

The background of the entire image is a deep blue, starry night sky filled with numerous small, bright white stars of varying sizes. In the center of the image is a large, glowing blue planet. The planet has a bright, white ring around its equator, which is illuminated from behind, creating a soft, white glow that fades into the blue of the planet's surface. The planet's surface is a gradient of blue, from a lighter, almost white glow at the top to a darker blue at the bottom.

The Greatest Story Ever Told

The Sapphire Planet

Harold Sykes

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ASCRIBE PUBLICATIONS

— Matt. 13:44-52 —

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“The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.” (Isaiah 54:10-11)

Planet earth, the precious blue gem that stands out so strikingly in the necklace of planets that orbit the sun. The origin story and destiny of this small, yet valuable jewel is the most spectacular narrative imaginable. If you have ever been fascinated by the myriad of motion pictures, comic books, and other entertainment mediums, which tell of an intergalactic conflict, that eventually draws in mankind, or ends up playing out upon the field of earth, then you will find the truth more captivating than the fiction.

At the very least every citizen on planet earth can agree that our past and present history is full of affliction and suffering, with nations being “tossed by the tempest” of war. Widows, parents, and families “not comforted” after the tragic, and often brutal loss of loved ones. Analyze the dismal history of these incidents as often as you will, but the underlying cause cannot be ascertained by the examination of mere surface events. Only an investigation of the invisible influences that steer and move the thoughts and motives of humanity, can reveal the true malignity at work.

Sadly the one instrument necessary to conduct such a thorough investigation is often cast aside as an unreliable tool. But time will prove the accuracy of this device when

used according to the instructions given. This device of course is the Scriptures of the word of God. When used to study the history of earth under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it reveals precise answers, and profound insights that cannot be discovered through any other source.

The Scriptures are the microscope which magnifies the events lost to view in the recent and distant past, and the telescope that opens to view events in the close and distant future. The Scripture are the Divine disclosure in which the invisible Deity makes Himself known, while unmasking the true antagonist plaguing humanity with storms of war and sorrow.

As we turn the pages of Scripture, and set its objective lens to magnify the origin of the earth, we come face to face with a Being of immense power beyond the scope of any vocabulary to adequately describe. As we carefully examine this enhanced view of the details however, we find that the creation account in Genesis chapter one, is specific and local to the earth and a certain distance of space surrounding it.

Scattered details connected to the time in which the earth was created, reveal that there were many sentient beings present to witness it. Which makes it clear that they existed, before the earth was made. Consider the following Scriptures, and the questions posed by God, and the mention of sentient beings who celebrated His display of power.

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7)

God speaking of His work of creation, using the poetic imagery of a master builder, says when He “laid the foundations of the earth,” there existed beings who were present called “the morning stars” and “the sons of God,” who celebrated what they witnessed with song and shouting.

So though the Scriptures only approximate the history of man on earth to be a mere six thousand years, it in no way alludes that the entire universe itself was created within that time frame. On the contrary, the Scriptures portray that there existed life and order elsewhere in the universe, long before the “Sapphire planet” was brought upon the stage of action.

How long before, is not at all brought into view by turning the pages of Scripture, but ponder the following thought. We reckon time on planet earth based on the rotations and orbits of heavenly bodies created in Genesis chapter one. If the universe existed before that time (which it did), by what much larger rotations was time measured? The answer if it could be known, would surely be staggering considering what has been revealed of the immense power God, and would surely give a whole new perspective to one of the titles by which God is called, “The Ancient of Days” (Daniel 7:9).

“ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

This beginning is a reference to mankind’s beginnings, and these heavens, are not the heavens where God dwells, but the sky where the birds fly, and earth’s local solar system and perhaps the milky way galaxy. This becomes clear as the creation account continues, and the word “heavens” is clarified by specific details.

“And God made the firmament... And God called the firmament Heaven... And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night;

and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:... And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day; and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth... And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.” (Genesis 1:7-8, 14-17, 20)

So clearly the only “heavens” described as being created in Genesis chapter one is the firmament where the birds fly, and the immediate galactic system where the “two great lights” (the sun and the moon) exist.

These lights (planets, moons, and stars) where to “divide,” that is “measure” “day and night” and “days and years,” which means the concept of time we have is unique, or “relative” to our situation in the universe. Whereas God, and the beings who exist outside of the rotations of these physical objects, have an entirely different concept of time as we know it.

