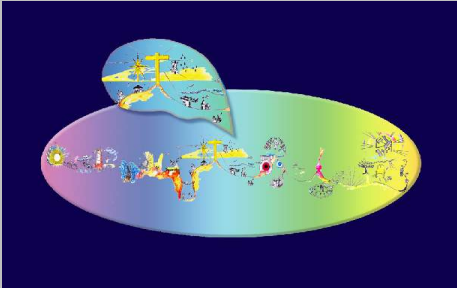


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MAY 2005

NO 115



Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

E-mail:
information@huldahministry.com



HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

[LUCIFER'S AND HIS ANGELS' FALL]

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

ISAIAH14:12~15.

The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adored you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and Mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.

EZEKIEL28:11~19.

As Daniel was prophetically informed about the end times: ***‘Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge’ (Daniel 12:4)***, so today we are able to witness the amazing ways in which the validity of biblical statements is being confirmed by the ever increasing scientific knowledge. A whole spectrum of geological evidence derived from examination of fossil beds, fossil graveyards, the earth’s unique strata of its outer crust, the earth’s magnet, coal, oil reservoirs and the ice age, is revealing that the prevailing evolutionary uniformitarian idea of the gradual establishment of earth over a billion years is unable to correctly interpret what has been inscribed on and in the earth, i.e., earth history. Instead, earth history fits more nicely with the occurrence of a worldwide mountain-covering catastrophic Flood (of Noah’s days).

Thus, fossils which are remains of the living, speak of a ‘sudden’ death; the large-scale fossilisation as we see today simply does not occur under ordinal conditions and under natural decaying and decomposing processes. They provide evidence of a sudden extinction caused by God’s judgment, precisely as Scripture explains. This death which resulted in affecting all kinds of creatures began only after man’s Fall as a consequence of sin. Of course, true faith in the infallible and unchanging Word of God won’t be shaken by any traditional and historical theories of science even if they seemingly contradict scriptural statements. At the same time, the Word in itself does not require historical, archaeological and scientific confirmations to prove its authenticity. However, such confirmations no doubt provide us with some sense of intellectual satisfaction.

Scripture supports the theory of direct creation by God, followed by catastrophic extinction after man’s Fall, despite persisting existence of competing theories; evolutionism, uniformitarianism and theistic evolutionism. The latter has been supported by Christian circles who conform to, compromise, and harmonise the scriptural account with historical geology and who thus, insist a gap of considerable time between the first two verses in Genesis chapter one. However, biblical statements are very clear, regarding the creation order and duration of time for creation, and they proclaim a very young earth and God’s direct intervention by a global Flood as judgment once and for all.

In addition to the geological evidence presented in the last letter, I would like to present another fascinating piece of information concerning how rapidly layers of sediments could be formed by flow process, which might make it possible for us to imagine the present earth’s unique strata of outer crust. According to Steven A Austin: *“The eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington State on May 18, 1980, (was)one of the most significant geologic events in the United States of the 20th century....The total energy output, on May 18, was equivalent to 400,000,000 tons of TNT- approximately 20,000 Hiroshima size atomic bombs. “Up to 600 feet thickness of strata have been formed since 1980 at Mount St. Helens (including) fine pumice ash laminae and beds from one millimetre thick to greater than one meter thick, each representing just a few seconds to several minutes of accumulation....Mount St. Helens teaches us that the stratified layers commonly characterizing geological formations can form very rapidly by flow processes. “The landslide-generated waves on Spirit Lake stripped the forests from the slopes adjacent to the lake and created an enormous log mat, made up of millions of prone floating trunks....(which are) gradually sinking to the lake floor.... Many trees float in upright positions....These trees if buried in sediment, would appear to have been a forest which grew in place over hundreds of years, which is the standard geological interpretation for the upright petrified forest at Yellowstone National Park. “Scuba investigation of the upright deposited trunks shows that some are already solidly buried by sedimentation....The Spirit Lake upright deposited stumps, therefore, have considerable implications for interpreting ‘petrified forests’ in the stratigraphic record” (John C. Whitcomb, ‘The World That Perished,’ Baker book House, 1997, p104.)*

