

CHAPTER 9

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD WE LIVE IN (e²)

"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).

The Creator's Handbook (the Bible) reveals that we live in two worlds, a natural, physical world which we contact with the five physical senses and an invisible, spiritual world which we contact with a sixth sense, a sense called faith (Hebrews 11:1). It also reveals that the unseen spiritual world is inhabited by spiritual beings called angels—the angels of God who dwell in heaven and do God's will, (Psalms 103:19-22) and the angels of Satan who were cast out of heaven (Ezekiel 28:11-19). These spiritual beings have the ability to influence human beings, and we are admonished to resist the influence of evil spirits (1 Peter 5:8&9). The spiritual world, while invisible to our physical senses, existed before the physical world, which is temporary, and is more real than the physical world because it is eternal (Romans 1:20; 2 Corinthians 4:18).

Because people are not familiar with the Bible, they often blame God for sickness, the death of loved ones, poverty, and natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. But poverty, sickness, death and natural disasters are the result of the fall of mankind, and their author is Satan. When mankind fell in the Garden of Eden, Satan became the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). His evil rule resulted in a curse upon the earth, a curse which eventually caused God to bring a worldwide flood, a cataclysmic event that destabilized the very foundations of the earth and brought natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods on the earth. The source of many of mankind's problems can be clearly seen in the book of Job. Satan caused the Sabeans to kill Job's servants and steal his oxen and donkeys; he caused fire to fall from heaven and consume Job's servants and his sheep; he caused a great wind to destroy Job's older son's house, and kill all his sons and daughters; and he caused the Chaldeans to kill his servants and steal his camels (Job 1:13-19). Jesus clearly describes Satan as "the thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy" (John 10:10). When hurricanes, earthquakes, and plagues strike the earth, people often use the term "the judgment of God" to describe these events, but most biblical judgment is simply the inevitable, built-in consequences of man's sin and separation from God, which forces God to remove His hand of protection and allow Satan to unleash his fury upon mankind.

MANY CHRISTIANS ARE THEISTIC EVOLUTIONISTS

Many in the western world who consider themselves Christian are confused concerning the origin of life and the world in which we live. For nearly a century now the "Theory of Evolution" has been taught in our schools and universities not as a theory, but as a proven fact; but that theory stands in direct opposition to the description of creation revealed in the Bible. Because of our educational bias toward evolution, many (like I once was), have become "theistic evolutionists"; that is, they believe that God used evolution to create the universe and everything in it. By believing in at least some aspects of evolution they are able to gain scientific respectability, and also satisfy an inward belief that there must be a God. But reinterpreting scripture to make it compatible with evolution contradicts most Old Testament writers, all New Testament writers and Jesus Christ Himself, and will produce a weak faith which cannot bring the power of heaven to earth to work on your behalf.

THEORY OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN

As pointed out in the last chapter, science, for the most part, has embraced the atheistic and materialistic approach to creation; they have adopted Darwin's Theory of Evolution which offers only a mechanical explanation of the universe and the world that we live in. They believe that man is a cosmic accident the result of thousands of linked events, any one of which could have occurred differently and eliminated the evolution of man as we know him.

But during the latter part of the twentieth century, a significant number of scientists have become extremely doubtful that the Theory of Evolution can explain the origins of life, and this theory is being rapidly overtaken by that of Intelligent Design. Many of the leading scientists

have concluded that “the world we live in” is so complex and intricately interwoven that it cannot possibly be explained without a creator, an Intelligent Designer.

But science will never be able to locate this Intelligent Designer because He is a spirit; therefore He cannot be contacted through man’s central nervous system or his physical senses. When mankind committed treason in the Garden, he died spiritually; he became separated from his Creator, and he is no longer able to communicate with God who is a spirit. If mankind is to understand creation, then the Creator must reveal Himself to mankind.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

In order to exercise the spiritual laws which are described in other chapters of this book, it will be helpful, if not necessary, to understand what the Bible has to say about the following five biblical events: 1) why the universe was created; 2) how that creation became separated from its Creator; 3) why the Creator found it necessary to destroy His creation through a worldwide flood; 4) why the Creator made a covenant with a Hebrew named Abraham; and 5) why the Creator sent His Son Jesus Christ to the earth.

