mentally, spiritually and physically*.

The word “corrupted” in the above verse is translated from the Greek word *phtheiro* (i.e., Strong’s G-5351), meaning to shrivel or wither, but also to spoil, ruin or *defile*.

Here, St. Paul is saying he’s worried that Christians might be seduced away from the simplicity of God’s Word and as a result have their *spiritual* virginity defiled, just as the old serpent seduced Eve and defiled her *physical* virginity using a religious-sounding story that convinced her to reject God’s simple command to abstain from partaking of the forbidden fruit.

All Eve had to do was to believe God’s Word regarding the death and devastation that would be ushered in upon her family if she were to partake of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Had she simply walked away from the serpent when he flatly contradicted God’s Word on the matter, she would have been fine.

Similarly, all Christians have to do today is compare what their religious leaders are telling them with what God’s Word *actually says*. Then, note any glaring contradictions between the two sources, and walk away from anyone whose doctrine contradicts God’s Word.

But most Christians won’t do this. For example, almost universally today, Christian religious leaders teach “Jesus can come at any moment now.” That’s probably the most prevalently taught doctrine in the entire Christian church, next to “Jesus saves.” Indeed, just this week (mid-September 2014) one of the most famous and respected of all Christian preachers stated, “I can’t help but wonder if we are in the last hours before our Lord Jesus Christ returns to rescue His church and God pours out His wrath on the world for the rejection of His Son.” Others agreed with him that “Jesus can come at any moment now.”

Yet the idea that Jesus can “come at any moment now” is a lie. Indeed, in II Thessalonians 2:1-4, God’s Word assures us that Jesus *cannot* come at “any moment now.” In fact, those verses reveal that He can’t come to this earth to gather His children unto Himself until *first* there’s a great falling away from the truth, and “that man of sin, the son of perdition” is revealed, who will seat himself in the temple of God pretending to be God.

In other words, contrary to the “any moment now” teaching of modern Christian religious tradition, the Scripture says Christ’s Second Advent simply cannot take place until *first* the antichrist arrives to this earth pretending to be God. The antichrist arrives *before* the true Christ. And he comes pretending to *be* the true Savior of God. *That’s* plain Scripture truth, like it, or don’t.

So Christians who are expecting the Lord to arrive “any moment now” are most assuredly going to end up worshipping the first, miracle-working supernatural being who arrives to this earth claiming to be the Savior. Unfortunately, that will be the serpent himself, the devil, who we know as the antichrist, or false Christ, working the same seduction on them he worked on Eve in the garden of God.

In other words, you’re being offered a choice between TWO different and contradictory “Jesus” – the Jesus of religious tradition who comes “any moment now” and the Jesus Christ of the Bible who cannot come to this earth until *after* Satan shows up pretending to be God.

So the question of the hour is this: When that old serpent, the devil, comes to this earth in his role as the false Christ, even claiming to be God, will you maintain your spiritual virginity by walking away from him, and sticking with God’s Word? Or will you be as “Eve,” listen to his smooth words and allow your spiritual virginity to be defiled by his seductive promises?

Eve ended up bearing both Cain and Abel (i.e., “good and evil”) in her womb, and was kicked out of the garden of God as a direct result. You can’t simultaneously bear in your spiritual bosom both the knowledge that “Jesus saves” *and* the empty religious traditions of man that make void the Word of God, without losing your place in God’s eternal family household.

I believe this is the crucial point St. Paul was trying to make to the Corinthians. If they allowed themselves to be seduced by empty religious tradition that contradicts God’s Word, as did the virgin Eve, they stood to lose their place in the eternal family household of God, just as assuredly as Adam and Eve lost their place in the garden of God.

2Co 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

The religious proponents of the “any-moment-now Jesus” are most certainly preaching “another Jesus.” And they’re most certainly operating under “another spirit” and setting forth “another gospel” -- the false “gospel” that “Jesus can come at any moment now and fly you away from here.”

St. Paul assured Christians in II Thessalonians 2:1-4 that our gathering back to Christ simply *cannot* take place until Satan first appears on this earth in imitation of God and as a result triggers that great falling away from the truth known as the apostasy. It’s further confirmed in Revelation 12:7-9 that Satan “...deceiveth the whole world.” when he and his fallen angels are kicked out onto this earth in the final days of this flesh earth age, just before Christ’s Second Advent. So the “whole world” is on this earth when Satan appears as the false messiah.

So here we are in the final days of this flesh earth age, and we see the deceptive “Jesus can come at any moment now” religious tradition being set in *substitution* of God’s Word on the subject of Christ’s Second Advent. And we see that Christians are actually *rejecting* God’s Word *en masse* in order to accept in its place this empty religious tradition.

Paul was worried that Christians would be seduced away from the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and end up bearing in their bosoms, spiritually speaking, *a substitute savior in place of Christ*, as well as being possessed with *a false spirit in place of the Holy Spirit*, and embracing *a false gospel (i.e., empty religious traditions) in place of the redeeming Gospel of Christ*.

And just as Eve’s seduction by Satan (and the resulting conception of Cain in her womb) led to Adam and Eve’s estrangement from God and banishment from His presence in the garden, so the seduction of Christians by false religious leaders operating under the influence of the family tree of Cain would bring about their estrangement from God and loss of their place in the eternal family household of God (short of sincere repentance during the Millennium teaching period, of course).

Paul’s worry might seem overblown to many Christians. But it’s quite legitimate. For here we are some 2,000 years later, and the vast majority of the Christian church believes in a substitute savior known as the “any moment now” Jesus who’s coming to “rapture” them away. They’ve accepted the substitute Christ in place of the Christ of the Bible, just as Eve accepted Satan’s substitute doctrine in place of God’s simple command.

What’s more, the vast majority of Christians have fallen wholly under the seducing spirit of that substitute savior, which means they’re possessed with it – i.e., they bear in their bosoms, spiritually speaking, another spirit in place of the Holy Spirit of God. And as a result, they bring forth to the world a “gospel” of empty promises and religious traditions that make void the Word of God, and cannot possibly reconcile *anyone* to the eternal family household of God.

Today, Christian preachers have become much like the Jewish religious leaders of old, who Christ so severely berated, telling them “*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*”

Jesus saves...let’s ignore God’s Passover and go roll Easter Eggs. Jesus saves...let’s ignore God’s Word about Christ’s Second Coming and get ready to fly away with the “any moment now” Jesus. Jesus saves...let’s pretend Eve ate an apple so we won’t have to face the fact she was seduced by the same spirit of empty religious tradition we’re being seduced by today in the churches.

And eventually you get the Christian religion that we have today, which is really a mixture of empty religious traditions and out-and-out fairy tales, using Jesus Christ as a mere prop – nothing more than a figurehead – while teaching doctrine such as the “Jesus can come at any moment now” that leads people directly to the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming

to be God, i.e., the substitute savior, the man of sin, the son of perdition himself, that subtil old serpent also known as the dragon and the devil and the antichrist.

Paul would go on in that same chapter to warn Christians about the false religious leaders who promulgate doctrines that estrange man from God:

2Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

The word “transforming” used in this verse is translated from the Greek word *metaschēmatisō* (i.e., Strong’s G-3345), meaning “to transfigure or disguise.”

In other words, there were false apostles operating right in the church hierarchy, working deceitfully, who *disguised* themselves as apostles of Christ. You can turn the TV on just about any Sunday morning, and see dozens of them, even today.

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Again, the word “transformed” should be translated “disguised.” Satan *disguises* himself as an angel of light, which is to say, a dispenser of the wisdom of God. He is Lucifer, the “light-bearer” who imitates the Morning Star, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Just as he promised Eve an age of enlightenment if she’d just partake of his fruit, so he promises light and life to the church today through his empty religious traditions. But Satan is no messenger of God like the angel Gabriel, who carried the *true* Word of God to the Virgin Mary. Instead, he’s just the lying, low-life, dust-eating, seducing serpent who pretends to bring forth light when in reality he’s bringing forth darkness to suit his own purposes.