Other considerations of the details of the creation account, reveal why the limits of certain methods of dating the age of objects, make their findings unreliable.

“And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so... And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so... And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so... And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:.. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:9, 11, 24, 26-27)

These details reveal to us, that everything God created, was brought forth in a state of maturity the day it was made. “The dry land” was brought forth with geological layers intact. “The grass, the herbs, and the trees were not started from seeds. Trees bore fruit from the very day they were made. God created a mature “man” and not a baby. On the day man was made, physical observation and examination of His anatomy and physiology, would have calculated Adam to be decades old, but in reality he would be far younger.

What if the trees were dated by the number of rings present, or by the present length of time a tree grows to fruit bearing age and capacity? What if the geology was measured immediately after God brought it into existence, by the processes and time in which we see the formation of layers today? Would not our methods of calculation prove faulty?

Some may try to harmonize things by assuming the days were symbolic of long periods, but the Scripture record is clear.

“...the evening and the morning were the first day... the evening and the morning were the second day... the evening and the morning were the third day.” (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13)

“Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” (Psalm 33:8-9)

The complexity and reliable order of the universe by which we set our clocks and watches, the overwhelming exhibition of power gaudily displayed at every turn from the microscopic atom, to the incomprehensible stellar galaxy, is not the work of random chance, or a chaotic miracle. It is the

brilliant design of the only true God, who's work may be denied, but cannot be ignored.

“Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;” (Isaiah 44:24)

“To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.” (Isaiah 40:25-26)

The perfect order of all things in the natural world, is to reveal to “intelligent beings,” that an Intelligent Being produced the complicated sciences and mathematics by which it is governed, as a reflection of His wisdom and power. It is to God that the inhabitants of the Sapphire planet of earth, owe their origins and their existence.

“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.” (Isaiah 45:18)”

But what of all the sorrow and suffering, and confusion of war?

“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace..” (1 Corinthians 14:33)

The origin of war on our planet cannot be traced to the God who created the earth in bountiful beauty, and pronounced everything “very good.” To discover the source of this tragedy, we need to turn the lens back to those sentient beings that existed prior to earth's creation, and

scrutinize these entities called “the morning stars” and “the sons of God.”

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7)

Though it is clear that no man could have existed, before the planet he was brought forth from was created, it is also clear that there were other orders of beings who did exist. We will discuss the titles by which they are called, in the sequence in which they were mentioned, beginning with “the morning stars.”

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand...The seven stars are the angels..” (Revelation 1:20)

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon...And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth... And the great dragon was cast out...into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:3-4, 9)

The Scriptures quoted above serve the dual purpose of identifying “the mornings stars” as “the angels of heaven,” while at the same time opening to our view the origin of the very first conflict to take place in the universe, which we see was transferred to earth.

The word “angel” is a generic word which simply means “messenger” or “one who is sent by another.” It can be applied to any order of being from heaven or earth who is sent with a message. It has become synonymous with the order of beings known for their wings and bright shining appearance, because their chief function is to carry messages from God to whomever they are sent. The unique titles of their orders are revealed in Scripture as cherubim and

seraphim. The prophet Ezekiel records the extra-terrestrial vision of his close encounter with these beings who are not of this world.

“..as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God... Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.” “And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.” (Ezekiel 1:1, 5-6; 10:15)

Ezekiel saw cherubim which he testified had four wings. Isaiah when given a view of the throne room of God saw seraphim, which had six wings.

“I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.” (Isaiah 6:1-2)

This is a brief explanation of “the morning stars,” but what of “the sons of God?” Very little is revealed about this order of beings, so most take it as another title given to the “morning stars” who were present at the creation of the earth. This is chiefly because in the book of Job, when “the sons of God” presented themselves before God, satan also appears among them. However, careful inspection of the encounter, and the dialogue between satan and God, provides another perspective, which begins to unveil the mystery of the conflict playing out upon the stage of earth.

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going

to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” (Job 1:6-7)

Satan is of the order of beings called cherubim. It speaks of him in Ezekiel...