THE REASON FOR THE EARTH IS MAN

The Manufacturer’s Handbook is the Creator’s revelation of Himself and his creation to mankind. It was not written in the scientific language of our day; it was written in a simple but descriptive language that would transcend time. In Genesis, the first chapter of that Handbook, the Creator describes the origin of the universe, the origin of the solar system, the origin of the atmosphere, the waters above the earth, the waters under the earth, the origin of life, the origin of humanity, the origin of evil, the origin of language, government, culture and religion. It further declares that the earth is the reason for the universe (Genesis 1:14-19), and that mankind is the reason for the earth, for after God created man His creative activities ceased (Genesis 1:26-2:2).

UNDERSTANDING THE CREATION OF MAN

On the sixth day God created man; He made him in His own image and His own likeness; He made him an eternal spirit so that man could communicate and fellowship with Him (Genesis 1:26). He formed a physical body for man from the elements of the earth (Gen. 2:7), so that man could function in the physical world. Then He breathed His Spirit into man and man became a living soul with a mind, a will, and emotions that allowed him to operate independently in the physical world (Genesis 2: 7 & 1 Corinthians 15:45). When God breathed His Spirit into man, He gave him a measure of His faith, just as He does today, when a man or woman becomes born again (Romans 12:3). When God made mankind, he designed him in His image to be His earthly king, to take dominion and reign over His earthly creation (Genesis 1:27-28). Eden was a realm in which Adam, as God’s earthly under ruler, imitated God, where Adam walked by faith and “called those things which do not exist as though they did” (Romans 4:17- 22), and his faith gave substance to his hope (Hebrews 11:1 NEB).

GOD, THE FATHER, DESIRED SONS AND DAUGHTERS

God was revealed as the King of glory or the King of heaven in the Old Testament, (Daniel 4:37 & Psalms 24:7), but when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to the earth He revealed the father nature and the love nature of God (Matthew 6:6-13 & 1 John 4: 8 & 16). It was His love nature that motivated the King of heaven to desire sons and daughters with whom he could share His love. He created mankind in His image, the image of a King, with the ability to reign over the earth as His earthly under-ruler. The King of heaven desired to extend His heavenly spiritual kingdom to an earthly physical kingdom by delegating His authority over the earth to His sons and daughters.

GOD GAVE MEN A FREE WILL

From the beginning He wanted sons, not servants; therefore he gave mankind a free will because He wanted His earthly children to love Him, fellowship with Him, and obey Him out of love and affection, not out of obligation or compulsion. Even though God’s spirit dwelt in Adam to guide and help him, he was free to choose whom he would love and obey. God’s original plan was to create a family to whom He could relate as a father—a family of sons and

daughters whom He could guide by His Spirit to extend His spiritual kingdom in heaven to His physical kingdom on the earth.

EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD MADE WAS EXCELLENT

"...And God saw that everything that He had made was very good" (Genesis 1:31). It was excellent! It was excellent because there was no poverty, sickness, or death in the earth; these curses had no place in God's original plan for creation. But Adam found no one among the creation that was a suitable companion for him, so God took flesh and bone from Adam's side and made a woman whom He called Eve, and she became Adam's wife. Then God blessed Adam and Eve and gave them every herb and tree that bears fruit to eat, with one prohibition: they were forbidden to eat of the tree of "Knowledge of Good and Evil." God warned Adam..."in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