Satan promised to open Eve’s eyes to her hidden destiny. He promised a new age of enlightenment if she’d just submit to his seduction. But it was a great big lie. She had to close her eyes to God’s Word to obtain what the old serpent promised. And in so doing, she allowed Satan to bring nothing but darkness upon Adamic man from that time forward, ushering in his dog-eat-dog system of “knowing good and evil.”

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Here, St. Paul hits the nail square on the head. The false preachers who bring forth “another Christ,” and “another spirit” and “another Gospel” are *the ministers of Satan himself*. In some cases, they may not even know it. But they’re nevertheless doing the serpent’s work by impregnating the minds of Christians with the serpent’s empty religious traditions that ultimately lead them to worship Satan in his role as the false Christ instead of the true.

They disguise themselves as “ministers of righteousness,” which is to say, ministers of Christ. But they’re liars. And as St. Paul points out, their “end shall be according to their works.” At the great white throne judgment of Revelation 20:11-15, they’ll be judged for doing Satan’s

seductive work...for defiling so many of God's spiritual virgins with lies and deception, and turning them into "twofold more the child of hell than themselves" (Matthew 23:15). And short of sincere and most humble repentance, they'll be cast into the lake of fire, never to exist again.

But that's little consolation for those whose spiritual virginity they've defiled, and whose reconciliation into the eternal family household of God they've put at such grave risk by leading them away from the Christ of the Bible and to the false "any moment now" Christ instead, who is actually Satan himself.

St. Paul is pointing out that there are *two* ways to go for Christians. You can stick firmly with the Word of God and what it actually says, and bear that in your body, allowing it to grow and spring forth over time for the edification of many. Or you can allow yourself to be seduced by the empty religious traditions of man that offer a false Christ, a false spirit and a false gospel, with the end result being *loss of your spiritual virginity*, coupled with estrangement from God and loss of your reconciliation into the eternal family household of God through Christ Jesus.

Those who are seduced by the empty religious traditions of man are "virgin Eve" in type. Being Christians, they do indeed bear within themselves and help bring forth the Gospel truth that *Jesus saves* (i.e., a type of Eve's son Abel, whose coming-of-age sacrifice acknowledged the Gospel truth). But unfortunately, they *also* bear within themselves and help bring forth the false religious traditions of man that make void the Word of God and estrange man from God, risking loss of their reconciliation into the family household of God (i.e., a type of Cain, whose coming of age sacrifice failed to acknowledge the Gospel truth and thus put him at enmity with God).

And those who stick firmly with God's Word and refuse to deviate from it are "Virgin Mary" in type. As the virgin Mary bare in her womb and brought forth the Christ child to the world through the power of the Holy Spirit, so these bear within themselves the truth of God's Word and work to bring it forth through the power of the Holy Spirit. They preserve and protect God's Word exactly as it's written. And they refuse to allow anyone to lead them astray or seduce them into embracing the false religious traditions that estrange man from God and ruin man's opportunity for reconciliation into the family household of God.

The Harlot Church

Now we know there's only one church, which is to say, one body of Christ. As it is was written by St. Paul in the great book of Romans:

Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

But we also know, as St. Paul wrote in chapter six of the great book of First Corinthians, a Christian can *lose* his or her place in the body of Christ, should they choose to join in with spiritual harlotry, which is to say, false teaching:

1Co 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

1Co 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

1Co 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

In other words, a Christian joined unto the Lord Jesus Christ is joined together in that union by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17), which is the binding force that unites us with our Lord and Savior.

But a Christian who joins with a harlot – euphemistically meaning to join with a false teacher who seduces God’s children away from God’s Word by substituting empty religious traditions in its place -- becomes *one* with that harlot. Which is to say, he or she would lose their place in the body of Christ to become one with the body of a spiritual whore.

As Christ once said of mammon, “*No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.*” (Luke 16:13) The same thing goes for Bible doctrine. You cannot serve the Living Word of God that brings man into reconciliation with God’s eternal family household, and at the same time serve the empty religious traditions of man that *estrangle* man from his place in God’s eternal family household.

True, there is only one church, one body of Christ. But there are many harlots outside that church body -- disguised as ministers of God – who beckon the naïve to leave their first love and come join with them. “Come worship Jesus with us. He’ll be here any moment now. And we’re all going to fly away with Him.”

But how do Christians get seduced away from the truth by the harlot preachers waiting to pull God’s children away from His Word and “mate” them to such a foreign doctrine? Let’s take a look at chapter seven of the great book of Proverbs, where the wisdom of God is speaking, and find out. As it is written:

Pro 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

The word “keep” in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *shamar* (i.e., Strong’s H-8104), meaning to “hedge about,” “guard,” “protect” and “preserve.”

The phrase “lay up” in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *tsaphan* (i.e., Strong’s H-6845), meaning “to hide,” to “hoard” to “reserve” or even to “treasure up.” It implies esteeming something so highly that you *collect it and protect it*.

The wisdom of God warns us to guard, protect and preserve His Word, and to collect and protect His commandments. In other words, we’re to keep His Word and His commandments from being changed, distorted or replaced by false doctrine.

This is the solemn duty of God’s elect. We’re not to allow anyone to change God’s Word, or to lead us away from God’s Word, but instead, we’re to store up, preserve and protect His Word

exactly as it's written. Just as Adam's job was to "dress and keep" the garden exactly as God had created it, so our job is to tend to God's *spiritual* garden, which is to say, His Word.

Pro 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Once again, the word "keep" in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *shamar* (i.e., Strong's H-8104), meaning to hedge about, to guard, to protect, to preserve. We're to protect and preserve God's Word – His commands and His law -- as we would protect and preserve the very pupil of our eye should anyone attempt to take a poke at it.

Interestingly, in the Hebrew language the word "live" in this verse (*chayah*; Strong's H-2421) is a derivative of the Hebrew word for the name Eve (i.e., *chavvah*; Strong's H-2332), meaning lifegiver. If you want to live eternally, you must make the preservation of God's Word your *priority* in this life – not as Eve who turned her back on God's simple command, and, embracing the false religious tradition offered her by the serpent, lost the idyllic and eternal life in the garden she otherwise would have had.

Pro 7:3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

What you *do*, let it be done in accord with God's Word. And what you *think*, let it be thought in accord with God's Word. Keep God's Word close at hand, and always in mind. God's Word is the spiritual glue that holds everything together. To let go of it is to lose your spiritual mooring in the eternal family household of God, and be cast adrift in the darkness.

Pro 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

Wisdom proceeds forth from God's Word. God is your closest of kin. He's your Father...your very Creator. You should be as close to the wisdom of God, through His Word, as you'd be with your own family.

Pro 7:5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

Wisdom and understanding are what keep (i.e., preserve) you from the influences of the "strange woman," which is representative of false religion.

The word "strange" in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *zur* (i.e., Strong's H-2114) meaning "to turn aside" or even "to commit adultery." In other words, this strange woman is an apostate. Like the virgin Eve, she's turned aside from the Word of God in order to partake of the empty promises of false religion.

What's more, the word "stranger" in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *nokriy* (i.e., Strong's H-5237), meaning a strange or foreign person, but also meaning *adulterous*.

Your heavenly Father is trying to make a point here. You may have heard a married person with adultery on his or her mind say they're "*looking for a little strange*," euphemistically meaning

they're looking to wander outside of the bonds of matrimony. Our modern-day euphemisms are not too far from those used in the Bible. As it was then, so it is again. There's nothing new under the sun.

Unfortunately, all too many Christians are always "looking for a little strange" as well, flitting from one church to another, one preacher to another, one doctrine to another, one spirit to another...never quite getting around to reading, understanding and bringing forth the simple truths of the Word of God.

Finally, the word "flattereth" in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *chalaq* (i.e., Strong's H-2505), meaning "to be smooth," but by implication meaning to separate or divide. Like Satan's smooth words to Eve in the garden, it's the empty religious traditions of man that are designed to *separate and divide* you from God, which is to say, to estrange you from the eternal family household of God.