As examined so far, the traditional view of God’s “original creation”, and not “recreation” seems to me to be the most satisfactory interpretation of Genesis1:1-2: The universe, i.e., all that exists was initially created by God out of nothing, a few thousand years ago and Genesis chapter 1 refers to an original formation of the heavens and the earth. However, apart from a brief reference in No.113 of our monthly letter, we have not yet fully discussed the rebellion of Satan and God’s judgment upon him and his fallen angels. In Genesis3:1, having been informed that the universe which God approved good was orderly, we suddenly come upon an evil creature whose existence has not even been hinted at before. He is described as ***‘the serpent,’*** i.e., the devil, and ‘the ancient adversary of God.’ Sometime, apparently before man’s Fall, the fall of heavenly angelic beings happened. By the same token, before their rebellion against God these angelic beings were created by God. If this reduction is what we can tease out from the

Scriptures, it might be reasonable to place the timing of God's judgments upon those heavenly creatures, whose head is Satan, also called 'Lucifer (meaning "light-bringing")' between the first two verses in Genesis chapter one. Gap theorists have argued that the phrases '*formless and empty,*' or '*without form and void,*' ('*tohu va bohu*' in Hebrew) are descriptions in the effect of some judgmental action by God. Accordingly, his first judgment can be postulated to have fallen on the angelic creatures in the heavenly realm prior to the "six days of creation".

Job38:4-7 is one of the proof texts that indicate the existence of heavenly creatures; '*the sons of God (the angels),*' prior to the creation of earth, in that when God laid the earth's foundation, all the angels shouted for joy, singing together. After their creation, if God had to pass over His judgment on the fallen angels because of their rebellion against Him, it may have taken place in the period between the first two verses in Genesis chapter one, causing the earth to be thrown into a disorderly condition. Although there are some scholars who argue that there is no scriptural reason to place the fall of Satan before Adam and also Church does not seem to have traditionally supported Isaiah14 and Ezekiel28 as reference to Satan's fall, it is worthwhile examining them.

'**Lucifer**'(which is expressed as '*morning star,*' in other versions) is not a translation from Hebrew but a term transliterated from the Latin Vulgates (an ancient Latin version of the Scriptures made by St. Jerome and others in the 4th century). '**Lucifer**' has since become a popular term as Satan's name before his fall. The passage in Isaiah 14 illustrates how Lucifer, who had enjoyed an honourable position in heaven, fell. It was his ambition to be God in spite of the fact that he was a mere created being that led to his downfall. The concerned passage referring to the nature and fall of Satan occurs in the midst of a chapter that deals with the wicked earthly king of Babylon. Despite a reference to the Babylonian king, it appears to refer to somebody else more than a human being. Furthermore, Jesus Himself quoted Isaiah14:12 in reference to Satan in Luke10:18, '*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*' Probably here, Jesus, recalling what He had witnessed in heaven in ancient of times before His incarnation, mentioned Satan's doom as a warning of the danger of "pride" to His overjoyed disciples at their successful mission. There is a fivefold of '*I will*' self-assertion by '**Lucifer**' in the two verses13 and 14 of Isaiah14 as quoted at the beginning, whose ambition might have introduced disharmony into the ever harmonious universe.

Lucifer's ambition was to ultimately put God out, and instead, put himself in place of God as '*the Most High,*' i.e., '*Creator of heaven and earth.*' This can be deduced from the Isaiah passage: '*I will ascend to heaven; I will...above the stars of God;...on the mount of assembly,...above the tops of the clouds;...like the Most High.*' (Lines added). The '*stars of God*' would be understood to be a reference to the angels as the phrase in Job38:7 does, and likewise, '*the mount of assembly...on...the sacred mountain*' to the people of God in Jerusalem in the light of Psalm 48:1-2,Isaiah2:2-3 and Zechariah8:3-5, '*the tops of the clouds*' to the Old Testament saints in the light of Hebrew12:1. What Lucifer declared here is his utmost desire to be worshipped by all God's created beings; angels, God's people (both covenantal and spiritual descendants of Abraham, saved through faith in Christ) and the Old Testament saints since Adam up to Christ. In other words, his aim is to be a ruler of heaven and earth, i.e., '*the Most High*' Himself. In the light of Genesis14:19, "*Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth...*," which indicates that God is in this character, 'the Most High (El Elyon)' the possessor of heaven and earth, we can interpret Lucifer's ambition to be equal to God.