THE EARTH WAS PERFECT UNTIL MAN COMMITTED TREASON

The earth was a perfect place until a fallen angel named Satan tempted Adam and Eve to doubt God's word and eat of the forbidden tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan said to Eve, "You will not surely die for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and gave some of it to her husband Adam and he also ate of it. Mankind had disobeyed the only prohibition which their Creator had given to them (Genesis 3:1-7). Adam, God's earthly king, obeyed Satan; he committed treason, and in so doing he turned the legal authority of God's earthly kingdom over to Satan. When Adam obeyed Satan, he became Satan's slave (Romans 6:16), and Satan became the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). When Adam sinned, the spirit of faith, the nature of God, departed from Adam. He became spiritually dead; his spirit became separated from the Spirit of God (Genesis 2:17). Satan, a fallen angel, became mankind's spiritual father (John 8:44), and consequently the spirit of fear, the nature of Satan, entered into mankind. Adam's first words after he sinned were: "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid."

MAN LOST HIS KINGDOM

When man sinned, he lost his kingdom and became a slave to Satan, a cruel dictator. Man was no longer a citizen of the kingdom of God, and he had been expelled from the spiritual realm, from the faith realm; now he had to rely solely on his human abilities. He then had to work with his mind and his body in order to survive. Mankind was under a curse (Genesis 3:17-19). The "kingdom of God" in the earth had been replaced by the "kingdom of darkness"! Satan became the god of this world, and he continues to rule that kingdom by blinding the eyes of men so they cannot see God (2 Corinthians. 4:4). The whole earth is under the sway of the evil one (1 John 5:19); it is filled with poverty, sickness and death. Because of sin, mankind became separated from God, and he was under a curse. Mankind, who was created to rule the earth, had turned over his kingship to a cruel dictator, and the Spirit of God could no longer dwell in men. He could not help himself; he was in need of a liberator, a redeemer.

GOD IMMEDIATELY INITIATES A PLAN TO SET MANKIND FREE

Immediately after Adam and Eve committed treason, God confronted Satan, mankind's deceiver, with the following words: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15). The God of heaven looked into the future and proclaimed that a specific man, born of a specific woman, would deliver Satan a fatal blow! Satan would wound the man, but the man would conquer Satan! This prophetic statement by the **King of heaven** announced His plan for the redemption of mankind and the future restoration of the kingdom of heaven to the earth.

The Old Testament is the unfolding story of God's plan to redeem mankind from the curse, and to restore the kingdom of heaven in the earth. While Satan did not have a full understanding of God's plan to redeem mankind, he knows that if he is to prevail he must control the mind of fallen man, and he must eliminate the knowledge of God in the earth.

GOD BRINGS A WORLDWIDE FLOOD

Nearly 1700 years after mankind committed treason in the Garden, the human race had become so utterly wicked that the knowledge of God was nearly eliminated from the earth (Genesis 6:5-7). Only one man, Noah, still served God (Genesis 6:8&9). In order for a righteous line of men to be maintained in the earth through which God at the right time in history could bring forth the promised redeemer, He was forced to destroy that entire wicked generation. God revealed to Noah that he planned to destroy mankind through a great flood, and gave him instructions for the building of an enormous ship, an ark, by which he, his family, and a male and female of every living thing that breathed air, would be saved from the destruction of the flood (Genesis 6:18 & 19; Genesis 7:13-15).

The biblical description of the flood in the book of Genesis describes it rather briefly, it does not describe the cataclysmic changes that will forever effect and destabilize the very foundations of the earth and bring future disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods upon the earth. "...in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights" (Genesis 7:11-12). The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth... The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered (Genesis 7:17&20). "And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days" (Genesis 7:24). *Notice that the flood was actually on the earth for over a year.