Just as Satan lied, with grand religious overtones, telling Eve he had the power to reconcile her and her entire bloodline to the eternal family household of God if she'd just let him come in unto her, so these apostate religionists lie and tell you they have this same power, if you'll but "bear" with them: Donate when they pass the plate. Participate in the church bake sale. Roll Easter eggs on the church lawn. Tell the kiddies fairy tales about snakes and apples. Play religion. Sing lots of pretty hymns. But never, ever, *ever* actually delve into the Word of God in any depth.

Pro 7:6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

Remember, this is wisdom speaking. The wisdom of God. Our heavenly Father sees all. He knows what's going on in your life. Indeed, your works are even recorded, either in the book of life, or in the books of the acts of the spiritually defiled (Revelation 20:12).

Pro 7:7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

The phrase "simple ones" is translated into English from the Hebrew word *pethiy* (i.e., Strong's H-6612), meaning silly, seducible, foolish. This is a type of Eve, as well as a type of the five foolish virgins we'll be studying at the end of this lesson. The word is derived from another Hebrew word, *pathah* (i.e., Strong's H-6601), meaning "to be open, or roomy."

These silly, seducible, foolish ones have a certain trait; *they're open to just about anything*, which is to say, they make room for just about any doctrine that comes down the pike, even if they have to cast God's Word aside to make room for it, as did Eve.

The phrase "void of understanding," in the original Hebrew, means "lacking heart." Which is to say, the young man had not taken his Father's Word to heart. His heart was not fixed on any one thing. He was wide open for anything.

Pro 7:8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

He was heading to the apostate woman's house, meaning, symbolically, to the local church. He knew the way.

Pro 7:9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

Christians are supposed to be children of the day, not children of the night. As St. Paul would write in I Thessalonians 5:5, "*Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*"

Spiritually speaking, this means the young man was spiritually blind, stumbling around in the spiritual darkness looking for "truth." He was probably looking to attend the pagan Easter service, which is based on rotations of the moon, rather than the holy Passover service, which is based on rotations of the sun.

Yes, this foolish, easily seducible young man was traipsing around in the spiritual darkness of his time, symbolic of the final days of this flesh earth age when the antichrist himself is here. He should have been walking in the light of His Father's Word, partaking of its wisdom, and reveling in the understanding it always brings forth when taught in truth and Spirit.

Spiritually speaking, what happens when you venture forth into the darkness? Let's see:

Pro 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

The word "harlot" here is translated from the Hebrew word *zanah* (i.e., Strong's H-2181). It means "wanton" (i.e., without restraint, disposed to unchastity), or more simply put, it means "to commit adultery." What's more, it implies wanton behavior of *a continuous or ongoing nature*. This is a regular way of life for the old girl who represents the church of empty religious traditions.

While the word means adultery, it's used here euphemistically for *idolatry*. Spiritually speaking, the woman dressed as a harlot is an idolater. Again, she's representative of churches that proclaim "Jesus saves...Jesus saves," but when you go inside it's not the Word of God you hear taught, but instead, empty religious traditions in *substitution* of that Word.

You'll note from the above verse that the harlot is described as "subtil of heart," meaning what you're being taught in that church is being taught by *design*, not by accident. It's designed to extract the most from you that can possibly be extracted, at the least expense possible. Indeed, the phrase "subtil of heart" means *concealed or hidden of heart*. You're told one thing about their intentions, and it sounds so very holy. But their *real* intentions are quite another thing altogether. Hold on to your wallet. She likes to bring them in, then *pack 'em and stack 'em and shake 'em down*, as the religionist con artists like to say.

Pro 7:11 (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

“Loud and stubborn” means clamorous and rebellious. This is how our heavenly Father sees the apostate church. Just at the street whore leaves her family household behind in order to ply her trade on the streets, so the apostate’s feet abide not in the family household of God. Instead, she sets up her own religion...her own doctrine...her own rituals of worship – and has a spiritual cat house on virtually every corner.

“Come one, come all...Let’s make a mighty and joyous noise for the Lord,” she might say. There might be a lot of swinging and swaying in the church pews. And the cadence and pitch of the message coming from the pulpit is always designed to arouse passion, reaching new heights of emotion until it culminates in a crashing crescendo of praise, which is always followed of course, by that most holy of all religious acts, *the passing of the plate*.

Yes, it’s all very religious. But it’s exactly the kind of church our Lord and Savior, were He here today, would walk into, in righteous indignation, swinging a cat-of-nine-tails and overthrowing the tables of the moneychangers.

Pro 7:12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

Being insatiable, she works to ensnare more simple ones into the fold. Again, it’s all so religious. After all, it’s being done “for the Lord,” right? Yet in reality, it’s all being done in utter *rebellion* to the Lord and His Word.

Our heavenly Father doesn’t send out beggars. He doesn’t set up circus sideshows. He doesn’t do altar calls. He doesn’t send people out to make fools of themselves preaching from street corners. And He doesn’t build people up into an emotional frenzy and then pick their pockets afterwards.

Pro 7:13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

The word “caught,” as used in this verse, is translated from the Hebrew word *chazaq* (i.e., Strong’s H-2388), meaning “to fasten upon.” She spies the simple (i.e., foolish, easily seducible) one coming toward her little church, and fastens upon him.

The word “kiss” is translated from the Hebrew word *nashaq* (i.e., Strong’s H-5401), meaning “to fasten to,” but also meaning *to kindle* or *catch fire*. Have you ever heard a fellow Christian tell you their church is “on fire for Jesus” as they try to talk you into attending a Sunday meeting? Heck, nowadays it seems like every new Christian song that comes out is about being “on fire for Jesus.”

The phrase “impudent face” means a strong countenance, and implies *shamelessness* – yes, the shamelessness of a street whore is what our heavenly Father, through His wisdom, likens the apostate church to. When she accosts the simple (i.e., foolish, easily seducible) ones for the purpose of seducing them into her church and shaking them down, she’s absolutely shameless about it. “Hey, honey, looking for a date? You’ve sure come to the right place, baby! C’mon inside. It’s Brother Love’s Traveling Salvation Show. You’re in for a real treat. Ya’ love Jesus, dontcha?”

Pro 7:14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

In the Hebrew, this might better read “I have slaughtered the sacrificial peace offering; against this day have I made good my vows.” She’s oh-so very religious, right?

Now this will probably only be of interest to the deeper student of God’s Word, but the clear implication in this verse is that she’s claiming to have completed a Nazarite vow. Nazarites are individuals who have consecrated themselves to God, and as part of the process they must make a vow of service for a specified period of time. And at the end of that period of service, they must make a requisite peace offering to the Lord, which is the last of three separate offerings made by the Nazarite on the day of the completion of his or her vow (Numbers 6:13-17).

Otherwise, peace offerings were almost always entirely spontaneous, not something that had to be “paid” on any particular day or in any fixed or regular course (Leviticus 19:5), with the exception of the Pentecost offering of Leviticus 23:19. So this strange woman, who our Lord likens unto a harlot, claims to be set aside to the Lord’s work, and has just completed a period of “holy” service at which point she’s fully paid her religious vows.

In today’s modern world, you might say this old harlot has *credentials*. She’s put in her time at seminary school. Maybe she’s even put in four years at Bible College. Or maybe she did a two-year stint with a Christian missionary group in a foreign country. And maybe she’s even got a “Ph.D. or “D.R.D.” after her name, or a best-selling book under her belt. And she’s referred to as the “Right Reverend” Such-and-So. So you can *trust* her. In fact, anyone in the church will tell you they’re lucky to have her. Of course, those aren’t *God’s* credentials. They’re the credentials of mere men. But it’s all so very religious, right?

And it doesn’t matter that she’s got the kids out hunting Easter eggs on the church lawn -- after all, the Easter service was splendid and had the requisite amount of solemnity, right? Passover? Never heard of it. Isn’t that Jewish? Doesn’t matter. We’re all going to fly away, anyway, when Jesus gets here. Let’s start getting our costumes ready for the big Christmas play. And we’ve got that church bake sale coming up in September. And we’ll sing some new hymns next week in church – the choir’s been practicing for over a month. C’mon in. Don’t be shy. This is the place for you, baby.

Pro 7:15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

“Therefore” means “against this backdrop.”