The passage in Ezekiel 28 as quoted at the beginning depicts Lucifer perfect in beauty as '*a guardian cherub*' but his pride motivated him to claim a place of equality with God. As the result of his persistent, rebellious challenge against God he was cast out of His presence with his company of rebellious angels, possibly one-third of angels according to revelation 12:4. Lucifer was the first created being that turned all God's given blessed gifts such as beauty, wisdom, power and authority into self-exalting and self-promoting pride and fell into destruction. The concerned passage Ezekiel28:12-15, as that of Isaiah14, appears in the context of a prophecy against the ruler of Tyre, one of the most important ancient trading port cities on the Mediterranean coast. Though he was a mere human king, he boasted saying, "*I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas.*" (Ezk.28:2). However, the following prophecy about him again appears to refer to a being more than a mere human. The passage apparently seems to depict Satan's God-given nature, what he was supposed to be originally as created by Him. i.e., Lucifer

was created to reflect God's glory through his perfect beauty, wisdom and brilliance like all precious stones. Indeed, his name '**Lucifer**' bore these characters as the bearer of light. He would have been directing worship and administering the universe in the highest possible position unless he had failed to be obedient to God. Instead, a "will" against God's was produced and more than one united and perfect will of God started existing in the universe.

The crash of the two wills therefore already existed before man's creation. This would explain the reason why the first man was tempted to choose a disobedient will against God. As the result of sin, Satan (meaning adversary or disrupter) was cast out of 'heaven', to which he wanted to ascend, and since then dwells in the 'mid-heaven', '*roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it*' (Job1:7), and he '*prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*' (1Pe.5:8). The Bible pictures heaven as three different spheres. The term '*heaven*', a single noun, represents the overall unity, under which all heavenlies or heavenly places are integrated: '*To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it*' (Deu.10:14). According to Paul's experience, the topmost, '*third heaven*' is the abode of God Himself typified by holiness and purity and it envelopes everything: '*...I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know — God knows. And I know that this man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows — was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell*' (2Co.12:1-4). Descending from the highest heaven, a space of large expanse where the universe has been situated is the 'mid-heaven' (the second heaven) which is expressed as '*mid-air*' in Revelation 8:13, 14:6, and 19:17. The lowest visible heaven (the first heaven) is the sky or atmosphere which we can see with our natural eyes. Apart from the topmost '*third heaven*' where '*paradise*', an abode of the dead believers in Christ waiting for the redemption of their resurrection bodies is located beside God's presence, in the first and second heavens there are always conflicts between the angels of God and the angels of Satan, reflecting the clashes of two wills since Lucifer's rebellion, though these scenes are invisible in human's eyes. Daniel chapter 10 depicts the ongoing furious activities of angels on both God's and Satan's sides in the heavenlies, i.e., the mid-heaven. Because of fierce battle against angels of Satan, Gabriel, an archangel of God was unable to bring his message from God to Daniel in order to answer Daniel's intercessory prayer for Israel. Knowing the importance of God's revelation to Daniel, it was Satan's desperate attempt of obstruction primarily using 'the prince of the Persian kingdom', i.e., a satanic angel, so that Gabriel would be prevented from coming down to earth through the mid-heaven. Satanic force was so intense that Michael, the mightiest guardian angel of Israel had to come to the help in letting Gabriel descend through Satan's angels' prevention. Although Daniel's words had been heard by God since the first day of prayer, it took *twenty-one* days for Gabriel to break through satanic forces in the heavenlies.

In the light of what has been examined through various passages of Scripture, we might arrive at the conclusion that God originally created the heavens and the heavenly beings (angels) and then, the earth, and that when the earth was created, it was '*formless and empty*' as a condition of desolation resulting from God's judgment upon the rebellion of angelic beings. This could well have happened in the gap between the first two verses in Genesis 1. If their rebellion made God very aggrieved, it would throw a light to our understanding as to why He did not proclaim '*good*' on the second day of creation alone, when '*God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it...called the expanse "sky"*' (Ge.1:7-8). Satan and his fallen angels had already been roaming in that realm "*sky*" when the earth was separated from atmosphere ('*expanse*') by condensation of the water vapour into two distinct directions; clouds (upwards) and oceans (downwards). That is why Satan has been called '*the ruler of the kingdom of the air*' and he '*is now at work in those who are disobedient*' (Epe.2:2).

Thus, in invisible realms, from the utmost beginning Satan's struggle against God, His angels and His children has been continuing. However, it would be a good reminder to fully realise the fact that he is a mere created being and very limited; never omnipotent, omniscient, nor omnipresent.

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This month a money gift has been sent to FREDERIC in Kenya to support his ministry for salvation of his countrymen, Burundians. Also, a money gift has been sent to MARY JANE in the Philippines. Pray for the Lord's assured guidance and protection upon both of them, their co-workers and their ministries so that His salvation will work out through them especially where Christ was not known yet.