Dr. Walt Brown, a creation scientist and author of the book *In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*, describes the violent changes that occurred in the earth, its atmosphere, and indeed in the physical universe itself at the time of the flood:

"The flood begins suddenly with all the fountains of the great deep busting open on one day. "Geshem rain" begins. (Genesis 7:11) - Rupture phase: A crack propagates around the earth in 2-3 hours, releasing subterranean water, fountains of muddy water jet high above the earth. Mammoths are frozen in supercold, muddy hail falling from above the atmosphere. The highest velocity water escapes earth and forms comets. Launched rocks become asteroids and meteoroids. - 40 days and 40 nights of Geshem rain" ends (Genesis 7:4, 12) - Flood Phase: Rising waters blanket and suppress the high jetting fountains of the great deep. Animals and plants are buried in sediment from muddy water. - Flood waters rose until the 150th day when they covered all pre-flood mountains. (Genesis 7:19-24) High -pressure water continues to gush up into the flood waters. Liquefaction sorts sediments and dead plants and animals. Salt domes, coal, and oil begin forming. Continental-Drift Phase: Mid-Atlantic Ridge buckles up; Atlantic floor rises and western Pacific subsides, so the hydroplates accelerate downhill, sliding on a layer of lubricating water. When the massive hydroplates decelerate, they are crushed, thickened, buckled, and heated in a gigantic compression event. Overthrusting occurs in some places. 150th Day: A wind passes over the earth. Waters begin to subside. Ark lands on the mountains of Ararat. (Genesis 8:1-4) Continents take on present shape. As major mountains form, air is displaced, causing a great wind. The earth slowly rolls 35° - 45°, and the poles shift. 150th - 371st Day: Passengers remain on the Ark; Recovery Phase: Hostile environment: earthquakes, inner earth heated, oceanic trenches and methane hydrates form, flood basalts and volcanoes erupt, water drains, continents shift, vegetation reestablished, and Ice Age begins. Lowered sea level facilitates land migration and allows the formation of tablemounts and submarine canyons. Plateaus form. Large continental canyons form by dam breaching 371st Day: Ark off-loaded (Genesis 8:15-19)" (1).

The destabilization of the very foundations of the earth that occurred as a result of the flood still affects the earth to this day.

GOD RE-ESTABLISHES HIS COVENANT WITH MANKIND

Four hundred years after the Flood, the most important event in human history until the birth of Christ took place. God established a covenant with a Hebrew named Abraham. He cut a Blood Covenant of Friendship with Abraham and his seed (Genesis 15:7-18). That covenant meant that everything that Abraham owned was God's, and everything that God owned was Abraham's if either needed the other's assistance. That covenant, which we call the Abrahamic Covenant, is important to us Christians because it is the legal foundation upon which we may receive the blessings of Abraham (prosperity, healing, and eternal life) by faith (Galatians 3:14). Because this covenant is so important, we have included a detailed description of it in the next chapter of this book.

THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM PRESERVED THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

For another two thousand years after God made the covenant with Abraham, He used the descendants of Abraham, the Hebrew nation of Israel, to preserve the knowledge of God in the earth. He protected the Israelites from harm, He provided for them during times of famine, He delivered them from slavery in Egypt, and He gave them the Law of the Covenant and a system of sacrifices to cover their sin if they broke the law. He did all this in order that he might preserve them as a righteous remnant, through whom in the fullness of time He might bring the promised Redeemer into the earth (Psalms 105:7-45; Ephesians 1:10). God used the physical descendants of Abraham to maintain the knowledge of God on the earth until the Seed of Abraham, the Christ (Galatians 3:16), would appear to redeem mankind from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13), and so that the Gentiles in Christ Jesus (Christians) might also receive the blessings of Abraham through faith (Galatians 3:14).

JESUS, THE PROMISED REDEEMER, RE-ESTABLISHES THE KINGDOM

At just the right time in history, the King of heaven sent His Son Jesus Christ to re-establish His kingdom in the earth. *"...When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons".* And because we are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. (Galatians 4:4-6). Jesus Christ was born of a woman, thus he was a man; but the woman was not impregnated by the seed of a man, but by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:30-38). Therefore Jesus Christ was a man, but he was not born of a natural generation. He was not a descendant of Adam, and therefore was not under the dominion of Satan. Christ walked on earth with the authority of a man (Mark 2:10), yet as a man who was without sin—a man who could legally pay the penalty for mankind's transgression, a man who conquered Satan (Colossians 2:15), and a man who delegated His victory to every man who would believe in Him (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18). Christ redeemed mankind from the curse of the law (paid the price for mankind's sin), so that the blessing of Abraham might come upon him through faith (Galatians 3:13-14). By believing that Christ, who knew no sin, became sin for us, we become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

IS GOD CAUSING YOUR PROBLEMS?