In other words, with holiness and sacrifice and plenty of religious credentials as the backdrop, the harlot (church) embraces the simple (i.e., foolish, easily seducible) one with passion, and smooth talks him, saying “I’ve been looking for someone just like you, baby, and I’m so glad to have found you.” Have you ever been schmoozed by a church leader or one of their little proselytes? It’s always very interesting.

Pro 7:16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

Our heavenly Father now adopts the motif of comparing the apostate church to a fancy whore house. Beautiful stained glass windows. Tall steeples. Carefully manicured church grounds. The church choir in their beautiful robes. Everyone dressed in their Sunday finest. But it's all for show. And it's all out of "Egypt," meaning the doctrine being taught is foreign to God's Word. It's the empty religious traditions of man, being substituted in place of the righteous doctrines of God.

Pro 7:17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

Pro 7:18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

The harlot church says "Come on in. Let's satiate ourselves in love until the morning: let's exult in affections." They always promise a good time at your local mega-church, right. "Turn and give the person to your right a holy hug," says the pastor. "Now, turn and give the person to your left a holy hug. Now, raise your arms in the air and tell Jesus how much you love Him! And oh, don't forget to dig deeply when the plate comes around – the love offering is the most important of them all, ya know!"

Pro 7:19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:

Pro 7:20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.

The "goodman," of the house is Jesus Christ. And the house is the church. And since His first advent, He's been away, taking care of His Father's business. But the Second Advent is soon coming. The "day appointed" is not too far away. And He's returning to claim the harvest of souls His Christian servants are obligated to provide, at His Second Advent. In other words, His house is supposed to be filled with the reconciled souls of those who stand ready to join the kingdom wedding as the bride of Christ, and enter into the eternal family household of God.

But while He's been gone, the house of God has been turned into a cat house. It's been taken over by those who are no longer true to the doctrine of God, but instead, are willing to embrace any strange doctrine that comes down the pike. And the harvest of souls being brought in by these spiritual brothels and the spiritual harlots who lead them are composed of nothing more than the souls of the simple, which is to say, the souls of the foolish and easily seducible who, because of their willingness to accept empty church doctrine in place of God's Word, are in reality estranged from the eternal family household of God, and not reconciled into it.

This is where Christ Jesus took His parable of the Son of man on a long journey from, in Mark 13:34-37, where He states, "*For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. (34) Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even,*

or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: (35) Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. (36) And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. (37).

Unfortunately, the harlot church is asleep at the watch, even as the enemy pours in as a flood, around them. They're too busy "taking their fill of love" with the proponents of the any-moment-now Jesus to notice it's the wrong "Jesus" they're crawling into those perfumed beds with. And the simple ones who fill these churches aren't on the watch either. They have no idea that beyond "Jesus saves," the religious traditions being promulgated by their church have no place in the Word of God.

Pro 7:21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

In the original Hebrew, this verse says "With her abundance of coaxing she caused him to be overthrown, with the smoothness of her words she cast him down."

Sunday after Sunday after Sunday, the empty religious traditions of man are taught, over and over and over again. Entire books are written, reinforcing those religious traditions. Movies are even made to reinforce them. It's the abundant repetition of the lie by respected, highly-credentialed religious authority figures that convinces the simple ones to cast aside God's Word and wholeheartedly (but often unwittingly) embrace that which is contrary to God's Word. They become seduced "virgin Eves."

Pro 7:22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

Just as the poor dumb ox doesn't know he's about to be slaughtered as he's led by those he trusts to the slaughterhouse, so the poor, seduced "simple ones" have no idea they're being led straight into hell by the ever-so-religious-sounding deceivers they've fallen in amongst. The naïve, deceived Christians of this final generation rush forward to embrace the harlot church, and are spiritually overthrown by the abundance of false religious traditions that make void the Word of God.

Pro 7:23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

By the time he realizes he's been taken down by the fiery darts of Satanic deception, it's too late for him. He's been rendered spiritually dead to our heavenly Father, because his faith has been misplaced. Rather than having faith in the Goodman of the house, and staying on the watch 'til His return, he's been caught with his pants down around his knees and a spiritual harlot in his arms.

Do you remember St. Paul's warning from I Corinthians 6:15-17? "*Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. (15) What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is*

one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. (16) But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.” (17)

Only those who are joined to the Lord, in spirit and in truth, will enjoy a place in the kingdom wedding at Christ’s Second Advent, and will enter into the eternal family household of God. Short of repentance, those joined to the harlot church cannot enter. They have become “one” with the “Jesus” of religious traditions, and not the true Messiah of God. And if they don’t change their tune during the Millennium teaching period, they put their very souls at risk of dying in the lake of fire at the end of the Millennium when Satan is released one last time to go forth to deceive (i.e., Revelation 20:7-15) as many as he can.

Okay, listen up, for wisdom is about to speak again:

Pro 7:24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

That’s the best advice you could ever wrap your mind around. The word “attend” means to “prick up the ears,” “mark well,” or “take heed to.” Your Father’s Words are your very life force, spiritually speaking. With them, He spoke you into existence. With them, He sustains your very soul. To reject them is to reject your very life and reject your very soul.

Pro 7:25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

Don’t go the way of the harlot church. Don’t be an “Eve” who set aside the simple command of God and embraced the seductive religious promises of the serpent. Learn your Father’s Word, and stick with it. What comes out of the harlot church is designed solely to rob you of your place in the eternal family household of God, even while falsely promising to deliver you into that household, just as the serpent had promised Eve.

Pro 7:26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.

The phrase “cast down” is translated from the Hebrew word *naphal* (i.e., Strong’s H-5307), meaning to overwhelm, perish, overthrow, slay, smite throw down. It’s the root of the word used to describe the fallen angels of Satan himself, i.e., the *nephilim*.

This is company you don’t want to be in, beloved. And yet it’s so easy to fall into it. It’s so enticing. I can’t tell you how many otherwise good Christians I’ve had come to me and say, regarding their local harlot church, “Yes, I understand they’re not teaching the truth. But Steve, I really *need* the fellowship.”

That’s what the false religionists count on, my friend. They count on you being so needy for fellowship that you’d even cast aside your Father’s Word and embrace the vain religious traditions of man in order to get some. And as soon as you head toward their doors they’re waiting to fasten on to you and kindle a flame within you for the false Christ. As Wisdom tells us in the above verse, “Yea, many strong men have been spiritually slain therein.” Always

remember what's at stake: It's your place in the eternal family household of God they're seeking to rob you of.

Pro 7:27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

You can't get any plainer than that, beloved. Don't fall for it. Her house is called a "house of God." But it's the pathway to hell, spiritually speaking. It's the elevator shaft that descends to the bedchamber of death.

So now we've seen through our heavenly Father's Word how the harlot church seduces the "simple ones" (i.e., foolish, easily seducible) into their awaiting arms. Let's end this study by taking a look at the one and *only* way to make sure this does not happen to *you*.

The Parable of the 10 Virgins

Since virgins are our topic in this study, we're going to finish up this study with a quick trip to the great book of Matthew, chapter 25, where our Lord and Savior taught a very interesting parable about 10 virgins.

I believe these 10 virgins – which Christ divides into five *foolish*, and five *wise* – represent the same *two* types of Christians I've been talking about throughout this study. The five foolish virgins are, in essence, a type of foolish young virgin, Eve, who cast aside God's Word and embraced the empty religious promises of the serpent. And the five wise virgins are, in essence, a type of the wise blessed virgin "Mary" who carefully embraced God's Word of truth when it was presented to her, and received the promises thereof.

In type, the story of these two virgins – Eve and Mary -- are what you might call the story of "the church naïve, deceived" of the final days of this flesh earth age, and story of "the church, elect, faithful and true" of the final days of this flesh earth age. We'll learn more about these two "types" of Christians as our Lord and Savior Himself tells the parable of the 10 virgins. As it is written:

Mat 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

It's obvious that the time-frame in this parable is Christ's Second Advent, because these 10 virgins are departing from their place of origin to "meet the bridegroom." Keep in mind that Christ is returning to this earth at His Second Advent to take a virgin bride, spiritually speaking (II Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7). Since Satan comes to this earth first, *before* Christ's Second Advent (i.e., II Thessalonians 2:1-4), this means Satan is *already* on earth at the time of this parable, deceiving the world into believing he's God (Revelation 12:9).

