

**The Inscrutable Question: Mankind Created to Resolve Appeal Trial; Tree Mandate, Gen 2:16-17; Punishment for Fall: Serpent, Gen 3:14**

- 27- Those who chose to remain loyal to God are called the elect angels. Those who chose to continue in a state of rebellion with Lucifer are called the fallen angels.
- 28- The appeal trial was convened so that man, created lower than the angels but with equal free will, could demonstrate before the court whether he would remain loyal to God or be coaxed into rebellion by satanic propaganda.
- 29- The genius of God's plan can be seen in the fact that the human race was created (1) lower than the angels, (2) without eternal life, and (3) individually, not collectively.
- 30- Adam and Ishah were perfect people who had perfect life but not eternal life. The only attribute they possessed that was equal to the angels was free will. And rather than creating the human race all at once as He did the angels, God started out with only two individuals.
- 31- On the other hand, the angels were all created simultaneously, they do not procreate among themselves, and they all were imputed eternal life at the moment of their creation.
- 32- This means that for the angels sin must originate from their own free will as was first demonstrated by Lucifer when he decided to challenge divine authority and seize control of the heavenly government.
- 33- The original sin of Lucifer, nor the decision by one-third of his fellow angels to join his rebellion, resulted in a loss of salvation. Angels are not saved. They are created with eternal life. The issue with angels had to do with authority orientation and loyalty.
- 34- All the angels were servants of God prior to Lucifer's fall. Afterward Lucifer by means of his Five Assertions recruited one third of the angels to join him in his effort to wrest control away from God over to himself.
- 35- We have studied how God allowed this rebellion to proceed until the lines were finally drawn. A trial was held and those who chose to remain with Lucifer were condemned to the lake of fire.
- 36- Lucifer appealed the decision and a new trial was granted but with new witnesses required. These new witnesses are the human race beginning with Adam and Ishah.
- 37- Their volition had to be offered a challenge which was found in the negative mandate of:

**Genesis 2:16 - And the Lord God commanded the man saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;**

**v. 17 - but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it, dying spiritually you shall die physically."**
- 38- When the woman was deceived into eating the forbidden fruit and when Adam knowingly ate it, they both died spiritual death. Created trichotomous they suddenly were transformed into dichotomous beings minus the human spirit. They lost their perfect life and faced the inevitability of physical death.
- 39- Adam and Ishah never had eternal life. Their perfect life would have enabled them to live indefinitely in the perfect environment of the garden and have fellowship with God. But it would never have allowed them to leave the environs of plant earth and enjoy fellowship with God in heaven.
- 40- God knew that if some of the angels, superior creatures to Homo sapiens, used their free will to sin, then mankind, equal to them only with free will would also sin.

- 41- Until he sinned, Adam was federal head of the human race and planet earth. Following his sin Adam forfeited his rulership back over to Lucifer who assumed he had at that point won the appeal trial. He had not. The formal phase of the appeal trial now allowed Satan to present his argument for the defense.
- 42- But at the same time, God's genius plan was revealed to man in the form of the promise of salvation through the volitional decision to believe in the "Seed of the woman," the coming Messiah.
- 43- The resolution of the angelic conflict became apparent through the sentencing of the guilty and the promise of salvation. For that we turn to Genesis 3:14-19.

**Genesis 3:14** - And the Lord said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle and more than every beast of the field; on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life."

- 1. Since the serpent was Satan's agent in deceiving the woman, it must be judged. It was the most captivating of all the animal kingdom and its curse was to be reduced to crawling about on the ground eating dust.
- 2. The serpent is capable of striking man but only on his lower extremities but man can crush the head of the serpent as he crawls in the dust. The sentence of the serpent is the first act by the Lord in His discipline of the culprits in the Garden.
- 3. The promise of salvation to mankind cannot be understood without the curse of the serpent, therefore his punishment comes first.
- 4. Please also note that the serpent was judged before the Lord presented the plan of salvation. Lucifer has already been judged although HIS sentence has been delayed by the appeal trial. Both Satan and the serpent are judged before the plan for human salvation is presented.
- 5. Thus the promise of salvation is not even presented to Satan or his serpentine agent. It is for the human race only. The introduction of the means by which salvation will be appropriated to the human race comes next in:

**Genesis 3:15** - "I will put enmity between you [ Lucifer ] and the woman [ true humanity ], and between your seed [ unregenerate mankind ] and her seed [ the Messiah in the Incarnation ]; it [ the Seed: Messiah ], shall crush your head [ the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ at the Second Advent ], and you shall bruise His heel [ spiritual death caused by the imputation of all human sins and their subsequent judgment ]."