When reading the Creator's Handbook, an individual can readily become confused if he does not judge what he reads about God in the Old Testament by what Jesus said about God in the New Testament. For instance, the Old Testament describes the curses that would come upon the Israelites if they did not obey the voice of the Lord (Deuteronomy 28:15-68) as follows: "The Lord will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke...(verse 20). The Lord will make the plague cling to you...(verse 21). And The Lord will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation ...(verse 22). These curses are referred to in Galatians 3:13-14 as the "curse of the law"; they lead us to believe that God Himself puts sickness, plagues, drought, calamity and the other curses mentioned in the Old Testament upon His people. If God is the one who puts sickness on people, as is implied in these Old Testament verses, then why does the New Testament say that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38)? If God is the one who puts sickness on people, then Jesus the Son of God spent His entire earthly ministry healing the sick and destroying the works of Satan. Obviously something is wrong here. I believe the answer lies in an explanation given by Dr. Robert Young, author of Young's Concordance, in his out-of-print book entitled *Hints to Bible Interpretation*. In that book, Dr. Young states that in the original Hebrew manuscripts, the verb was in the permissive sense

rather than the causative sense. In other words these verses should have been translated the **Lord will permit these curses to come upon you**. Dr. Young's explanation has settled the issue for me. I believe that you must also settle this issue if you want to develop strong faith, because if you believe that it is God who is causing your problems, it will be harder for you to develop faith, the type of faith required to get you out of the problem.

If we sin and violate God's spiritual laws, we get out from under the protection of God, and He will permit the devil to attack us. It is the same with fear. Fear is not from faith. While we may not understand it, if we allow fear to dominate our thinking, we are in sin. The Bible says fear is sin (Romans 14:23), and fear will stifle your faith and allow the enemy of your soul to wreak havoc in your life.

Such was the case with Job, for he was walking in great fear, which allowed Satan to bring calamity upon his life. "For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me." (Job 3:25).

SATAN'S STRATEGY IS TO BLIND GOD'S PEOPLE

Satan's strategy has been to blind God's people with a false and misleading philosophy concerning the stewardship of property and material things—a philosophy which condemns material prosperity as a worldly pursuit that hinders one's spiritual development. Satan wants the Christian to reject the wealth of the material world and the stewardship of it because he wants it for himself and his kingdom. The result of this philosophy in the Christian world has been a lack of finances—finances to help those in need as well as to proclaim the Good News of our redemption throughout the world. It has prevented the heathen, godless nations that Satan holds in captivity from hearing the Good News that Christ has redeemed them from the curse.

SATAN IS THE GOD OF THE WORLD FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Make no mistake about it: Satan has a monopoly on the world's financial system (Matthew 4:8&9). Mankind motivated by satanic greed will do almost anything to gain worldly wealth. Man is so avaricious that every conceivable law has been passed to safeguard men from each other. The newspapers and the television screens are full of men who have been caught circumventing these laws in order to increase their financial statements with millions of dollars in unearned wealth.

THE SILVER AND THE GOLD BELONG TO GOD

But throughout the scriptures, God declares Himself to be the rightful owner of the earth and all its riches. "for the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness" (1 Cor.10:26; Psalms 24:1; Psalms 50:12). "'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:8). The earth's riches are God's because He made them; they belong to Him even though they are not presently in His possession. In the remaining pages of this book, I will share with you some of the strategies and weapons that God has given to you and me to take back our portion of those riches for use them to expand the kingdom of God on the earth.

(1) Excerpt from Table 21. Comparison of Biblical Chronology with Major Events of the Hydroplate Theory – from the book *In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood* (7th Edition) by Dr. Walt Brown. Copyright © 1995-2007, Center for Scientific Creation. All rights reserved.)