You'll note in the above verse that all ten virgins had lamps. Indeed, as Christians, we're all supposed to *be* lamps to the world, which is to say, we're supposed to shine forth our Father's Word to the whole world. As it is written, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

In the Scriptures, the lamp is symbolic of the Word of God. “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*” (Psalm 119:105). In other words, it’s Christ Jesus, the Living Word of God, who is that light. “*I am come a light unto the world, that whosoever believeth of me should not abide in darkness*” (John 12:46). And we, as Christians, are supposed to be *carriers* of that light, just as the ten virgins in this parable were carrying lamps. The Holy Spirit of Christ in us – which is to say, our knowledge and understanding of the Word of God – is supposed to shine forth to others, so they too can be enlightened and become lights to the world.

But here’s the key many people miss regarding this topic: There’s a false lamp out there, as well. In fact, we’re warned of that false lamp in Revelation 8:10-11, where it’s written, “*And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters. (10) And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.*” (11)

So we see here there are *two* lamps available to us. One is God’s Living Word, Jesus Christ, the Light of all life. This is the lamp all Christians are supposed to bear, and reflect light (i.e., truth) through. And the other “lamp” is that great fallen star from heaven, Satan, whose doctrine is known as “wormwood,” meaning “bitter poison,” and even “calamity.” This poisonous doctrine is presented to the world as being the doctrine of God, and as coming from the Word of God, just as the serpent told Eve that his words were directly from God. But in reality it’s nothing more than empty religious promises and church traditions that make void the Word of God.

These false religious traditions absolutely pervade the churches, masquerading as the doctrine of God, and thereby estranging Christians from God and robbing them of their place in the eternal family household of God. And unfortunately, it is *this* lamp of empty religious tradition that all-too-many Christians unwittingly carry today, and shine forth, in place of the lamp of God’s Word. They have unwittingly become *lamps of error* that cannot lead anyone back into the eternal family household of God, much less find their own way there, as we’ll see clearly in the remainder of this parable.

Mat 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Five of the ten virgins were wise, and five were foolish.

The word “wise” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *phronimos* (i.e., Strong’s G-5429), meaning “thoughtful” or “sagacious,” or one who *perceives readily*. In other words, it’s a reference to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear the deeper truths of their Father’s Word. They partake of the Word in order to be enlightened by it, so they can shine forth that knowledge and understanding to others to help guide them out of the spiritual darkness of this flesh earth age and onto the path that leads back to life in the eternal family household of God. In the original Greek, this word also has the connotation of a person with a *cautious character*, which is to say, a person not readily willing to accept anything that comes floating down the pike, but intelligent enough to check it out thoroughly, first, and discard it if it doesn’t fit our heavenly Father’s Word.

On the other hand, the word “foolish” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *moros* (i.e., Strong’s G-3474), meaning “dull or stupid,” carrying the connotation of someone who’s been cut off or shut away from learning. From a moral perspective, it can even mean a “blockhead,” which is to say, these foolish virgins are representative of those “simple ones” (i.e., foolish, easily seducible ones) we studied earlier in Proverbs chapter seven. Indeed, it’s this very same Greek word *moros* from which we derive our English word *moron*.

So we have here 10 Christians, five of whom were wise stewards of the Word of God, and five of whom were blockheads, which is to say, simple, dull, stupid, and I would add, easily seducible just like the naïve virgin Eve. Isn’t that fascinating? And remember, this is Christ Jesus telling this parable. He’s the one using this descriptive term “foolish” (i.e., moronic, in essence) in relation to some of His own followers. Spiritually speaking our Lord and Savior considers all Christians to be “virgins” – even the foolish ones -- at least until a seduction is fully consummated. Then that virginity is lost, spiritually speaking. And as we’re about to see, it’s at that point that the individual no longer qualifies to take part in the Kingdom wedding as part of the virgin bride of Christ.

So we see here the two *types* of Christians (i.e., virgins) we’ve been studying this entire lesson. We see in this the wise virgin Mary, who knew God’s Word, and who cautiously asked the angel Gabriel how she could possibly conceive a child without knowing a man intimately. And when she heard his answer she instantly understood the Scriptural reference it pertained to (i.e., “A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and call his name Immanuel”), and obediently accepted her destiny. And we also see the foolish virgin, Eve, who cast aside God’s command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in order to wholeheartedly embrace the seductive lie being presented to her by the serpent. In a sense, the serpent told her she was going to fulfill the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary. And all she had to do was spread her legs and allow him to impregnate her. This, of course, was in direct contradiction to the Word of God.

What we’ll be seeing here in this parable taught by Christ is just a repeat, in *type*, of the events surrounding those two virgins. Let’s take a look at exactly what happens to these two types of Christians in the final days of this flesh earth age.

Mat 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

What good are lamps, with no oil to fuel them? Lamps can’t burn on their own. They need fuel. As it is written, “*And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always*” (Exodus 27:20). The fuel (i.e., pure beaten olive oil) travels slowly up the wick and keeps the lamp burning brightly.

Likewise, if your Bible is just sitting there on the book shelf, it’s of as little use to you as a lamp with no oil in it. It may be in your possession. But it can’t fuel your spirit, enlighten your mind and help you become a light to others if you don’t open it on a regular basis and absorb its contents with understanding so that the knowledge flows forth into your mind and spirit. Owning a lamp (i.e., the Bible) is just about worthless if you don’t fill your mind with its oil, and in so doing *become a lamp unto the world yourself*. If you don’t have that Word of God

continuously fueling your spirit, then you'll never be one of those who "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matthew 13:43).

As it is written in Zechariah 4:11-14, "*Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? (11) And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? (12) And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. (13) Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.*" (14)

The two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth are Moses and Elijah, representing the law (i.e., Moses) and the prophets (i.e., Elijah). Do you have the wisdom of God's law fueling your mind, in proper perspective with Christ's redeeming act on that cross at Calvary? Do you have the wisdom of the prophetic books of the Bible fueling your mind, in proper perspective with Christ's redeeming act on that cross at Calvary? That *wisdom* is *light*, spiritually speaking. Do you reflect that light to others, so they too can find their way onto the path leading to reconciliation into the eternal family household of God? Or do you just play religion? The *wise* virgins reflect light (i.e., truth, wisdom) for others, so they can "see" their way through the spiritual darkness of the final days of this flesh earth age. The foolish, on the other hand, can't even find their own way in the dark, much less help anybody else.

"But," you might say, "I have Jesus." Well, so do these five foolish virgins. Do you understand that? That's *why* they can be called "virgins," i.e., they're *Christians*. But as you're going to see, in the end, when they call upon the Lord to open the door to the wedding feast so they can enter therein, He flat out *refuses*. He not only refuses, but He tells them "I never knew you." What a blow that must be. And why? Because they thought knowing "Jesus saves" was the only thing needed for salvation. They failed to realize that Jesus is the Living Word of God. You can't "know" Jesus, without knowing the Word of God, which is to say, without fueling your mind with both the *law* of God and the wisdom of the *prophets* of God.

Mat 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Just as these five wise virgins prepared in advance by taking oil with them for their lamps, so the wise virgins (i.e., God's elect) of the final days of this flesh earth age study their Father's Word in detail, absorbing it into their minds. It's their "daily bread." It fuels their spirit and allows them to shine forth in wisdom. The law (i.e., teachings of Moses) and the prophets (i.e., teachings of the prophets) "empty the golden oil out of themselves" into the minds of these wise virgins. And because they keep their lamps filled with this "oil of understanding," they can always see where they're going in the spiritual darkness of the final days of this flesh earth age. They follow the path that leads to reconciliation into the eternal family household of God.