“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God..” (Ezekiel 28:14) (For greater details of the origins of satan, see part 2 of this series, “Sworn Adversary To All Nations”)

This fact leads most to conclude, if satan is cherub, and he was among the sons of God when they presented themselves before God, then the sons of God must also be of the same of order of beings. This is of course a reasonable conclusion, if you assume satan belonged at the meeting. The way God addressed him, “Whence comest thou?” is by implication saying “What are you doing here, you don’t belong.” True satan would not belong at any meeting of loyal beings of any order, but his answer states why he believes, he has a right to be at a meeting of the “sons of God.”

Satan answers the question, “Whence comest thou?” By saying, “From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” In other words, “I’m here to represent the interest of planet earth, my stomping grounds where I rule.”

The “morning stars” are called “stars” because of their position above the “sons of God” who have a lower station in the order of things. Paul writes about the various degrees of glory that will be seen after the resurrection God’s people...

“There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.” (1 Corinthians 15:40)

These things are deep insights into the honor and glory of the various orders of beings God created. There is a glory of the celestial “morning stars,” and there is a glory of the terrestrial “sons of God.” Let us consider the title which was given Adam the first man created upon earth.

“Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.” (Luke 3:38)

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands.” (Psalm 8:4-6)

Consider the following verses of scripture as it relates to the angels of heaven and the title of “son.”

“For unto which of the angels said he (God) at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?” (Hebrews 1:5).

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..” (1 John 3:1).

Had Adam not lost his dominion to Lucifer, in being convinced to sin by transgression of God’s law, He would never have died, and would have been the representative of planet earth when the “sons of God” came to present themselves to the Lord.

The “sons of God” are the representatives of other inhabited worlds that exist, which never fell into sin and

rebellion by satan's temptations. Earth, the Sapphire planet, was the only planet which satan was able to conquer and subdue. Because satan overcame Adam, and continued to conquer his offspring, he claimed rulership of the earth, and the right to appear in the presence of the Lord with the "sons of God," where the interest of the planets are discussed.

This Sapphire planet was created after the rebellion of Lucifer. This is why immediately after the creation of earth, satan could already be present in the garden of Eden working through the medium of the serpent. Humanity was to be a very unique order of beings, unlike any other in existence. They are terrestrial warriors brought forth from the dust earth, destined by the ordinance of God to defeat the fallen order of celestial beings now known as devils. This battle however cannot be won by physical war, it is a war of principles. In a nutshell, selfless love vs selfishness.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

Satan imperceptibly fills the hearts and minds of men with the same lack of trust in God that actuates his own motives. By keeping humanity surrounded and bombarded with merchandise to cultivate covetousness, lustful desire, and violence, he conditions mankind from their childhood to become his aggressive ally. By casting off the law of God, and the principles of love enshrouded in it, unrestricted ambition is allowed to seek by any means necessary the coveted object. As a result, all who are actuated by the spirit of satan employ dark strategies which range from deception to violence as a means of obtaining their selfish desires. This is the reality referred to in the Scripture...

"...ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (satan), the

spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:2)

The Sapphire planet of earth, does not project the color “blue” by accident. The Creator’s choice of color which bands arounds its circumference has very deep significance.

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments... and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: ...that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes (Num. 15:38-39)

The color of the Sapphire planet, is to be a reminder of the commandments of the Lord, and to deter us from seeking after our own hearts (selfishness), and our own eyes (covetousness). It is a perpetual token to prompt those who receive wisdom from God, that though satan has heisted this beautiful blue jewel, the true owner has not abandoned it.

“Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool...” (Isaiah 66:1)

“And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. (Exodus 24:10)

The God of heaven, has not forgotten, nor forsaken, this precious Sapphire jewel called earth, which stands out so strikingly in the necklace of planets that orbit the sun. To reclaim that which was lost, the Sovereign Father, sent forth the Beloved Son to conquer and overcome.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)

“The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.” (Isaiah 54:10-11)

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” (Isaiah 65:17)

Satan and his celestial army of fallen angels work feverishly to distract the human family from the unseen realities of their existence. Pain, suffering, and war, are powerful weapons of distraction, when deception, sinful pleasure, and blissful ignorance fail to divert the attention.

Will you take the simple step of asking God to give you the Holy Spirit to guide you into all the truth of the Bible, and investigate to determine if the things you have just read are true?

Yes? _____

“These were more noble...in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11)

Or No? _____

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)



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