So the question is, to Christians living in the final days of this flesh earth age when the antichrist himself – that old seducer from the garden – is about to make his appearance, which type of "virgin" are you? Wise, like the blessed virgin Mary who had clearly absorbed enough of the Word of God to know the difference between a deceiving angel and a true messenger angel from God, and faithfully accept her destiny? Or instead, like the naïve virgin Eve, who was quite

easily led by the deceiving angel to cast aside God's command and embrace the wicked doctrine of Satan that robbed her of her *and all future generations that would come forth from her womb* of their place in the garden of God?

Mat 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

In other words, they rested while waiting on the bridegroom to show up. Of course, the wise would be taking their rest in Christ, the Word of God. But the foolish? Let's see what happens...

Mat 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Midnight, is the hour that evenly divides the night from the day. It's the middle of the night. After midnight, you're on the downhill slope heading towards daylight. In other words, spiritually speaking, at "midnight" the spiritual darkness of the final days of this flesh earth age has reached its darkest point, and the plain light of day is only hours away.

Spiritually speaking, after the midnight hour we're well on our way to the birth of a glorious new age in which truth and righteousness abounds, and it's about to be ushered in by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at His Second Advent.

In this verse, the kingdom wedding is soon to begin, and the virgin bride of Christ needs to be ready for the imminent arrival of her Husband at the wedding altar of God (i.e., "...*for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*" – II Corinthians 11:2).

Mat 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

When you're getting ready to go out into the spiritual darkness, you want to make sure your lamp is ready to shine forth, so you can see your way clearly. So you trim off the old, burnt material from your wick, or torch, so the light can burn with fresh intensity as you move forward. In other words, this is symbolic of staying up-to-date in your Father's Word. Many new things are happening in this world as prophesy unfolds around you at an astonishingly rapid pace. And you have to take these things into account in light of your Father's Word, so your understanding is fresh. Keep your light burning brightly by staying in your Father's Word.

Mat 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Notice this wasn't a question, or a request, but a *demand*. These five foolish virgins were clearly used to being spoon fed their Father's Word. They didn't personally put forth much effort to dig out the rich truths held within. When we're commanded to bring with us "pure oil olive beaten for the light" (i.e., Exodus 27:20) the clear implication is that *work* has to go into the preparation of that oil that keeps the lamp shining so brightly. The oil had to be squeezed out of the freshly picked olives with a device called an olive press. And then it had to be specially prepared –

refined -- so it could be used as fuel to keep a lamp burning brightly. Likewise, it takes diligent personal effort on *your* part to press the deeper truths out of your heavenly Father's Word, and refine them in your mind by meditating on them in light of other Scripture lessons.

Whenever I think about this, I can't help but think of the words of the great Christian scholar Dr. E.W. Bullinger, who said:

“The Word of God may, in one respect, be compared to the earth. All things necessary to life and sustenance may be obtained by scratching the surface of the earth: but there are treasures of beauty and wealth to be obtained by digging deeper into it. So it is with the Bible. ‘All things necessary to life and godliness’ lie upon its surface for the humblest saint; but, beneath that surface are ‘great spoils’ which are found *only* by those who seek after them as for ‘hid treasure.’”

-- Dr. E.W. Bullinger, *Companion Bible*

So I always cringe when I hear Christians say something like, “I was studying God's Word today while I was doing the dishes.” Err...really? *Studying*? Or merely listening a bit here and a bit there to some preacher while trying to figure out how to get that spots off the drinking glasses? I understand there are busy times when plopping a Bible study on CD into the player and listening while driving is perhaps the only spiritual food you'll get for the day, so it's certainly better than nothing. But it's also certainly not the equivalent of pressing the oil (spiritual truth) from your Father's Word through effort, and then refining it in your mind by meditating upon it in light of the rest of the Bible so you can use the more in-depth knowledge gained to keep your spiritual lamp burning brightly as we come up to the apex of spiritual darkness in the final days of this flesh earth age.

Tools like the following allow you to dig deeper into your Father's Word – to mine the Word for deeper truths and gain a deeper understanding of Bible topics and events that far exceeds anything you could ever learn by merely listening to a preacher preach, or reading a Bible study:

- **Strong's Concordance of the Bible with Hebrew and Greek Lexicon** – allows you to look up any word found in the King James Bible, and understand its meaning with more depth and clarity.
- **Smith's Bible Dictionary** – defines thousands of Bible words, names, and more, and allows you to look up in-depth information about people in the Bible, as well as places, customs, history, geography and the textual content of the Bible.
- **Greene's Interlinear Bible** – allows you to read a literal English translation of the Bible while viewing the actual Hebrew, Chaldee, Aramaic, and Greek text, along with the Strong's numbers for each word.
- **Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Dictionary (aka BDB)** – provides not only dictionary definitions for each word in the Bible translated from the Hebrew/Aramaic, but relates each word to its Old Testament usage *and categorizes its nuances of meaning*.

- **Thayer's Greek Dictionary** -- provides not only dictionary definitions for each word in the Bible translated from the Greek, but relates each word to its New Testament usage *and categorizes its nuances of meaning.*

The good news is that these tools – and *many* others that offer incredible value to those who love to dig deeper into their Father's Word – are available free, online. Or they can be purchased relatively inexpensively in published formats or as computer software that are often more expansive, for those willing to put in the effort to use them. But just as owning a copy of the Bible does you no good if you never pick it up and digest its contents on a regular basis, so owning or having access to these amazing study tools will do you no good if you never utilize them.

The bottom line is that the “lamps” of these five foolish virgins wouldn't have “gone out” if the effort had been made to keep them properly filled with oil. Your lamp is supposed to “burn always” with the “pure olive oil beaten for the light” that we're commanded as Christians to bring with us on our Christian journey (Exodus 27:20). In other words, your mind should be flowing with the oil of the Holy Spirit of knowledge and understanding, which is the byproduct of partaking regularly of the Word of God, in as much depth as you have the spiritual appetite to handle.

These five foolish virgins were *spiritually blind* because they didn't put the effort in to learning their Father's Word beyond the “surface” knowledge needed to be Christians. So when the darkness reached its apex, their lamps went out. This means they were spiritually blind *at the worst possible time* – the halfway point between the spiritual darkness of the final days of this flesh earth age, and the dawning of a new age.

Mat 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Timing is everything, folks. There's a time to learn... a time to share what you've learned... and a time to make your way through the spiritual darkness to the marriage proceedings. At that point, the seven thunders of Revelation 10:4 will have already sounded, the lightning will have struck (i.e., “I saw Satan as lightning, falling from heaven”), and the command will have gone forth to “seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.” In other words, if you haven't “got it” by the midnight hour, you're not going to get it until the Millennium teaching period.

You can't expect the wise virgins (i.e., God's elect) to stop and spoon feed you at that time, when you had all of the time in the world to check out your Father's Word for yourself before the fact. No wife-to-be stops on the way to her own wedding and leaves her husband waiting at the altar while she gives directions to those who didn't bother to read the map printed on the back of the wedding invitation when it was first sent out five months earlier.

In essence, it is here that the elect, who have been working to bring forth God's Word so that Christians will be ready for the wedding, have no choice but to say, “Sorry, we can't stop now.

Gotta go.” And then direct the foolish virgins to the peddlers and traders (i.e., “them that sell”) where they can shop for whatever little oil (i.e., truth) might be available. We know there won’t be very much truth available from the religious peddlers at that time, because they’ll already be under the seducing spell of Satan in his role as the false Christ. Now that might seem cruel to some. But likely, it will seem cruel only to those who are all too used to being spoon fed by others, rather than putting forth the effort to dig in to the amazing feast that is God’s Word for themselves while it’s still so readily available.

Mat 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

While the five foolish virgins went off to buy “oil” (i.e., truth) from the peddlers of religion, the bridegroom (i.e., Christ) showed up. And the five wise virgins who were *ready* went in with Him to the wedding. And the door was shut. That’s one door you definitely don’t want shut on *you*, beloved, because not another soul will be allowed in to that wedding until after the Millennium teaching period.

The word “ready” in the above verse is translated from the Greek word *hetoimos* (i.e., Strong’s G-2092), meaning “fit through adjustment.” It’s the very same word used in Revelation 19:7, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”

Just as a new bride makes herself ready for the ceremony by having her gown properly “fit” and all of the adjustments made to it *well before the day of the ceremony*, likewise, faithful Christians must make the necessary adjustments in their personal lives, in light of their knowledge in God’s Word, in order to be considered fit for the marriage ceremony with the bridegroom.

Our wedding garment is composed, spiritually speaking, of our righteous acts on God’s behalf (Revelation 19:8) -- that is to say, our faith and the works of righteousness that flow forth from that faith. So there better *be* some. Not like the foolish virgins who were so lazy and ill-prepared they didn’t even bother to keep their lamps filled with oil against the day of the wedding, but depended upon others to supply them. As it is written of these foolish ones in Proverbs 1:7, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

The bottom line is if you want to make it into the wedding at Christ’s Second Advent, you have to be “ready” in advance. You have to know your Father’s Word. And you must be one who’s *applied* that Word to your life, making the adjustments necessary to be considered a fit virgin bride for such an illustrious Bridegroom.

Mat 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

The word “afterward” in this verse should be translated “eventually” (i.e., Strong’s G-5305). So eventually, the five foolish virgins showed up, demanding to be allowed in. They even call out to Him “Lord, Lord, open to us,” acknowledging Him as the Savior.

Mat 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

The word “verily” in this verse is translated from the Greek word most Christians end their prayers with, *amen* (i.e., Strong’s G-281). It means, “As it is,” or “That’s that.” In this case, it can simply be translated, “Surely,” or as we might say in the English language, “As a matter of fact...”

And the word “know” is translated from the Greek word *eido* (i.e., Strong’s G-1492) meaning “to perceive with the eyes” or as we’d put it in English, *to recognize*.

Here Christ tells the five foolish virgins “As a matter of fact, I say unto you *I don’t even recognize you.*”

This is the tell-all verse. Christ didn’t “know” (i.e., recognize) them, *because God’s Word was not found in them*. Sure, they were Christians. They understood “Jesus saves.” They even made their way back and tried to get into the wedding ceremony – right after Christ had arrived at the midnight hour and Satan had already been bound by Michael the archangel and thrown into the pit (Revelation 20:2), and everyone had been changed into their new spiritual bodies (I Corinthians 15:51-52). But whatever “oil” they’d purchased in the interim from the peddlers to fuel their lamps, it was not the “pure beaten oil olive,” which is to say, it was not the pure, unadulterated *truth* which flows forth from the Word of God into the minds of faithful men to light their spiritual lamps.

They couldn’t gain entrance into the wedding ceremony, *not* because they were late -- our Lord didn’t say “You’re late!” -- but instead, because they simply *didn’t qualify*. They were not recognizable as part of His many-membered body, which is His virgin bride. Being unprepared from the very start, they had gone looking for “oil” among the peddlers – the equivalent of taking your teaching from the purveyors of the empty religious traditions of man rather than from the Word of God itself. In that sense, *they’d eaten of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, in order to find their way to Christ. That of course is unacceptable. And it’s pretty much what Christians are doing *today* in their churches. As a result, these five foolish virgins were unrecognizable to Christ (i.e., “I know ye not”) as part of His many-membered body which makes up His virgin bride.

As Adam and Eve no longer qualified to live in God’s presence in the garden, thanks to Eve’s seduction and Adam’s subsequent transgression (i.e., joining in with the party, so to speak, rather than keeping and protecting his wife from seduction), so these five foolish virgins were no longer qualified to be “one” with God through His Son Jesus Christ. This is why He said, “I know you not,” or better stated “I don’t even recognize you.” He hadn’t seen their names written in the Book of Life. Instead, they were written in the “books” of Revelation 20:12 by which “the dead” are judged “according to their works.” Thank God for the Millennium teaching period, during which time many of these foolish virgins will be able to learn and demonstrate spiritual discipline and understanding, and regain their place in the eternal family household of God.

Mat 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

The word “watch” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *gregoreuo* (i.e., Strong’s G-1127), meaning to be actively vigilant, alert, ever-watchful. It’s from the root word *egeiro* (i.e., Strong’s G-1453) meaning to *rouse oneself from inactivity*, through the idea of collecting one’s faculties.

Our Lord and Savior basically says “Get your mind right and stay alert in My Word, because you could end up losing your spiritual virginity and missing the entire wedding if you’re unprepared for it as the final days of this flesh earth age unfold.” This was clearly a lesson hard-learned by the five foolish (i.e., dull, stupid, blockheaded) virgins who had to go shopping for “oil” from the peddlers of spiritual darkness because they weren’t prepared in advance when the time for the bridegroom’s arrival had finally come.

You prepare, of course, by staying in your Father’s Word each day, shunning the false religious traditions and watching with *understanding* as the prophetic events that lead up to His Second Advent come to pass. As it is written, “*Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.*” (Proverbs 7:4-5)

You keep the wisdom and understanding of God as close to you as family, for God is your closest of kin. And it’s knowledge and understanding of His Word that keeps you from the “strange woman” of false religion who “flattereth with her words” by saying you’re so special all you really need to know is “Jesus saves.”

The Crooked Stick

There’s an old saying, “You can always detect a crooked stick by laying a straight stick next to it.” But that’s only true if you’ve *got* a straight stick at hand.

The crooked stick, in this case, is representative of the false religious traditions and promises of man. And the straight stick is representative of the Word of God. In other words, you need to thoroughly understand your Father’s Word in order to be able to discern between it and the “crooked stick” of empty religious traditions being set forth by religionists *in substitution of God’s Word*.

If you don’t know your heavenly Father’s Word of truth, then you have no way of knowing you’re being deceived whenever a religious authority figure sets forth in front of you that crooked stick of empty religious traditions in place of God’s Word. Knowing your heavenly Father’s Word like you know your own family is part of the preparation process – i.e., part of the bride “making herself ready” for the spiritual wedding to come so she can be reconciled into the eternal family household of God.

If you’re unprepared – which is to say, if you do not have enough spiritual “oil” to fill your spiritual “lamp” -- you could easily end up losing your place in that most precious spiritual wedding ceremony that brings you into the eternal family household of God as His Son’s bride, meaning as part and parcel of the many-membered body of Christ.

In other words, by being unprepared you can lose your “oneness” with Christ. You’re no longer a “virgin Mary” – a spiritual virgin who nevertheless bears the Word of God in your bosom just as the Blessed Virgin Mary bore the baby Jesus in hers. Instead, you’re a “virgin Eve” – a spiritual virgin whose virginity is ultimately corrupted by false doctrine and empty religious promises, just as Eve’s virginity was spoiled by the serpent when she cast aside God’s Word in favor of the serpent’s lies, and began to bear in her bosom two distinctly different manner of children (i.e., the beginning of the Satanic system of “good and evil” on this earth).

The entire Bible is about this striking dichotomy: God and Satan. Good and evil. The wicked and the just. The faithful virgin Mary and the corrupted virgin Eve. Cain and Abel. Jacob and Esau. Two baskets of figs set before the temple of the Lord, one good and one evil. The wheat and the tares. The sheep and the goats. The good and faithful servant and the unprofitable servant. The children of the day (i.e., spiritual light) and the children of the night (i.e., spiritual darkness). The five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins. The false Jews and God’s People true Israel. The false Christ and the true Christ. The church, naïve, deceived and the church, elect, faithful and true.

All of these comparables (for lack of a better word) ultimately illustrate the sharp line of distinction that exists not just between two seed lines, but also between two saviors (i.e., the false and the true), and between *two kinds of Christians*, which is to say, those who work to know their Father’s Word as intimately as they know their own family, and those who think “Jesus saves” is all the knowledge one needs in order to be reconciled into the eternal family household of God (and therefore fall short in the end when the serpent returns pretending to be “Jesus”).

Satan had seduced Eve into believing she would bring forth *through him* the lineage that would save the world. Of course, all she brought forth through him was the lineage of Cain that works to destroy the world while claiming to be its saviors and seducing naïve Christians into its fold. It would be through her rightful husband Adam that the lineage leading to the Blessed Virgin Mary and then to Christ Jesus would be brought forth. Had Eve fully embraced God’s Word in this matter – had she made herself “ready” against the day of deception – she would have walked away from the serpent the moment he opened his mouth. But she did not. She listened to him. And she believed his flatteries and empty promises because they made her feel special. And even by the time she gave birth to Cain and Abel, after being thrust out of the garden of God and away from His presence, she still operated under the delusion she had accomplished something holy, claiming of Cain’s birth “I have gotten a man from the Lord” when it was a man from the devil, instead.

The church naïve, deceived is no different today. They think they’re the bearers of “the way, the truth and the life.” Yet they’re so taken in by the crooked stick of empty religious traditions, they can’t tell the difference between the fictitious apple in the garden and the sexual seduction in the garden used by the enemy to plant his own opposing seed line in this earth...the holy Passover of Christ Jesus and the pagan Easter of Babylonian religious tradition which God hates...the spurious “any moment now” Jesus who comes in splendor at the sound of the sixth trumpet proclaiming peace and seductively wooing Christians into following him, and the *true* Christ of God who returns to this earth at the sound of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15) to

set forth His wrath and judgment upon His enemies (Revelation 11:17-18), and to take a faithful virgin bride.

Just as Eve believed that what she bore in her womb was of the Lord, so the church believes what they bear in their bosoms, spiritually speaking, is of the Lord as well. As it is written in Proverbs 30:20, *“Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.”*

Is it any wonder then that just as mother Eve, ignorant to what she had just brought into the world, naively called out “I’ve gotten a man from the Lord” when she gave birth to Cain, so the vast majority of Christians today, in their ignorance of God’s Word and their utter spiritual naiveté, embrace the Satanic, Christ-hating *children* of Cain and insist they’re “God’s chosen” when their unrelenting and unrepentant hatred of Christ clearly proves otherwise (Revelation 2:9, Revelation 3:9).

Eve did not get Cain from the Lord any more than the *children* of Cain are “God’s chosen.” As it’s written of these two distinct seed lines in I John 3:10, *“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”* Cain was unrighteous in every aspect of his life, and murdered his own brother Abel. Cain’s descendants, too, are unrighteous in every aspect of their lives, being unrepentant haters of Christ who took great pains to arrange for His murder at the hands of the Romans, and who now seek to replace Him with their own father the devil.

The children of Cain will bring forth their substitute messiah, which is to say, their father the devil whose advent they’re preparing for even now. And unfortunately, the vast majority of the Christian church, having been led to believe “Jesus can come at any moment now,” will unwittingly embrace the false Christ of the children of Cain over their true husband Jesus Christ, just as Eve embraced the serpent over Adam, and more importantly, the serpent’s doctrine over God’s doctrine.

But God’s elect, as wise virgins, will continue to bring forth the Word of God to the world, in truth and in spirit, until the Living Word of God returns at His second advent to marry His virgin bride, take vengeance upon His enemies, and usher in the birth of a new age.

In Summary...

The fall of mankind, and the subsequent reconciliation of mankind to the family household of God, is a story that centers around two virgins.

The fall of mankind began with an act of *blatant disobedience* to God’s Word by a naïve and easily deceived virgin named Eve. That singular act of disobedience resulted in the loss of her virginity, but more importantly, in the estrangement of her entire family posterity from the garden of God -- an estrangement that could only be reconciled through blood sacrifice since her act of disobedience was directly responsible for bringing death into the world.

On the other hand, the *reconciliation* of mankind to the eternal family household of God began with an act of *faithful obedience* to God's Word by a wise and knowledgeable virgin named Mary. That singular act of obedience led to the bearing and bringing forth of the Christ child Who would later shed his blood on that cross at Calvary so that all who would believe on Him in truth and in spirit could be restored to God's eternal family household.

As it was then, so it will be again. These two virgins represent two *types* of the Christian church of the final days of this flesh earth age. One type, like Eve, could be called "the church, naïve, deceived," bearing in their bosoms (spiritually speaking) the serpent's promised "good and evil," which is to say, the vain religious traditions of man mixed with Scripture doctrine. And the other type, like Mary, could be called "the church, elect, faithful and true," rejecting the vain religious traditions of man and bearing in their bosoms, spiritually speaking, the true Word of God without spot or blemish.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of the members of the Christian church in the final days of this flesh earth age will indeed eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil when Satan returns at the sound of the sixth trumpet. As it is written in Revelation 12:9-12, when Satan arrives to this earth with his fallen angels in tow, he "deceiveth the whole world," with the notable exception, of course, of God's faithful overcomers (Revelation 12:11) who stand firmly upon His Word and refuse to bow to this false messiah. It is these faithful overcomers who will make up the virgin bride of Christ at that time, for they will not be seduced by Satan's empty religious lies.

Unfortunately, like Eve, the vast majority of the Christian church will cast aside what little knowledge of God's Word they have in favor of the empty religious promises and traditions that will be set before them by this false messiah. They already quite literally believe the children of the devil are "God's chosen." They already quite literally believe Jesus can come "at any moment now" while the Scripture is clear that the first miracle-working supernatural being who sets foot on this earth calling himself the God's Savior will in reality be that old seducing serpent himself, the devil (II Thessalonians 2:1-4).

The unfortunate truth of the matter is that when that old serpent the devil arrives to this earth proclaiming himself to be God, most Christians will unwittingly embrace him as passionately and fervently as did the virgin Eve. And thus their spiritual virginity will be spoiled, just as the five foolish virgins in Christ's parable lost their spiritual virginity in the final hours of this flesh earth age, making themselves unrecognizable to the Lord and unworthy of entry into His kingdom wedding.

Two virgins. Two types of Christians. One like Eve, naïve and deceived. One like Mary, knowledgeable, faithful and true. That's what it all boils down to. Which group are *you* part of as we count down to the final hours of this flesh earth age?

-- End --

Addendum: Let nothing in this Bible study leave a negative impression in your mind about mother Eve. The study is not meant to convey dishonor or disrespect to our mother. The

Scripture states that we are to honor our father and our mother “*that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee*” (Exodus 20:12). And Eve is indeed the mother of the Adamic peoples of this earth, of which the Bible is the story thereof. And more importantly, it was Eve’s lineage that would ultimately bring about the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, making her the *mother of all living*, which is to say, the mother of all who are in Christ Jesus, regardless of race. So for a Christian to dishonor our mother Eve is a grave sin. Let us not forget that.

Nevertheless, the Scripture also says, in regards to Bible history and to the events that happened to our People, “*Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall*” (I Corinthians 10:11). In other words, the recorded events in the Scripture are there for us as examples to learn from. They are warnings, “written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” And as such, we are to “take heed” to them, lest we fall. The Bible accounts of the forefathers exist so we can *carefully examine them*, and draw mature conclusions from them that will allow us to adjust our Christian lives accordingly.

In the great book of Ecclesiastes we learn there’s nothing new under the sun: “*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun*” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Just as deception took place in the garden at the beginning of this flesh earth age, so a great deception will take place once again at the end of this flesh earth age. It’s not a new thing. In fact, just as the serpent was the instigator of the first deception (i.e., against the virgin Eve), so he will be the instigator of the deception to come (i.e., against the virgin bride of Christ) in the final days of this flesh earth age. But God’s elect, who gain their understanding from the Scripture and from the unction of the Holy Spirit upon their minds, will stand firmly against the serpent’s deception, even under threat of death. As it is written in Revelation 12:11, “*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*”

Finally, having looked at the failings of others throughout the course of this study, it’s important to remember that there’s not a single one of us who have not failed our heavenly Father in some way or other during the course of our lifetime – sometimes, perhaps, quite miserably. It is but for the grace of God and the blessing of His Holy Spirit that we can even undertake to do a Bible study like this in an effort to gain a better understanding of His Word, particularly in regards to past events in the Bible and how those past events might relate to present and future events as we close in on the final days of this flesh earth age. It is said that a smart man learns from his own mistakes, but a wise man learns from the mistakes of others. Let us learn not only from our own mistakes, but from those of our forefathers as well.

-- End --

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